

WORLD:
Truce expected to boost
Yeltsin's popularity, Page 5

GOOD EVENING
Tuesday, May 28, 1996

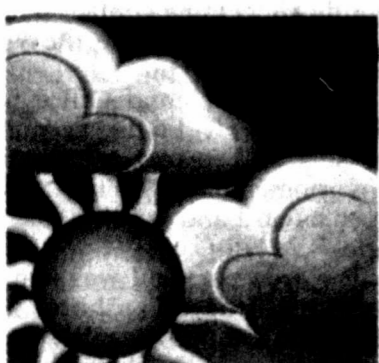
SPORTS:
The finish line is near for
Southwest Conference, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 45

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 50s,
high tomorrow near 90.
See Page 2 for weather
details.

PAMPA — School trustees today will likely decide how to consolidate elementary schools in a 6 p.m. meeting at Pampa Middle School library.

Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr will recommend the closing of Horace Mann and Baker elementaries, as well as the renovation and reconstruction of Austin, Lamar, Travis and Wilson schools.

Orr will also recommend the district maintain neighborhood attendance zones.

Should the board accept Orr's recommendations, Baker is slated for demolition at a later date. Mann would be used to house other district programs, including Pampa Learning Center and elementary library services. Dates for closing the schools would be determined later.

The meeting is open to the public.

PAMPA — Eligible students entering seventh through 12th grades can still enroll in the superintendent's summer scholar program.

Registration can be done over the phone by calling Carver Center, 669-4700, by Thursday.

Academically talented students were notified by letter earlier this month of their eligibility.

Programs include studies in drama, physics, research and SAT/ACT preparation.

PANHANDLE — A reception for Shannon Richardson, a photographer now showing at the Square House Museum in Panhandle, will be held Sunday, June 2, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the gallery.

His exhibit, "Personal Documents," can be viewed through Sunday, June 30, during regular museum hours.

Admission to the exhibition and museum is free. For more information, call (806) 537-3524.

CANYON — The Continuing Education Center at West Texas A&M University is offering an Introduction to the Internet course from 6:30-10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 3 through July 8.

The course, CIS 498/5499, can be taken for credit or non-credit. For more information on registration and cost, call (806) 656-2037.

PAMPA — The annual Pampa High School Band Carnival gets underway at 6 p.m. today in Coronado Center.

In addition to the games and rides, the Band Boosters will be serving hamburgers and homemade ice cream.

The carnival, with proceeds benefiting the band programs, will continue through Sunday.

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Court toughens standard on warrants and evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, setting aside two Californians' drug convictions, gave appeals courts more power to reverse lower courts on the admissibility of evidence seized without warrants.

The justices said today a federal appeals panel was too deferential to a trial judge's decision that cocaine Milwaukee police found in the two men's car could be used as evidence against them.

Although somewhat technical, today's decision is important for countless criminal cases in state and federal courts.

In other cases, the court: — Rejected an appeal by five cigarette makers seeking to withhold computer databases from Minnesota officials who sued for reimbursement of state Medicaid costs for treating smokers. The justices rejected arguments that data produced by their attorneys should not be given to their legal adversaries.

— Agreed to decide in an Oklahoma case whether state authorities must conduct hearings before removing prisoners from some release programs.

— Allowed Utah to suspend the private liquor club licenses of Moose lodges that don't permit women to be members. The lodges argued that the state's licensing policy violates their members' freedom of association.

— Agreed to decide whether states may bar candidates from running under the banner of more than one political party. The justices said they will review a federal appeals court ruling that struck down such Minnesota laws as violations of a minor party's freedom of association.

As for the drug case, defendants often challenge admissibility of evidence prosecutors intend to use against them. It is then up to the presiding judge to determine whether the evidence was obtained without violating a defendant's Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Once a trial judge makes that decision, either a defendant or a prosecutor may appeal.

At issue in today's 8-1 decision was what standard of review appeals courts should use when handling such appeals.

The case revolved around the question of whether police obtain a warrant before searching.

The Supreme Court previously had ruled that when a search or seizure occurred after a court warrant was obtained, a trial judge's decision about the admissibility of evidence should be reversed only if the judge committed "clear error." That standard gives considerable deference to the judge's factual findings about how reasonably police behaved.

But before today, the nation's highest court had not said whether the same standard applies in searches or seizures carried out without a court warrant. The justices ruled a more demanding standard of review applies.

"The Fourth Amendment demonstrates a strong preference for searches conducted pursuant to a warrant, and the police are more likely to use the warrant process if the scrutiny applied to a magistrate's probable-cause determination to issue a warrant is less than for warrantless searches," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

wrote for the court. "Were we to eliminate this distinction, we would eliminate the incentive," he said.

Justice Antonin Scalia dissented.

The decision was a victory for Saul Ornelas and Ismael Ornelas-Ledesma, convicted of possessing 2,000 grams of cocaine with intent to sell.

The men were arrested outside a Milwaukee motel on Dec. 11, 1993. A Milwaukee County police detective noticed their parked car bearing a California license tag and called a radio dispatcher to find out to whom the car was registered.

A check with the local office of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration showed that the car's owner was a suspected drug dealer.

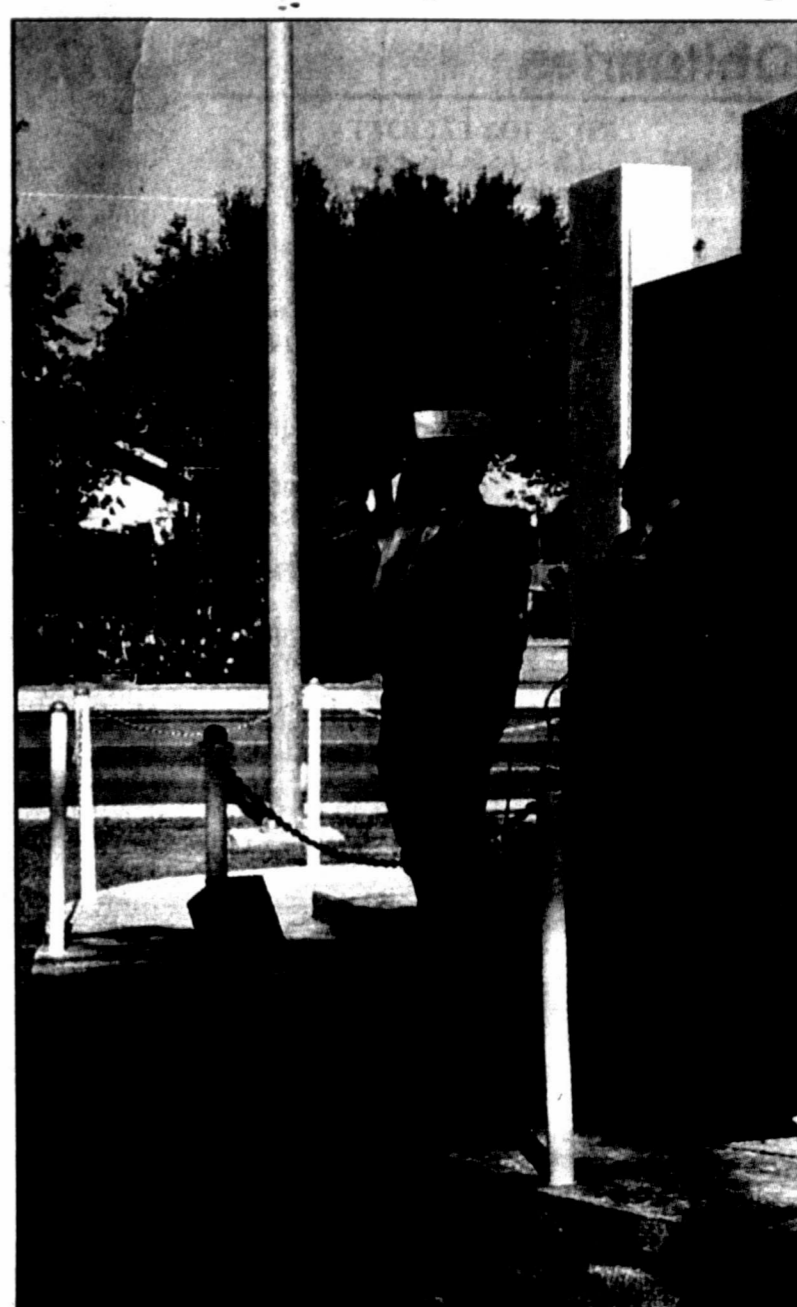
After getting that information, police summoned a DEA agent and his narcotics-detecting dog. Before the dog could sniff around the car, however, Ornelas and Ornelas-Ledesma left their motel room and walked to the car. They were detained by police and eventually consented to a search of the car.

A package containing two kilograms of cocaine was found behind a back seat interior panel. The two men pleaded guilty after failing in their attempt to have the cocaine suppressed as evidence.

Ornelas was sentenced to five years and three months in prison, Ornelas-Ledesma to five years.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions on the ground that the trial judge had not committed "clear error" when deciding to let the cocaine be used as evidence against the two.

Memorial Day ceremony



(Pampa News Photo by Tiffanie Franks)

John Triplehorn, a Vietnam veteran and a member of Pampa's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, proudly salutes the American flag during the pledge of Allegiance at Monday's Memorial Day service. The ceremony in tribute to veterans was held at the Veteran's Memorial at Memorial Park on Hobart behind the Freedom Museum USA.

Americans remember those veterans who died for their country

By ANASTASIA BENSHOFF
Associated Press Writer

From the rolling hills of Arlington National Cemetery to the muddy fields of Bosnia to a small-town cemetery in Amish country, Americans paused to honor those who died for their country.

In his Memorial Day address Monday, President Clinton paid tribute to those who gave their lives in peacetime as well as war.

He remembered Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who died in a plane crash while on a mission to Bosnia in April and the 14 people killed in a helicopter crash at Camp Lejeune, N.C., three weeks ago, and Adm. Jeremy Boorda, who committed suicide this month.

"They are American heroes, too, and we are all in their debt," he told 3,000 who gathered under gray skies on the Arlington lawn. "We know our country is strong and great today because of them."

Thousands of miles away, U.S. troops in Bosnia enjoyed a day of hamburger and hot dog barbecues. At Tuzla Air Base, troops gathered to hear a gospel choir sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and to remember the two soldiers killed in the peace-keeping operation this past year.

"We'll remain on the path of peace by successfully deterring war," said Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, commander of U.S. forces in Bosnia. "At the same time, may the sacrifice of our gallant service members always remind us that the American heritage of liberty remains more precious than peace."

Sen. Bob Dole, the presumed Republican presidential candidate was Clifton, N.J., for a wreath-laying ceremony.

"Today is the day we remember and honor all the brave American kids who gave their lives, their limbs, their time for their country in defense of liberty and democracy that has made our world... a better place," said Dole, who was gravely wounded in Italy during World War II.

At a ceremony in Kenosha, Wis., D-Day veteran Chet Eisenhower said losing World War II buddies hurts more now that it did on the beaches of Normandy.

"It's the friends going day-by-day now you miss more," said Eisenhower. "You hear about friends who died through letters with other vets. It just makes you realize time is flying by."

For Shirley Hilton, a service at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens in Timonium, Md., was of little comfort.

"I'm beyond sympathy now," said Mrs. Hilton, 57. "I want answers, and I want action." Her husband, Airman 1st Class Robert Hilton, was lost in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam when his plane went down three decades ago. His body has not been recovered.

"All I want is to put a flower on his grave. It's not like I'm asking for something that doesn't belong to me," she said.

But for some, the day was one of closure.

In Millersburg, Ohio, Frank D. Gallion was buried near his home in Amish country, more than 52 years after his plane was downed by German fighters.

The 29-year-old pilot's P-47 Thunderbolt was discovered last year during a check of Dutch waterways. "It's a fine finish, a fine finish. It makes the story complete," Gallion's brother, Ottmar Gallion, 78, said after the service.

Splash Day



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Young swimmers including Quisha Boyd, Chansity Procter, Shona Dorsey, Teresa Brown and Marquetta Parker clown around at Marcus Sanders Pool during Monday's Splash Day pool opening. Both municipal pools, Sanders and the M.K. Brown Pool, opened to good business Memorial Day.

Economists: No inflation problems before 1998

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy appears safe from recession at least through next year, forecasters said today.

At the same time, the forecasters contended that spotty signs of rising prices were temporary and inflation would remain in check, while the low unemployment rate would be little changed.

The consensus of the 38 professional forecasters surveyed by the National Association of Business Economists called for the economy to grow 2.2 percent this year, faster than the 1.9 per-

cent pace they predicted in February.

But the gross domestic product — the broadest measure of the nation's economic health — would decelerate slightly to 2.1 percent in 1997, according to the survey conducted earlier this month.

The GDP grew 2 percent in 1995.

Many economists say the Federal Reserve target for economic growth is between 2 percent and 2.5 percent — a rate they believe would sustain the five-year-old expansion with-

out heating inflation.

A separate survey of 143 association members found only 20 percent expected Fed policymakers to cut short-term interest rates in the next six months to stimulate economic growth. Sixty-eight percent predicted no change and 10 percent expected a tighter monetary policy.

The other survey found the forecasters expecting inflation to grow 2.9 percent this year and 3 percent in 1997. The Consumer Price Index rose 2.5 percent in 1995, the tamest since a 1.1 percent gain in 1986.

Texans scrutinize school curriculum

AUSTIN (AP) — For the first time in more than a decade, Texans are taking a hard look at what students are expected to know.

Educators, parents, curriculum specialists and business representatives already have teamed up to compile a first draft of essential knowledge and skills for various subjects.

Now they're working on a second draft that incorporates feedback from educators, business people and others. Beginning in August, more Texans will get a chance to comment on the revised draft.

The key difference from current subject requirements is a subtle but important shift in focus: Rather than specifying what educators should teach, it will detail what skills students should have, said Geoffrey Fletcher, associate commissioner for curriculum and assessment at the Texas Education Agency.

"The language you will see should focus on what students should know and be able to do, as opposed to what the teacher will do to the student," Fletcher said.

"This is the first wholesale look at the entire curriculum that we've had since the early '80s," he added. "It's been 12 years, which happens to be about the lifetime of a student in school."

The purpose of the effort is to ensure students can demonstrate "the knowledge and skills necessary to read, write, compute, problem solve, think critically, apply technology and communicate across all subject areas," Education Commissioner Mike Moses said.

in a letter to school superintendents.

The rewrite is expected to be adopted by the State Board of Education next year, then will go toward forming the basis for statewide tests and the adoption of instructional materials.

The rewrite might be implemented in different subjects at different times, depending on the extent of curriculum changes, Fletcher said.

For subjects with big changes, it may take longer to inform parents of the expectations and to give teachers professional development they may need, he said.

Senate Education Committee Chairman Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, describes the effort's goal as simple.

"I hope the end result is when our graduates go out into the world, they can write a simple declarative sentence at least," Ratliff said.

He said when he gets letters from high school students who've been instructed to write their senator, "Sometimes I just want to hold my head with the grammar — or lack of grammar — and the spelling and the sentence structure and so forth.

"And so I hope that the end result is first, the people in industry and business will begin to see a high school student that exhibits a high school education. Second, I hope we're preparing students so when they go to college, they don't have to spend the first year getting them up to college level."

People involved in the process say the rewrite fits with a state philosophy to clearly define expectations, then allow schools to design programs to meet them.

Masonic scholarships



Worshipful Master Don D. Summers, left, and E.M. (Bob) Keller, right, secretary of the Top of Texas Masonic Lodge #1381, award Bryan Bockmon and Angie Turpen \$250 scholarships at the recent Lefors High School awards banquet.

(Special photo)

State briefs

AFL-CIO supports renaming Houston street

HOUSTON (AP) — The efforts of a Hispanic group to get the city to rename Wayside Drive in memory of labor leader Cesar Chavez have drawn support from the AFL-CIO and business leaders along the street.

Blanca Hernandez-Blanco, a member of the Cesar E. Chavez Street Renaming Committee, said the group wants to honor the founder of the United Farm Workers of America who died in 1993 after dedicating a lifetime to pressing for equal rights for migrant laborers.

"We have the database of about 700 property owners along Wayside, and we're trying to get letters out to them since many of them are located out of town," Hernandez-Blanco said.

Becky Nevers, a spokeswoman for the city planning department, said the petitions must contain the names of 75 percent of the property owners along the street, or about 525 owners.

Two inmates escape from East Texas jail

HENDERSON (AP) — Two men scaled the fence around the Bradshaw State Jail Facility and fled into nearby woods near Henderson on Monday, state prison officials said.

Corrections officers saw Donald Keith Styers, 27, and Steve Murrell, 26, scale the fence about 9:40 p.m. and scurry into some woods near an industrial brick plant. No shots were fired, said David Nunnelee, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Tracking dogs were en route to the area, Nunnelee said.

Styers had entered the 1,500-inmate jail in July 1995 to begin serving a 10-year prison sentence on a Gregg County robbery conviction.

Murrell had been in the jail since December, serving a 10-year sentence for a Hopkins County burglary conviction.

Although a state jail that houses nonviolent, fourth-degree felons, the Bradshaw facility also processes other inmates entering the state prison system.

Both men were wearing orange, jail-issue jumpsuits when they clambered over the wire, Nunnelee said.

Insurance companies dispute figure named in double rounding lawsuit

AUSTIN (AP) — Double rounding of insurance premiums cost motorists only one-tenth of the \$109 million sought by plaintiffs' lawyers, attorneys representing Texas Farmers Group contend.

Six South Texas motorists are suing Farmers and subsidiary Mid-Century insurance companies and Allstate Insurance Co. They contend the companies overcharged Texans by \$109 million over 10 years through illegal calculations.

An analysis by the accounting firm of KPMG Peat Marwick, provided by the insurance companies' lawyers, shows its clients' calculations between 1992 and 1995 cost consumers \$10.8 million. It does not address Allstate's double rounding.

"Texas Farmers and Mid-Century stand by their position that they followed (Texas Department of Insurance) instructions on how to calculate auto insurance premiums," Tom Rogers, an attorney for Texas Farmers and Mid-Century, said Monday.

"However, we felt it was

important to clarify that (plaintiffs' attorney John) Cracken has been playing fast and loose with the facts by throwing his \$100 million figure around," Rogers said.

Officials for the two companies, which together insure an estimated 30 percent of the state's drivers, have said they were following state regulators' guidelines.

Before 1991, state insurance department officials told insurers to round twice, once after they were calculated and again after they were divided into payments.

Peat Marwick's analysis is based on the four years before Cracken's lawsuit was filed, which the companies' lawyers said was governed by Texas statutes of limitation.

Cracken said Peat Marwick's figures were suspect because the insurance companies have refused to produce to the public the internal data they used to determine premiums.

"The accounting firm made the calculations behind closed doors, just like the Farmers Group dou-

ble rounded behind closed doors," he said. "And until the Farmers Group steps into the sunlight to let the public see the data and make an independent calculation, its representations can't be evaluated."

He also said the defendants are basing their calculations on a law in which a plaintiff may only collect damages dating back four years in a case where a contract is broken.

But Cracken said the discovery rule states that "if someone takes advantage of you and you couldn't discover it because it was hidden, (the) limitation does not apply."

"We contend the four-year limitations period for a breach of contract claim is extended because of the discovery rule and that we will be entitled to go back on behalf of policy holders for so long as the Farmers Group was breaking the law and recover the illegal windfall," he said.

Students use fund to learn stock market

FORT WORTH (AP) — Many students at Texas Christian University are investing their time as well as the school's money to learn how to manage a stock portfolio.

A group of handpicked students work on the Educational Investment Fund year-round, deciding if and when to hold stocks and when to fold them.

The fund was established in 1973 with a donation of Alcon Laboratories stock worth about \$600,000, given by William C. Conner, a co-founder of the eyecare company and a chairman of the university's board of directors.

The fund was the first in the country to be controlled entirely

by students who vote whether to buy, sell or hold various stocks. Since its inception, more than 500 students have managed the fund, making about \$1.8 million.

Each year about \$70,000 is taken from the fund and donated equally to Texas Christian and the Baylor College of Ophthalmology in Houston. The two institutions have garnered about \$1.2 million from the students' management skills.

All the years haven't been good on Wall Street and the students have experienced major fluctuations, including the 1987 crash when assets plummeted 11 percent.

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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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Circulation department hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sundays.

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Viewpoints

Note to pols: Dry those tears

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Let Peace Begin With Me

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

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

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

Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Bureaucracy taken too far

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action captures, in a nutshell, the trouble with many environmental laws. And it shows the difficulty in standing up against those who zealously expand federal power in the name of mom, apple pie and snail darters. Federal bureaucrats have decided that it's no longer sufficient for the government to protect the scores of species now on the Endangered Species List. These protectors of wildlife are claiming authority to protect critters that are hybrids with endangered ones.

In other words, as *The Washington Times'* Alston Chase reveals, the feds want the power to protect mixed breeds. Such a proposal may sound tame. After all, aren't the animal kingdom's mutts also deserving of protection?

In reality, the rule could justify a further expansion of federal power beyond the already wide authority current legislation grants. If the government claims the power to protect creatures that resemble an endangered species, they can then claim authority over virtually all animals. This is truly frightening.

This episode is so instructive because it captures the emotionalism that drives America's environmental debate. Focus is always on the plight of the critters. Those who point out that federal species protection laws are often counterproductive or trample on the rights of many property owners are branded as Scrooges who would gladly poison the waterways in order to make a few more dollars. The debate is far more personal than factual.

Typifying current discourse is this gem from *The New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert: "The trophy-collecting big-game hunter (and former trapper) is Rep. Don Young of Fort Yukon, Alaska, chairman of the Committee on Resources. With the heads of past kills mounted proudly on his office walls, Young set about crafting legislation that ultimately would cripple the Endangered Species Act."

This trophy hunter - that must be a vicious epithet on the Upper East Side - is so mean to four-legged beasts that he's now gunning for spotted owls.

Earlier, Herbert wrote that Thomas Bliley, R-Va. described as the GOP "undertaker" because his family owns funeral homes - thinks it's terrific if his "powerful corporate backers" discharge arsenic, lead and fecal matter into the nation's water supply. In other words, Bliley has two reasons for seeking environmental reform - it's good for his big business allies and for the family business.

Does Herbert discuss any legitimate reasons for transferring some federal pollution-control responsibility to the states? Of course not. Like most of the environmental debate, facts and logic are drowned out by hysteria.

Unless conservatives make their voices heard above this type of nonsense, environmentalism will continue to serve as the political left's most effective vehicle for expanding government power.

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum

Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736

State Sen. Teel Bivins

Austin Address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711
Austin Phone: (512) 463-0131

U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry

Washington Address: 1535 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm

Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Washington Phone: (202) 224-2934

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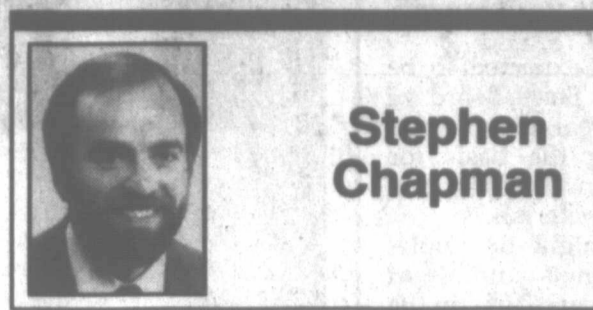
Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address without once choking up, Franklin Roosevelt informed the nation of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor without losing his composure and Dwight Eisenhower gave his farewell address with eyes that were perfectly dry. But when Bob Dole announced his resignation from the U.S. Senate, he did what has become obligatory for politicians these days - he let his eyes mist up and his voice quaver.

We were supposed to be moved. Some of us, however, were only moved to irritation at the idea that the nation is supposed to feel a tug at the tear ducts every time Dole recalls his recuperation from his near-fatal war injuries.

Certainly he, like every battle-scarred veteran, deserves the gratitude of his fellow citizens. But his success in overcoming his wounds doesn't qualify him to be president, and his habit of exploiting that experience for political gain doesn't warrant our indulgence. We are being manipulated by a calculated display of emotion, and we have a right to object.

Dole is hardly alone in resorting to this expedient. Bill Clinton is the heavyweight champion of the moist eye, trembling lip and consoling embrace. In the week after Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's death, he wallowed in the opportunity to dramatize his sorrow, praising the Commerce secretary in terms that would have been excessive for Mother Teresa.

The extravagance of his eulogies, however, didn't honor Brown. Just the opposite: It turned attention away from him and toward the eulogist. That, of course, was its purpose - to let everyone know of Clinton's bottomless supply of the milk of human kindness. Like the town hall meetings he held during the 1992 campaign, the ostentatious mourning



Stephen Chapman

for Brown let him demonstrate that whatever his failings, he has a heart as big as the Grand Canyon. It's enough to make you think that maybe our fathers had the right idea in telling us that real men don't cry. Some candidate could probably profit from borrowing the old slogan of Johnson's Baby Shampoo. No more tears. There is a lot to be said for iron self-control in the face of adversity. When war breaks out, we don't want a president who'll start blubbering.

The histrionics of Dole and Clinton could make us all miss Calvin Coolidge. The 30th president might have used his retirement announcement to wax nostalgic about his long career, to reflect on his regrets over leaving the presidency or to celebrate his bonds with the American people. Instead, he issued a one-sentence, written statement: "I do not choose to run for president in 1928." Such arid terseness would be a welcome respite from the soggy climate of the modern political era.

John Kennedy endured lifelong suffering from his war injuries, but it didn't occur to him that the public had a responsibility to help him cope. Franklin Roosevelt never milked his paralysis for sympathy. Nor did he show his devotion to the

American people by weeping over the Great Depression. He showed his devotion by doing something about it.

Emotion, to be sure, has its place in political discourse. Good political speeches are not dry, relentlessly logical lawyer's briefs. They make effective use of powerful images, phrases and ideas. They sometimes even evoke tears in the audience.

In the audience - not the speaker. When Ronald Reagan gave his famous address at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, honoring the men who had fought there 40 years earlier, he was inspiring tears, not shedding them. A profuse display of his own emotions would have directed the focus away from the grand - namely, D-Day's meaning for these men and for the survival of freedom - and toward the inconsequential - namely, its effect on Reagan.

Few people would have wept at the sight of Reagan weeping. But plenty wept upon hearing his stirring salute to the survivors reunited in Normandy: "These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent; these are the heroes who helped end a war."

Dole and Clinton lack the capacity to move us precisely because they are so preoccupied with being moved themselves. Their gaze is directed inward, not outward, and while we may acknowledge their feelings, we don't share them. We are unimpressed with Clinton because he is indiscriminately affected by every misfortune. We are unimpressed with Dole because he gets teary only over his own hardships.

Their emotional exhibitions seem designed to draw attention to themselves or to serve as self-therapy, neither of which is appealing to behold. Dole and Clinton have forgotten something important: This election is not about them; it's about us.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, May 28, the 149th day of 1996. There are 217 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On May 28, 1934, the Dionne quintuplets - Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne - were born to Elzire Dionne at the family farm in Ontario, Canada.

On this date:
In 1533, England's Archbishop declared the marriage of King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

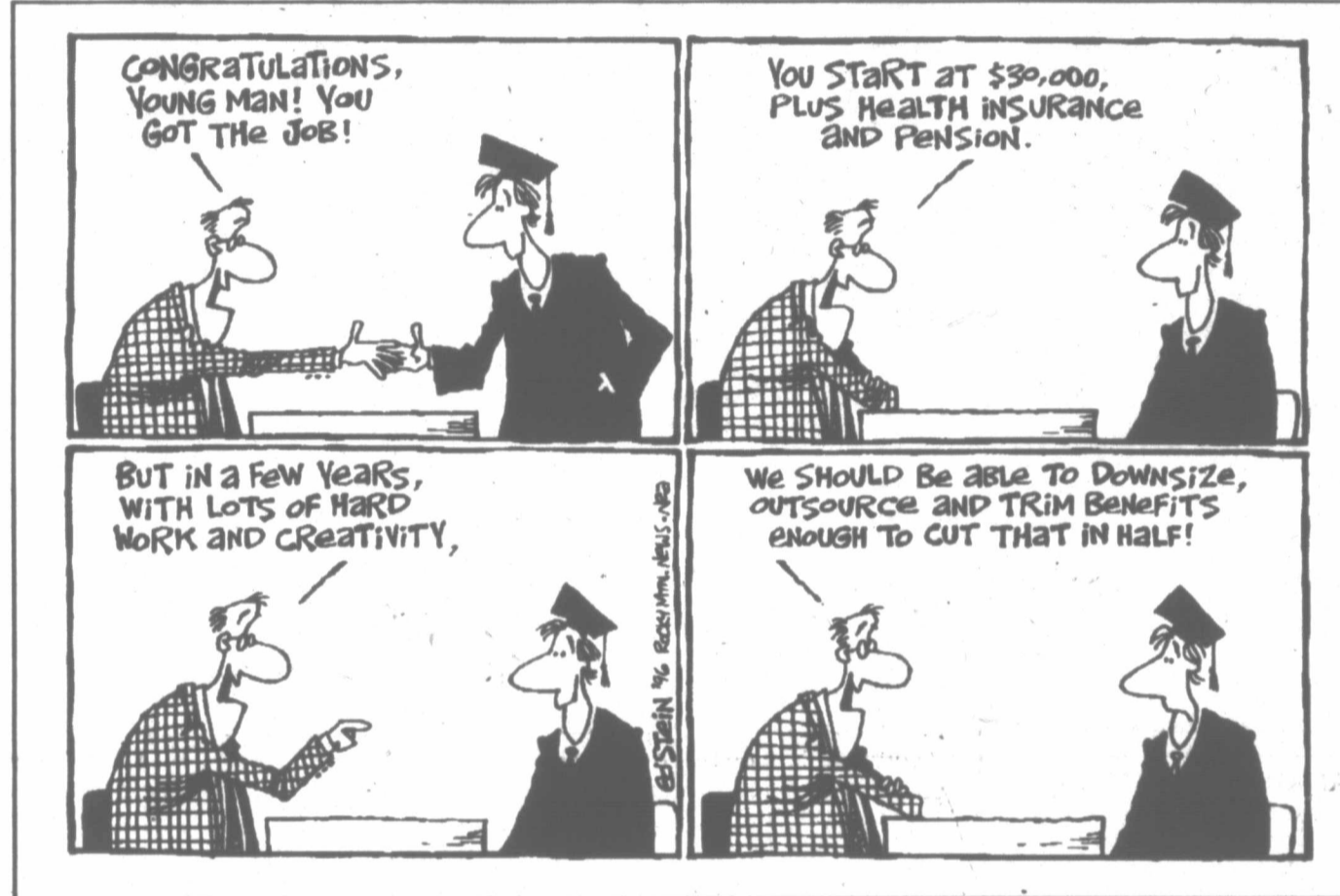
In 1863, the first black regiment from the North left Boston to fight in the Civil War.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was organized in San Francisco.

In 1937, President Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could cross the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California.

In 1937, Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain.

In 1940, during World War II, the Belgian army surrendered to invading German forces.



Postal service is a hybrid monster

Charley Reese

We ought to kill the hybrid private-public monstrosity created by Richard Nixon and return the U.S. Postal Service to the way it was - all government, all government employees, from top to bottom.

The present U.S. Postal Service is a rip-off of the customers and taxpayers and is turning into a tyrannical sweatshop for its employees. The more you learn about how the profit minded big shots at the top are running the Postal Service, the more you understand the unprecedented string of tragic shootings involving postal employees.

I'm not one of those who criticizes the Postal Service for poor service. Given the population of the country today and the volume of mail it handles, it does a good job. Nor do I indulge in those childish apples-and-oranges comparisons with private services. At \$13 a letter, without the burden of second, third and fourth class mail, private carriers ought to be fast.

I've always received good service from the Postal Service. My complaint is about the way the present system treats its employees. It stinks. Any profits it is making is coming out of the hides of the workers.

The United States Post Office Department had been a public agency with cabinet status since 1829. Delivering the mail meets all the criteria of a valid government function: It is necessary service available to all, rich or poor, and financed by all. It

is a service, and it is absurd to demand that it make a profit.

The old post office department was one of the most well-respected - even loved - government services. Like the public library, the post office was a special place, and the postal employees, from the local postmaster to the carriers, were special people.

A job at the post office was highly prized, and often son would succeed father in the service. Postal employees were respected, especially the rural carriers who faithfully braved bad weather and bad roads to deliver the mail. They were respected because they took great pride in their work.

Richard Nixon and the Congress screwed it up in 1970-71 with the Postal Reorganization Act. The department was abolished and replaced with what they call an "independent establishment of the executive branch." It is run by a board of directors, a chief executive officer and a slew of vice presidents - the whole bunch grossly overcompensated.

In their zeal to make a profit they have - no surprise - cut back on services, raised prices, reduced employment and put a greater burden on the existing workers.

The fat cats at the top put the squeeze on middle management, and middle management puts the squeeze on the workers. One postman who pulled a muscle while pulling some flats down out of a case received a suspension. Workers can be disciplined for having an accident and for not reporting an accident.

In many places they are spied on. Those in the big processing centers work at a frantic pace. The whole atmosphere has changed for the worse.

It never works, in my view, to try to mix government service and business. There should be a clear separation between government and business. The "business" of government is to provide essential services to all the people, whether it is profitable or not. The attitude of a person providing a service to his fellow man is quite different necessarily from the attitude of a person driven by the profit motive.

Let's start a campaign to deNixonize the government by dumping this hybrid monster run by fat cats and go back to the U.S. Post Office Department, which served this country so well from 1829 until 1971. Tell your fat-cat congressman and senator to do some serious governing for a change so we can get this country shaped up.

While we can argue over what those essential services should be, we should not confuse providing a service with running a for-profit business.

Colby proved his reverence for truth

For a guy who looked like Mr. Peepers, William Colby was one of the most complicated public servants I ever encountered.

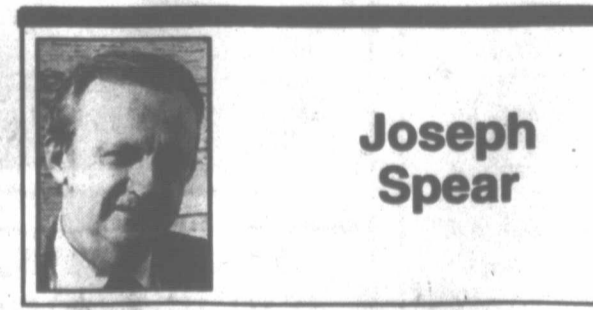
The former CIA director, who drowned while paddling his canoe in a tributary of the Potomac River late last month, was small of stature and quiet-spoken. He wore subdued suits and muted ties and round eyeglasses that were tinted pink.

If you didn't know who he was, you never would've guessed he was a decorated World War II hero who twice parachuted behind German lines to carry out secret missions. Or that he once ran one of the deadliest assassination programs the CIA ever devised. Or that he had the guts to stare down the intelligence community's most fearsome cloak-and-dagger operatives in the interest of constitutional principle and public accountability.

That last thing was the main reason I respected him. But it was not a pure admiration. I remember thinking two things when I finally met him face-to-face a few years ago at the American University, where I teach and where he came to deliver a guest lecture. First was just how prosaic he looked.

Second was that I was shaking hands with a person whom some people regarded as a mass murderer.

After joining the CIA in 1951 and serving in Sweden, Italy and South Vietnam, he returned to Saigon in 1968 to supervise the Phoenix program. This was an effort to identify and kill members of the Viet Cong. The problem was, once the CIA had fingered a suspect, the South Vietnamese military



Joseph Spear

often didn't bother with such nuisances as trials. Colby later told Congress that 20,587 Viet Cong suspects were killed in Operation Phoenix, and there had undoubtedly been some "illegal killing."

In 1973, Colby was appointed chief of the CIA. It was a tumultuous time in the agency's history, and Colby ended up testifying 56 times before congressional investigators. Much to the chagrin of old-school spies, he opted to come clean and even surrendered the "family jewels," a 693-page history that had been commissioned by his predecessor, James Schlesinger, and which detailed the agency's most sensitive machinations.

His strategy, he later wrote, "had been to be guided by the Constitution, and to apply its principles. This meant that I had to cooperate with the investigations and try to educate the Congress, press and public ... about American intelligence, its importance, its successes and its failings."

His strategy got him fired in November 1975.

Almost exactly a year before Jerry Ford dismissed William Colby, I got a personal lesson on just how serious he was about telling the truth. As a muckraker for syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, I had tracked down a story about two CIA spies who had been caught, arrested, and mercilessly beaten and tortured in the white supremacist nation of Rhodesia in 1969.

Washington had negotiated the release of one spy, but the Rhodesians had refused to give up the other. So the CIA staged a daring jailbreak and whisked their man out of the country.

It was an entertaining story that would render no perceptible harm to the CIA. But the agency's prosecutors gave me the usual "no comment," and I was about to tank the tale when I got an idea. William Colby professed belief in full disclosure and I, by gum, would put him to the test. I picked up the phone and called him directly. Much to my surprise, he took my call, listened to my story, said he would get back.

About two hours later, speaking on deep background, he confirmed my story in all of its details. And he had a return favor to ask: Would I be kind enough to withhold the agents' names? They were back in the United States and had become established in their communities, he said, and I would disrupt their lives if I identified them. It seemed like a fair swap to me, and I agreed.

From that day forth, I regarded William Colby with great respect. But for Phoenix, I might have liked him more, as well.

Berry's World



© 1988 by NEA, Inc. Jim Berry
"Hey, you're into it, too! Incredible, how a handful of popular TV shows have sparked the VINTAGE CLOTHING fashion craze!"

Community Calendar

May
AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 669-0407.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-0407 or 669-3988.

28 - BOATMEN'S FIRST PAMPA BANKING CENTER presents WT seminar, How to Increase Your Profits and Improve Cash Flow, Pampa Community Building, M.K. Brown Room, 6:30-9:30 p.m. To register or receive more information, call (806) 669-8407.

29 - HOSPICE OF THE PANHANDLE to hold a workshop featuring Dr. Alan Wolfelt in the Heritage Room of the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Dee Dee Laramore at 665-6677.

May 28-June 2 - ANNUAL BAND CARNIVAL, Coronado Center, Pampa. Tuesday-Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. to midnight. Saturday, 2 p.m. to midnight. Homemade ice cream, Pride burgers, silent auction, dunking board, games and rides.

28-30 - GIRL SCOUT PARK EVENT at Lions Park each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All girls from ages 5-17 are invited to attend. For more information, call Paula Goff at 669-6862.

30 - PAMPA DESK AND DERRICK CLUB meeting at Pampa Country Club, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Linda Slaybaugh at 669-7884.

30 - BOATMEN'S FIRST PAMPA BANKING CENTER presents WT seminar, How to Increase Your Profits and Improve Cash Flow, Pampa Community Building, M.K. Brown Room, 6:30-9:30 p.m. To register or receive more information, call (806) 669-8407.

31 - CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS "TRASH TO TREASURES" city-wide garage sale. For more information, contact Susan Winborne, 669-9813, or Kathleen Chaney, 669-2454.

June
1 - MIAMI COW CALLING and Arts and Crafts Show at Miami City Park, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Peggy Howerton at (806) 4771.

1 - MUTUAL AID NETWORKING SESSION for all Pampa non-profit service organizations, agencies and civic groups, 8:30 a.m. to noon, M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium. (Optional lunch following session.) To register, make lunch reservations or receive more information, call the auditorium at 669-5790. Each organization should send at least one person.

1 - CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE will hold a Crafts Show in Fellowship Hall, 500 N. West, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds will go to send children to camp. Call 669-0176 for information and booth rentals.

1 - TOP O' TEXAS NIGHT OWL POKER RUN & RALLY at Recreation Park 2 miles east of Pampa on U.S. 60. Motorcycle show open to public at no charge. Registration for those wanting to ride their motorcycles (all must be street legal) will be from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., cost \$10. Activities include field events and games, bike show, parade, poker run, breakfast and awards. For more information, call 669-7187 or 665-0235.

1-2 - CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS "TRASH TO TREASURES" city-wide garage sale continues. For more information, contact Susan Winborne, 669-9813, or Kathleen Chaney, 669-2454.

1-2 - PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION presents its annual membership artist show at FirstBank Southwest, 300 W. Kingsmill, from 2-6 p.m. each day. Members are asked to bring their artwork on May 31 from 2-5 p.m.; there are requirements for submitting artwork. For more information, contact Pampa Fine Arts office, 665-0343; Loralee Cooley, 665-7321; or Dona Cornutt, 669-7353.

3 - HIDDEN HILLS LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION golf play-day at 6 p.m. All ladies welcomed. For more information, contact Christine Babb at 669-3315.

4 - BOATMEN'S FIRST PAMPA BANKING CENTER presents WT seminar, How to Increase Your Profits and Improve Cash Flow, Pampa Community Building, M.K. Brown Room, 6:30-9:30 p.m. To register or receive more information, call (806) 669-8407.

6 - ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting at 7 p.m. at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 2225 Perryton Parkway. For more information, contact Chrys at 665-0356.

6 - HISPANOS UNIDOS monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., 824 S. Cuyler. Members are urged to attend. For more information, contact Victoria Davis at 665-0828.

6 - BOATMEN'S FIRST PAMPA BANKING CENTER presents WT seminar, How to Increase Your Profits and Improve Cash Flow, Pampa Community Building, M.K. Brown Room, 6:30-9:30 p.m. To register or receive more information, call (806) 669-8407.

7 - TOP O' TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE ASSOCIATION regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., at 1507 W. Kentucky. For more information, contact George Clark at 665-1917.

9 - FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, 1700 Alcock, hosts "Singing," from 2-4 p.m., with the public invited. For more information, contact Mina Towery at 665-3361 or 665-8529.

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

Truce expected to boost Yeltsin popularity in polls

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin today proclaimed a Russian victory in the war in Chechnya during a tour of the breakaway republic a day after signing a cease-fire with rebels.

"The war is over and you have won," Yeltsin told troops from the 205th Rifle Brigade at the airport in the Chechen capital, Grozny, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, who signed the cease-fire with Yeltsin on Monday, was apparently caught off guard by today's visit and remained sequestered in a government guest house in Moscow.

The cease-fire, three weeks before presidential elections June 16, are likely to boost Yeltsin's popularity. Polls show that the war in Chechnya is the main concern of Russian voters.

During the visit, Yeltsin met residents and Russian troops who have been fighting for 17 months to defeat the rebels. Yeltsin discharged some conscript soldiers six months ahead of schedule.

"I came to the Chechen land with peace," Yeltsin said. "All of Chechnya, all of Russia wants the Chechen knot to be untied as soon as possible so the long-awaited peace can prevail here. The Chechen crisis is Russia's sharpest pain."

Yeltsin defended his decision to send troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush the rebels' independence drive.

The Interfax news agency quoted Yeltsin as saying he had to "take extreme" measures in Chechnya because "a revolt took place here. Power was seized by the most extremist forces which chose terror as their main method of struggle."

The Russians have failed to suppress the outmanned rebels, but recent offensives have badly depleted the separatist forces. An

army official said last week that the Russians had 41,000 soldiers in Chechnya, facing just 1,500 to 1,600 Chechen fighters.

Yeltsin, whose popularity plummeted after the war began, said mistakes and serious political miscalculations had been made. He said, "I don't exclude myself from blame."

The truce agreement signed Monday in the Kremlin was hailed as a presidential campaign coup but met with immediate skepticism that it would end 1 1/2 years of war.

Under the cease-fire agreement, reached after Yeltsin initiated face-to-face talks with the separatist leader, hostilities are to be halted Saturday and hostages and prisoners exchanged within two weeks. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed for the Russians.

Several points remained undressed. The rebels insist on independence and full withdrawal by Russian forces, while Moscow refuses to let the republic go and demands complete rebel disarmament before it pulls out its tanks and troops.

Few doubt that politics was the primary motivation behind the cease-fire.

Yeltsin has said he needs to show progress toward ending the war to defeat his Communist rival in next month's election. The rebels want to negotiate while Yeltsin is still eager to curry favor with voters.

Hard-liners among the Chechens could oppose peace. And some Russian military officials have made no secret of their opposition to a negotiated peace. The army has ignored cease-fires in the past — most recently a much-ballyhooed Yeltsin order on March 31.

Yandarbiyev succeeded former rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was killed five weeks ago in a rocket attack.

Endeavor prepares to return home

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Having finished experiments with a giant inflatable antenna and a self-stabilizing satellite, Endeavour's astronauts today packed for the ride home.

The U.S.-Canadian crew wrapped up science experiments in the space shuttle's lab and conducted routine tests of landing system components to prepare for Wednesday's scheduled arrival at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Ground controllers reported that a cooling system in one of three auxiliary power units that failed during ascent was working fine.

The antenna and the satellite won't be coming home with Endeavour. After completing experiments with the two test spacecraft, they were abandoned into orbit.

The antenna, which filled with

nitrogen gas and ballooned to the size of a tennis court, plunged through the atmosphere and burned up two days later.

The satellite, a wastebasket-sized craft designed to become steady in space without jet thrusters, is expected to zoom around Earth at 17,500 mph for about seven months before re-entering the atmosphere.

Credit Union scholarship



Eva Timmons, right, presents Lefors High School valedictorian Bryan Bockmon with a \$500 scholarship from the Lefors Federal Credit Union at the recent LHS awards banquet. Bockmon plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station.

World briefs

South African climbers mourn lost colleague

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Two South African climbers who conquered Mount Everest returned to their base camp safely but mourning their third teammate, missing on the world's highest peak and presumed dead.

Bruce Herrod's death would bring to nine the number of climbers who have died in the past month tackling the world's highest mountain. The eight others died in a surprise blizzard that struck the mountain 2 1/2 weeks ago; 75 climbers have returned safely this month.

South African media reported today that the surviving South African climbers reached the camp Monday after crossing a rapidly melting glacier.

Herrod had lagged at least seven hours behind his teammates during the Everest ascent, Radio 702 reported today.

Doomsday cult leader makes last ditch appeal

TOKYO (AP) — Doomsday guru Shoko Asahara said today that he had twice tried to kill himself in prison, and that he hoped those who died in last year's subway nerve-gas attack would be reborn in a higher world.

The statements came as Asahara made a last-ditch appeal against the outlawing of his Aum Shinri Kyo cult, accused in the subway attack that killed 12 people and injured more than 5,500.

At an administrative hearing in the jail where he is being held during his murder trial, the 41-year-old cult leader argued that neither he nor his group poses a threat to society.

Defector claims war between Koreas unavoidable

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean pilot who defected to the South in a Soviet-built jet said today that his government believes war with South Korea is inevitable and has a plan to invade and occupy the country.

Lee, 30, who flew his MiG-19 across the border Thursday in the first such defection in 13 years, did not indicate that Kim had any immediate plans to carry out the attack. But he said that the strategy would enable the North to occupy the South within seven days after an invasion.

Lee's remarks come as Washington and Seoul await North Korea's response on an offer of peace talks between the Koreas, with U.S. and Chinese mediators present.

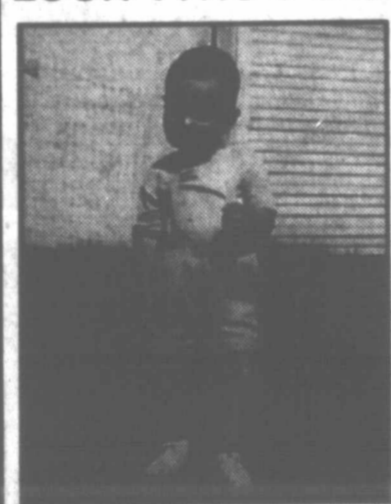
Officers' child dies

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (AP) — Courtney Rusnak, 3-year-old daughter of two Washington, D.C., police officers died Sunday after shooting herself in the head while playing with her father's service pistol. The girl was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital.

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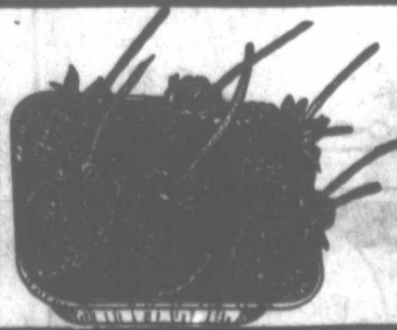


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Men Also Take It On The Chin From Spouses Who Abuse

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for printing the warning signs of an abusive partner. However, you have unfairly portrayed men as the only abusers. Not so; women can also be abusers.

My brother was married to a physically abusive woman who exhibited all 15 points you mentioned in your column. It wasn't until he joined a support group and heard about similar experiences that he realized he wasn't the only man who got beat up by a woman.

After much research, I find that women are just as abusive as men in relationships.

Women are able to get away with abusing men because most men are too embarrassed to report it. With the massive attention now given to domestic violence, I feel it's time the other side of the story is told.

Abby, I am sure it would be a great relief to many men to see this in print.

E.V. LILAND, DALLAS

DEAR E.V. LILAND: If what you state is true, that women are just as abusive as men in relationships, then I would like to see the statistics. Although I have no doubt that many men have been subjected to abuse by their spouses, my experts tell me that their numbers are dwarfed by the vast number of women who experience physical abuse at the hands of their

Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

husbands or boyfriends.

While researching a column about spousal abuse a year or so ago, I inquired if shelters were available for male victims of spousal battery. I was told that there are no shelters for men in California. Men are presumed able to provide for themselves.

Abused women are often captives in the abusive relationship, fearing that if they leave, they will be killed. Frequently they have been isolated by their abuser, have no money, credit or job skills, and feel they'll be unable to support themselves and their children. The same is not true for men.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, you published a letter from "Florida Wife," whose husband needs oxygen all the time and must carry a portable tank when they go out. She asked what to do in a restaurant

when her husband needs to use the restroom, as the tank is too cumbersome for him to manage alone.

I also have to be on oxygen around the clock and have found the portable tank very inconvenient. Through my oxygen company, I obtained an "Oxymatic" (a lightweight computer that's attached to a gauge and to a canister filled with concentrated oxygen). It weighs only 4 pounds and can be used up to 7 1/2 to eight hours. It comes in a compact, nice-looking carrying case and can be carried by the handle or a shoulder strap. It's very convenient, and I easily manage alone in restaurants.

"Florida Wife" should contact her husband's oxygen company. I understand the cost is covered by Medicare.

Abby, I hope this information will help someone — it has certainly made my life easier. You may use my name.

JEAN BRIXIUS, LAKEWOOD, COLO.

DEAR JEAN: Your suggestion of a more compact oxygen system is excellent and should prove helpful to those who are required to have oxygen with them at all times. I checked, and portable and stationary oxygen equipment is covered by Medicare.

Horoscope



Wednesday, May 29, 1996

In the year ahead, you will have the ability to manage adventures or endeavors which seemed impossible previously. You will be in a new zone with new possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Try to keep everything friendly and sociable today, even in your commercial affairs. You can achieve more by generating warm feelings between associates. Gemini, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead 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.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) An interesting development might be in store for you today. An associate you feel obligated to help may end up helping you instead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A stroke of good luck may enable you to solve a problem independently. Otherwise, you would have to ask for help from others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Conditions that worked against you yesterday might work in your favor today. This could be true especially in regard to your career and your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You will be more fortunate than your associates today, so maintain control of the important arrangements under your personal direction. Try not to delegate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You may benefit today by pursuing something in secret. You will not be anxious to discuss this project with others and you will not have to share what you know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Try to deal from your strengths today and don't

make concessions unless you can get an equivalent commitment in return.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Demand to talk to the boss today, because if you work directly with authority figures instead of with their representatives, you should succeed.

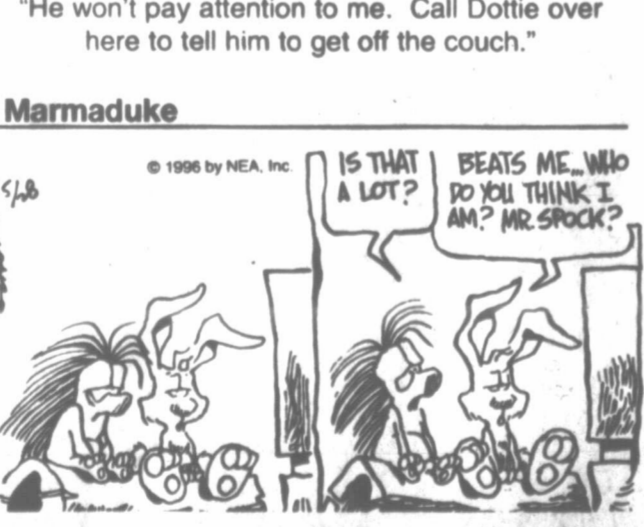
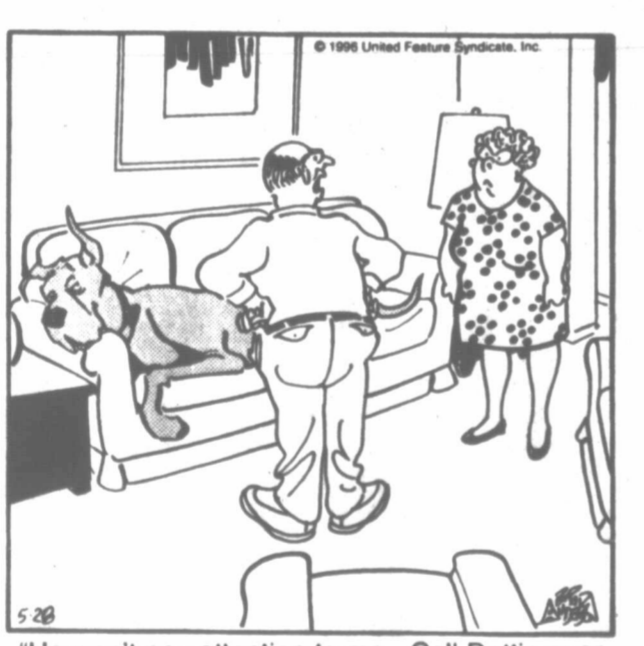
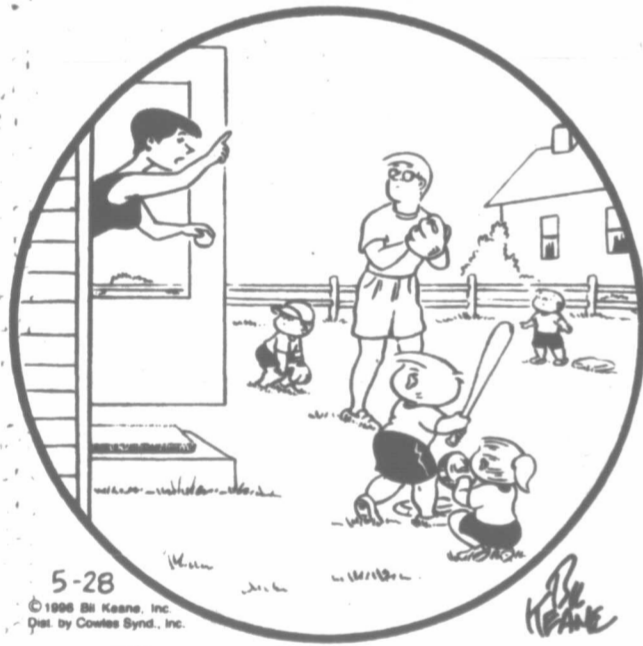
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You will learn that there is a big difference between a calculated risk and a foolish gamble. You will come out ahead today if you can perceive the variations.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A changing circumstance which has concerned you looks as if it will work out for the best. You can help matters by thinking strong, positive thoughts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) After carefully analyzing a sticky situation from every angle, make your judgment and abide by it. Indecisiveness will be counterproductive today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you aren't getting what you feel you're entitled to, speak up and defend your position. The oversight could be corrected easily.

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Nation briefs

Girl trapped in whirlpool drowns at post-prom party

LAKEWOOD, N.J. (AP) — A teenage girl at an alcohol-free post-prom party became pinned by suction to the bottom of a hot tub and drowned, despite the frantic attempts of her friends to pull her from the gurgling water. Tanya Nickens, 16, and about six friends had just hopped into the tub Saturday night when she ducked under the 100-degree water, witnesses said.

The suction jets were turned on at the same time and she became trapped against a grate at the bottom of the whirlpool, said Kevin McHugh, manager of the Atlantic Club.

Jon Soto, 16, said he and another boy jumped in but could not pull Nickens out. Soto said he inhaled and tried to force air into the girl's mouth underwater.

A lifeguard jumped in and another called for emergency help before a worker went to the basement to shut off the jets, McHugh said.

McHugh said Nickens was under water for five to six minutes. Attempts to revive her failed. She was pronounced dead at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune.

Elderly residents upset over billing for phone-sex calls

MIAMI (AP) — Scores of elderly south Florida residents insist they haven't been dialing 1-900 phone sex numbers — even though they've been billed for hundreds of dollars worth of calls.

"Sex?" said Harriet Jacobs. "I'm 71. My husband's 82. Believe me, sex is the last thing on our minds."

Jean Slomack got a bill for \$99.75 for 30 minutes worth of risqué conversation, and said the shock nearly killed her.

"If I didn't get a heart attack then, I figure I'm safe for a while," she said.

American TelNet, the 900-number firm doing the billings, says it suspects hackers are behind the scheme. Metro-Dade police also was investigating.

Montanabahn: State worries about high speed image

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — In the first summer tourist season since Montana took down the national speed limit signs, state officials are worried about a new breed of visitor with a need to speed.

"The image ... is that it's the autobahn, the Montanabahn," said Matthew Cohn, director of the state tourism office. "The reality is, there's a lot of misinformation out there."

After Congress repealed the national speed limit of 65 mph on interstates and 55 mph on other highways last December, Montana automatically reverted to its former law, with no set speed limit during daylight hours.

Instead, Montana has the "basic rule" — a driver may not exceed speeds that are "reasonable and prudent" for conditions. But the lack of specific numbers has been widely misinterpreted as no speed limit at all.

"It's interpretive. It's discretionary. It's difficult to explain and understand," acknowledged Maj. Steve Barry of the Highway Patrol. "There's a lot of variables involved."

In contrast, Colorado's new speed limit that goes into effect today is a clear 75 mph.

While there is no fixed rule of thumb in Montana, drivers moving with the pack — even if the pack is really moving — should escape the long arm of the law.

Philippines: Abuse perpetrated against overseas workers increase

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — While working as a housemaid in Oman, Nenet kept a pair of scissors hidden under her pillow to protect herself from the sexual advances of her employer's son.

"I might kill him," she wrote to her mother in the Philippines. "He wants me and he is insistent."

Nenet, who spoke on condition that her last name not be used, spent 20-hour days cleaning, ironing and cooking — with no days off — while trying to avoid her harasser. She finally convinced her employer to let her go home to the Philippines by fabricating a story that her 3-year-old child was ill.

Nenet's experience is becoming increasingly common, according

to about 50 U.N. experts who began meeting in Manila on Monday to discuss the growing problem of abuse associated with exported female labor.

The problem particularly affects Asian nations. Overall, about 50 percent of Asian overseas workers are now women, up from less than 15 percent two decades ago, according to a U.N. study.

Among Filipinos, most overseas workers a decade ago were men who labored at construction sites in the Middle East or as crewmen aboard ships. Today, women now account for about 55 percent of the more than 5 million Filipinos working abroad out of a total population of about 68 million.

In the first five months of this year, 94,136 Filipino overseas workers encountered serious trouble, more than double the 40,971 in all of the previous year, according to the Kanlungan Center Foundation, a Manila group that works on behalf of workers abroad.

But the "scare stories" about workers abroad do not discourage Filipinos from continuing to go overseas, said Miriam Tugawin of the Kanlungan Center.

"I think they are more scared about the life they have here than abroad," she said. "Here, they have nothing to eat."

Nenet says she went abroad to make more money. In Oman, she earned \$156 a month.

The policy of encouraging labor exports from the Philippines was launched in the 1970s by then-President Ferdinand Marcos in response to an economic slowdown.

The governments of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand and other countries also actively encourage overseas employment as a means of reducing unemployment at home and earning foreign exchange.

About 80 percent of the half-million Sri Lankan workers abroad are women, nearly all working as housemaids in the Middle East. At any given time, hundreds of maids there are being harbored in Sri Lankan embassies after fleeing rape and

physical abuse by their employers, the government says.

As reports of abuse increase, the Philippine government has started to reconsider the labor exports. Many Filipinos feel ashamed that their nation has become a supplier of maids to the world. Many also question why so many women — and men — have abandoned their responsibilities as parents and spouses for the attraction of money abroad.

Children of overseas workers often perform badly in school and grow up with little self-discipline because of the missing parent, says Simeona Rojas, principal of Christ the King College high school north of Manila.

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Patent pending on new pepper

DALLAS (AP) — In a state where the fiery jalapeno is an official product and some Texans even put chiles in their beer, a picante sauce maker's new heatless pepper has become a burning issue.

But, jumpin' jalapenos! This cool concoction comes from the folks at Pace, whose advertisements once jokingly proposed a lynch mob for anyone daring to serve picante sauce "from New York City."

The San Antonio-based company is proud of its creation, but kept it a secret as long as possible.

The clandestine plant-breeding program was dubbed "Operation Big Chill." They were so hush-hush about it that the seeds were grown in Hawaii and at a secluded South Texas greenhouse.

The result is a jalapeno without capsaicin, the chemical that heats up everything from curry powder to salsa.

Pace says it is targeting a market made of those who like their Mexican food on the mild side.

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