

STATE:
Amarillo man receives
speedy execution, Page 3

GOOD EVENING
Thursday, September 19, 1996

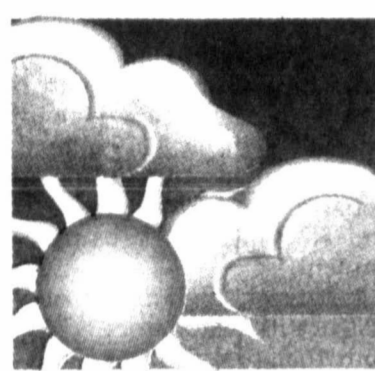
SPORTS:
White Deer football team
off to 2-0 start, Page 11

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 143

Pampa, Texas

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

PAMPA - An undercover operation has yielded the arrest of a 19-year-old Pampa man on a fourth degree felony drug charge.

Thalamus Malone, 1049 Huff Rd., was arrested Wednesday afternoon and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. He remains in Gray County jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

It is alleged an agent of the district attorney's office purchased less than one gram methamphetamine from Malone at a south Pampa address. Malone was arrested following a foot chase which began during execution of a search warrant at 1049 Huff Rd.

Another one gram in methamphetamine was recovered during the chase, said District Attorney John Mann.

PAMPA - The Pampa United Way will have its campaign kickoff luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Pampa Country Club.

Speaker will be geologist and United Way leader William (Bill) Dingus of Midland, a 1977 graduate of Pampa High School, where he served as Senior Class president. He currently serves on the Midland United Way board of directors and executive board.

Cost is \$6.50 a person. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Sept. 20. Reservations can be made by calling the Pampa United Way office at 669-1001. If no one is in, please leave the request on the answering machine.

FORT WORTH (AP) - Mrs Baird's Bakeries has agreed to pay \$600,000 to settle state allegations of bid-rigging and price-fixing.

The agreement, announced Wednesday by Mrs Baird's and Attorney General Dan Morales, would have to be approved as part of Mrs Baird's Chapter 11 reorganization pending in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Fort Worth.

Morales had sued the Fort Worth-based bakery, alleging that from 1980 to 1993, "Mrs Baird's conspired to fix, stabilize or otherwise control prices on the sale of wholesale bread products to its customers."

AUSTIN (AP) - One ticket bought in San Antonio correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth an estimated \$8 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 4, 5, 22, 31, 32 and 41.

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

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School dispute stalls action on immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - Still arguing about whether illegal alien children should be barred from public schools, House and Senate Republicans are considering compromises to keep a major immigration bill on track for passage this month.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said Republicans were looking at two approaches today aimed at passing a bill before year-ending adjournment: dropping the schools provision altogether or weakening it.

"We're trying both of those," Lott, R-Miss., told reporters. "That bill is worth having with or without" the schools amendment. Saying the schools provision is "the right thing to do," Lott said the Republican majority was weighing "what needs to be done versus what we can get done. We're wrestling with that."

House Republicans seemed unwilling to consider abandoning the schools language.

Lott's Democratic counterpart, Sen. Tom Daschle, said other issues in the bill need to be addressed as well but that drop-

ping the schools provision "would be very helpful."

A compromise proposal that would delay action on the schools provision for a year by ordering a study of illegal immigrants in public schools appeared to raise fresh objections Wednesday. It was among several ideas under study by the House GOP leadership, congressional aides said.

President Clinton, who generally supports immigration reform, has promised to veto the immigration bill if it denies public education to children of illegal aliens.

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, mindful that the provision is popular in the key battleground state of California, wants it left in the immigration bill.

Asked how he could consider dropping the schools amendment supported by his party's presidential nominee, Lott said: "We are aware of (Dole's) interest and concern ... but in the end, we have a legislative responsibility we have to carry forward."



(Pampa News photo by Sherry Cromartie)

Mrs. Dorothy Stowers receives flowers and a letter of recognition as a Woman of Distinction for the World of Well-Being from Lauren Denney and members of Brownie Troop 435.

Girl Scout council honors Dorothy Stowers as '96 Woman of Distinction for her service

Pampa's Brownie Troop 435, on behalf of the Texas Plains Girl Scout Council, recognized Dorothy Stowers as a 1996 Woman of Distinction for the World of Well Being in a brief ceremony at Stowers' home Wednesday afternoon.

"This is such an honor," Stowers said as she was presented flowers from each of the troop members. Brownie Lauren Denney read the award presentation, recognizing Stowers "as one of the outstanding women who are involved in Girl Scouts."

"You have given your talents, your time and your energy to help others and make our community a better place to live. You are a powerful role model for girls. Congratulations!" Denney said.

Accompanying the girls were Sherri Schaible and Patty Denney, Brownie troop leaders.

Schaible said, "Mrs. Stowers is deserving of this award because of her involvement with the Girl Scouts in the Panhandle area for over 40 years. She is a dedicated lady, and still cares about the work and programs of the Girl Scouts."

"I've been here longer than anybody, and I think it is a wonderful program ... one we should promote. Girl scouting is a program I believe in wholeheartedly and there is no other like it for girls," said Stowers, adding, "I've had fun as a camper and as a leader, and I have many fond memories."

Stowers said she was in Girl Scouts as a young girl and her mother, Esther Culberson, helped found the local Girl Scout organization at the time Camp Mel Davis was first given to the organization.

Before she had children of her

own, she led a troop of cadette Girl Scouts. As soon as her own daughter was old enough to join a Brownie Girl Scout leader and remained in that position until all the girls had graduated from high school.

From 1970 through 1971, she was president of Quivira Girl Scout Council. Under her leadership she made it possible for over 2,000 girls to participate in scouting programs.

In addition to her leadership activities in girl scouting, Stowers has been active in Red Cross, the American Cancer Society and Pampa Independent School District Board of Trustees and is an active member of the First United Methodist Church.

She will be honored at an awards dinner Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Amarillo Country Club.

Texas FFA group honors Miami teacher

MIAMI - Ellis Miller, agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor at Miami Independent School District, has been nominated to receive the National FFA Organization's Honorary American FFA Degree.

Miller was nominated for the degree by the Texas FFA Association, and the nomination was approved by the National FFA Board of Directors at its recent meeting in Alexandria, Va.

The Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest honorary award presented by the FFA, recognizes those who are helping advance agriculture education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service. This year, 51 teachers of agricultural education were nominated to receive the degree during the 69th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 14-16.

During Miller's 18 successful years at Miami, six students

have earned the American FFA Degree, 16 students and counting have received the State FFA Degree and two students have earned state proficiency awards.

Each year at least 50 of the nation's 11,200 agricultural education teachers receive the Honorary American FFA Degree. The degree is awarded on the basis of points earned by teachers for their accomplishments as agricultural instructors, FFA advisors and participants in professional organizations for agriculture teachers.

Teachers are awarded points for each student they have supervised who has earned state or national FFA awards. Teachers also receive points for serving as officers and committee members of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association and for their participation in national meetings of the FFA and other professional associations.

Miller will receive the degree

during the Friday morning session of the convention, pending final approval of the nomination by the student FFA delegates, who must vote on all honorary presentations on the National FFA Organization.

FFA is a national organization of 452,734 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. The organization has 7,269 local chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Local, state and national activities and award programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Employees for Leonard Hudson Drilling Co. - Marvin Stimson of Borger, driller; Marvin Heathington of Pampa, derrick hand; James Garza of Borger, motor man; and Shawn Wise of Borger, backup thongs - work at night on Rig #17 on the J.B. Barrett lease southwest of Pampa. The rig is expected to drill to a depth of 3,100 to 3,500 feet.

Oil, gas drilling activity up slightly in District 10

Oil and gas drilling activity has increased slightly in the Pampa area over the past year, according to figures provided by Andrew Ruth, spokesman for the Texas Railroad Commission's news media communications office in Austin.

Ruth said records for District 10, overseen by the Pampa office of the Railroad Commission, indicated gas production of 1,558,419 thousand cubic feet for the 1996 period ending in July. Crude oil production for the same period was 197,153 barrels.

Well completions totaled 778, including approximately 345 oil well completions and 380 gas

well completions to date for 1996.

For comparison purposes, on a year-to-date basis (July 1995 to July 1996), Ruth said there were 2,104 oil well completions, compared to 2,096 in 1995. Gas well completions for the same period included 2,051, compared to 1,985 for the previous year-to-date period.

In June 1996, 982 drilling permits were issued, with the operator allowed one year in which to initiate any drilling, Ruth said. On a year-to-date basis, 6,067 permits were issued in 1996, compared to 4,635 in the 1995 period.

College still hoping to fund new building

Fund raising efforts aimed at building a new campus for Clarendon College Pampa Center have stalled, steering committee member Don Lane told members of Pampa Rotary Club Wednesday.

Lane told the group about \$700,000 in cash, pledges and in-kind gifts have been received, but Amarillo Area Foundation denied the group's request for another \$750,000.

The tax exempt Pampa Center Foundation will continue to seek support for the \$4.6 million project from

Pampa Economic Development Corporation and private sources. The group is seeking a professional grant writer, Lane said.

The AAF grant request was denied for four reasons, he said.

The reasons include: Amarillo Area Foundation has never made a single grant as large as the local request, AAF's concern over the size of the proposed structure, lack of a viable tax base in Gray County for maintenance of the new building and concern about

local reliance on grant funding to pay for 75 percent of the project.

However, the committee was invited to submit another application after a year.

Groundbreaking for the new campus was targeted for Jan. 1, 1997.

"We were overly optimistic in setting that goal for that fund raising," Lane said.

Assets toward the project include \$248,000 in investments in cash, \$301,000 in pledges and \$155,000 in land and fixed items.

Five generations of Youngs



The Youngs, ranging from 10 months to 92 years in ages, representing five generations of the their family, celebrated their annual family reunion Aug. 12, in Raton, N.M. Center front is Holly Coble Hutchinson of Kress, holding her son, Mason Hutchinson; behind them are great-great-grandmother Ella Young of Raton, great-grandmother Blondine Young of Pampa, and grandmother Connie Young Coble of White Deer.

Amarillo man most expeditiously executed killer since resumption of penalty in state

HUNTSVILLE (AP) - A convicted killer who avoided appeals on his behalf was executed Wednesday evening, only eight months after arriving on death row for the robbery-slaying of his boss in Amarillo. The death sentence for Joe Gonzales, a 36-year-old footer, was the speediest in Texas since the death penalty resumed in Texas 14 years ago. Gonzales died at 6:19 p.m. - seven minutes after lethal drugs were administered in Texas' third execution this year. Convicted last November in the 1992 shooting death of William Veader, Gonzales gasped once before he was pronounced dead, state officials said. Gonzales had nothing to say in the death chamber, but released a brief handwritten statement read by Amarillo attorney Kent Birdsong following the execution. "There are people all over the world who face things worse than death on a daily basis and in that sense I consider myself lucky," he said. "I cannot find the words to express the sadness I feel for bringing this hurt and pain on my loved ones. "I will not ask forgiveness for the decisions I have made in this judicial process, only acceptance. God bless you all." Gonzales arrived on death row Jan. 10. The previous Texas record for brevity on death row before execution was the 18 months spent by George Lott, who was given lethal injection in September 1994 for killing two attorneys at the Tarrant County Courthouse. Like Gonzales, Lott served as his own lawyer at trial and accelerate executions virtually had halted executions while the law was being reviewed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Unlike most other condemned inmates, however, Gonzales spurned opportunities that almost certainly would have guaranteed him a reprieve and an appeals process that in Texas is averaging some eight years. "All I ask is that you follow the law and find me guilty of capital murder," Gonzales, who declined a prison interview, told an Amarillo jury last November. "I am a man who broke the law. I am a man who has no regard for the law. I am a man who has no regard for humanity." "I ask for no sympathy, no empathy - but I do ask for you to follow the law." Jurors followed his instructions, taking just twelve minutes to decide on the death penalty. Gonzales was convicted of fatally shooting the 50-year-old Veader on Oct. 19, 1992, at Veader's Amarillo home in a robbery that Gonzales tried to cover up as a suicide. In a tape-recorded confession to police, Gonzales said Veader owed him about \$200 and he went to the house "to get my money one way or the other."

Crime Stoppers starts '\$25 Fugitives' program

Gray County Crime Stoppers is beginning a new program called "Fast \$25 Fugitives" aimed at helping law enforcement agencies serve outstanding warrants. Crime Stoppers will pay \$25 cash for information which leads to the arrest of the people on the "Fast \$25 Fugitives" list. Outstanding theft by check warrants on these people are at Gray County Sheriff's Office: Regina Renea Alexander, white female, born July 1, 1975. Troy Steven Barrett, white male, born July 11, 1971. Scott T. Bell, white male, born Aug. 14, 1964. Mary Ann Brown, white female, born Aug. 21, 1942. Karen Reynolds Bryant, white female, born Oct. 15, 1973. Ralph Ramirez Cano, white male, born March 9, 1957. Albert Jose Casares Jr., white male, born March 1, 1976. Sue Ellen Chavez, white female, born Jan. 23, 1970. Jeffery Thomas Churchill, white male, born March 7, 1967. Waldermar Sanchez Colon, white male, born Aug. 30, 1963. Sammy Ray Condo, white male, born May 12, 1963. Tammy Jean Cooper, white female, born Oct. 29, 1968. Johnny Diaz, white male, born Aug. 18, 1975. Chris Dow, white male, born July 25, 1969. Barbara Sue Eberhardt, white female, born Oct. 8, 1965. Callers may report information anonymously on the Crime Stoppers hotline, 669-2222. Some warrants may not be extraditable from state to state. Warrants must be confirmed before an arrest is made.

South Korea kills seven intruders, captures two

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korean troops shot and killed seven North Koreans today during a manhunt in the remote eastern mountains. Thousands of soldiers searched for more communist infiltrators from a submarine that ran aground a day earlier. Eighteen North Koreans have been killed since their submarine was found early Wednesday in the surf just off Kangnung, 90 miles east of Seoul. One intruder was captured and interrogated but provided few details on what officials say was a spy mission meant to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The infiltration heightened South Korean fears that despite its deepening economic woes and recent gestures of openness, the communist North has never abandoned its goal of taking the pro-Western South by force. North Korea has not commented on the latest incursion, the 14th reported in the South since 1990. It has never acknowledged past infiltrations. Today, it refused to receive a protest letter from the American-led U.N. command that oversees the fragile Korean cease-fire. South Korean officials said the incident will bring bad international publicity to the reclusive country, which is seeking foreign aid and investment to feed its flood victims and revive its sputtering economy. After sporadic gunfights overnight, South Korean soldiers spotted seven North Koreans and killed them in three separate shootouts in the rugged mountains and remote valleys on Korea's east coast. One South Korean soldier suffered minor injuries. Eleven other North Koreans were found dead in a mountain clearing Wednesday, all shot in the head in an apparent suicide pact to avoid capture. Gen. Shin Sang-kil told reporters today that the captured intruder had been plied with alcohol by interrogators and was slowly beginning to talk. "He at first refused to answer, saying he feared for the lives of his family he left in the North, but after drinking four bottles of soju (Korean whiskey), he began to open his mouth," Shin said. The man, identified as Li Gwang Su, told investigators that his submarine lost engine power shortly after leaving its home port of Wonsan on Monday and drifted into South Korean waters. But he refused to disclose where it was headed and what its mission was, South Korean officials said.

Gonzales arrived on death row Jan. 10. The previous Texas record for brevity on death row before execution was the 18 months spent by George Lott, who was given lethal injection in September 1994 for killing two attorneys at the Tarrant County Courthouse. Like Gonzales, Lott served as his own lawyer at trial and



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Nitza Roman, a West Texas A&M University student, is serving as a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Lamar Elementary School in Pampa through the STEP program. Pictured from left are Kelley Smith, one of Roman's mentors and a first grade teacher at Lamar; Roman; Lorine Cash, one of Roman's mentors and a kindergarten teacher at Lamar; and JoAnne Davis, Roman's WTAMU supervisor, as they attend a training meeting Sept. 11 at WTAMU.

Student teacher gets boost up career ladder with WTAMU's STEP program

CANYON — Nitza Roman, a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Lamar Elementary School in Pampa, began her first year as a teacher through the West Texas A&M University Student/Teacher Expanded Program (STEP). Roman attended a training workshop Sept. 11 at WTAMU along with her teaching mentors from Lamar and her WTAMU program supervisor. The STEP program is for WTAMU students who have completed all degree requirements except the professional semester. It is coordinated between the school district and the university.

"Schools are beginning to contact us," said Mary Beth Ford, WTAMU director of Clinical Experiences. "Districts are beginning to understand STEP teachers are some of the very best." STEP applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in all courses, and a 3.25 GPA in education courses or passing scores on the appropriate ExCETs (state-mandated finals in specific areas), Ford explained. A STEP committee including a mentor teacher, a building administrator and a representative from the university over-

see the progress of the intern. The participating school district pays the intern 75 percent of the teacher's salary, and the master teacher receives a 20 percent stipend to assist the intern throughout the school year. The remaining five percent is used for release time for the mentor teacher and intern to collaborate during the year. Roman's mentoring teachers are Kelley Smith, a first grade teacher at Lamar, and Lorine Cash, a kindergarten teacher at Lamar. JoAnne Davis, assistant professor of special education, serves as Roman's university representative.

Status of idle fields subject of overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of acres of productive farmland sitting idle since the mid-1980s could be forced back into production under a planned overhaul of the nation's biggest farm conservation program. The Agriculture Department announced changes to the Conservation Reserve Program on Wednesday that are intended to ensure that only the most environmentally sensitive land is retired.

"Gone will be the days of retiring productive farmland," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "Gone will be the days of using the CRP as a method of controlling how much of a particular crop is grown." About 36 million acres of land are currently idled under the program that was created in the 1980s to take highly erodible land out of production and to aid financially stressed farmers. At the time, farmers were running huge crop surpluses, which have now disappeared. Farmers are paid not to farm the land for ten years and get federal help to plant grass and trees on it. More than 40 percent of the CRP land isn't vulnerable enough to erosion to qualify under the proposed new rules, unless the land has critical environmental benefits, according to the Environmental Working Group, a research organization. Nationwide, 24 million acres of land are due come out of the program next year when farmers' ten year contracts expire. USDA officials say they can't estimate how much of the land with expiring contracts will stay in the program, but they expect much of the acreage leaving the program to be replaced with other land now being farmed. Under the new rules, USDA also would no longer pay farmers more than the land's market rental rate. Farmers in some states are being paid up to three times the local rental rates.

Baylor kills journalism project lined to conservative groups

WACO (AP) — Baylor University is moving to end a controversy surrounding a journalism survey financed by a \$50,000 grant from a foundation with links to several conservative media groups. Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. said the survey, intended to test the job market for journalism graduates, is being canceled and the grant returned to the Harold W. Siebens Foundation. Sloan said Wednesday that the decision to cancel the survey was made by the two professors in charge of the project, marketing professor Larry Chonko and political science professor Mike Mansfield. The foundation has ties to such groups as conservative media watchdog group Accuracy in Media and the Western Journalism Center. The latter program markets a tape questioning the ruling of suicide in the death of White House

deputy counsel Vincent Foster. News organizations have cited errors contained in the tape. In a letter released by Sloan, Chonko and Mansfield gave three reasons for ending the study: — The sponsor's wish to remain anonymous violated the traditional policy for research projects. — Controversy surrounding the study led them to "anticipate that we will spend far more time defending our impartiality as scholars than ... discussing our research results." — Chonko and Mansfield said they did not wish to conduct the study without the active support of Baylor's journalism department. Journalism Chairman Mike Bishop questioned the propriety of accepting money from Siebens, accusing the foundation of trying to buy Baylor's reputation as an outstanding academic institution.

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Beleaguered president turns attention abroad

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — President Ernesto Samper's links to drug lords have soiled his international image and left him badly weakened at home, where guerrilla attacks and social unrest worsened by the day. He's also minus a U.S. visa. But that's not stopping Samper, who won election in 1994 with \$6 million in drug contributions, from heading for New York to propose a global anti-drug strategy before the U.N. General Assembly on Monday. Samper insists he will serve out his four-year term, and has survived all manner of domestic challenge. He has even gone on the counterattack. This week, he charged that Washington is treating developing nations unfairly, making aid and access to U.S. markets conditional on compliance with its demands on

drugs, human rights and the environment. "Conditionality is the new name for (U.S.) interventionism and that's what I will say at the United Nations," Samper, who chairs of the 114-nation Non-Aligned Movement, told the Brazilian newspaper O Estado. Samper's U.N. trip was scheduled after Washington canceled his tourist visa in July, angered that a highly partisan Congress cleared the Colombian leader of drug corruption charges. The United States has not yet decided whether to slap travel restrictions on Samper while he's in New York as it did last year for Fidel Castro, who was limited to a 25-mile radius. "There are discussions in the works," State Department spokeswoman Susan Snyder said Wednesday.

Counselor: Mother torn between daughter, new husband

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — A mental health counselor testified Wednesday that Kristy Carter was torn between love for her daughter and loyalty to new husband Bobby Dale Carter Jr. and his family before the toddler's drowning. Bobby Dale Carter Jr., 30, is charged with murdering his 22-month-old stepdaughter Amber Lynn Kane. He could be sentenced to death if convicted of capital murder of a child under the age of six. Carter's wife and Amber's mother, Kristy Carter, was also indicted in 1995 on a capital murder charge, but hanged herself in jail. But first, she signed a state-

ment for prosecutors, describing how she walked in on her husband as he was drowning the child. Darrol Groth of the Vernon State Hospital testified during the 15th day of testimony in Carter's murder trial in a Fort Worth state district court. Groth served as Mrs. Carter's counselor in Wilbarger County Jail before her suicide. After making her statement, Carter struggled between love for the child she said she had seen her husband kill and her own craving for the support of the family she had married into. "She was in a search, a quest for a home," Groth testified. "She

wanted to be taken care of. She wanted a home." When Bobby and Kristy Carter were arrested, Carter's family told her they would support her no matter what she decided to do, Groth said. However, Joyce Edmonds, Mrs. Carter's mother-in-law, recorded her telephone conversations with Mrs. Carter. Those tapes were played for the jury on Tuesday.



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'Working Mother' names its best companies

By KAREN SCHWARTZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The bulls and bears are starting to welcome the kids.

For the first time, two Wall Street firms — Merrill Lynch and Bankers Trust — made the Working Mother list of the best 100 companies.

The 11th annual survey by Working Mother magazine also found greater use of flexible work schedules, a wider recognition of the child-care needs of employees working at branch offices, and expanded leave benefits for new fathers and adoptive parents.

"Work-family issues are finally receiving the recognition and support they deserve from all types of companies," said Judsen Culbreth, editor in chief of Working Mother.

The magazine notes that the Clinton administration has encouraged companies to provide more support for workers juggling careers and children. Vice President Al Gore, speaking at the magazine's awards breakfast in New York Tuesday morning, said that the administration would like to take the Family and Medical Leave Act even further.

In its October issue, Working Mother chooses its best companies based on pay, advancement opportunities for women, child care, flexible hours and family-friendly benefits such as adoption aid and elderly care resources.

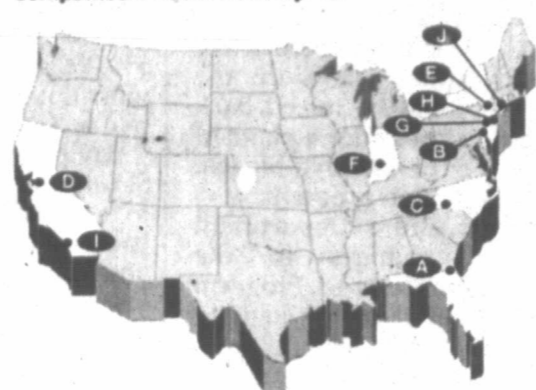
The list doesn't rank the companies, but notes the 10 best. They included: the banking companies of Barnett Banks Inc. of

Criteria for finding the best



Mother knows best

Working Mother magazine's annual survey has made its choice of the country's 100 best companies. A look at the top 10:



- | | |
|--|---|
| A Barnett Banks, Inc.
Jacksonville, Fla. | F Eli Lilly & Co.
Indianapolis, Ind. |
| B MBNA America Bank
Wilmington, Del. | G Merck & Co.
Whitehouse Station, N.J. |
| C NationsBank Corp.
Charlotte, N.C. | H Johnson & Johnson
New Brunswick, N.J. |
| D Hewlett-Packard Co.
Palo Alto, Calif. | I Patagonia (clothing)
Ventura, Calif. |
| E International Business Machines Corp.
Armonk, N.Y. | J Xerox Corp.
Stamford, Conn. |

AP/Carl Fox/T. Durand

Jacksonville, Fla., MBNA America Bank of Wilmington, Del., and NationsBank Corp., of Charlotte, N.C.; and the computer companies of Hewlett-Packard Co. of Palo Alto, Calif., and IBM of Armonk, N.Y.

The top 10 also included the pharmaceutical companies Eli Lilly and Co. of Indianapolis and Merck & Co. of New York; Johnson & Johnson, a New Brunswick, N.J.-based consumer product firm; the Patagonia clothing company, headquartered in Ventura, Calif.; and

Xerox Corp. of Stamford, Conn. Of the 100 best companies, 17 made the list for the first time, including Merrill Lynch and Bankers Trust.

Among other companies making the list were Hoechst Celanese Corp., Somerville, N.J.; Amoco Corp., Chicago; Avon Products Inc., New York; Texas Instruments Inc., Dallas; United Services Automobile Association, San Antonio; Ford Motor Co., Dearborn, Mich. General Motors Corp., Detroit; and Hallmark Cards Inc., Kansas City, Mo.

While many companies fail to offer women any paid maternity leave, the New York-based Merrill Lynch & Co., offers 13 weeks off at full pay, the most generous on the list. New dads get five days paid leave, and the primary care giver who adopts a child gets five weeks paid leave.

The financial services company, which has 39,830 employees — 42 percent female — last year instructed managers on how to make alternative schedules work. One division, which provides system support for private clients, expects to have 10 percent of its 1,500 employees working from home by the end of the year.

"We firmly believe that our work-life strategy is good for business because it's good for our employees and it's good for Merrill Lynch," said Patricia Crowley, head of organizational change and wellness.

She said the programs help the company recruit and retain superior employees, and allow workers to be more productive on the job.

Bankers Trust New York Corp. was one of the first Wall Street firms to offer employees alternative work arrangements, including job sharing, flexible hours, compressed workweeks, and staggered schedules, in which an employee might work four days one week and six days the next. The firm, at which 45 percent of the 7,685 employees are female, offers emergency child care at three locations in the New York area. It also provides a prenatal program, lactation rooms and an Employee Assistance Program that offers counseling to workers and relatives.

Fraud trial on hold due to jury confusion

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A confused jury awarded \$2.6 million to a production company that claimed Michael Jackson backed off a commitment to sing on a television special and also said nobody was liable for the money. U.S. District Judge Laughlin Waters on Wednesday delayed the case until Sept. 26 and told lawyers to prepare motions to request a mistrial.

The lawsuit by Smith-Hemion Productions said the Jacksons' family-owned company reneged on a promise that Michael Jackson would perform during the money-losing "Jackson Family Honors" television show in Las Vegas in 1994.

Jackson never sang solo, appearing only briefly to present two awards and to join his family in a song at the end.

On Wednesday, the 10-member jury returned a verdict saying the TV production company suffered damages of \$2.6 million but that no members of the Jackson family were liable.

Later, after the judge ordered the panel back to deliberate further on who was responsible, the jury sent confusing messages.

Elderly man still alive after traumatic bee attack

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — An 85-year-old man stung up to 300 times by a swarm of bees is lucky to be alive, an expert says.

"He's still queasy and a bit disoriented," Mike English, an entomologist with New Mexico State University, said Wednesday. "It's amazing. With that many stings, a man of that many years could be in trouble. Anybody could be in trouble."

The man, who was not identified, was driving a front-end

loader Tuesday near this southern New Mexico town when he bumped some old tires the bees were using as a nest.

The man became still, believing the bees would lose interest in him.

"Many people believe if you just stand quiet they won't bother you," English said. "That's absolutely not true. You should leave, run if you can."

Tests were being done to determine if the bees were of the Africanized variety, though English was almost sure they were.

Broadcaster pleads guilty to defrauding listeners

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Former radio host Sonny Bloch pleaded guilty to defrauding listeners of his financial-advice show out of \$21 million by plugging investments he knew were worthless.

Bloch faces up to dozens of years in prison and millions of dollars in fines.

He had told his national audience that he had looked into the ventures when he had not, and never revealed he was being paid to promote the investments.

"Investors had as much chance of making money on the radio investments as of finding a radio station in their back yard," U.S. Attorney Faith S. Hochberg said. The schemes involved wireless cable providers, radio stations, precious metals and other ventures.

In court Wednesday, Bloch, 60, pleaded guilty to fraud and conspiracy. He also pleaded guilty earlier this year to failing to pay \$410,000 in federal taxes and lying to the Securities and Exchange Commission during a 1994 investigation.

No sentencing date was set for Bloch or his son and five others who have pleaded guilty.

Fujisaki unsympathetic of jury excuses in wrongful death suit

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Vacation plans. Aging relatives requiring care. A kid who needs to be driven to elementary school. Loss of overtime benefits. Chronic health problems.

These were the excuses given by people trying to get out of jury service in the O.J. Simpson wrongful-death trial.

And the judge wasn't buying any of them.

The sequel to the Simpson criminal trial officially began with jury selection Wednesday and continues today. Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki

made it clear he was taking a hard line on hardship requests, turning down about half of them.

The only consistently winning argument was the poverty plea. For the most part, Fujisaki would only excuse those prospects whose employers wouldn't pay for jury service for four months, the estimated length of trial.

He did excuse a pregnant woman, and a Filipino man who has to attend a family reunion in his homeland.

Everyone else got a cold dose of what the lawyers have been experiencing for weeks: a judge who

doesn't dillydally. He rejected most complaints that the trial would impose personal hardship or place a burden on an employer.

And pity the prospect who fudged the facts or gave inconsistent statements.

One woman angered the judge when she said she couldn't serve because she had to drive her second-grade son to school for classes that started at 8:30 a.m., the same time trial sessions are to start. Then she said that 8:30 a.m. was the drop-off time and school actually started at 8:45 a.m.

"That's different," the judge

snapped. "You told me school starts at 8:30 and now it's a quarter of 9."

Her hardship request was denied. The woman left the courtroom with a grim expression.

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Bruta! Robbery Provides Sobering Lesson In Safety

DEAR ABBY: I have just been through the worst experience in my life. I am a 22-year-old woman who was robbed in the apartment I share with a friend...



Abigail Van Buren SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

They wanted money, bank and credit cards, which I willingly gave them. They told me they'd have to tie me up. That actually relieved me since I figured they would have no need to hurt me...

Abby, I am telling you all this partially to get it out of my system and also to warn your readers about opening doors to strangers...

DEAR HOMEBOUND: Thank you for writing to describe your nightmarish experience in order to warn others...

You may also need someone with whom you can talk this out. An excellent resource for this would be a victims' rights or victims' support group...

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Friday, Sept. 20, 1996 More dedication and responsibility could be in store for you in the year ahead...

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today, avoid issues that always generate friction between you and your mate... ARIES (March 21-April 19) A difficult objective might not be easy to achieve today...

yourselves.

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter I wrote to you about a year ago with some advice to a woman whose husband had suddenly left her...

She should dump him! The bum I was once married to told me on our honeymoon that a former girlfriend turned him on more than I did...

DEAR BETTER THAN EVER: Congratulations on having found such a wonderful man. As the old song goes, "Love is wonderful ... the second time around."

spend more than you want to. ARIES (March 21-April 19) A difficult objective might not be easy to achieve today...

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The greatest obstacle you will have to deal today could be yourself. Do not use self-defeating methods...

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you have not repaid an obligation to a friend, avoid embarrassment today by calling attention to the issue before your pal has to remind you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you will be judged by the company you keep, so select companions who are above reproach if you want to make yourself look like a winner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) An individual to whom you assign an important task might not live up to your expectations today. Play it safe and keep a close eye on him or her while you work.



For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



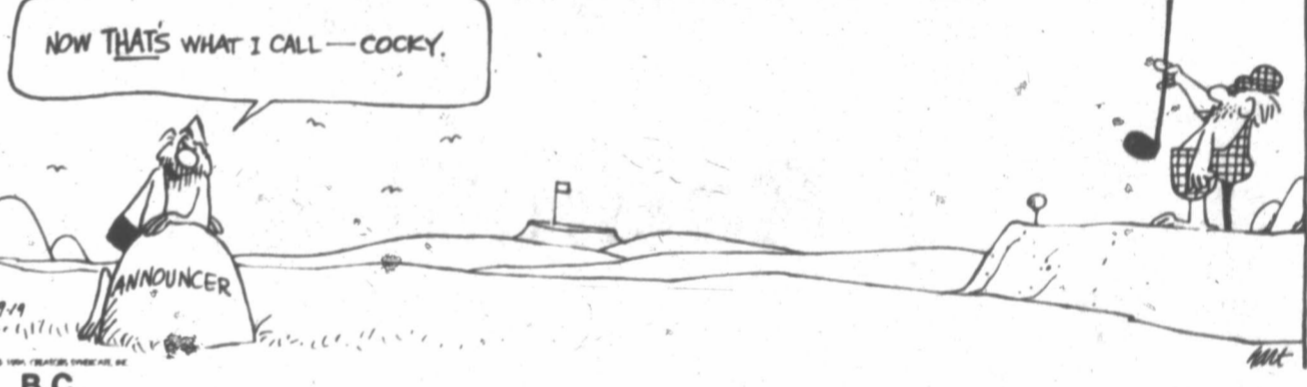
Garfield



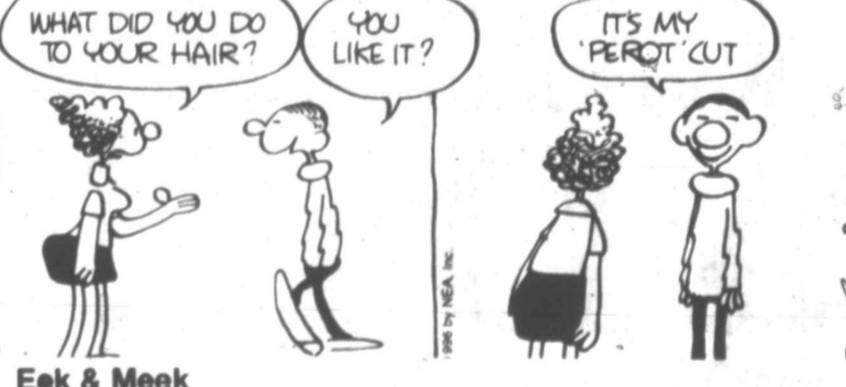
Walnut Cove



Marvin



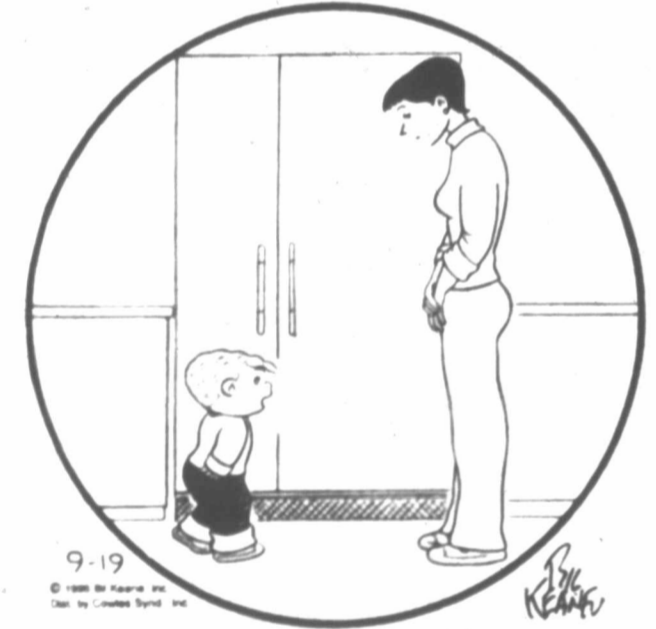
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



"I'm not hungry, or thirsty, or any of that stuff. What I'd REALLY like is a hug."



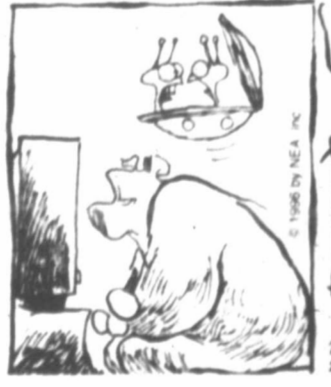
"No, I'm not getting shorter. I'm standing in a hole your dog dug."

The Family Circus

Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

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World briefs

Fall of Communism gives way to debilitating disease

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Polio, meningitis and other old scourges have killed dozens of people and sent hundreds to hospitals in recent weeks in formerly Communist lands suffering from crumbling health care systems.

Romania's health ministry said Wednesday that six people had died of meningitis in the previous 24 hours, bringing the toll there to 38 since early August. More than 400 people have been hospitalized.

That is only the most serious example of the inability of poorly funded health care systems in Central and Eastern Europe to control illnesses that largely have been eradicated in more prosperous western half of the continent.

Seven people have died of polio in Albania. Tuberculosis is spreading rapidly in Russia, and cholera is an annual problem in much of the region.

Peres announces retirement from political office

JERUSALEM (AP) — Lowering the curtain on a political career almost as old as Israel itself, Shimon Peres said Wednesday he will not run again for prime minister.

The announcement, four months after Peres' stunning election loss to hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu, sets the stage for a bitter succession battle in his Labor Party, which will choose a new leader in mid-1997.

Peres refused to say who he would back as his successor. When asked whether he supported the

apparent front-runner, former military chief Ehud Barak, he replied: "Barak has the qualifications to be prime minister."

Despite his apparent intention to retire, the 73-year-old Peres appeared to leave his options open on the slim chance that Netanyahu's government would collapse in the coming months or Labor would be invited into the ruling coalition.

In any case, the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize laureate said he "will not retire from the struggle for peace."

Caribbean volcano erupts, setting fires, depositing ash

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat (AP) — Blasting red-hot gravel into the air, an erupting volcano torched several buildings in an evacuated zone Wednesday and

coated the abandoned capital in ash.

It was the largest eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano since it rumbled to life last year. There were no injuries, though several dozen people were evacuated from an expanded danger zone as a precaution.

The 3,000-foot volcano erupted July 18, 1995, and has forced three evacuations since then. The capital, Plymouth, lies within the evacuated zone.

Repeated ground flows of superheated rock and ash, known as pyroclastic flows, have scraped all vegetation from the Tar River Valley on the volcano's eastern flank.

The latest eruption began late Tuesday and lasted 48 minutes, the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported.

CDC recommends switching to combination polio vaccine

ATLANTA (AP) — Giving the polio vaccine in a combination of shots and sugar cubes would reduce the small number of cases in which children contract the disease from the oral dose alone, the government said.

The announcement Wednesday detailed the first major change in the way the vaccine has been administered since 1961.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said infants should receive two shots of a vaccine made by killed virus before receiving the oral vaccine.

A panel of physicians recommended the change to the CDC in June because the current recommended oral vaccine causes eight to ten cases of polio each year — or about one for every two million to 2.5 million doses.

"Since 1979, the only polio we have had in this country has been due to the vaccine itself," said CDC Director Dr. David Satcher. "That's what we are trying to solve."

The injections, which carry no risk of polio, are expected to cut in half the risk of contracting polio from the oral vaccine, Satcher said.

But some health groups say the policy change will cost more and be a burden on parents.

"It's easier and less costly for a child to take oral medication than get an injection and we're worried that this could mean some children won't finish their immunization schedules," said Dr. Norma Goodwin, president of the New York-based minority health advocacy group Health Watch.

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