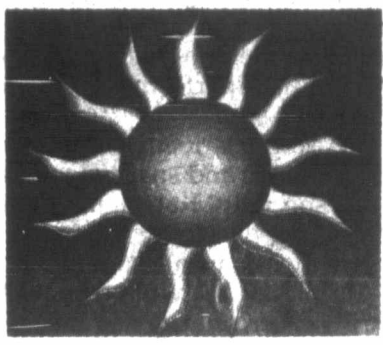


THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 161

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



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

AMARILLO — Debbie Dunlap has been reappointed PATH Community Liaison for the Amarillo and Texas Panhandle area for the 1996-97 school year to provide information and technical assistance to parents of children with all types of disabilities, from birth to age 22.

Information on handicap conditions, rules, laws and regulations, agencies, programs and services, and parent support groups is available. Dunlap also assists in starting and problem solving for support groups.

The PATH Project is a statewide non-profit Parent Training and Information Program for the state of Texas funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Services are free.

Dunlap, a registered nurse and parent of a child with a disability, has had extensive experience in local, state and national disability related parent support groups and the Montana PTI program. She has been active in dyslexia and ADD parent support groups in Amarillo.

For information, call (806) 352-4707 or write to PATH, 4216 Jamie, Amarillo, TX 79110.

PANHANDLE — Carson County Commissioners' Court will meet at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 11, in the county courtroom of the Carson County Courthouse in Panhandle to consider action on the employment of a Carson County Extension agent, family consumer sciences division.

Other discussions on the agenda include Square House Museum Day, general liability and property insurance bid, and closing a family health care center, as well as commissioners' approval of routine county business transactions, easements, indigent care and roads, machinery and county labor decisions.

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets purchased in Wednesday's Lotto Texas correctly matched all six numbers drawn for the game, state lottery officials said.

The jackpot was worth an estimated \$24 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 16, 17, 30, 33, 37 and 42.

Matching five of six numbers were 150 tickets, with a prize of \$2,000 each.

The lottery said the estimated jackpot for Saturday's game will rise to \$34 million.

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New Jersey couple to face grand jury in slaying case

MADISON, Ga. (AP) — The case of a New Jersey couple accused of killing three elderly people, including two from Oklahoma City, in a cross-country crime spree could be taken to a grand jury by December, prosecutors say.

John Esposito, 21, of Berlin Township, N.J., and Alicia Woodward, 18, of Marlton, N.J., had charges against them in the death of one victim outlined Wednesday night during a 20-minute Superior Court hearing.

It was the first hearing in Georgia for the two, who waived extradition and were brought back to Madison from the La Plata County Jail in Durango, Colo.

Georgia law requires that defendants get a first appearance hearing to be advised of the charges they face, said Ocmulgee Circuit District Attorney Fred Bright.

Esposito and Woodward are each charged with one count of felony murder and one count of malice murder in the slaying of 85-year-old Lola Davis, of Lumberton, N.C. Her body was found Sept. 20 near Madison.

The two also are suspected in the slayings of Lawrence Snider, 90, and his wife, Marguarite, 86,

both of Oklahoma City. The Sniders' bodies were found last Thursday stacked on top of each other in a grassy area outside Adrian, Texas.

The next step in the case would be a probable cause hearing, though Esposito and Woodward could waive that hearing and allow the case to be taken to a grand jury.

A lawyer is expected to be appointed for Esposito, who told Judge Connie Holt he could not afford one.

Woodward was represented by three lawyers — Gary Boguski and Michael Taylor of New Jersey and Brenda Trammell of Madison.

Woodward's biological father, Bob Woodward, who lives near Athens, was escorted from the courtroom by a deputy after being warned against what Sheriff Ken Pritchett said was "mouthing" in a threatening manner toward Esposito.

Bob Woodward was taken to a hallway outside the courtroom and seated on a bench, and later left the courthouse.

His daughter and Esposito were arrested Oct. 2 during a routine traffic stop in Mesa Verde National Park near Durango.

Authorities believe the couple traveled from Madison to north

Texas through Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado before being caught. The Sniders' ATM card had been used to withdraw more than \$1,000, according to Oklahoma City police Sgt. Nate Tarver.

Conviction on the charges of felony murder and malice murder carry the death penalty, life in prison or life without parole.

Prosecutors in Morgan County, Texas and Oklahoma have said they plan to seek the death penalty.

The couple left the Colorado jail in handcuffs and leg irons, escorted by four Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents. The group drove to Albuquerque, N.M., then flew on a commercial airline to Georgia, said Lt. Ray Mayer of the La Plata County Sheriff's Department.

"It's a relief to a certain degree," said Mayer, adding that taking hundreds of reporters' calls and aiding in the federal investigation took its toll on sheriff's deputies. "It just took a lot of staff time."

Esposito was being held at the Morgan County Jail while Woodward was taken to the Newton County Jail because Morgan County has no facilities for women prisoners.

Critics urge shutdown of 25 nuke reactors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly one-fourth of the nation's 110 nuclear power reactors are economic and safety "lemons" and should be shut down permanently, a Ralph Nader consumer advocacy group says.

In a report Wednesday, the Critical Mass Energy Project, an arm of Nader's Public Citizen organization, listed 25 reactors it deemed disasters waiting to happen.

Bill Magavern, the group's director, said nuclear utilities heading into an era of greater competition and less regulation "will be tempted to shortchange safety in their efforts to cut costs." He urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to boost its oversight.

NRC spokesman William Beecher said all nuclear plants currently operating are safe, and he accused Public Citizen of engaging in scare tactics that

"alarm the public unnecessarily."

"The NRC would not allow a dangerous plant to remain on line," he said. "If we feel that a plant is dangerous, we make sure they are not operating."

Public Citizen's rankings were based on safety violations, employees' exposure to radiation, emergency shutdowns, operating costs and other 1993-95 government and industry data.

7-year-old girl says students molested her

LUBBOCK (AP) — A 7-year-old girl reported to police that three classmates, including a 6-year-old, molested her while she waited for a ride home from school, authorities said.

A 10-year-old boy began kissing the girl at Hunt Elementary after school, the police report said. She reported that she went outside to avoid the boy, but he followed with two other children.

The boys threw her to the ground, the 6-year-old covered the girl's eyes while the 10-year-old and the other boy, whose age wasn't released, molested her, the police report said.

The three suspected boys are serving in-school suspensions until an investigation is completed, Supt. Curtis Culwell said Wednesday.

Lubbock police also are investigating, said Lt. Glen Fowler, supervisor of the department's juvenile division. The boys could face a charge of indecency with a child, a second-degree felony.

"It kind of shocks the senses," Lubbock school district Security Chief Tom Nichols said. "They are very little kids."

He added that criminal charges can't be pursued against children less than 10 years old, though all would be eligible to face penalties under the school district's discipline program.

"What we do won't hinge on what (police) do, and what they do won't hinge on what we do," Culwell said.

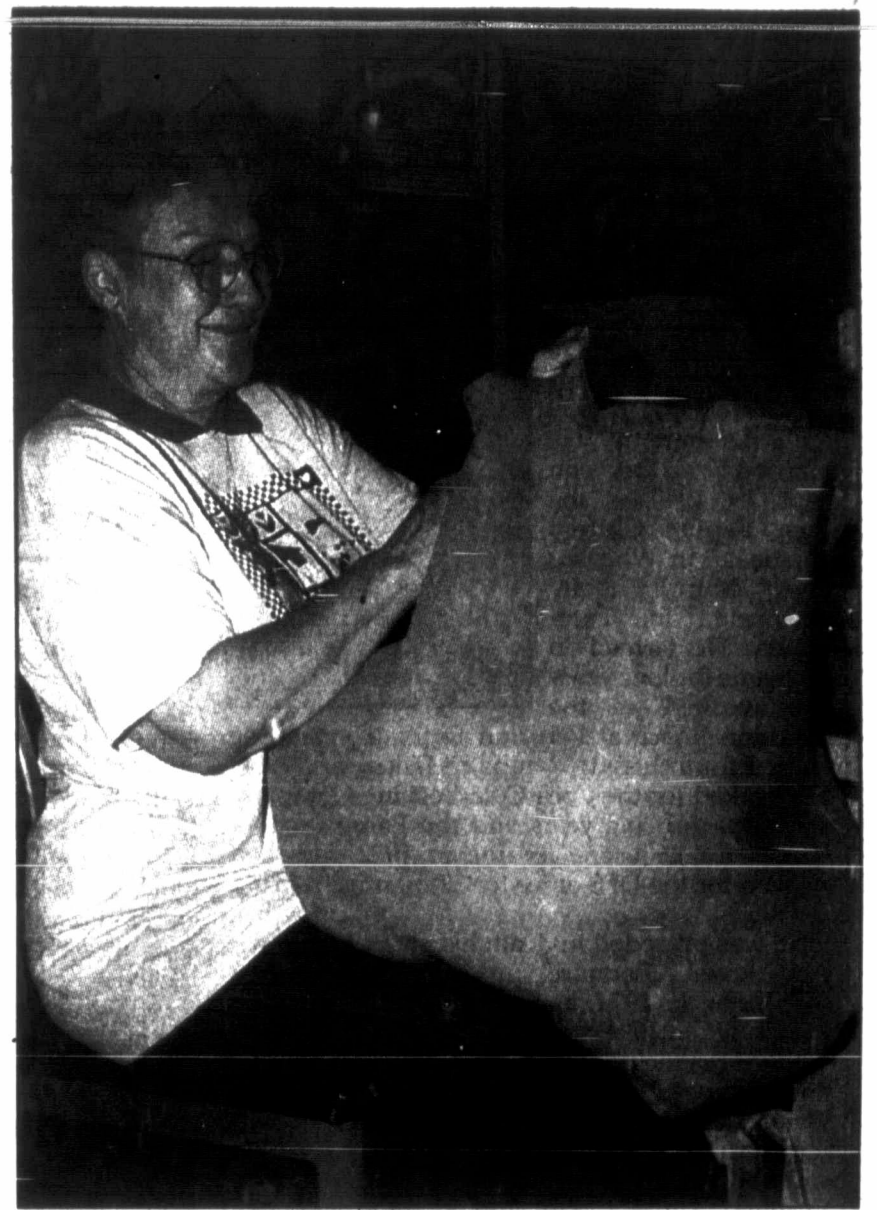
Culwell and Nichols both said they couldn't remember on-campus sexual assault allegations involving children so young.

Would you like to swing?



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Jim Alonzo gives Trey Johnson a push on a newly installed tire swing at Lions Club Park Wednesday afternoon. The swing is the last of four new park toys installed in recent months, bought with savings in the tree-purchasing program. Parks officials remind residents that recently distributed surveys will give them a voice in what the department purchases in the future.



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Freda Hagerman works on a Halloween pumpkin suit she is making for her 4-year-old grandson.

Pampa woman finds herself staying busy with sewing projects

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

"Sewing is my vice ... I don't smoke, don't drink, don't cuss, but I do like to sew," said Freda Hagerman, whose daily routine includes sewing, teaching acrobatic classes for three to five year olds, and cleaning houses.

She said she first started sewing when she was about 10 years old. She made an apron for her first 4-H project assignment when she was a third grade student in Erick, Okla., and she has been sewing for fun ever since. It is not unusual for her to be sewing late into the nights, especially during the fall season prior to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas ... costume season.

She has been sewing for the local public for more than 15 years. This week her interest is focused on finishing a carefully constructed pumpkin costume for her four-year-old grandson who lives in Sioux Falls, S.D.

"He asked me if I would please make him a pumpkin to wear for Halloween, ... and of course I will," she said.

She sews for all ages, for many reasons, from tailor-made clothing to custom-designed costumes, wedding clothes, dance and party formals, and also dolls and doll clothes, quilts and other sewing crafts, she said.

She has earned recognition in Pampa for the expertly put-together-costumes she has made for so many children and young people.

"She is one of those persons who makes things happen, and keeps the world going around," said one mother, whose daughter is one of those young clients.

Cigarette advertising drops

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cigarette industry spent \$1.2 billion less on advertising and promotions in 1994 than in the previous year, the first drop in the industry's massive marketing budget since 1986.

Cigarette makers spent \$4.83 billion in 1994, down almost 20 percent from \$6.03 billion the previous year, the Federal Trade Commission reported Wednesday.

Most of the drop came from promotions that directly hit con-

sumers' wallets: coupons, multiple-pack discounts and other so-called "value-added promotions."

Cigarette makers cut in half spending on such promotions, to \$1.25 billion, down from an all-time high of \$2.56 billion in 1993, the FTC said in its annual report to Congress.

Americans also got fewer free cigarette samples in 1994. That spending dropped to just \$7 million in 1994, down from \$40 million the previous year.

Hagerman said she makes about 40 costumes every year, between mid-October to the first of December. "I can't remember all the kinds of costumes I've made ... there's been so many, all for such things as *The Nutcracker* and the high school choir musicals, such as *Annie*, *South Pacific*, *Brigadoon*, *Guys and Dolls*, and whatever else comes up," she said.

She said she has made the costume for the *Nutcracker* character, Clara, at least four or five different times. She has also made the Mother Ginger Cookie outfit which fits over a large metal frame. The skirt contains 35 yards of material. The little cookies dancing around the skirt are costumes that might have been part of Hagerman's sewing talents, also.

Hagerman said a couple of years, she played the part of Mother Cookie in the local *Nutcracker* production. The play is an annual production directed and choreographed by Jeanne Willingham, which Hagerman believes is comparable to the Amarillo production for talent, stage settings and costumes.

She expresses pride to be associated with Willingham in helping with each year's musical play, and looks forward to working with the costumed characters.

She said when hand-made dolls were popular, she made the soft fabric sculptured baby dolls, *Raggedy Ann* and *Andy* doll sets, and *Care Bears*, too, for all the grandkids, friends and customers ordering them for their grandkids and friends.

See SEWING, Page 2

Alley clean-up



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holman)

Inmates from the Rufe Jordan Unit continue alley clean up in the 1900 block alley between Sumner and Nelson. Corrections officer Mike Smith supervises the four man crew which includes Lee Roy Smith, Richard Diaz, Billy Don Milton and Donald Kent.

AFB: New low-level training in Panhandle area

ALTUS, Okla. — Many people in southwest Oklahoma and northern Texas have seen something new in the sky — the Air Force's newest airlift aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster III.

The C-17 has joined C-141s, C-5s and KC-135s at Altus AFB. The base is now training C-17 pilots and loadmasters in low-level flying and airdrop, similar to the training already done for C-141 aircrews. That means more low-flying aircraft than in the past few years.

Altus AFB, which will have an open house and air show on Saturday, Oct. 19, also shares its low-level flying area with T-38s from Sheppard AFB in Texas and F-16 fighters from Fort Worth Naval Air Station.

Both the C-141 and C-17 are large four-engine jets with "T" shaped tails, and the C-17 has winglets that seem to curl up from the tips of its wings. These are cargo carrying jets that are used to airdrop cargo and troops, as was most recently done in combat during Operation Just Cause in Panama. These aircraft do not carry bombs or missiles.

C-141s usually fly in three-ship formations, while C-17s are usually solo or in a two-ship formation.

Altus AFB does most of its low-level training on routes to the west of Altus. The training area extends from Taloga, Okla., south to Oklaunion, Texas, and then west to a line between Borger and Floydada, Texas.

Most of the low-level training is done on several of the Federal Aviation

Administration approved low-level flying corridors to the Sooner drop zone near Eldorado. However, in a combat situation, aircrews will fly routes that they have never seen before, so some random routes are needed here to train students as realistically as possible. The base rotates routes as much as possible to help ensure students see new routes.

Low-level flying came about through past experience. During World War II, for instance, bombers flew at high altitudes to stay above enemy anti-aircraft fire and fighter planes. Then, during the 1950s and 1960s, surface to air missiles were developed, rapidly outpacing the ability of airplanes to climb above them. It became necessary to fly very low to stay under the radar beams that guide the missiles — in effect, hiding in the ground clutter on radar scopes.

Low altitudes also limit the range at which spotters for anti-aircraft gunners can see an aircraft and react to it.

The effectiveness of low-level flying makes the training at Altus essential, officials said. Flying at low altitudes is more difficult for both the pilot and navigator, and therefore, all flights from Altus are conducted with highly experienced instructor pilots on board.

Aircraft are authorized by the FAA to fly over remote, noncongested areas on some low level routes, as low as 300 feet above the ground. However, aircraft are still required by the FAA, despite the clearance to 300 feet,

to avoid houses and other structures by 500 feet or more.

In order to increase safety while flying at night, the minimum altitude on the routes flown by aircraft stationed at Altus is between 500 and 1,000 feet. Visual illusions can make it appear to observers on the ground that an aircraft is lower.

All the low-level flying is done near Altus, in aviation terms, and since it's not necessary to spend hours flying to remote ranges in New Mexico or Arizona, thousands of gallons of fuel are saved every year — a big savings to the taxpayers.

Night training is also necessary. Night flying gives an aircrew a cloak of darkness to hide behind, which increases chances that airlifters survive an attack and that paratroops surprise the enemy.

The Air Force has done several studies on the effect of noise and fumes from low flying aircraft on humans, livestock and other animals. These studies show that there is no danger of injury from the noise and fumes of aircraft flying as planned.

An environmental assessment was done in the low level flying areas used by Altus aircraft. The assessment invited public comment and included studies of several aspects of the environment. Based on that assessment, the FAA and various state and federal agencies approved low level flying in these areas.

Those who want more information or feel that flying is causing undue hardships can call public affairs at (405) 481-7700.

State briefs

Haggar pants ads: Too hot for television

DALLAS (AP) — This ad was just too hot for TV.

A firestorm of complaints led executives of Haggar Clothing Co. on Wednesday to scrap a new television ad that showed a man re-entering a burning house to save his "Ultimate" pants.

The wrinkle-free pants are exceptional, the company now says, but they're not worth the wearer's life.

Instead of saving a pair of \$48 pants from a burning house, heated firefighters contended, their maker should be more concerned about how young viewers would interpret the ad.

"It shows children that it is OK to go back in," said Gloversville, N.Y., Fire Chief Michael Shafer, who faxed Haggar a complaint after watching the ad. "We try to teach them that once you're out, you're out."

If the commercial were real, he said, the actor would have died after taking three steps inside from the fire's intense heat.

"By no means did we mean to suggest that it is appropriate behavior or that we thought we would be encouraging people to do that; the ad was produced in a comedic way which we thought was clear," said Alan Burks, Haggar senior vice president of marketing.

So he sought the opinion of a Dallas fire official, Steve Bass.

"His position was, 'As an adult watching TV, I understand what you are doing. As a fire professional, I have to counsel you that that is a bad idea.' And that message was so consistent from everyone, that it's done and it's over," Burks said.

New \$2 bill circulated, first printed since 1979

FORT WORTH (AP) — It happened without warning: a shortage of \$2 bills in the nation's money stream.

So, like game officials stocking a fishing stream, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing has printed and placed in circulation millions more of the odd, even-numbered bills.

Before July, about 532.3 million \$2 bills were in circulation, the last printed in 1979, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas said.

Not enough, the Federal Reserve thought.

"They've run out of \$2 notes, so the Federal Reserve ordered 153.6 million notes," said Margaret Meacham, spokeswoman for the Western Currency Facility in the Fort Worth suburb of Blue Mound.

Sheriff: Six-year-old cowboy has broken no laws

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A six-year-old rodeo cowboy has been told there's apparently no law to keep him from competing.

The Bexar County sheriff's office came to that conclusion after a children's right group opposed the child's competition in bull-riding events.

A number of rodeo sites are turning away young David Willstrop because of liability concerns.

David, whose father is also competing in rodeos, has been taking part in pee wee rodeos around Bexar county.

The Bexar County sheriff's department said Wednesday it has decided no laws were being broken by a six-year-old boy competing in the rodeo.

Candidates feud in election eve exchange over lotto controversy

AUSTIN (AP) — A twice-split couple's feud over a \$4 million lotto ticket has found its way into the campaign fray.

Texas Republican Party Chairman Tom Pauken accused Democratic Rep. Paul Sadler of impropriety in the lotto ticket controversy and said the lawmaker should resign.

Sadler said Pauken was "misinformed and rather loose with his facts." He called the charge "really ridiculous" and an election-eve stunt.

At the center of the quarrel that erupted Wednesday is a legal battle in which an East Texas man wants half of a \$4.34 million lotto jackpot claimed by his ex-wife.

Gifford R. y, who lives in Bullard, about ten miles south of Tyler, accused Hilda Stanley of concealing the October 1994 ticket before their second marriage was annulled in early 1995.

Pauken charged that Sadler, a lawyer in Henderson, met with the woman and con-

tracted lottery officials to inquire about confidentiality for lotto winners.

While a partner handled the woman's annulment, Pauken said Sadler "clearly understood, as any competent lawyer would and as many lay people know, that Texas is a community property state and that his client's husband would be entitled to share in the winnings under normal circumstances."

Sadler said he met the woman when she first came to the office and called lottery officials about some questions she had. But he doesn't do divorce work, Sadler said, and he referred her to another lawyer.

The State Bar of Texas investigated and found nothing wrong, he said, and a court has yet to determine whether the woman must share her winnings.

"I'm not going to decide it. Mr. Pauken's not going to decide it. This is dispute between two private citizens that will be resolved in the

courtroom," Sadler said. "To suggest that there is some conspiracy is absolutely ridiculous."

Pauken said Sadler should resign from the Texas House because he "engaged in improper and inappropriate conduct as an attorney and as an elected state official."

No way, Sadler replied, suggesting that the charges are connected to early voting that begins Oct. 16.

"Perhaps it doesn't seem odd to you, but it does to me, that they show up seven days before early voting and all of a sudden want to try to make a big deal out of this," the lawmaker said. "The timing speaks for itself."

The two have tangled before.

Sadler chairs the House Public Education Committee, which was instrumental in writing the current school finance law. Pauken is a vocal opponent of that law, which requires some property-rich school districts to share their wealth with poorer districts.

Attorney: Stout parents will cooperate

DALLAS (AP) — The parents of a severely ill Texas girl will follow through on their promise to allow surgery on the ten-year-old child if that's what a Duke University doctor recommends, their attorney says.

Dr. William Treem, chief of pediatric gastroenterology at North Carolina's Duke University Medical Center, evaluated Rachel Stout for more than two days and reportedly recommended surgery to remove her colon.

The girl is suffering from severe ulcerative colitis. Although doctors in Dallas, Fort Worth and Toronto have recommended surgery, the girl's parents, Steve and Patricia Stout, have held out for nonsurgical treatment.

Richard Gladstone, Rachel's court-appointed attorney, said

Wednesday that Treem was recommending surgery.

Larry Friedman, a Dallas attorney representing the Stouts, said the parents were not told of any decision by Treem on Wednesday but hoped to meet with one of the doctor's assistants Thursday.

If surgery is the recommendation, the Stouts will comply, Friedman said.

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Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Quotas have harmed minority achievement

The debate over racial preferences has consisted of plenty of sound, fury and ideological to and fro, but rather less in the way of factual analysis.

Until now, "In Backfire: A Reporter's Look at Affirmative Action," longtime ABC network correspondent Bob Zelnick presents a detailed survey of racial preference programs, how widespread they are and what they have or haven't accomplished.

You would think the facts of a subject so widely debated would have been explored more thoroughly before now, but Zelnick notes his surprise in finding how little reporting had been done on the nuts and bolts of affirmative action.

In the process of filling this yawning hole, he came to a well-rounded conclusion that race preferences don't help the supposed beneficiary groups and, in fact, do minorities a lot of harm. The preferences effect on the larger society is negative as well, by dividing communities along lines of color and ethnicity.

The foregoing might sound like rhetoric, but the book traffics in cold, hard reality. Have racial preferences in hiring and contracts and university admissions bettered the lot of minority groups?

"The statistical evidence is overwhelming that affirmative action has barely touched, let alone helped, the vast majority of blacks," writes Zelnick. "According to the most recent statistics compiled by the federal government, black families had a real median income of \$21,550 in 1993, not statistically different from their 1969 income of \$22,000. The 1993 median income of white families was \$39,310, higher than their 1969 level of \$35,920."

How has affirmative action hurt minorities? One graphic example is in the police department of Washington, D.C., where standards for recruiting have been lowered in the process of trying to reach racial quotas; as a result, a large proportion of new hires are taking remedial reading classes while on the job.

Zelnick finds it no coincidence that — as reported by the Washington Post — pervasive instances of sloppy police work in the city have held down the number of convictions on serious as well as minor offenses. The losers are the minority group citizens whose communities suffer disproportionately from crime.

It is not a new observation that affirmative action results in a stigmatization of black and Hispanic professionals. Zelnick points out why, noting a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, which found that during the 1980s, the average application-test scores and grade averages of black and Hispanic med-school students was lower than the scores of rejected Asians and whites.

This hardly promotes public confidence in minority-group physicians. Even the very best of them are tainted unfairly by a system which implies they didn't win their degrees on merit.

Your representatives

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Pampa Phone: 665-3552

State Sen. Teel Bivins
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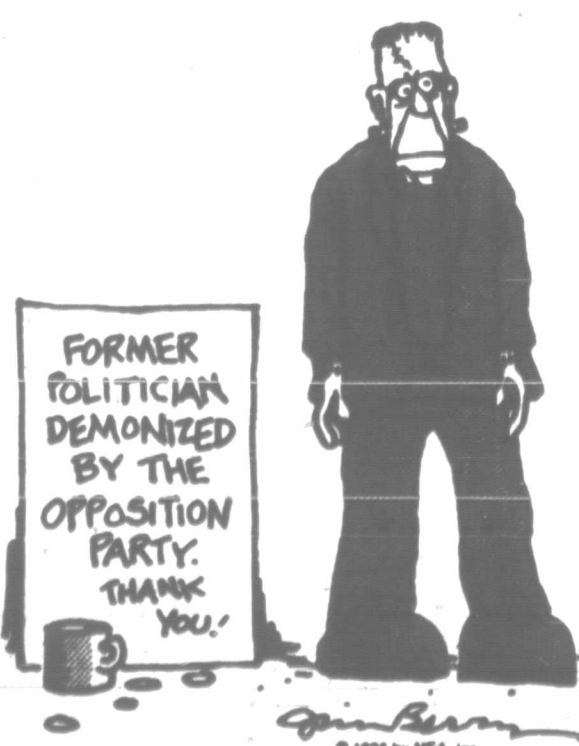
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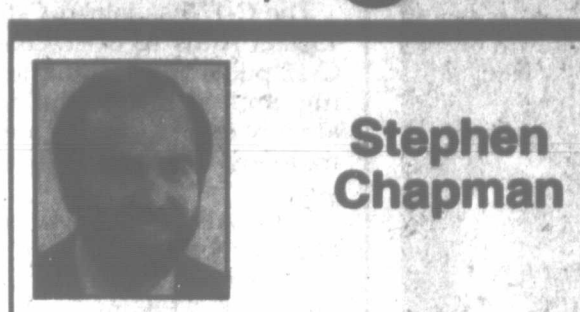
When a prison inmate files a lawsuit claiming that a new law entitles him to be served a fancy cut of steak once a week in accordance with his religious obligations, the natural impulse is to assume that the law is even crazier than the inmate. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), passed in 1993, has produced a wave of nutty litigation. But surprise: It's a good law.

Congress acted after the Supreme Court allowed Oregon to deny unemployment benefits to two drug counselors who were fired for using peyote in a Native American religious rite. The court said that if a generally applicable law happens to place a severe burden on people of a particular religion, they are sorely out of luck.

The effect was to penalize minority faiths, particularly exotic ones. Mainstream churches have enough adherents that they don't have to worry about legislatures inadvertently outlawing one of their central practices: When alcohol was banned during Prohibition, exceptions were made for sacramental wine. But small churches whose members do odd things like sacrifice chickens or wear dreadlocks or sit around in sweat lodges generally lack political clout. So they can find themselves prevented by law from practicing their religion.

Congress, seeing the threat, decided that if the Supreme Court wouldn't provide protection for such sects as a matter of constitutional right, it would grant protection as a matter of law. RFRA says that if the government puts a burden on the free exercise of religion through an outwardly neutral law, it has to have a "compelling interest" (basically, a good reason.) And its regulation can't ban any more activity than necessary to achieve its purpose.

Last year, a district court in San Antonio struck



Stephen Chapman

the law down as unconstitutional, but three federal appeals courts have taken the opposite view. The Supreme Court will soon decide whether to consider the issue.

The rule established by RFRA is not new or radical. In fact, until the 1990 Supreme Court decision that led to RFRA, it was the Supreme Court's very own standard. The court had said in 1972, for example, that the Amish couldn't be forced to send their children to public schools beyond eighth grade, which would have violated their religious beliefs.

But critics of RFRA act as if Congress had lost its mind. The biggest complaint is a surge in lawsuits by prison inmates. Many of them have suddenly become disciples of strange new religions requiring corrections officials to provide them with special food, let them wear swastikas or allow them outside at night to celebrate a lunar eclipse.

In one Illinois prison, inmates claim more than 300 different religions, most of which have not been applied for membership in the National Council of Churches. The state corrections system has everything from the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, a white supremacist sect, to believers in witchcraft, and each of them seems to need some-

thing unusual. The Department of Corrections has 50 lawsuits pending over RFRA complaints.

It's true that inmate lawsuits demanding religious accommodation are a headache, but inmate lawsuits demanding all sorts of things have long been a headache. RFRA cases are only about five percent of the pending lawsuits filed by Illinois inmates. A new federal law addresses the broader problem by prescribing penalties for prisoners who repeatedly file frivolous claims.

That may soon reduce the volume of lawsuits. RFRA suits are especially likely to decline once it becomes clear that the courts will not make wardens jump through every hoop some troublemaking felon can invent. The claims that ought to be laughed out of court usually will be laughed out of court.

Even those that are not ridiculous face an uphill battle. In a recent case, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago dismissed a request by a Muslim sect that its members be provided a special dining place for meals during the holy month of Ramadan. "Prison officials," said Judge Richard Posner, "do not have to do handsprings to accommodate the religious needs of inmates." Where security and safety are at stake, the court said, judges will normally give prison officials the benefit of the doubt.

But absent RFRA, these administrators would have to do virtually nothing to accommodate serious and sincere religious practices by model prisoners. Wisconsin, for example, banned the wearing of religious jewelry such as crucifixes — even if they were too small and flimsy to be used as weapons and even though it allowed rosaries, which could be used as weapons. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals said the state had to allow jewelry that poses no danger.

That was a perfectly reasonable ruling, based on a perfectly reasonable law, RFRA has been a boon to religious liberty — and no threat to prison order.



STAHLER
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Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Oct. 10, the 284th day of 1996. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Oct. 10, 1971, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

On this date:

In 1813, composer Giuseppe Verdi was born in Le Roncole, Italy.

In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy opened at Annapolis, Md.

In 1886, the tuxedo dinner jacket made its American debut at the autumn ball in Tuxedo Park, N.Y.

In 1911, revolutionaries under Sun Yat-sen overthrew China's Manchu dynasty.

In 1913, the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans commingled in the Panama Canal after U.S. engineers blew up the Gamboa Dam.

In 1935, George Gershwin's opera Porgy and Bess opened on Broadway.

In 1938, Germany completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

NAFTA threatens our way of life

Charley Reese

It will be difficult to convince Americans that one day they may face food lines, empty shelves and high prices at the supermarket. Yet that is what's in store if the present government policies continue, for they are destroying America's independent farmers and cattlemen.

International trade pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement allow foreigners to dump produce at prices well below American production costs.

Right now several Florida tomato growers are looking at bankruptcy while Mexicans show up at auctions to buy the farm equipment they are forced to sell. Meanwhile, Mexican bigwigs have been snuffing around, trying to buy up the farms themselves.

At the same time, a few giant corporations are manipulating the cattle market to drive the cash market price below the cost of production, thus eliminating the independent cattlemen. Of course, the low price paid the cattlemen doesn't show up in the supermarket. While cattlemen go under, the big meatpackers are making record profits.

Once domestic producers have been driven out of business, cheap foreign imports will suddenly become expensive foreign imports.

The government already has the legislative authority to intervene in the cattle market, but so far Emperor Bill Clinton's agriculture secretary,

Dan Glickman, has done nothing.

As for the tomato farmers, some trade bureaucrat has told them that contrary to their experience, they are not suffering from imports. That's like going to a doctor with a terrible pain and having the doctor tell you that it doesn't really hurt. Do you really think tomato farmers don't know their own business and what is driving them out of it?

Glickman, by the way, was a Democratic congressman who was dumped by the people who knew him best — the voters in his Kansas district. Clinton rescued him by appointing him to the agricultural post, which was vacated by an earlier bad choice, Mike Espy, who resigned when he got caught accepting gifts.

It might be some comfort to know that altruism is not dead in American politicians. They at least take care of each other, if not the country.

Wyoming cattleman Skip Waters says four major meatpackers control about 85% of the market. While the details are rather technical, Mr. Waters and his group say the packers used "captive supplies," imports and what amounts to

insider trading on the futures market to drive down the price. He says they've already driven it below the cost of production.

"What's going on," he said, "is that we're exporting capital to the bottom line of multinational corporations."

A 1921 law, passed after similar shenanigans by the meatpacking industry, prohibits packers from doing any act for the purpose or with the effect of controlling or manipulating prices. But so far, Glickman has not enforced the law.

Waters says there is a big difference between free trade and fair trade, and he blames both NAFTA and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for part of the problem. Domestic producers can't compete, he points out, because the so-called free trade agreements actually promote monopolistic manipulation of the markets.

Glickman, as practiced by Washington, is anything but free. Freemarket competition is the last thing the promoters of NAFTA and GATT have in mind. Waters says if you didn't like waiting in line for gasoline during the 1970s, just wait until the majority of independent, domestic producers of agricultural products are forced out of business.

"The horror of food lines, inferior products and empty shelves experienced by the Russian population could become a reality in America," he said.

John Jr. made his Bessette choice

According to the newspapers, I'm supposed to be devastated. John F. Kennedy Jr. got married. And it wasn't to me.

The Los Angeles Times declared that "female hearts were shattered" by Kennedy and Carolyn Bessette's secret wedding. Knight-Ridder dubbed Bessette "the luckiest woman alive." And the New York Post referred to the couple's Manhattan apartment as "the address every woman in New York would like to make her own."

Sheesh.

"Oh, I'm so heartbroken over John-John," I said to my friend Chris the day after the story broke.

"That's the weirdest thing," he said. "Every woman I've spoken to today has said that."

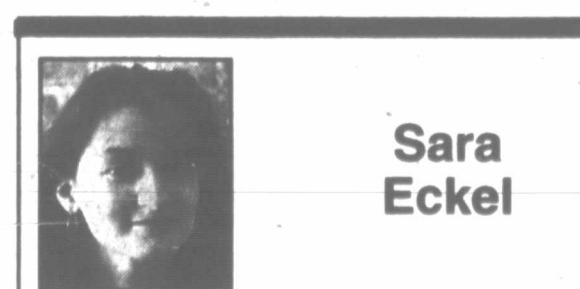
I paused. "You mean sarcastically? They said it sarcastically. Like me."

"Oh yes," he assured me. "Still something has definitely registered about this."

So then I wondered: Was my comment purely a reaction to the media's assumption that women across America were sobbing into their pillows? Or was I just the teensiest bit sad about the news?

I know women who have honest-to-goodness, heart-wrenching crushes on the guy People magazine once called "the sexiest man alive." My friend Alicia — who I swear is normal and sane and smart — use to even collect photos of him. "I know it's corny," she admits. "But at least there's a little more depth to him than just your average Tiger Beat celeb."

And I've certainly had my share of celebrity



Sara Eckel

crushes. I went through a big Keanu Reeves phase for a while. Then I moved on to Hugh Grant, a crush that ended abruptly with that Divine Brown unpleasantness (I know Liz Hurley managed to get past it, but for me what can I say — the magic was gone.) Currently, my heart belongs to Gabriel Byrne, though when a friend recently told me she was going to interview Mark Hamill, I immediately blurted out that she should "tell him I love him."

But John-John never really did it for me. The Ken-doll good looks. The Rollerblades. Definitely not my type, I assured my smitten friends.

So why do I feel just a tad wistful when I see him kissing the woman in the \$40,000 slip?

It's probably because no one else quite lives up to "most eligible bachelor" status the way John Kennedy Jr. does. It's not just that he's Jack and Jackie's kid. It's not just that he's handsome. It's also that he is, by all accounts, a very nice guy.

And unlike movie stars, John-John's prominence is not subject to the whims of the Zeitgeist. He need not worry that a Waterworld or a Last Action Hero will put his hunk status in jeopardy.

And unlike our real life beau, his dreaminess is unfettered by any sort of reality. "Oh no," my friend Helene said upon reading the news. "He's married."

"So are you," her husband replied.

My friend Kathleen said she didn't think Carolyn Bessette seemed like John-John's type. "But then," she said, "I suppose every woman would just put him with a version of herself."

Or make him into a version our ideal soulmate. Which is the real reason why John Jr. has captured so many hearts. Since there are so many unknowns about him — would he laugh at our jokes? appreciate our taste in restaurants? leave dirty socks on the living room floor? — we can fill in the blanks as we please. John Jr., we are sure, would not only take us to fabulous parties and be heavenly in bed, he would UNDERSTAND us.

And now he's gone. The myth is gone. I know this isn't true for all women, that there are many who genuinely don't give a whit about the Kennedy hunk. But for those of us who feel a pang, my friend Marialisa offers a most apt diagnosis. "Aging is about realizing all the things you are never going to do," she said. "You have just realized you are never going to be John Jr.'s wife."

But then she quickly amended: "Or at least not his first wife."

State technology site assists students with special needs, provides easier access to educational tools

By YAMIL BERARD
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — In the afternoon, 13-year-old Amber Adams attacks the day's history homework assignment, skimming over notes in her trusty notebook — a laptop computer.

"I just hook up the cord right here, push send, it sends to the computer, I spell check it and then I print it out," the eighth-grader at Cross Timbers Middle School in Grapevine said. Gone is the college-ruled binder. But Amber's slim machine is more than a fancy gadget. It is the teenager's ticket to quick, legible notes. Organizing thoughts on paper hasn't always been as easy for Amber, who was born with a brain malformation called Arnold Chiari, which impairs her motor skills and weakens the nerves in her hands.

The AlphaSmart Pro is Amber's equalizer, an electronic device that has enabled her to keep pace while taking notes. Now, she and thousands of other North Texas children will have an opportunity to explore other digital equipment at the Grapevine-Colleyville technology demonstration site, which opened this week.

The Grapevine center was paid for through a \$250,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency and is among the state's largest demonstration sites. Its primary goal is to help special needs children become more independent learners.

With tape recorders, voice-output machines, switches and gadgets that can be operated by touch or even eyelash movements, the site will store equipment that augments what a child can do,



(AP photo)

Cross Timbers Middle School student Amber Adams uses a simplified laptop computer to take notes during class at Grapevine. Adams was born with a brain malformation which makes writing difficult. The computer is part of a \$500,000 state technology grant awarded Grapevine-Colleyville and Carroll ISDs.

rather than what he can't do. The second goal of the center is to offer technological training to Grapevine-Colleyville teachers, though anyone is welcome to tour the demonstration site. Similar programs are spreading nationwide to promote universal proficiency.

Also this month, U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley unveiled the 21st Century Teachers Initiative, a plan to use 4,000 educators as technology mentors to help less experienced teachers.

All students will gain from the shared knowledge, said Pam DeVoe, a technology mentor and

librarian at Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth. She can use the Internet with all kinds of students. In a project called Maya Quest, for example, she has students corresponding via E-mail with explorers in South and Central America.

But a student doesn't have to use a keyboard — or even his voice — to communicate. Scotty Baston, 9, who was born with Angelman's Syndrome, a genetic disorder that blocks his speech, uses an AlphaTalker, a voice-output machine similar to what physicist Stephen Hawking uses. By pushing a set of buttons, he

can also hurl an avalanche of knock-knock jokes at his friends, or tell his mother that he is angry.

"It's so hard to put words in someone else's mouth," Joanne Baston said. "But it has given him a way of having speech."

As technological aids become more sophisticated, educators expect some will eventually be able to compensate for the most severe disabilities.

Wiggle Works, for example, is a literacy-based CD-ROM that enables students who can't move a mouse to navigate the screen using a puffing straw, said Chuck Hitchcock, of the Center for Applied Special Technology in Peabody, Mass. In some cases, the children can change the story line, personalize it with their name or their best friend's name, he said.

That's an example of universal-design products, which come with built-in supports for different users, Hitchcock said.

Julian Kissell, a Colleyville 11-year-old who has cerebral palsy, thrives on a keyboard, where she has full control over expression, her mother, Starr, said.

"It's really her work from her heart," said Starr Kissell, who says her daughter uses a laptop to type spelling words and book reports. "She's been able to get all that creative stuff inside of her out."

World briefs

Automakers expand as sales surge in Poland

GLIWICE, Poland (AP) — Just a few years ago, it was only the elite who owned Western-made cars in Poland. But that's changing as the economy grows, giving consumers more money to spend.

Automakers are anxious to tap this fast-growing market, where car sales are expected to skyrocket over the next decade. Many are constructing full production facilities here, bringing needed jobs to Poland.

"In the past cars were a symbol of social status. Now they are just a tool used for work," said Jerzy Kisielewski, a spokesman for Fiat of Italy.

Last year, 264,000 cars were sold in Poland and industry watchers expect that number to climb to 500,000-a-year within the next decade. Already in the first six months of this year, there's been a 30 percent jump in auto sales.

Computer operator to inherit Ethiopian throne

ST. AMARAND, France (AP) — Jean-Luc Bereda grew up hearing tales of his African grandfather, chief of a remote Ethiopian village. But he never expected to succeed him.

Imagine his surprise to learn recently that when the 97-year-old patriarch dies, Bereda — a computer operator in this southern France town — will become chief of Shembe, a village of 200

people near the Kenyan border.

Besides naming Bereda heir to the throne, the grandfather also is leaving him his 125 acres in the village, which is 300 miles south-east of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Bereda's family in France had been cut off from the grandfather, Benneya Bereda, for 42 years because of successive dictatorships that made travel to Ethiopia difficult and dangerous.

Rommel Corro, veteran Filipino journalist, dies at 51

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Rommel R. Corro, a veteran journalist once imprisoned by Ferdinand Marcos' government for his coverage of an opposition leader's assassination, was buried today.

Corro, 51, died Friday of colon cancer.

Corro had served as editor and publisher of the now-defunct Philippine Times during the final years of the Marcos administration. Articles and editorials he wrote about the shooting of opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino at Manila's airport in 1983 led to Corro's imprisonment for more than a year.

Aquino's assassination prompted a popular uprising that ousted Marcos 2 1/2 years later, and installed Aquino's widow, Corason, as president.

The Philippines' current president, Fidel Ramos, said Corro had been a "fearless journalist and press freedom advocate."

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Painting by Houston Modernist donated to Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

CANYON — A painting by important Houston Modernist, Robert Omerud Preusser (1919-1992), has been given to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon.

Joseph Thomas Bloxson of Houston gave Preusser's *Metronome* (1940-41) to the museum in memory of the J.D. Browder family of the Diamond Tail Ranch. A metronome used by the donor provided Preusser's inspiration for the painting.

Born in Houston, Preusser studied with Houston painter Ola McNeill Davidson, then later at Chicago's Institute of Design, Tulane University's Newcomb School of Art and the Art Center School at Los Angeles. During World War II, he served as a camouflage technician in the U.S. Army in North Africa, France, Italy and Germany.

In 1954, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology invited him for one year, and 31 years later he retired as a professor of Visual Design from MIT's School of Architecture and Planning. In 1974 he was appointed Director of Education at MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies, a position he held until his retirement in 1985.

Before moving to the Northeast, Preusser exhibited in important Texas exhibitions, including the Greater Texas and Pan American at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts in 1937 and the Annual Houston Artists at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and a 1948 solo exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He also exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Whitney Museum of American Art at New York and the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh.

The Transco and Parkerson galleries at Houston held Preusser exhibitions in 1990, and in 1991 the MIT Museum held a retrospective of his work. *Metronome* was featured in the Transco Gallery exhibition.

Preusser's *Metronome* joins paintings by Houston artists Virgie Claxton, Grace Spaulding John and Ruth Pershing Uhler in the museum's Texas Art Collection, according to Michael R. Grauer, PPHM curator of art.

"Preusser paved the way for Modernism in Houston and helped cause Texas' art center to shift from Dallas to Houston around 1950," noted Grauer. "We are thrilled with this acquisition given Preusser's historical importance and because *Metronome* is an outstanding example of his work, which also stretches our collection."

King to grant amnesty to American tourist killers

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — King Norodom Sihanouk has agreed to pardon two men convicted of killing an American tourist in an ambush robbery after receiving a plea for clemency from her husband, himself badly wounded in the attack.

The king's intention to pardon the killers of Susan Ginsberg Hadden, a professor at the University of Texas, was announced in a letter from the king made public by the Royal Palace on Thursday.

"I shall grant the two prisoners the amnesty requested by you," Sihanouk wrote in the Oct. 10 letter to James Hadden Jr., who was in a van with his wife and other tourists when they were ambushed on Jan. 15 last year.

They had been headed to Banteay Srei temple, part of the famed Angkor Wat temple complex in the northern province of Siem Reap. Also killed was their Cambodian tour guide.

Sihanouk was responding to a Sept. 8 letter from Hadden requesting that amnesty be granted to Khang Chleun and Sok Kfok, two former Khmer Rouge soldiers who confessed to having participated in the attack.

"Words cannot assuage the pain you have suffered as a result of the actions of my compatriots but I want you and your family to know that I share in your grief at the tragic loss of Professor Susan Hadden, during your visit to our country," Sihanouk wrote Thursday.

Hadden's letter to Sihanouk, also made public by the palace, linked his request to release the men with an amnesty the king

granted recently to Ieng Sary, a Khmer Rouge leader who broke with the guerrilla movement on August to seek peace with the government. The amnesty was granted in hopes of furthering national reconciliation after more than two decades of war and unrest.

"While the latter amnesty has great political significance, the release has perhaps even greater moral importance," Hadden wrote.

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Allsup's schedules 22nd Annual Fall Road Race

CLOVIS, N.M. — The Allsup's 22nd Annual Fall Road Race is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19.

The Road Race offers four different types of races: a half marathon, 10,000 meter, 5,000 meter and one mile run.

Since its inception in 1975, with only seven runners participating, Road Race registration has grown immensely. More than 350 runners are expected to participate this year.

Organizers said the Road Race offers widespread appeal since the versatility of the four races makes it a fun event for not-so-serious and serious runners alike.

In the 22nd year of the Allsup's Road Race, a total of 184 finely crafted Nambe plates and medallions will be awarded to the first three finishers, male and female, in each race and each age group. The awards will be presented on the same day of the race at 11:30 a.m. at the Clovis High School stadium.

All runners will receive specially designed long-sleeved T-shirts as well as post-race fresh fruit, Gatorade and Pepsi. Numerous prizes will also be given away to lucky registered runners at the conclusion of the race.

The course consists of a flat, asphalt-surfaced loop. Elevation in Clovis is 4,280 feet. The average temperature range at the time

of the race is 50 to 70 degrees.

The following classes are offered for this year's race (men's and women's divisions by age): 0-14; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60 plus.

Entry forms are available at all Allsup's store locations. Interested runners also can call the Allsup's corporate office at (505) 769-2311 and ask for Dawn DeHaai.

Completed entry forms should be mailed with check or money order to: Allsup's Convenience Stores Inc., P.O. Box 1907, Clovis, NM 88101.

Registration fees are \$10 per person. Pre-race packets can be picked up at the Clovis High School gym on the morning of the race or at the Allsup's corporate office at 2112 Thornton from 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

All four races will commence at 8 a.m. MDT from 21st Street and Thornton. Runners should be at the high school stadium to check in at 7:30 a.m. Aid stations are available at 3-mile intervals with water and Gatorade.

The race offers computerized timing and results. Complete results can be mailed to all runners.

For more information, call (505) 769-2311 and ask for Dawn DeHaai.

Lovett Memorial Library Staff Picks

The following new books are now at the Pampa Lovett Memorial Library.

Executive Orders by Tom Clancy

Having agreed to accept the vice presidency only as caretaker for a year, John Patrick Ryan is shocked by the violent destruction of a joint session of Congress, which leaves the president, most of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court and the Joint Chiefs of Staff dead. With the weight of not only the presidency, but the entire government on his shoulders, Ryan is charged with consoling a grieving nation, allaying the skepticism of the world's leaders, conducting a swift investigation and overseeing a massive state funeral. Additionally, he must outmaneuver the many hostile forces, both new and old, foreign and domestic, that would take advantage of the situation.

The Main Corpse: A Culinary Mystery by Diane Mott Davidson

The "Queen of the Culinary Mystery" serves up her sixth novel. Rainy weather has all but washed up Goldy Schultz's catering business, so she is delighted to cook for her best friend Maria's group of financial investors at a gala event at a long-closed mine. But when the rain, a clever embezzlement

scheme and a missing boyfriend combine to make the party a soggy disaster and Maria is accused of murder, Goldy soon learns that a brilliant con artist has cooked up his own poisonous recipe for homicide.

Legend by Jude Deveraux

This masterfully written work of fiction by the bestselling author tells the story of Kady Ling, a celebrated chef about to be married to a drop-dead gorgeous man. But an antique satin wedding dress that first makes her dizzy and then transports her to 19th century Colorado, where she winds up tricked into marrying a stranger to keep him from being hanged.

The Bestseller by Olivia Goldsmith

The bestselling author of *The First Wives Club* has once again captured the subtle and not-so-subtle nuances of a world where art, money and power collide. Set at the fictional publishing house of David and Dash, the bestseller paints a scathing, hilarious portrait of five authors and an eccentric cast of background characters — some of whom industry insiders will recognize.

House of Echoes by Barbara Erskine

In her latest novel, Erskine

breaks new ground in the popular supernatural genre. When Jocelyn Grant inherits a remote British estate from the mother she never knew, all she knows about the property is that her two young brothers died there many years before. But the whispers of the townspeople about a curse on the family soon lead Jocelyn to fears and suspicions of her own.

Prayers for the Dead: A Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus Mystery by Faye Kellerman

A stunning new page-turner by the bestselling author of *Justice*. Public outrage is at a painful high over the brutal murder of a celebrated heart surgeon. Was the crime a random act of violence, or was it committed by one of the doctor's six children, a jealous colleague, or one of a gang of biker buddies? It's up to Peter Decker to find out.

Love, Lucy by Lucille Ball

A recently discovered treasure, *Love, Lucy* is the valentine Lucille Ball left for her fans — the story of the ingenue from Jamestown, N.Y., determined to go to Broadway, destined to make a big splash, bound to marry her Valentino, Desi Arnaz. Overflowing with energy, fun and affection, *Love,*

Lucy, is a show-business classic — the life of a hardworking genius, an actress, wife and mother who uniquely integrated life and art to bring happiness to the world.

• Other New Non-Fiction

Hafner — *Where Wizards Stay Up Late*

Kingdom — *Ribbonwork*

Boehm — *A Zen Romance*

The Southern Living Cookbook

Morris — *Partners in Power*

Pienciak — *Mamas Boy*

Dresser — *Multicultural Manners*

Engle — *Flot Blood*

• Other New Fiction

Nevis — *Into The Same River*

Twice

Weldon — *Worst Fears*

Hill — *Sacred Dust*

Rendall — *The Keys to the Street*

Gannett — *Magazine Beach*

Davidson — *The Big Ballad*

Jamboree

Charbonneau — *The Devil's*

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Alabama county wrestles with segregation, targeted in civil rights report

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Although the "whites only" signs came down decades ago, a walk through almost any school, bank or swimming pool in Greene County looks like a flashback to the segregated 1950s.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights singled out the county — about 100 miles west of Montgomery in central-western Alabama — in a report on racial polarization in the region.

Residents say the study, released Wednesday, didn't unearth anything all that surprising.

"We knew it before they came," said black activist Carol Zippert, who had testified before the commission. "They came here ten years ago and found the same thing, but they couldn't do anything about it."

The study, a reaction to the spate of fires at black churches in the South, found that the region remained riddled with racism

and segregation. Officials with the commission, which held community forums in six Southern states, challenged the states' governors to meet with them on the issue.

"Racial tensions are a major problem in the states in which the burnings took place," said Mary Frances Berry, the commission's chairwoman.

In Greene County, the study found that enrollment at the private academy is 100 percent white, while 99 percent of the students at the public schools are black.

The report also said the county's two banks are divided drastically along racial lines, as are most of its churches and the two public swimming pools in Eutaw, the county seat.

The county, where 81 percent of the roughly 10,000 residents are minorities, is the state's smallest and has its highest poverty rate. The county com-

mission recently filed for bankruptcy.

"We are a polarized community," Zippert said. "There are two of everything. We don't recreate, worship, or celebrate culture together. These should be non-threatening ways to come together. We don't all have to marry each other. I think that's the fear here."

Some whites would place their children in the public school system, but the stigma attached to it is so bad that many prefer driving the 70-mile round trip to private schools in Tuscaloosa each day, she said.

Buddy Lavender, the white former mayor of Boligee, said there's a good explanation.

"It's not people against integrated schools, it's people against getting a bad education," he said. "Sure, the whites left. But the upper and middle class blacks left too."

Lavender recently lost a bid for

his sixth term as mayor in a town that's 70 percent black. Like Zippert, Lavender said he's tried to start dialogue among blacks and whites, but has been discouraged with every effort.

He blames racial tension on activists, saying most blacks and whites get along pretty well.

"I'd say segregation and racism are just as bad in New York City, Chicago, Cincinnati or Toledo, Ohio," he said. "But they camouflage it up there. Down here, we talk to each other face-to-face. Everyone knows where we stand."

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Registration for Super Saturdays set to begin at WT A&M University

CANYON — Area students will have the opportunity to dissect a pig and experiment with heat, light and electromagnetism during the West Texas A&M University Gifted and Talented Institute's Super Saturdays.

The activity-based programs for students in kindergarten through eighth grade will meet from 9:30 a.m. until noon Saturdays, Oct. 26 through Nov. 23 in Old Main on the WTAMU campus.

Super Saturdays will offer five courses: Dissection, Hands-on Algebra, Sign Language, Painting with the Masters and Classic Physics.

Dissection is designed for students in fifth through eighth grades. Students will learn about the inside of a fetal pig and other specimens through dissection. Bobbie Ledbetter will lead course instruction.

Dr. Ten Bingham will present Hands-on Algebra for students in fourth through sixth grades. Bingham will teach beginning algebra using manipulatives.

Sign Language is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. Jeannie Harms, course instructor, will teach students to communicate through American Sign Language and Signing Exact English II.

Becky Holliday will lead Painting with the Masters for students in fourth through eighth grades. Crazy and creative art lessons will be used to teach students essential art concepts.

Classic Physics is open to students in second through eighth grades. Jim and Linda Jackson, course instructors, will help students learn about heat, light and electromagnetism.

Cost of each course is \$50 per student. The deadline for registration is Monday, Oct. 21.

For more information contact Dr. George Mann, director of the Gifted and Talented Institute and interim head of the Division of Education, at (806) 656-2907 or Christa Thompson, Super Saturdays coordinator, at (806) 656-2662.

Nation briefs

Gen. Colin Powell apologizes for slur
STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — Retired Gen. Colin Powell apologized for using an ethnic slur against Chinese in a speech last weekend.

Speaking about affirmative action and the global economy Saturday before a Business Leadership Summit, Powell was quoted as saying: "If you give 1.3 billion Chinamen access to home shopping on television, (communism) is over, because there is no way communism can compete with a Salad Shooter for \$9.95."

In a letter Wednesday to the Organization of Chinese Americans Inc. and the Japanese American Citizens League, Powell said his use of the word "Chinamen" was inappropriate and he would never use it again.

Biologist stepping down as Forest Service Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jack Ward Thomas, the only wildlife biologist ever to head the U.S. Forest Service, says he's retiring to take a teaching job at the University of Montana.

He faced criticism from both environmentalists and timber industry leaders as he administered President Clinton's logging policies, dropping national forest harvests to one-fourth their 1980s levels.

Thomas said no politics were involved in his decision to retire

in November. He said he would make a formal announcement about his resignation today.

The longtime Oregon researcher who became famous for his work on the threatened northern spotted owl was picked by Clinton to head the Forest Service in December 1993 as debate raged over logging policies in the Pacific Northwest.

Tightrope walker wants to try luck at Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — Each step 400 feet above roaring Niagara Falls would be on a wire about the width of two fingers and two-thirds of a mile long.

More than a century after the Great Blondin's captivating Niagara Falls tightrope walk, a daredevil and city officials figure another crossing would be an even bigger hit now.

The mayors of the two cities of Niagara Falls — one Canadian and one American — are endorsing the plans of professional tightrope walker Jay Cochrane, who wants to cross the famous cataracts next September.

Plans call for Cochrane — with a balancing pole but no net — to travel about 3,500 feet along the skinny wire from a structure built on city-owned property in New York to the top of the privately owned Skylon Tower in the Canadian city.

Pet python kills young man preparing to feed the snake

NEW YORK (AP) — A young man preparing to feed a live chicken to his 44-pound pet python was killed after the 13-foot-long snake apparently mistook him for food and coiled around him.

Rescue workers managed to free 19-year-old Grant Williams from the snake's grip,

but he died an hour later.

A neighbor called 911 Wednesday afternoon to report that the young man was bleeding in the hallway of his Bronx apartment house, said Officer Martin Foley, a police department spokesman.

When emergency workers arrived, they

had to pry the snake off Williams, Foley said.

Williams was unconscious and paramedics attempted to revive him en route to a hospital, where he died, Foley said.

Williams' mother, Carmalita, said she begged her son to get rid of the snake.

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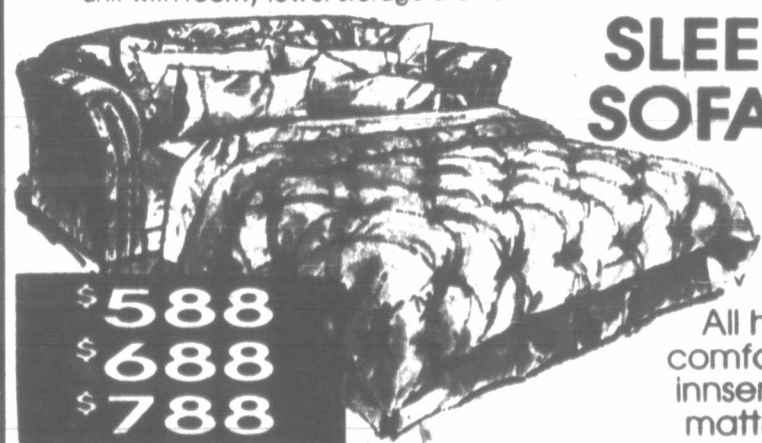
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Retired Wife Reluctantly Fills Another Full-Time Job At Home

DEAR ABBY: The topic of working couples sharing household duties has been addressed in your column, but I've never seen a letter about retired spouses sharing household duties.

I retired two years before my husband, "Jack," did and became a full-time housewife. Now that Jack is also retired, I'm still expected to cook, clean, shop for groceries and do the chores, while he sleeps late, reads the newspaper and watches TV.

If I leave a basket of clean laundry in the utility room, Jack will retrieve clean socks or underwear one item at a time rather than pick up the basket and carry it upstairs.

My husband has always worked hard and deserves a happy retirement, but I also worked outside the home and I, too, would like to take it a little easier. Any suggestions?

FRUSTRATED IN MISSOURI

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Jack needs training for retirement, just as he was trained for his job. Retirement experts say that if you're both retired, the division of duties should be about equal. Take a pad and pencil, make an appointment with Jack and agree on a division of duties. If you do the cooking, he should do the cleanup. The bigger jobs should also be shared. Be fair and flexible so that your retirement years may be spent on activities that are fun for both of you.

Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: Some time ago I met a wonderful man. We shared many happy moments together, and I fell in love with him. I have always been there for him when he was sick or needed company, and he has done countless favors for me.

When we met, I lied to him and said I was living with my mom; actually I am living with my ex-boyfriend and his cousin. My ex-boyfriend and I are no longer romantically involved. I needed a place to live, so we became roommates.

My lover recently discovered the truth, and he is furious that I lied. He says I betrayed him. I didn't betray him. I didn't tell him because I was afraid I'd lose him.

Now he refuses to take my calls and doesn't answer my pages. He says he wants more "space." I love him more than life itself. How can I make things the way they were? I don't want to lose him.

ON THE RUN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR ON THE RUN: You would have been wiser had you told the truth from the beginning. Write him a letter explaining that you lied because you love him and feared losing him. Give your lover the space he needs. Meanwhile, find another roommate.

DEAR READERS: Maj. Eric Junger of the Department of Defense Military Postal Service has asked me to remind my readers that it is not too early to consider mailing your Christmas cards and packages out of the country. Overseas military mail is especially vulnerable to delays during the holiday rush.

To ensure delivery before Christmas, Space Available and Priority Airlift military mail should be sent by Nov. 22. Military cards, letters and priority parcels should be sent by Dec. 2.

International cards, letters and parcel post should also be mailed by Dec. 2. Mail for Canada should go out no later than Dec. 13.

Keep watching the column for this year's Operation Dear Abby addresses. I plan to publish them in early November.

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



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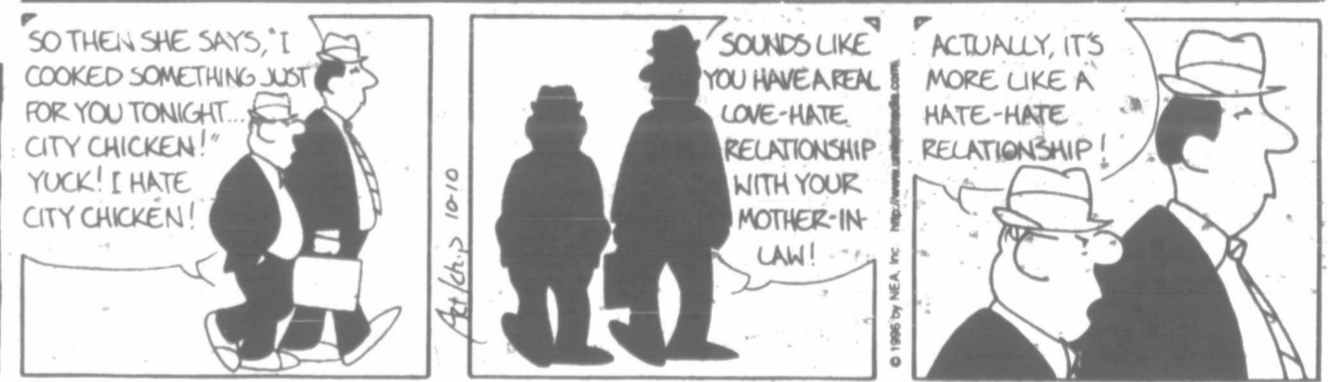
Marvin



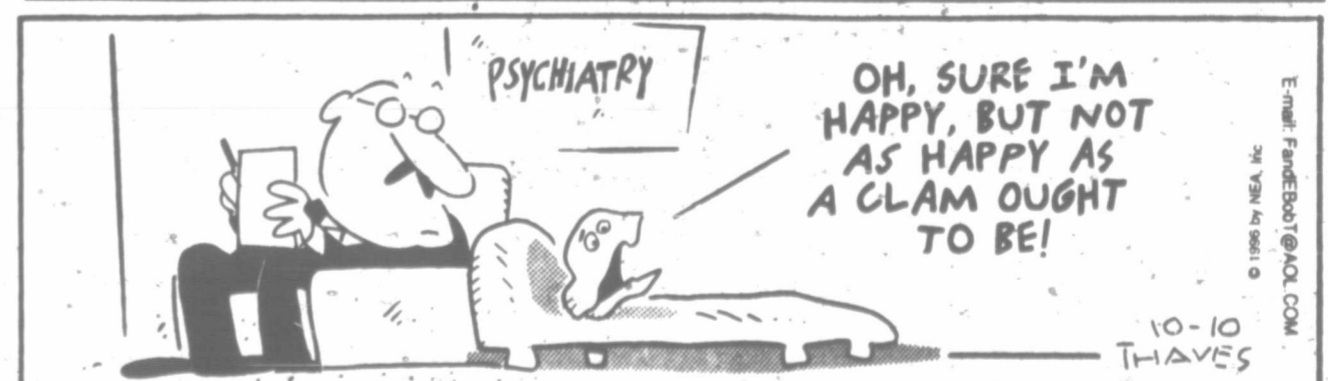
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Friday, Oct. 11, 1996

A secret desire you've nurtured for a long time will be fulfilled today. This will be a good time to strengthen your resolve. Keep up the good work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Generally speaking, you're a likable person and your friends accept you for what and who you are. Keep this in mind today. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In order to make your listener hang on your every word today, you might be tempted to embellish the facts. Unfortunately, this won't produce the desired effects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This could be a good day for you, especially you appreciate your present circumstances. If you begin to envy what others have, it won't be productive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take care not to get drawn into your own trap today. For example, don't defend a position you know is wrong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You should not tell white lies today. If you fib, remember what you say and make sure you can repeat it verbatim when the time comes.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not take financial risks with either your money or funds you manage for someone else today. You will not have good luck in either situation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) An opinion you will defend vehemently might not be as popular with your colleagues today.

Do not try to impose your views or positions on others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you've felt sluggish lately, a lack of exercise might be the culprit. Do something physical today to circulate energy throughout your system.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Guard against the inclination to be excessive today. This includes eating, drinking and participating in strenuous activities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) When you are involved with others today, do not surprise them with unusual situations. You might jam the pipeline, which will create problems for everyone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Telling others what to do and how to do it will feel natural for you today. However, you will resent it if someone else tries to establish your agenda.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This may not be a good day to go to the shopping mall. You will not have much willpower and you might purchase things you'll never use.

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The Family Circus



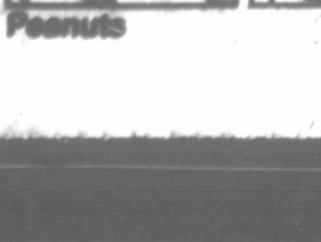
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Taliban reinforces front line after government troops retake territory

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Striking back against resurgent forces of the deposed government, hundreds of Taliban soldiers in tanks and trucks roared toward the front line today to reinforce their besieged defenses north of Kabul.

After a ferocious battle that lasted into the morning, the Taliban's Islamic army, won back territory briefly lost to a surprise offensive Wednesday by former government troops, witnesses said.

The offensive had given troops their first victory since before the Taliban forced them from the capital two weeks ago. The Sept. 27 capture of Kabul gave the Taliban control of two-thirds of the country, where they are installing their strict version of Islamic rule.

For a time Wednesday, former government soldiers pushed the

advancing Taliban back from the mouth of the remote Panjshir Valley and pinned them down near Charikar, 40 miles north of the capital, witnesses and aid groups operating in the area said.

The offensive killed at least 200 Taliban soldiers, a group aligned with the deposed government said. There were no reports on casualties in the Taliban's successful move to turn back the offensive.

Using heavy artillery and tanks, Taliban soldiers regained control today of Jebul Siraj, the former headquarters of Afghanistan's deposed military chief, Ahmed Shah Massood, witnesses said, returning from the front line.

By early afternoon, fighting reportedly had tapered off and only the occasional rocket fire could be heard.

A stronghold of Massood, the Panjshir Valley is a difficult and dangerous battlefield.

Throughout the 1980s civil war, Massood fought back Soviet soldiers from the valley, earning the nickname "Lion of the Panjshir."

The only other fighting force in Afghanistan is commanded by the powerful northern warlord, Rashid Dostum.

Dostum's army is well-disciplined and well-armed. Many of his soldiers were conscripts in the former communist government, backed for 14 years by Moscow. His fleet of aircraft includes several Russian fighter jets and Hind helicopter gun ships.

Dostum controls seven northern provinces as well as the Salang Highway, the only road linking Kabul with northern Afghanistan and Central Asia.

On Wednesday at Dostum's

headquarters in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif, deposed President Burhanuddin Rabbani called for a cease-fire and a meeting of all the warring factions.

A Dostum spokesman said his boss wants the meeting held in Mazar-e-Sharif. "We are requesting all the leaders to personally come to Mazar-e-Sharif to sit together and solve the Afghan problem," Gen. Piandah said. "We are in touch with the Taliban, but so far they have not replied to our invitation."

It's not likely they will attend. The Taliban leadership has already warned Dostum not to form an alliance with the deposed government.

The Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, rarely leaves his headquarters in southern Kandahar and seldom sees anyone.

Piandah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, says so far Dostum's soldiers have stayed out of the fight, but he warned they are in good position to defend themselves.

Where they rule, Taliban fighters have closed schools for girls, stopped women from working outside the home and forced men to attend mosque, grow a beard

and wear either a skull cap or a turban.

On Monday, they hauled a Red Cross worker in Kabul from his vehicle, beat him and threw him in jail overnight before freeing him, the Red Cross said.

The Red Cross has protested to the Taliban leadership, spokesman Jean Luc Paladini said.

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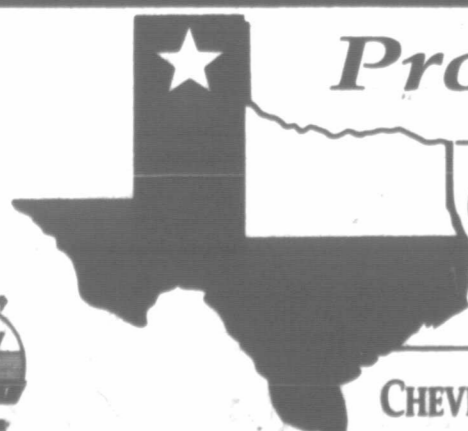
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