

World briefs

Peruvian earthquake kills 15, traps miners in Andes

NAZCA, Peru (AP) — At least 40 gold miners were trapped in an underground mine high in the Andes Mountains after a powerful earthquake struck Peru's southern coast, killing 15 people and injuring as many as 700.

The 6.4-magnitude quake struck at midday Tuesday, damaging homes and buildings in Nazca, a tourist town of 25,000 located 235 miles southeast of Lima. Four people were killed and 380 injured in Nazca.

Nazca Hospital director Dr. Fermin Caceres said most of the injured were children and elderly people hurt when walls and roofs collapsed on them. At least two schools were among the damaged buildings.

Forty to 60 gold miners were trapped in a caved-in shaft at the Huanca mine, 480 miles southeast of Lima, said Army Gen. Ronald Rueda Benavides.

A military patrol was sent on foot to the mine, Rueda said. He had no information on the condition of the miners, since the mine was virtually cut off from outside communication.



The 'Seasons' crafters are at work in their wood shop. Emma Jean McDonald guides a scroll saw on a wood pattern for a small bird house, and Johnnie Carpenter hammers some of the pieces together while Mary Ann Carpenter (center) offers her assistance.

Crafts key to bond of friendship

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

McLEAN — Putting together a few "crafty" creations and sharing enthusiasm for new ideas is the key to establishing a strong friendship between the Carpenters and McDonalds in McLean.

Mary Ann Carpenter, her husband Johnnie and friend Emma Jean McDonald each have different talents for creative art. By coordinating their talents in crafts and designs, they came up with their unique pieces of art to satisfy a variety of customers.

Seasons Crafts was opened in April at 217 West 1st Street in a partnership between the Carpenters and McDonald, where the three work together.

Mary Ann Carpenter does interior design work and contracts her talents to individual homeowners and commercial businesses. On short-term jobs, she and McDonald decorate for banquets or sponsored special events. In the crafts shop, dried

floral and silk floral arrangements can be found or ordered ready-made in the crafts store. She also makes floral corsages, homecoming mums and floral window creations. Antique windows, milk jars and mason jars are decorated and turned into pieces of collectible art, and unique decorated gift bags are full of surprises.

Johnnie Carpenter and McDonald also work together, creating unique pieces of wood into almost anything from small what-not art to large yard art or furniture. They work with the wood pieces, cutting and shaping them into bird houses, children's furniture, porch benches and storage chests. Each piece is finished out smooth and serviceable for outdoor display or for indoor use.

Some of the decorative items from Seasons Crafts, including the miniature bird houses with chimes, the large birdhouses and the country-decorated gift bags, will be entered in the December Festival of Christmas Trees and

Gift Boutique, to be held in Pampa Dec. 6-8.

Carpenter said their first choice of building material for the larger furniture items is old, used fence wood or barnwood found in dilapidated buildings at abandoned rural areas. In fact, the front of the store is accented with old fencing and along the fence line, there is an old outdoor toilet. The concrete foundation of the toilet is identified with the date 1-11-37 and the WPA-WW II work crew symbol, moved from its original site in another part of the town.

"This outdoor toilet is a true collector's prize," said Mary Ann Carpenter, who is also McLean's Precinct 4 Justice of Peace when she is not doing creative crafts.

In the normal world, the Carpenters and the McDonalds are busy with their families. The Carpenter are parents to five adult children and four grandchildren, and McDonald and her husband, Jim, are parents to five adult children and seven grandchildren.

Education official proposes way to keep from losing 'best' minorities to out-of-state colleges

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Higher education officials are looking at a way to avoid losing the best minority students to other states' universities despite an anti-affirmative action court decision affecting Texas colleges.

At a Tuesday conference on the issue at Texas A&M University, the state's higher education commissioner said Texas should explore whether it's legal for its universities to offer preference in admissions and financial aid to any student who gets such an offer from an out-of-state institution.

"What it really says is that if you bring us an offer that you've gotten from out of state, the state of Texas can make a counter offer because we want to keep the best people in the state of Texas," Kenneth Ashworth said.

The approach would be race-neutral while addressing concerns that other states' universities, armed with the ability to consider race as a factor in admissions and financial

aid, "can raid us in Texas and skim our best minority students away from us," Ashworth said.

The idea immediately sparked interest from university officials. "That would be fantastic. That would be the light at the end of the tunnel. But we'll have to allow the attorneys to look at that," said Texas A&M President Ray Bowen.

The University of Texas law school is looking at implementing Ashworth's suggestion regarding financial aid, said Douglas Laycock, professor and associate dean of the law school.

"I think that'll help a little bit," he said.

State lawmakers at the conference also suggested possible legislation to promote diversity on university campuses, including automatically admitting at least the top 10 percent of high school graduates.

The conference was designed to find ways to deal with effects of the federal court decision known as the Hopwood case, after lead plaintiff Cheryl Hopwood.

Same-sex marriage, abortion among bills currently pending

AUSTIN (AP) — Proposals prohibiting the state from recognizing same-sex marriages and two abortion bills — one requiring parental notification, the other requiring a 24-hour waiting period — are among the hundreds of bills filed for consideration during the 1997 Legislature.

Tuesday was the first day to file bills for the legislative session, which opens Jan. 14.

Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, filed the measure against same-sex marriages. The one-page bill says the state may not "give effect to a public act, record or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates marriages between persons of the same sex."

That bill, as all others, would have to be approved by both the House and Senate before Gov. George W. Bush could consider signing it into law.

"I am against same-sex marriages in Texas," Bush said Tuesday, adding that he would wait to see the bill before commenting on it.

Diane Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian-Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said the group would fight the legislation.

"Mr. Chisum's bill does nothing for Texas," Hardy-Garcia said. "It does nothing but spread hate and intolerance. It will be difficult for us to stop him."

Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, filed the so-called parental notification abortion bill. It would require parents or guardians to be informed if their minor daughters seek abortion services.

"I am convinced that this is a parental rights bill," Shapiro said. "No minor child in the state of Texas can do minor activities — pierce their ears or go to a tanning bed —

without a parental consent form. "This is the only activity that a child can do without parental consent."

Rep. Frank Corte, R-San Antonio, filed the so-called informed consent abortion bill. Among other things, it would require women seeking abortion services to be counseled on alternatives, informed of risks and the probable gestational age of the fetus and shown pictures of fetuses at that gestational age.

Women would then have to consent in writing to the abortion. They would have to wait 24 hours after getting the information before the operation could be done.

Chisum, who was not available for comment Tuesday, also filed a 22-page bill to establish a 12-member board — made up of lawmakers — to consider deregulation of the electricity market in Texas.

The bill would have the Public Utility Commission, which regulates the electric industry, set up a pilot program in which electricity sellers would compete to sell a state agency power.

The PUC could not move to deregulate the industry unless authorized by law.

Other bills would: — Have juveniles 14 and older automatically tried and sentenced as adults if they committed felony crimes with deadly weapons. Currently, hearings must be held to determine whether a juvenile will be treated as an adult.

— Allow Texans to initiate laws, or challenge laws passed by the Legislature, at the ballot box. The so-called initiative and referendum bill would allow petition drives to get proposed laws on the ballot or to challenge measures already made law.

Intel to announce expansion plans

DALLAS (AP) — Intel Corp., the leading maker of the basic building block of computers, is expanding into Texas.

"It will be more than your local activity, but the expansion will be amongst it," Intel spokesman Howard High said Tuesday of the news conference planned today at Fort Worth's City Hall.

The expansion is believed to be a wafer fabrication plant to be located near Alliance Airport, 25 miles north of downtown Fort Worth.

High said Intel could hire more than 1,000 people in the first few years, but cautioned against pegging a specific number yet.

Sources have said Intel could

employ 3,000 to 5,000 workers.

"Those numbers might be a little on the high side," High said. "We prefer to be conservative and over-deliver, than pump up those things. If it ramps, certainly the numbers have an opportunity to go even higher."

Fort Worth Councilman Jim Lane said city officials met with Intel officials Tuesday for "briefings on their plans."

"On a scale of 1 to 10, this is definitely a 10," Lane told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "Intel will put us into a different playing field, as far as quality and size of companies now being attracted to the Fort Worth area."

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Community Calendar

Note: Civic clubs, organizations, church groups and others wanting their special meetings and activities listed on the community calendar should contact the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce office, 200 N. Ballard, or call 669-3281, at least two weeks before the scheduled event.

- November**
- AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 669-0407.
 - CLEAN AIR AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-0407 or 669-3988.
 - VFW POST #1657, 105 S. Cuyler. Charity Bingo every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9.
 - BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS of the Texas Panhandle Inc. has an office open in Pampa. For information as a volunteer, or if you have a child who would qualify for the program, call 665-1211.
 - WOMEN OF THE MOOSE CHARITY BINGO every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 403 W. Brown. Doors open at 6 p.m. Public welcome. License #1-751616469-0.
 - 14 - PHS CHOIR to present "Evening on Broadway" at 7 p.m. at the Pampa Country Club. For more information, contact Fred Mays at 669-4818.
 - 16 - HARVEST MOON BALL. White Deer Land Museum presents the Rocking Chair Cowboys at the M.K. Brown Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the museum or at Brown-Freeman Men's Wear. Catering by Dyer's Bar-B-Que. For more information, call Anne Davidson at 669-8041.
 - 16 - CREATIVE ARTISANS NETWORK will be hosting its first MEMBERS ART SHOW at the Lovett Memorial Library from 6-10 p.m. There is no admission fee, with the public invited to attend. For more information, call Grant Johnson at 669-9887.
 - 16 - PHS CHOIR to present "Evening on Broadway" at 7 p.m. at the Pampa Country Club. For more information, contact Fred Mays at 669-4818.
 - 19 - CHAMBER MONTHLY LUNCHEON, sponsored by Hospice of the Panhandle, begins at 11:45 a.m. in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building. For reservations, call on or before 9 a.m. on the 19th at 669-3241.
 - 19 - SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER BOARD MEETING, 4 p.m., at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. For more information, call Mary Wilson at 669-0515.
 - 19 - PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP regular meeting, 7-8 p.m., Columbia Medical Center's Medical Building (NOT in the hospital). For more information, contact Kathy Gist at 665-4742 or Emily Washington at 669-7619.
 - 19 - TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL CLUB regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., Coronado Inn dining room. For more information, contact Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Gary Casebier at 665-4214.
 - 19 - PAMPA DESK AND DERRICK CLUB meeting at the Pampa Country Club. For more information, contact Linda Slaybaugh at 669-7884.
 - 19 - JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE general meeting at 7 p.m. at Mr. Gatti's. For more information, call Jona Smith at 669-1754.
 - 21 - HEADSTART FOR THE HOLIDAYS sponsored by Pampa Friends of the Library, Lovett Memorial Library, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - 21 - PAMPA CANCER AREA SUPPORT GROUP regular meeting, 7-8 p.m., Coronado Hospital Medical Building (NOT in the hospital). For more information, contact Kathy Gist at 665-4742 or Emily Washington at 669-7619.
 - 24 - THANKSGIVING MUSICAL SERVICE at 6:30 p.m., featuring members of the congregation at First Assembly of God, 500 S. Cuyler. For more information, call 665-5941 or 665-6060.
 - 25 - CREATIVE ARTISANS NETWORK to hold its monthly meeting at the Lovett Memorial Library conference room at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Tomoko I. Mechler at 669-3002, Kelly Ebel at 665-2825 or Grant Johnson at 669-9887.
 - 26 - TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL CLUB regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., Coronado Inn dining room. For more information, contact Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Gary Casebier at 665-4214.
- December**
- DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION presents "CHRISTMAS PAST" during the month of December. For more information, contact Ronnie Holmes at 665-2631.

State briefs

Prosecutor holds burglar at gun-point until police arrive

HOUSTON (AP) — Like the good neighbor in the insurance commercial, Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr. was available early Tuesday morning when he was needed.

The prosecutor said he had just finished his morning workout about 5:15 a.m. when he heard a loud noise. He looked out his window and saw a man loading materials into a pickup truck.

His wife called 911 while Holmes blocked the truck in the driveway with his car, radioed for police and got his shotgun out of the trunk and chambered a shell.

"I threw down on him with a shotgun and told him 'Don't think about going anywhere,'" Holmes said. "I did not do it for any other reason than the guy was stealing, and I think that's wrong."

The man was passive, but somewhat nervous while they waited for police and he tried to convince Holmes he worked there, Holmes said.

But Holmes' wife was by now on the telephone with the man building the house. He told her no one was supposed to be on the property.

Jose Morales, 34, was arrested on a felony charge of burglary of a building.

EPA loses documents believed to contain sensitive chemical trade secrets, formulas

WASHINGTON (AP) — It sounds like the plot of a Hollywood spy thriller: Hundreds of confidential documents containing secret formulas for toxic chemicals suddenly disappear from a high-security room at a government agency.

Efforts to find them fail and the agency says there's no reason to suspect foul play. But heads roll and chemical makers worry that their proprietary formulas could get into the wrong hands.

The Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges it lost 200 confidential documents containing sensitive chemical company data in what one internal agency memo blamed on "faulty record keeping."

The memo, which was obtained by The Associated Press, said the EPA had no plans to notify the public.

The incident "will be an embarrassment to the agency which could damage our reputation and put into question our ability to handle sensitive information," the memo said.

Industry officials want to know why the EPA didn't keep a better eye on the papers, some of which could contain trade secrets worth millions of dollars to competitors.

"This gives us grave concerns about how they manage confidential information," said Ralph Engel, president of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

By law, the agency collects data on new and existing chemicals to determine how toxic they are to humans. The papers spell out chemical formulas or directions for mixing chemicals, among other things. They usually are kept for about three years and destroyed.

The agency generally misplaces a few each year, but a recent audit of the department that guards confidential documents at EPA's Washington headquarters and at a few laboratories nationwide found 200 documents collected in 1994 and 1995 were missing.

Last week, EPA began contacting the 84 companies whose documents are involved.

Agency officials speculate that some documents were misplaced and others may have been destroyed because the EPA was not properly maintained. Officials don't have any evidence that anyone has walked off with them.

The EPA manages hundreds of thousands of documents and the loss of just a few hundred, while a matter of concern, does not represent a serious breach of security, agency officials said.

"More than one-half million of these papers are managed annually by EPA, and about 200 may have been misplaced, most likely within the agency," said Lynn Goldmann, assistant administrator for prevention, pesticides and toxic substances. An investigation is under way and the agency has tightened security, she added.

The episode is unfolding at a sensitive time just as the EPA proposed new right-to-know rules requiring companies to report more information about the chemicals they use.

"In this climate, any appearance of carelessness ... will be used in industry's efforts to prevent ... the collection of use information," the EPA internal memo said.

Industry officials say that with even more paper to manage, the agency will have a hard time keeping track of highly sensitive information. EPA says those concerns are unfounded because companies won't have to turn over more secret papers under new rules.

The EPA uses outside companies to oversee the documents, which are kept in locked files or on computer disks in rooms accessible only to those with special security clearance.

Two corporations — Labat Anderson Inc. of McLean, Va., and Armstrong Data Services Inc. of Vienna, Va. — were in charge of the document center during the period when the papers were lost.

Chan Chandler, a Labat-Anderson vice president, said he was not personally aware that any documents were lost, but was checking with others in the company on Tuesday.

Ex-cadets write love letters despite warnings

FORT WORTH (AP) — Against the advice of their attorneys, capital murder defendants David Graham and Diane Zamora are writing love letters to each other in jail.

They're accused of killing a 16-year-old girl with whom Graham purportedly had a romantic fling.

Their attorneys say they've cautioned them that prosecutors get to look at all correspondence and that anything they write to each other can be used against them at their trial.

The 19-year-old Graham and 18-year-old Zamora remain in jail in lieu of \$250,000 bail each.



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Coffee distributor indicted for fraud

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ahhh. The rich, robust aroma of fresh-brewed Hawaiian Kona coffee. Or was it?

For nine years, millions of java lovers who believed they were enjoying the expensive Hawaiian brand might actually have been drinking cheaper Central American coffee, federal officials said.

A well-established U.S. coffee supplier is accused of mislabeling the beans in order to make millions in a scandal that has rocked the industry. Those duped include retailers and coffee houses nationwide, such as Seattle-based Starbucks, federal officials said Tuesday.

"Every coffee (retailer) you can think of has been a victim," said Mark Dankel, a senior special agent with the Customs Service in San Francisco.

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'Ransom' debuts at No. 1, earns \$34 million

By LYNN ELBER
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Mel Gibson kidnap thriller *Ransom* debuted in first place at the weekend box office, earning \$34.2 million in one of the best three-day openings in movie history.

The Ron Howard-directed film, starring Gibson as a business tycoon who takes on his son's kidnappers, became No. 9 on the list of movies with the biggest three-day debuts.

Ransom is just behind *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) and its \$36.4 million, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks ticket sales. *Ransom* also marks Gibson's best opening.

Batman Forever (1995) holds the three-day debut record with \$52.8 million.

William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* fell to second place in its second week. The high-voltage, contemporary version of the classic love story earned \$9 million.

In third place was *Set It Off*, a crime drama about four women driven by hardship into robbery. The film, starring rapper Queen Latifah, took in \$8.8 million its first weekend.

The top 20 movies at North

BOX OFFICE	
Top weekend movies	
Weekend of November 9-10, 1996	
All dollar figures in millions	
Gross to date, weeks in release, number of screens	Weekend gross
Ransom \$34.2, one week, 2,676 screens	\$34.2
William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet \$23.5, two weeks, 1,950 screens	\$9
Set It Off \$11.8, one week, 1,014 screens	\$8.8
Sleepers \$43.6, four weeks, 2,080 screens	\$3.7
High School High \$16.8, three weeks, 2,145 screens	\$3.1
The First Wives Club \$97.1, eight weeks, 1,700 screens	\$2.2
Larger Than Life \$5.6, two weeks, 2,433 screens	\$2
The Ghost and the Darkness \$34.6, five weeks, 1,711 screens	\$1.7
Dear God \$5.6, two weeks, 1,774 screens	\$1.5
Michael Collins \$8.2, two weeks, 878 screens	\$1.41

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. AP

American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks

in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations:

1. *Ransom*, Buena Vista, \$34.2 million, 2,676 locations, \$12,786 average, \$34.2 million, one week.
2. *William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet*, Fox, \$9 million, 1,950 locations, \$4,629 average, \$23.5 million, two weeks.
3. *Set It Off*, New Line, \$8.8 million, 1,014 locations, \$8,690 average, \$11.8 million, one week.
4. *Sleepers*, Warner Bros., \$3.7 million, 2,080 locations, \$1,787 average, \$43.6 million, four weeks.
5. *High School High*, Sony, \$3.1 million, 2,146 locations, \$1,436 average, \$16.8 million, three weeks.
6. *The First Wives Club*, Paramount, \$2.2 million, 1,700 locations, \$1,319 average, \$97.1 million, eight weeks.
7. *Larger Than Life*, MGM, \$2 million, 2,433 locations, \$829 average, \$6.6 million, two weeks.
8. *The Ghost and the Darkness*, Paramount, \$1.7 million, 1,711 locations, \$1,009 average, \$34.6 million, five weeks.
9. *Dear God*, Paramount, \$1.5 million, 1,774 locations, \$850 average, \$5.6 million, two weeks.
10. *Michael Collins*, Warner Bros., \$1.41 million, 878 locations, \$1,604 average, \$8.2 million, five weeks.

11. *The Associate*, Buena Vista, \$1.4 million, 1,634 locations, \$859 average, \$11 million, three weeks.
12. *Thinner*, Paramount, \$1.3 million, 1,807 locations, \$731 average, \$13.2 million, three weeks.
13. *Fly Away Home*, Columbia, \$1 million, 1,356 locations, \$748 average, \$22.7 million, nine weeks.
14. *Independence Day*, Fox, \$978,000, 661 locations, \$1,480 average, \$303.6 million, 19 weeks.
15. *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, New Line, \$918,000, 1,030 locations, \$891 average, \$30.5 million, five weeks.
16. *That Thing You Do!* Fox, \$762,000, 706 locations, \$1,079 average, \$23.2 million, six weeks.
17. *Big Night*, Orion, \$702,000, 266 locations, \$2,638 average, \$8.5 million, eight weeks.
18. *D3: The Mighty Ducks*, Disney, \$630,000, 829 locations, \$760 average, \$20.3 million, six weeks.
19. *Phenomenon*, Buena Vista, \$495,000, 576 locations, \$859 average, \$103 million, 19 weeks.
20. *Secrets and Lies*, October, \$475,000, 125 locations, \$3,802 average, \$3.1 million, seven weeks.

Report: Sergeants, instructors took women trainees on trips

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Female Army trainees from Fort Sam Houston kissed, danced with and licked their supervisors during wild drinking binges in Mexico, according to a published report.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reported in a copyright story today that three trainees at the post said drill sergeants and classroom instructors at Fort Sam Houston routinely took medical trainees on chartered bus trips to Nuevo Laredo.

The end of the so-called "Happy Bus" trips came in February after an Army internal investigation resulted in five sergeants being disciplined for fraternization, according to an Army document.

The newspaper reported two of the five were separated from the Army; another is awaiting separation in January; and two others received letters of reprimand and were removed from the drill sergeant program.

The report concerning the wild parties in Mexico came on the heels of reports of rape and sexual harassment investigations involving female trainees at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The Army had to assume that such improper conduct was taking place elsewhere, Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Monday. He said officials were looking all across the Army, particularly at its training centers, to root out sexual wrongdoing.

Fort Sam Houston spokesman Phil Reidinger said Tuesday he is too busy to look into allegations surrounding the Mexico trips and said he needs more time to gather information.

He appeared irritated with a *San Antonio Express-News* reporter at one point, saying the reporter needed "to take a chill pill."

"I'm trying to get information, but every time you call me, it delays the process," Reidinger said.

The newspaper began requesting information on sexual harassment complaints at Fort Sam Houston on Thursday.

The newspaper learned of the trip after one of the three trainees called the newspaper.

Two of the trainees were female privates who went on the trip and the third is an Army sergeant who was told about it later.

A 19-year-old female trainee said that during the trip drill sergeants encouraged some of the trainees to drink excessively in Mexican bars.

She said some of the drill sergeants and female trainees licked each others' necks and chests in a drinking ritual known as a "body shot."

She said the "body shot" involves sprinkling salt, lime and tequila on a person's neck and chest. Another person then licks it off.

Three hours of brisk walking a week enough for healthy hearts, new study suggests

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A brisk walk is all it takes for women to keep their hearts in shape, a study suggests.

Walking is by far the most popular form of exercise among American women. But until now, there has been little research to show whether it does much good.

Now, a study of 84,231 women nurses finds that those who walk briskly at least three hours a week reduce their risk of heart attacks and strokes by 40 percent.

"You don't have to be a

marathon runner to achieve important health benefits from exercise," said Dr. JoAnn Manson of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

This is good news, experts say. Many people are reluctant to work out because they think it's too hard.

"People tend to get discouraged," Manson said. "If they think they are getting no benefit from moderate exercise, they tend to turn into couch potatoes." The new work suggests that

staying fit requires nothing more than a purposeful walk in the park.

Her findings, which have not yet been published, were presented Tuesday at a scientific meeting of the American Heart Association in New Orleans.

The study was conducted on women nurses ages 40 to 65 who had no sign of heart trouble when they filled out questionnaires about exercise in 1986. During eight years of follow up, 590 suffered heart attacks and 456 had strokes.

Nearly half of the nurses in the study exercised by walking alone. About 10 percent did not exercise at all.

The study found that brisk walking - roughly 4 mph - for three hours a week made a big difference. Women who did this much exercise lowered their risk by 40 percent.

Women who did more vigorous exercise, such as running, racquet sports and aerobics, lowered their risk even more, but the extra benefit was modest. Their total reduction was 60 percent.



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Sheila West
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Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich seems assured another term

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Newt Gingrich seems assured of a second term as speaker of the House following a rally-round-the-leader statement by the GOP hierarchy and a decision by one prominent critic to clam up.

"Rep. (Steve) Largent has no further comment regarding his remarks" over the weekend that Gingrich step aside pending resolution of House ethics charges, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Asked whether Largent planned to vote for Gingrich at a closed-door GOP caucus next week, the spokesman, Nick Thimmesch, said his boss "hasn't told me one way or the other." But he quickly added, "That shouldn't be taken as a no."

The GOP high command issued a statement late Tuesday that declared, "We unequivocally support Newt's re-election as speaker for the 105th Congress."

GOP aides said the show of support was organized by Rep. Bill Paxon of New York, outgoing head of the House Republicans campaign organization.

"With last Tuesday's election, House Republicans won re-election to the majority for the first time in 68 years," the statement said. "It took an entire team to win this historic victory, but no one deserves more credit than our speaker, Newt Gingrich."

The statement, issued under the name of Majority Leader Richard Armey and 14 other Republicans, said the ethics charges pending against Gingrich were part of a "political assault" conducted by the Democrats.

The House speaker is chosen every two years in what is customarily a party-line vote on the

first day of a new Congress. As the majority party, the Republicans have the strength to elect their candidate. With the election set for next Wednesday, no Republican rivals have stepped forward to challenge Gingrich. The Democrats are expected to nominate Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri.

The statement issued by the Republican leadership did not mention Largent — or any other dissident — by name.

Largent had been first to suggest over the weekend that Gingrich step aside.

Asked on the Fox News Sunday program about a magazine's proposal that Gingrich step aside while the ethics case is pending, Largent responded: "I think it is a good idea. I think it would reduce the amount of rhetoric that we would hear on the floor for the 105th Congress and allow us to work more constructively and move forward."

Gingrich said he had spoken by telephone with Largent during the day, and the Oklahoman had changed his position. Republican sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Largent had been apologetic during their conversation, and had told Gingrich he had been unprepared for the question he received in the television program.

Largent's spokesman said he had no information about the conversation, and Largent, elected last week to his second term, was unavailable to comment.

Another Republican, Rep. Peter King of New York, said Tuesday he believed Gingrich should step aside until the ethics case is finally resolved.

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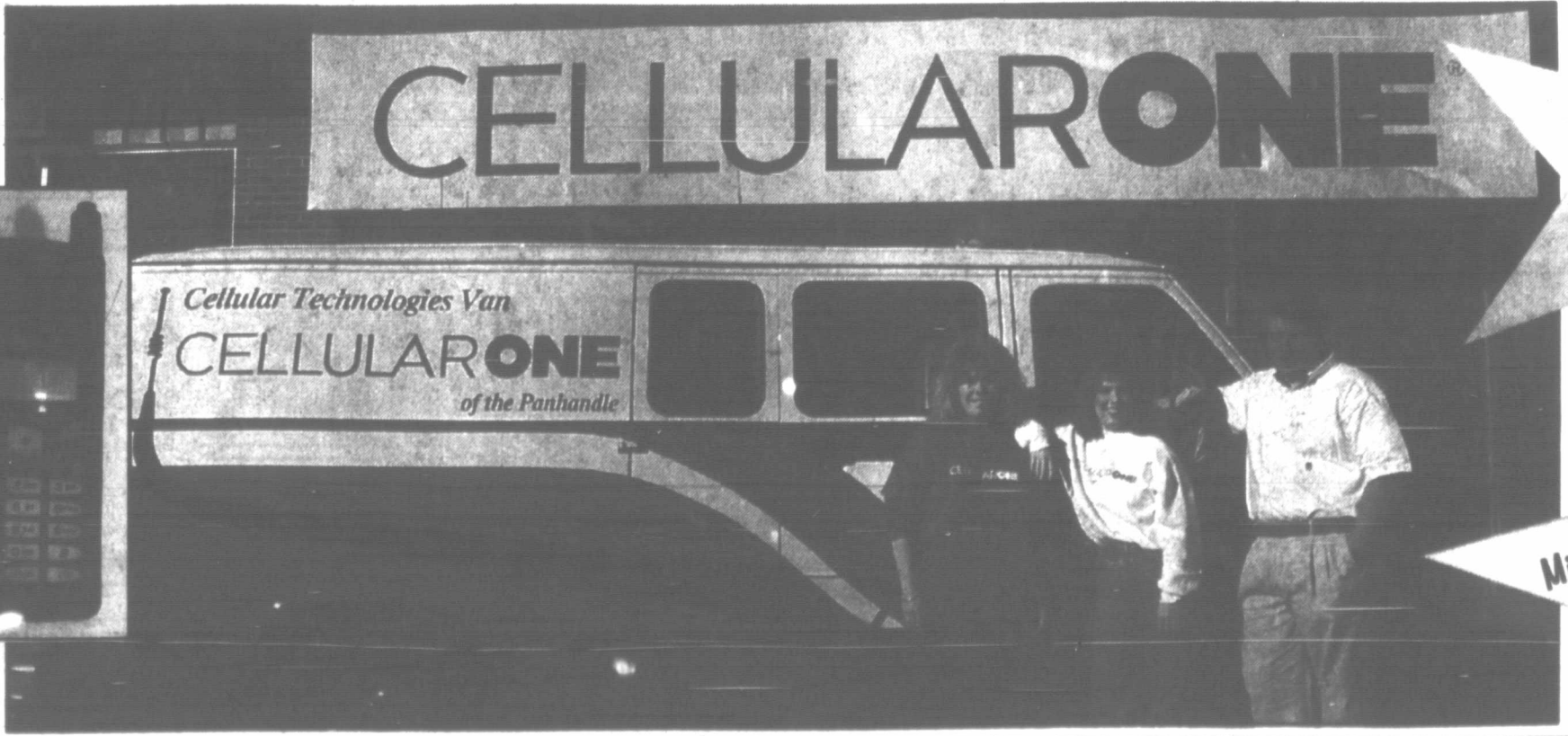
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Harry Truman Made The Bucks Stop Where They Were Needed

DEAR ABBY: Please add this to your collection of "acts of kindness." When my mother was a young girl, her mother became critically ill with a thyroid condition. Her family had no money for the operation she needed to save her life.

The physician mentioned her problem to another patient of his who happened to be a prominent local citizen.

Shortly afterward, the doctor called my grandmother to tell her that an anonymous person had agreed to pay for the surgery she needed — no strings attached.

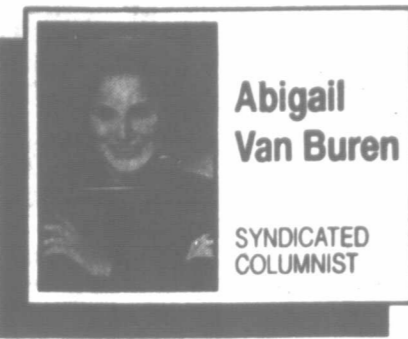
The operation was successful, and my grandmother enjoyed many more happy years with her growing family.

The debt of gratitude we owed her benefactor was impossible to measure. It wasn't until many years later that his identity was disclosed.

The town was Independence, Mo., and the man was Harry S. Truman.

SUSAN CLOW,
PITTSBURG, KAN.

DEAR MS. CLOW: My memories of Harry Truman are very vivid. When he defeated Thomas Dewey for president in 1948, it was such a close race, the Chicago Tribune had already printed its headline: "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN." Your story about the former president doesn't surprise me. Truman was not only very kind, he also was very modest.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

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DEAR KRISTINA: I stand corrected and thank you for setting me (and the record) straight.

DEAR ABBY: This is to "Mom in the Middle" from someone who has been there.

I am a 28-year-old mother of a 12-year-old daughter. I had my first sexual encounter when I was 16 years old. The boy (he was 17) used a condom so I thought I was safe. I was wrong. The condom failed. I don't know how it happened, but it did.

Be glad your daughter was honest with you. I was too scared to tell my mother for fear she would tell my father. (She told my father everything even when she promised me she wouldn't.) Dad was shocked when Mom gave him the news, but he accepted it with good grace.

Although my parents are now doting grandparents, we all wish it had been a few years later.

Involve your husband. He has a right to know.

LEARNED THE HARD WAY

DEAR ABBY: In responding to "A.O. in Los Angeles," you said, "Photographing strangers without permission is a clear invasion of their privacy."

Do you recall a photograph of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square on VJ Day? How about a teen-ager bent over a fatally wounded student at Kent State? A multitude of well-known (and important) photographs were taken of strangers (not celebrities) without their permission. Because of this "invasion of privacy," we have the masterworks of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Diane Arbus, Dorothea Lange, Robert Doisneau, Sebastian Salgado and more.

As far as the law is concerned, if a person is in a public place or taking part in a public activity, he or she is a part of the environment and may be photographed.

Please set the record straight!
KRISTINA BRENDEL,
PHOTOGRAPHER AND

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Thursday, Nov. 14, 1996

You have learned a lot from last year's experiences, and now this knowledge can be used in constructive ways. Do not hesitate to tackle larger endeavors than you have in the past.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Before the day is over you could be in a happy frame of mind as a result of hearing some good news. Scorpio, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing

\$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Influences which could ease any recent financial discomfort you might have experienced will become apparent today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) In your involvement with others today, do not reject a leadership role. Under your management or control, the chances of success will be enhanced.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You will have good luck today if you conceal your strategy from others. Unexpected benefits could result if you don't let associates know your game plan.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Friends could prove to be your most valuable asset today. You will find that they will be more willing than usual to help you any way they can.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Devote complete attention to your most important objective today. You should have an opportunity to make substantial progress

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Strive to follow through on the plans you've been working on lately. Conditions will be ripe for obtaining impressive results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There will be a strong possibility that extra profit or dividends could filter down to you today through a complex involvement you share with another person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Go out of your way to cooperate with others today, because without their support, the likelihood of success will be limited.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not look outside your present sphere of influence for opportunities today. They will be much more plentiful where you are.

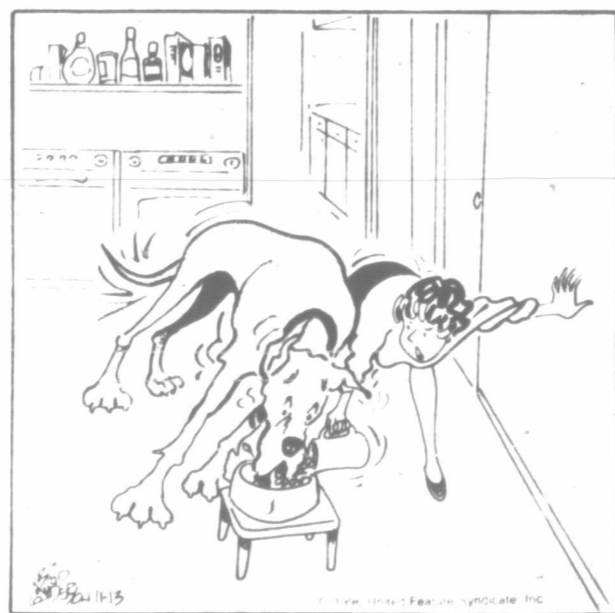
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone you meet through a close friend today might assume an interesting role in your affairs. Your new acquaintance can help you to make valuable contacts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Everyone is entitled to a few lucky breaks from time to time and this could be your lucky day. Get ready to take action.

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"Mommy, where's the Land of Nod?"



"Hold it until I finish putting this dog food in your dish."

The Family Circus



Marmaduke



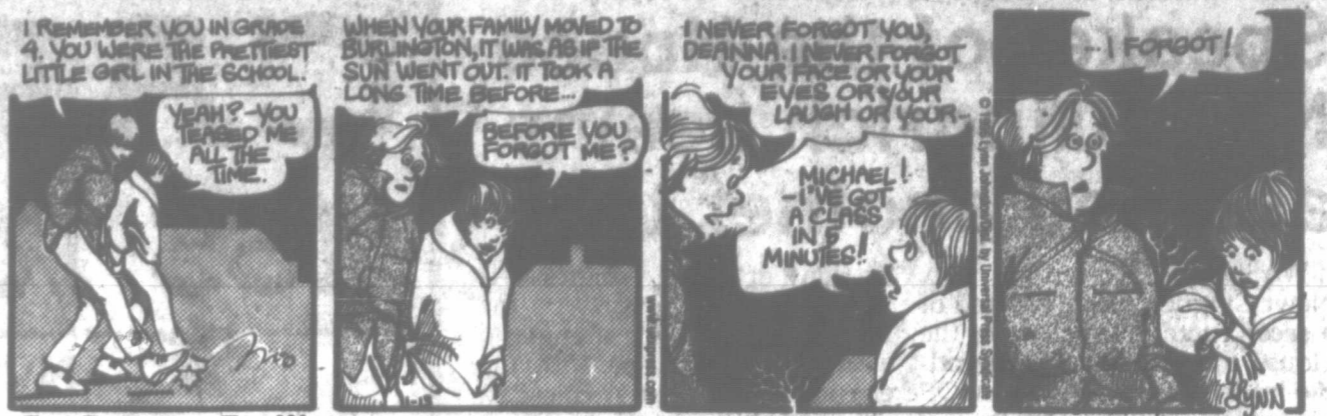
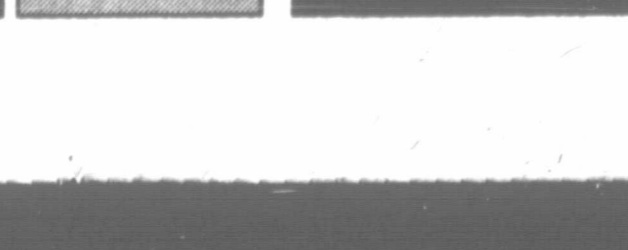
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Peanuts



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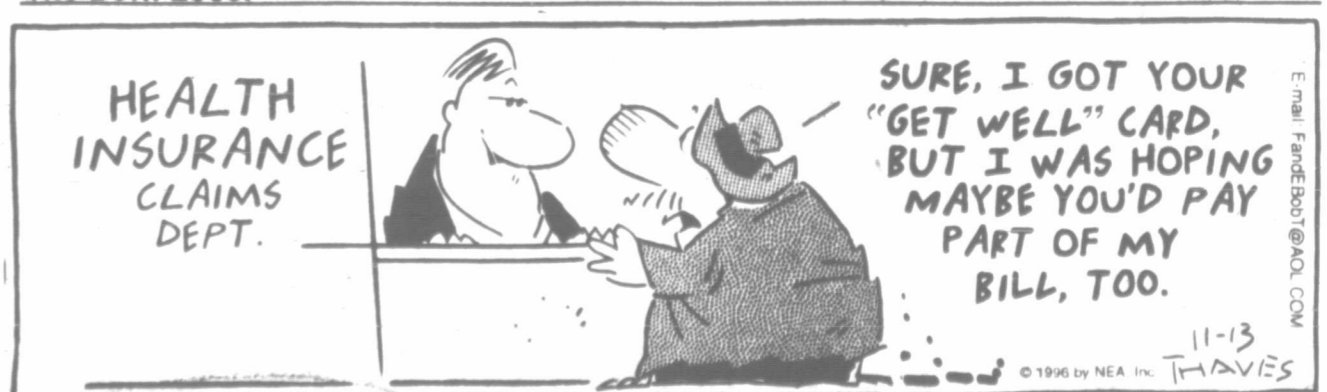
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