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Law change makes grade skipping easier, Page 3

GOOD EVENING
Monday, December 9, 1996

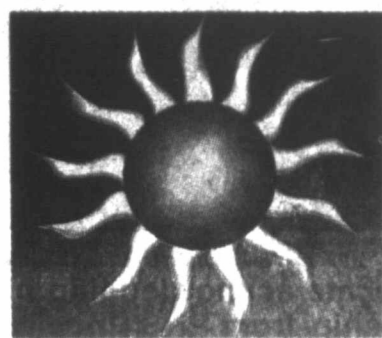
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Florida a big winner in bowl bids, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 211

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



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

PAMPA — Gray County sheriff's deputies today are looking for a suspect in the armed robbery of a gas station Saturday evening.

Deputy Rodney Wheelless said an unidentified man allegedly stole about \$500 in cash from Gas Man, 1505 Ripley, around 7:40 p.m. that evening.

Wheelless said the store's clerk described the suspect as a heavyset white man in his late 40s to early 50s with a moustache and goatee. The man was wearing a Dallas Cowboy cap and blue Adidas jacket.

The man reportedly entered the store with a chrome-plated revolver, walked behind the counter and demanded the clerk do what he told him to do, Wheelless said. The man then allegedly made the clerk lie down in the back of the store.

PAMPA — The Pampa Independent School District Board of Education will meet in regular session Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Carver Center.

Items on the agenda deal mainly with the issuance of school building bonds and elementary school consolidation, including a workshop with construction manager and architect, consideration of elementary staff assignment process and school zone reassignment. Other items include consideration of an asbestos removal bid, sale of delinquent tax property and the district financial audit.

Board members will hear administrative reports on superintendent and board evaluation workshop, school board recognition month, student exemptions for community service and an update on the Multi-Purpose Activity Center.

LEFORS — The Lefors City Council will meet in regular session today at 7 p.m. in the city's civic center.

Items on the agenda include consideration of appointing a new council member and interviewing of utility superintendent candidates.

Also on the agenda are discussion of a Panhandle Regional Planning Commission grant, stray animals, fire plugs, bookkeeping services, trash service and membership in the Texas Water Utilities Association.

PAMPA — Gray County Democrats will hold a surprise birthday party for retired county treasurer Ola Gregory Covey Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Democrat Club President Zetha Dougherty invites the public to attend the party celebrating Gregory Covey's 90th birthday at the Lovett Memorial Library auditorium.

Dougherty described Gregory Covey as a fixture in county government and the local Democrat club.

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Boutros gives Iraq OK to resume oil exports

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali gave the OK today for Iraq to resume oil exports for the first time in six years to buy food and medicine for its people.

Iraq was barred from selling oil after President Saddam Hussein's soldiers invaded Kuwait in August 1990, triggering the Persian Gulf War.

Boutros-Ghali submitted a report to the Security Council saying the long-delayed "oil for food" plan was ready to begin.

"This is a victory for the poorest of the poor of Iraq, for the women and children," Boutros-Ghali said. "I hope that the humanitarian dimension will always prevail at the United Nations."

U.N. spokesman Sylvana Foa said the report was submitted to Security Council President Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy. No action is required by the council, but Fulci must formally present it to the 15-member body.

If he does so as expected, the plan would take effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday EST. U.N. officials say it would take another day or two for U.N. experts to approve contracts before the oil could begin flowing.

"I'm happy," Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun said. "We look forward to developing the

relationship between Iraq and the United Nations necessary for the full lifting of sanctions."

He said Iraq would resume exporting oil in one or two days.

Iraq will be permitted to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine for its people.

Iraq's ambassador to Turkey, Rafi El-Tikriti, said Sunday that Baghdad would ask the United Nations to more than double that daily quota after the first three months of the oil-for-food deal, the Turkish Anatolia news agency said.

El-Tikriti said Iraq plans to purchase medicine, beans, margarine, cooking oil, sugar, tea, cleaning material and stationery with the revenue.

U.N. agencies estimate that 180,000 Iraqi children under age 5 suffer from malnutrition as a result of the sanctions. The Security Council refuses to lift the sanctions entirely until it is convinced Baghdad has complied with orders to scrap its banned weapons programs.

About two-thirds of the revenue will go to buying food and medicine. The rest will compensate Persian Gulf War victims and help defray the costs of the U.N. program to monitor Iraqi weapons.

In India, Russian Power Minister P.I. Rodionov said

seven Russian oil companies were negotiating to buy Iraqi oil once the plan takes effect.

After rejecting the offer for years, Iraq accepted the U.N. plan on May 20. Implementation was delayed because of technical issues, differences between Iraq and the United Nations on details of international supervision and the Iraqi incursion into Kurdish areas of the north in August.

In September, President Clinton said the plan was on hold because of Saddam's military intervention in the north.

U.S. officials say they will not block implementation. U.S. sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say the plan has two advantages for the United States: it enables Washington to go along with a program widely supported by Europeans, Arabs and Asians; and it will reduce international pressure to lift the overall sanctions.

Inspectors from the Dutch firm Saybolt reported Friday that Iraq's pipeline to Turkey was operational. That was the last technical hurdle standing in the way of final approval.

Before the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq exported more than 3 million barrels per day. At current world prices, Baghdad would be allowed to export about 580,000 barrels a day.

Lobbyists face fund-raising deadline

AUSTIN (AP) — Just before the holidays every two years, Austin lobbyists rush around throwing fund-raising receptions for lawmakers in anticipation of a mid-December deadline for contributions.

It's one holiday tradition the government watchdog group Public Citizen hopes to wipe out.

The group is hoping to move the contribution deadline up more than a month, to the day after November elections. Contributions are now banned from 30 days before the Legislature convenes until the end of the session.

"This is a time where legislators are being approached by lobbyists to carry their bill and oppose others and a time they no longer have a need for money to win a race," Public Citizen director Tom Smith told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Texas Ethics Commission reports show about one-third of the \$1.46 million contributed to

returning committee chairmen during the last six months of 1994 — or \$550,420 — was donated during the five weeks after the election.

Most of those contributions came from political action committees, law firms or lobbyists, according to the reports.

"This basically is a time for the Legislature to shake down the lobby," Smith said.

But it works the other way, too, said Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, soon to begin his third term. He said lobbyists approached him to sponsor a recent reception in the members-only Austin Club.

One lobbyist who believes campaign contributions are necessary to ensure access to legislators calls the period between the election and the beginning of the session "the time when we pay the price of admission."

Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, a 20-year veteran of the House, said he does not have to make phone calls

asking the lobby for money because the lobby phones him to offer.

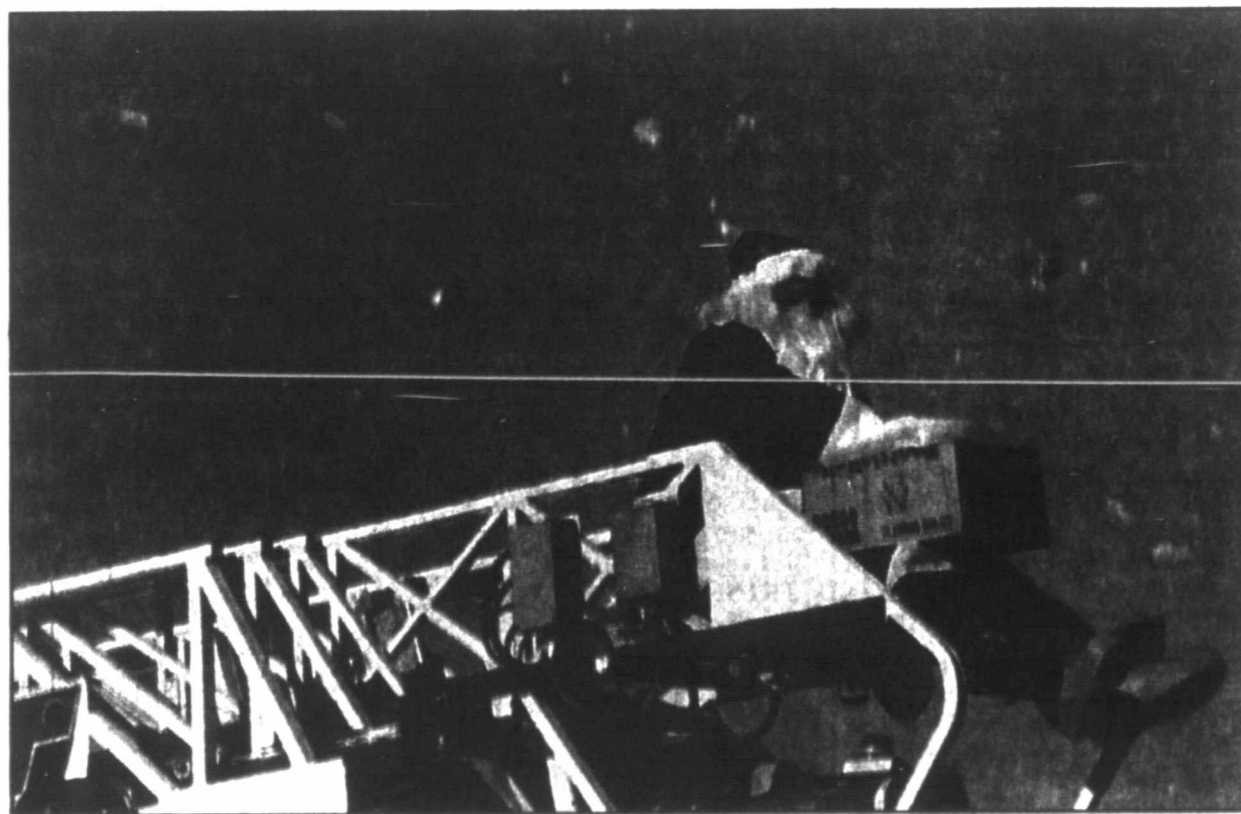
"There's going to be a certain amount of money that's going to come in because you are a committee chairman or a veteran legislator," said Berlanga, chairman of the House Public Health Committee chairman.

Both Berlanga, who had a Democratic primary opponent this year, and Pitts, who ran unopposed, say they accept campaign contributions after an election to amass money for future campaigns.

Sometimes, post-election contributions are given to erase debts from previous campaigns.

"I don't think giving money to any legislator buys you anything," said Ralph Wayne, president of the Texas Civil Justice League, which organized the Pitts fund-raiser. "But there are legislators who are good for our state and they cannot get elected without money, and that's why we give it."

Greetings from Santa



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Riding high above the crowd atop a Pampa Fire Department fire truck, Santa Claus greets kids of all ages in Saturday's Christmas parade, sponsored by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. The parade featured the theme "A Family Christmas."



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Mike Flynt, of Pam Apartments, shows pride in the Christmas tree and other holiday decorations he put up in the hospitality room. "It makes me happy and I'm pleased to share my Christmas collections with my apartment neighbors," he said.

Pampa man brightens hospitality room for apartment residents

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

A Christmas tree, blinking lights, musical carousel horses, ice skaters, a Santa Claus and a little girl in miniature brighten up the hospitality room of Pam Apartments, thanks to one of its residents.

Mike Flynt offered to set up his own Christmas tree and all the moving figurines from his collection, doing most of the wiring and placements of the decorations himself, with a little help from others who live at the apartments.

He said he and his mother were always fascinated by Christmas decorations and enjoyed setting out all their different scenes.

He has been collecting a variety of miniature objects, lights and musical toys for several years.

Flynt, who is in his early 50s, moved into the apartments about six months ago, after he and his mother put their home up for sale and his mother moved to live with his sister and brother-in-law at Lake Brownwood.

"This is my first time to live on my own, but I love being around people, and I like being able to share with my new friends. Doing things for

them is like me having a second family," he said.

Since about 12 years of age, he's been a victim of seizures and he has been somewhat restricted in many of life's activities. After medication made a difference in his health and he learned to control his seizures, things changed for him. He said he has not had a seizure in over 11 years.

At age 40 he learned to drive and qualified for his driving license. He keeps busy in odd jobs and working in volunteer services, including Meals on Wheels, working for Good Samaritan Christian Services in the afternoons and helping in various departments of his church.

Flynt assists with First Baptist Church's special education program, and helps keep records in the department. He also offers his assistance, when needed, to a young church member friend who is handicapped.

"The church is my home. My parents took me to church and we always took part in church functions. I am very thankful to them and to my church family. Without my church, and the beliefs of my parents, I could not have had the life I have," he said.

No winning ticket purchased for Saturday's Lotto numbers

By The Associated Press

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The ticket was worth an estimated \$4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 5, 16, 28, 32, 42 and 43.

Matching five of six numbers were 112 tickets, with a prize of \$1,397 each. Matching four of the six were 4,903 tickets, winning \$116 each.

There were 97,481 tickets matching three of the six numbers to win \$3 each.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$8 million, according to Lotto officials.

Law change makes grade skipping more achievable

FORT WORTH (AP) — Bev Cassler is anxious for her nine-year-old son to do something rare among Texas public school students — skip a grade.

Ms. Cassler said her son Carl, who learned to read when he was three, has learned all he can in fourth grade.

"It's one thing to have a child getting all A's," she said. "It's another thing to have a child finished with the curriculum already."

Because of recent changes in state law, Ms. Cassler can soon do something to move Carl's studies along.

If he scores at least a 90 on each of four grade-acceleration exams this month, he'll jump from fourth grade at Park Glen Elementary School to sixth grade at Chisholm Trail Intermediate School in January.

The change is rooted in a provision of Senate Bill 1, the state education code that took effect Sept. 1. The law, and its interpretation by the Texas Education Agency, created an open-door policy on grade acceleration from kindergarten to 12th grade, with several key provisions.

The new law makes the exams available to all students, not just those in the top ten percent of their class, as provided in the previous law.

To wipe out economic barriers, school districts now must pick up the tab. Previously, parents had to pay \$120 for each exam packet.

The exams must be offered twice in each school year, on assigned dates. And schools must send exam notices home to parents, and advertise in newspapers and other media.

The result: a flurry of interest from parents and some livid school district officials.

"That segment of the law has caused more discussion and more controversy than any other part that I've been involved in," said Mike Murphy, assistant superintendent for curriculum in Southlake north of Fort Worth.

No one expects to see thousands of students blasting through an abbreviated school career. One reason is the new law raises the passing standard for grade-acceleration exams to 90 percent, from 70 percent.

But school districts say they will be socked with phenomenal increases in test costs. The Fort Worth district, for example, received almost 900 exam requests this year, compared with about 150 in previous years. The \$9,000 bill could easily triple when more people find out the tests are available, officials said.

"The state is doing a terrible thing to us," said Teresa S. Stegall, the district's coordinator of assessment. "The state has opened up a keg of worms."

Critics say testing is an exercise in futility for students with less than brilliant transcripts. In Fort Worth, two elementary and 99 secondary students passed at the 70 percent standard in April, school officials said. With a 90 percent mark, no elementary students and only 37 secondary would have moved ahead, they said.



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Dr. Edward S. Williams, right, is presented with a certificate of appreciation from Dr. James K. Morgan, regional director for Texas Department of Health's public health region I. The certificate notes Williams' 12 years of voluntary service to TDH. Williams retired in August.

Texas Department of Health honors Williams for service

Longtime Pampa physician Dr. Edward S. Williams was recently presented with a certificate of appreciation from Texas Department of Health's public health region I.

Presenting the certificate to Dr. Williams last week was Dr. James K. Morgan, TDH regional director. The certificate notes Williams' 12 years of voluntary service to TDH.

Williams, who retired from his private practice in 1984, also retired in August from his voluntary service with the TDH.

Williams has been in Pampa since 1946, with a practice as an obstetrician and pediatrician until his 1984 retirement. He also served as city health officer for five years.

Earlier this year Dr. Williams also received a Professional Service Citation from the Department of Transportation for his valued service as an aviation medical examiner. He had been

conducting physical exams for pilots in Pampa since 1966.

With his medical service at an end, Williams has closed out his office he had maintained in the Hughes Building.

Williams, a Pampa Rotary Club member, donated his office examination equipment through the International Service Division of Rotary International. His equipment was loaded onto a pickup by local Rotarians Curt Beck, Chuck White, Bob Neslage, Fred Brook and Doug Ware and driven to Lubbock by White.

From there, the equipment was taken to Madera, Mexico, for use in a rural area medical clinic.

Dr. Williams' donation of his equipment was the third for Pampa in recent years. Equipment donated by Dr. Raymond Laycock also was sent to Mexico, while equipment donated by Dr. Joe Donaldson ended up in Nizhnevartovsk, Russia.

State briefs

Rainbow trout stocking hits Texas waters

DALLAS (AP) — State wildlife officials are planning a whopper of a Christmas stocking for Texas fishermen.

Just in time for the holidays, the state is starting to expand its program for stocking rainbow trout, with more than 200,000 of the sport fish destined for 77 sites.

"Trout stocking continues to be one of our most popular programs. Children especially enjoy the chance to catch rainbows near their homes," said Phil Durocher, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department inland fisheries director.

"I hope anyone with children will consider taking them trout fishing as a Christmas present. Getting kids involved in fishing is a gift that lasts a lifetime."

Donations from Texas cities have financed the purchase of more than 73,000 of the eight- to 12-inch fish for stocking at the sites, which have increased from 74 in 1995.

Minister accused of sexual misconduct goes to trial

FORT WORTH (AP) — The defrocked pastor of the nation's third-largest Methodist congregation no longer delivers ser-

mons at the downtown church attended by some of the city's most prominent residents.

Instead, 70-year-old Barry Bailey spends his days in a seventh-floor courtroom, fending off allegations that he groped women, talked of forcing sex on them and used lewd language in phone calls to them.

Bailey — still with the courtly bearing of a minister more than two years after he left the pulpit — spent six hours on the witness stand last week in the first of three civil cases filed against him.

With his wife of 43 years looking on, the white-haired former senior pastor at Fort Worth's 10,500-member First United Methodist Church steadfastly denied claims of assault, battery, invasion of privacy, emotional distress and breach of trust.

Eight women who sought Bailey's counsel, most of whom were church employees or members, are suing him for more than \$14 million. Three have said Bailey seduced them into sexual relationships, with two alleging years long liaisons.

Import lot inspections criticized by truckers

LAREDO (AP) — Truck drivers who cross the Texas-Mexico border say their livelihood is suffering from delays caused by a U.S. crackdown on drug smuggling.

A requirement that all tractors without trailers go through U.S. Customs Service inspections at an import lot is delaying crossings for up to five hours at the Juarez-Lincoln bridge, trucking officials said.

The drug interdiction program Operation Hardline requires Customs to inspect the unhitched rigs, said Maria Reba, director of South Texas Customs Management.

But the Association of Transportation and Transfer will lobby U.S. Customs, the City of Laredo, and "anyone who will listen" to deal with the problem, said Jorge Gutierrez, the group's president, adding bridge congestion is resulting.

"We used to make two and three trips a day. The delays now limit us to one, or two at the most," he said.

ST. NICK OF TIME by Jimmy Johnson



High court to consider officers' right to order passengers out of vehicles

BALTIMORE (AP) — It was a lazy summer's evening when Trooper David Hughes saw the white Nissan speed by.

The Maryland State Police officer pulled onto Interstate 95 and paced the car at nine miles above the speed limit before pulling it over. After talking to the driver, he asked the front seat passenger, Jerry Lee Wilson, to get out. Hughes says Wilson opened the door and took one step; a packet of crack cocaine dropped to the ground.

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday on whether the trooper had the right to order Wilson out of the car. At issue is police safety vs. privacy rights — whether police officers anywhere can order passengers out of vehicles even if they arouse no specific suspicion.

The issue has attracted the attention of Attorney General Janet Reno, who will argue Maryland's case in her first appearance before the high court.

The court ruled in 1977 that drivers stopped for routine traffic violations can be ordered out of their vehicles to protect officers from assault.

Maryland prosecutors said the ruling should extend to passengers.

"If he thinks there is a handgun in the car, then the passenger is several feet away from it," said Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, who is arguing the case with Reno.

"If the officer has to wait until the gun is pulled, then it would be too late."

The National Association of Police

Organizations, which supports Maryland in the case, said 445 police officers have been killed while enforcing traffic laws since 1977.

"Pulling over an occupied motor vehicle constitutes one of the least predictable, and hence most potentially dangerous of a police officer's routine duties," the group said in a friend-of-the-court brief.

Wilson, his cousin Terrance MacNichol and a juvenile friend were returning to South Carolina from a visit with relatives in Connecticut when they were pulled over near Baltimore on June 8, 1994. Hughes said the car was driving 64 mph in a 55-mph zone.

The car had no license plates and appeared to be rented, the trooper said. MacNichol continued for 1 1/2 miles after the cruiser's lights and siren were turned on.

After stopping, MacNichol immediately got out of the car to talk to Hughes. The trooper says he saw the passengers ducking below the seat.

"Our trooper saw movement in the car. He was concerned that there might be something taking place that might cause harm," said Col. David Mitchell, Maryland State Police superintendent.

Wilson's attorneys dispute the account, saying Wilson merely looked back at the trooper a couple of times. They also say Wilson did not initially refuse to get out of the car, as the trooper claims.

Wilson, 26, was charged with possessing 74.7 grams of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Chagra, conspirator in federal judge's assassination, dies in traffic accident

EL PASO (AP) — Joe Chagra, who lived in the shadow of two notorious brothers and played a role in the 1979 assassination of a federal judge, has died of injuries he suffered in a car crash. He was 50.

Chagra died at 9:12 p.m. MST Sunday when doctors at Thomason Hospital removed him from life support, said Gary Hill, a longtime friend and business partner. The former attorney had slipped into a coma earlier Sunday.

Chagra was critically injured Friday when his 1992 Toyota Landcruiser went out of control and flipped several times on Interstate 10 northwest of downtown El Paso.

Two passengers in Chagra's vehicle, 61-year-old Ambrosio Issaios Serrano and his son, 39-year-old Jorge Ambrosio Serrano, both of El Paso, died in the crash or shortly thereafter.

Hill, who was at Chagra's bedside when he died, described him

as a gentle man who was caught up in his brothers' criminal connections.

"Joe was a very kind person and he was a gentleman. He had a great sense of humor. He always had a smile. He was nice to everyone, almost to a fault," Hill said.

Nevertheless, Chagra found himself at the center of a world dominated by drugs, corruption and intrigue during the 1970s. That world vanished in a series of gunshots.

Joe Chagra's eldest brother, Lee Chagra Sr., was an El Paso attorney who gained notoriety by successfully defending alleged drug dealers. He was gunned down in his office in 1978.

A year later came the assassination of U.S. District Judge John Wood outside his San Antonio home.

Wood, known as "Maximum John" because of his tough sentencing of drug dealers, had been sched-

uled to preside in a drug conspiracy trial involving Jimmy Chagra, Joe Chagra's other older brother.

The May 29, 1979, slaying prompted a three-year manhunt; federal officials took 1,053 days to obtain indictments in the case, which they called the "crime of the century."

Eventually, Joe Chagra pleaded guilty to murder conspiracy and served 6 1/2 years of a ten year prison sentence.

In return, he became the prosecution's key witness against hitman Charles V. Harrelson, who ultimately was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for firing the sniper's shot that killed Wood.

Chagra implicated Jimmy Chagra and Harrelson as key conspirators in the plot to murder the 63-year-old judge. Joe Chagra, who acknowledged a heavy cocaine habit before his arrest, told jurors that he advised his brother to have Wood killed.

Hundreds of thousands blacked out by two feet of snow

By CHRISTOPHER CHESTER Associated Press Writer

A fast-moving storm that dumped nearly two feet of snow on New England left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity, forcing some to cook on wood-burning stoves while others sought refuge in emergency shelters.

"It's colder in the mobile homes than it is outside," said Sheila Ghika, 51, who stayed with her husband Sunday night at a school in Chelmsford, Mass.

The Ghikas went to the shelter after learning it could be another 36 hours before power is restored to their mobile home. They had already been without electricity for a full day.

On Saturday, the storm barreled northward along the East Coast, dumping rain from the Carolinas north to New York City and spreading snow during the night across most of New England.

The weather was blamed for at least two deaths in Connecticut. A fireman was electrocuted when he touched a downed power line while fighting a blaze, and a pedestrian was struck and killed by a car in a driving rainstorm.

The heavy, wet snow combined with ice and wind to bring

down tree limbs and power lines.

Outages affected about 240,000 customers in Connecticut, of whom 120,000 remained without power early today; 100,000 customers in New Hampshire, with 70,000 of them still in the dark Sunday; and 62,000 in Maine, where 12,700 outages remained Sunday night.

Also affected were more than 100,000 in Massachusetts and 25,000 in Vermont. Smaller blackouts were reported in upstate New York.

"I'll tell you right now, I'm not very pleased," said Mary Tyler of West Dummerston, Vt., who made soup on a wood-burning stove.

The Red Cross opened a dozen shelters across Massachusetts on Sunday to people without electricity or heat, while 32 shelters opened in northern Connecticut.

The Ghikas brought a couple of their elderly neighbors to the shelter in Chelmsford, but said most decided to stick it out in their mobile home park, hovering over their propane stoves for warmth.

"A lot of them have cats and dogs they're afraid to leave alone, so they're staying," Ms. Ghika said.

About 22 inches of snow fell on parts of Vermont late Saturday into Sunday morning, the National Weather Service said. Around 16 inches fell in parts of Connecticut and Maine, with about a foot in New York's Catskills.

The weekend storm added as much as 18 inches of snow in northern and central Massachusetts on top of Friday's snowfall, which dropped up to 18 inches in the Berkshires.

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Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Balanced budget seems unattainable

Maybe we should all just give up hope that President Clinton will join the push for a balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. By the lights of recent news reports, the president can't even seem to stay in sync with his own administration on this matter. At least, it's encouraging that Congress appears to be girding anew for that crusade. Most tallies point to the needed two-thirds majorities in both the U.S. House and the Senate to pass such an amendment and send it to the states for ratification.

But will that support survive the tortuous legislative process? No less than the "revolutionary" Republican Congress elected in 1994 has wavered pitifully on the issue. Though the House came through in 1995, the GOP-majority Senate fell a vote shy that year and three votes short earlier this year.

So, it's only reasonable to wonder whether Americans aren't in for more disappointment. Will the politics of rationalization — disingenuous protests about "balancing the budget on the backs of the poor," or the elderly or children, etc. — again supplant statesmanship?

All we can do at this point is remind our elected leaders in Washington just how much of a stake the poor, the elderly, and especially our children, as well as all other Americans, have in a balanced budget.

The best version of a balanced-budget amendment would of course also include a safeguard against Congress raising our taxes on the pretext of having to eliminate red ink. One way is for any amendment mandating a balanced budget also to require a three-fifths majority to raise taxes.

A more likely approach — without that tax clause — would only require a three-fifths majority vote in both houses to run a deficit or to raise the federal debt ceiling. That's the version that came so near to passing in '95.

Though inferior, even that tack would have injected significantly more discipline into the congressional budget process than there is now.

Above all, either approach would have compelled those who govern us to live within their means. Most of us expect that of ourselves; we have no choice. Why, as a matter of fiscal fair play, shouldn't we expect the same of those who spend our tax dollars?

Economists mostly agree that persistent deficit spending — the norm for our federal government for years now — can only hurt the economy in the long run. There remains some debate over the degree to which federal borrowing to cover the deficit undermines other economic indicators.

Setting aside those fine points among economists, though, it's common sense to cover one's costs rather than run up debts. It's a maxim we all try to live by. And that, in a nutshell, is the simple wisdom of a federal balanced-budget amendment.

Sufficient numbers in both house of Congress seem to see that wisdom, whether or not the president has resolved upon it. The real challenge ahead for our elected representatives is not to sacrifice that wisdom for expedience.

Your representatives

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Berry's World



"I've about HAD it with your letting the inner child in you come out."

Liberal pipeline to soccer moms

In all the talk about the gender gap, a crucial piece of the puzzle has been overlooked completely.

When one thinks of *Good Housekeeping* and *Family Circle*, *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Parents*, images of middle America and apple pie come to mind. American women have come to rely on these magazines for practical advice about family, relationships, cooking, exercise and dieting. They are staples at the grocery store checkout counter, and shoppers buy them with the same frequency as bread.

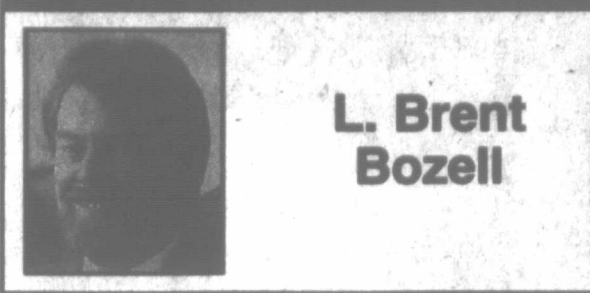
What is less understood is that these magazines, and others like them, have become active participants in public policy discussions. They are every bit as reliably liberal as the national news media and are exercising a huge impact on the cultural conversation.

That's the finding of a joint study of 13 women's magazines over a one-year period conducted by Consumer Alert and the Media Research Center. In addition to the above, the magazines included *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle*, *McCall's*, *Prevention*, *Redbook*, *Weight Watchers*, *Woman's Day* and *Working Woman*.

From October 1995 to September 1996, analysts found 115 stories that gave a positive portrayal of government activism and/or called for greater federal control over society. Only 18 stories presented a negative view of government activism and/or called for less government.

In 56 stories or mentions of science and risk issues, like chemicals in drinking water, passive smoke and pesticides, the bias was equally pronounced. Thirty-five reports were one sided, refusing to acknowledge a skeptical view. Oftentimes, there are serious debates over the risks depicted, with evidence presented to document how these alarmist views go against mainstream science. That viewpoint, and therefore any semblance of balance, is regularly ignored in women's magazines.

And unlike the news media, simply promoting lib-



L. Brent Bozell

eral policies wasn't always enough. On 23 occasions, women's magazines actually urged readers to lobby for bigger government. They never urged readers to lobby for less government control of the economy.

Glamour and *Working Woman* were the two most biased publications, followed by *Good Housekeeping*. *Ladies' Home Journal* was the most balanced, though still it tilted slightly left.

Does it matter? Yes, it does. These magazines reach tens of millions of women. Five of the magazines studied were among the top ten in paid readership in the nation, according to the Magazine Publishers of America. Many of these magazines have a higher circulation than do such national news giants as *Newsweek* and *Time*. *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Family Circle* all have more than five million paid subscribers, with *Woman's Day* close behind at 4.7 million.

The total paid circulation for these 13 magazines surpasses 50 million. Add to this number the non-subscribers reading them — at the doctor's office, on the neighbor's coffee table and at the checkout line itself — and the numbers explode off the screen.

More than five million women were told by *Ladies' Home Journal* that they were "entitled to maternity leave." Almost five million women were told by *Woman's Day* that they had a "right" to qual-

ity health care, regardless of the cost to others, and were urged not to own guns to protect themselves. Four and a half million *McCall's* readers, along with over two million *Glamour* readers, were urged to join the "These Children Have Faces" campaign, protesting welfare reform. And the nearly two million readers of *Parents* magazine were asked to take part in the left-wing Stand for Children march on Washington by Marian Wright Edelman. (Edelman was a particular favorite of women's magazines. She was also featured in *Family Circle*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Mademoiselle* and *Working Woman*, with *Mademoiselle* soliciting money for Edelman's Children's Defense Fund.)

How influential are these publications when they tackle public policy issues? Just ask them. *Good Housekeeping* editor Ellen Levine, in that magazine's January issue, bragged that 50,000 readers had filled out a lobbying coupon. *Good Housekeeping* had provided in support of "drive-through delivery" legislation sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley.

Redbook's editor Kate White told her readers in the July issue that they were "the White House's secret weapon." The Clinton administration, it seems, had decided to target the demographic profile which *Redbook* readers constitute, calling their scheme "the Redbook Strategy."

It makes sense. For years, the left has employed the same strategy with the news media, with liberal and Naderite groups constantly advancing their agenda through sympathetic reporters. It's time for conservatives and Republicans to develop their own Redbook strategy — to study this genre's cultural power and begin to participate in it.

The left is using these magazines to characterize conservative policies as anti-woman, anti-family. The situation — and an audience of 50 million — demands a response from the right. If the GOP wants to close the gender gap, women's and family magazines should no longer be ignored.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 9, the 344th day of 1996. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," was published in England.

On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1884, Levant M. Richardson of Chicago received a patent for the ball-bearing roller skate.

In 1907, Christmas seals went on sale for the first time, at the Wilmington, Del., post office; the

proceeds went to fight tuberculosis.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1942, the Aram Khachaturian ballet "Gayane," featuring the surging "Saber Dance," was first performed by the Kirov Ballet.

In 1958, Robert H.W. Welch Jr. and 11 other men met in Indianapolis to form the anti-Communist John Birch Society.

In 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan

authorization to prevent New York City from going into default.

In 1992, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation. (The couple's divorce became final Aug. 28, 1996.)

Ten years ago: In public testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, former national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane said President Ronald Reagan had approved an "indirect" shipment of arms to Iran in August 1985.

Five years ago: Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev challenged Boris Yeltsin's declaration that the Soviet Union was dead, branding a new Slavic commonwealth "illegal

and dangerous." European Community leaders meeting in the Dutch city of Maastricht tentatively agreed to begin using a single currency by 1999.

One year ago: Congressman Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., was chosen to become the new head of the NAACP.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. is 87. Actor Kirk Douglas is 80. Actress Dina Merrill is 71. Actor Dick Van Patten is 68. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 66. Talk show host Morton Downey Jr. is 63. Blues musician Junior Wells is 62. Actor Beau Bridges is 55. Football Hall-of-Famer Dick Butkus is 54.

Tolerance is a virtue the media lacks

Not content with victory, some liberal Democrats feel constrained to kick the limp bodies of their vanquished adversaries.

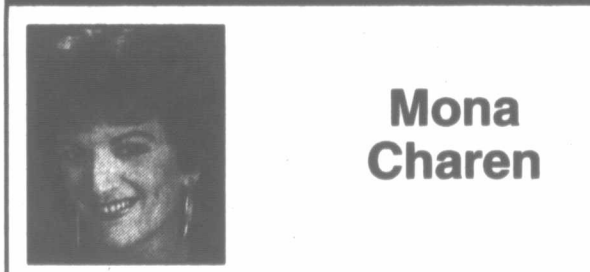
Rep. William Clay, a black Democrat from Missouri, spewed venom about Rep. Gary Franks, the defeated black Republican from Connecticut. And gratuitous venom at that. The soft-spoken and mild-mannered Franks was excoriated as a "Negro Dr. Kevorkian ... a pariah who gleefully assists in suicidal conduct to destroy his own race."

What did Franks do, join the Ku Klux Klan? No, he merely voted with the majority of his party on matters like welfare reform, Medicare and the balanced budget.

According to Clay, Franks' "willingness to revert to a status of 'antebellum' treatment of blacks and a toothy embracing of racist convictions has rankled the collective sense of proud, ambitious, aggressive African Americans ... Ultraconservatives and the radical right have ways of reinventing people, and I want to make sure that when they attempt to reinvent (Franks) that our people have the facts."

Of course, Clay is not opposed to all black Republicans, he told *The Washington Times*. But "what we got was black people who agreed totally with the fanatical religious bigots to make the Republican Party a safe haven for those bigots."

From the sneering use of the word "Negro" and the ludicrous comparison of modern conservative politics with "antebellum" behavior to the ritual invocation of the religious right, Clay's outburst — circulated throughout Capitol Hill and to civil rights groups around the nation — is a classic leftist smear.



Mona Charen

How can sincere men and women, of whatever race, look at the state of black America today and conclude that liberal solutions have succeeded? Franks believes what many black scholars, religious leaders and ordinary voters believe. He rejects liberal welfare programs as "a 20th-century version of slavery."

In the face of relentless hostility, even cruelty, from his fellow black lawmakers (until J.C. Watts provided company on the Republican bench in 1994), Franks has worked doggedly to prove that pigment colors only the skin, not the mind. Though the room would fall silent when he entered, Franks insisted upon participating in meetings of the Congressional Black Caucus. And though he met little but insults and intolerance from his fellow black lawmakers, he continued, in his low key way, to argue his case. To find another of such courage will not be easy.

Rep. Bob Dornan has also taken more than his share of thrown elbows since his narrow defeat. *The New York Times*, a newspaper that thinks itself above mere name-calling, indulged in exactly that on Nov.

26. "His racist and sexist diatribes made him an outcast in Washington ... He will no doubt turn up on the talk-show circuit alongside others specializing in insults. But his defeat is all the more welcome if it mutes the intolerance he strove to make fashionable."

Perhaps *New York Times* editorial writers belong on the hate radio circuit. They seem to be auditioning for it.

As a military officer in the early 1960s, Bob Dornan marched with Dr. Martin Luther King and helped to register black voters in Mississippi in 1964. He has never uttered a racist thought or word in his career — quite the opposite. But the *Times* knows that. It lashed racism together with homophobia in its editorial, the better to imply both. Of course, *The New York Times* accuses everybody who voted for the Defense of Marriage Act of homophobia.

The paper called him a buffoon — but if he were one, it wouldn't waste its time on him. Dornan has a flair for the dramatic, an encyclopedic mind that can recite most of the important dates in American history as well as MacArthur's farewell speech at West Point by heart, and a passion for freedom. He did bounce a couple of checks drawn on the House bank — to build a shrine to the Virgin Mary in his backyard. He was defeated by newly registered (legal?) Hispanic voters, but it's wrong to dismiss him as anti-immigration. During his tenure, he helped to reunite 7,000 Vietnamese immigrant families. A passionate cold warrior, he thought we owed them.

We did, and we owe Dornan better than to stay silent as his enemies kick him while he's (temporarily) down.

America's exogamous trend is to blend

Much, but not all, of what has transpired in the realm of race is hard to appraise.

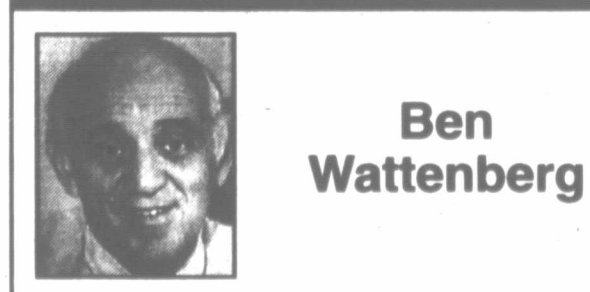
• On Election Day the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) passed by 54 percent to 46 percent. Opponents say CCRI will destroy affirmative action. Supporters (like me) think it will de-emphasize preferences.

• Earlier this year the Supreme Court ruled that certain majority black-Congressional districts were invalid and that race-conscious districting sent a "pernicious" message. Many civil rights leaders said the Court's decision was a disaster, that whites won't vote for blacks, and that the number of black members of Congress would sharply decline. But the five black members who were restricted into majority white districts — all won. Civil rights leaders now say they won only because affirmative action had first made them incumbents. Others (like me) applaud the result and note that every politician has to start out as a nonincumbent.

• The only black member of Congress who did lose in 1996 was a quite conservative Republican, Gary Franks of Connecticut, whose loss had nothing to do with racial districting. Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., who is black, bade Franks farewell, calling him a "Negro Dr. Kevorkian." In response, Franks noted that Clay had not been one of his principal admirers.

• The titles of two new books tell you more than you want to hear about the matter: *The Coming Race War in America: A Wake-up Call*, by columnist Carl Rowan, and *The Coming Race War? And Other Apocalyptic Tales of America After Affirmative Action and Welfare*, by law professor Richard Delgado.

• Exit polls on Election Day set up a hypothetical race for the presidency between Gen. Colin Powell and President Bill Clinton. Powell won by



Ben Wattenberg

eleven points. A new trial heat by Fox matched Vice President Albert Gore and Powell. The general was up by 28 points.

• Some brass at Texaco said some very bad words, or used a nasty tone, or both, about blacks. The company is accused of obstruction of justice in a race-discrimination law suit. Black Texaco employees have received a \$176 million settlement.

• The vast majority of white Americans believe O.J. Simpson is guilty of double murder. The rate of blacks who believe him innocent has fallen substantially, although it is still more than half, according to CNN-USA Today.

Hard to sort out. Trends are not apparent. But there is some newly refined data that does seem to show at least a strong tendency. There has been a long argument about whether America is a "melting pot," or rather just a "mosaic," a "salad bowl" or a "stew," whose definitions can range from glorious groupism to tribal co-existence.

Americans of European ancestry have melted. Results from the 1990 Census show that 84% of all Polish Americans have married exogamously (that is, married to non-Polish American partners).

Euromelt has been going on for a quite a while. But what of newer immigrants and nonwhites?

Sociologist Zhenchao Qian of Arizona State University has used census figures to calculate that just under half of young Asian Americans had outmarried as of 1980. In 1990 the proportion had climbed to almost two-thirds.

Among young Latinos, marriage constituted 30 percent of the unions recorded in 1980 and 36 percent in 1990.

The trend is blend, toward melt, not mosaic. The starkest change, from the lowest base, has occurred among African Americans. Writing in the *New Democrat*, Douglas Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute and Timothy Sullivan of Southern Illinois University have used census figures and data from the National Center for Health Statistics to compute a timeline for new marriages involving at least one black partner. In 1970, just three percent married whites. The rate was seven percent in 1980, eleven percent in 1990 and twelve percent in 1993.

Does all this mean that as we move into the next century race will be much less of an issue? That we will all end up bland and blended? That (as I believe) we will fulfill our difficult destiny as the first universal nation?

Not so fast, says Professor Richard Alba of the State University of New York, and the dean of the study of exogamy in America. Inter-marriage, he says, is indeed a critical step in the process of assimilation. But marriage rates are generally low within the black community. The issue of race has been with America from day one, and it's not going away. He does note, however, that for the first time there is serious evidence that blacks are becoming a serious ingredient of the melting pot of exogamy.

Christmas parade



(Pampa News photos)

Above, members of the Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657 wave to the crowd gathered along Saturday's Christmas parade route. The VFW members served as Grand Marshals for the Pampa Chamber of Commerce sponsored parade. Below, Altrusa International of Pampa uses Saturday's Christmas parade to honor its Baker Star Reader program students. The parade's theme was "A Family Christmas."



Many see similarities between old mill town and 'Bedford Falls'

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — The steel truss bridge just upstream from the Seneca Knitting Mill here looks remarkably like the one George Bailey dives off in *It's A Wonderful Life*.

In the 50-year-old movie classic, a suicidal George comes to his senses with help from Clarence, a guardian angel who jumps first and draws out George's do-good instincts.

An old plaque on this village's Bridge Street Bridge tells of similar heroism, but with a tragic twist — how Antonio Varacalli leaped into the icy Seneca River in April 1917 to rescue a woman but drowned himself.

Therein lies one of the many tantalizing parallels that have convinced village planner Francis Caracillo and his neighbors that Seneca Falls was the model for Bedford Falls, the make-believe mill town from upstate New York erected on a Hollywood studio ranch in the mid-1940s.

"I've crossed this bridge in the middle of winter and seen whitecaps on the water and chunks of ice and snow floating by, and it looks just like the movie," Caracillo said, peering over the bridge railing. "You could almost envisage Clarence jumping off and George following to save him."

"Perhaps it's a little romanticized, but Bedford Falls is a good place with good people in it, and any community would love to lay claim to that."

No evidence has surfaced that director Frank Capra or screen-

writers Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, all now dead, ever ambled through Seneca Falls, home to 7,400 people in the rural Finger Lakes region.

But the movie setting was clearly hereabouts, based on dialogue referring to the nearby cities of Rochester, where George's rich friend Sam Wainwright considered building a plastics plant, and Elmira, where the bank examiner was eager to spend Christmas with his family.

George's Uncle Billy, as devoted fans know, had misplaced the Bailey savings-and-loan's deposits, deepening George's despondency and sending him to his appointment with his angel on the snowy bridge.

It's Clarence who sends George whirling in panic and astonishment through a harsher and meaner Bedford Falls and convinces him the little town would have suffered had George never been born.

Seneca Falls half a century ago certainly looked like Bedford Falls, from its globe street lamps, hydrangea bushes and skating ponds to its Victorian-era build-

ings, train station, fading economy and the grassy island running down the middle of its main street.

But then, say the doubters, so did a lot of small American towns.

Capra was asked about the movie setting "a million times" and never once mentioned Seneca Falls, said Jeanine Basinger, author of *The It's A Wonderful Life Book* and a film studies professor at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Bedford Falls, she believes, "is a composite of small towns and the way they were at that time, which is what helps to make this film seem so right to people."

"They're really stretching it here," she says of Seneca Falls believers. "God love them for wanting it."

Some physical resemblances are gone now — the grass was paved over in the 1960s and the knitting mill is the lone survivor of the 116 factories and mills that once lined the river.

And, charm aside, this is hardly a backwater. As the site of the first women's rights convention in 1848, its park and hall of fame devoted to feminism draw 30,000 tourists a year.

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Feds plan to burn or store in glass surplus weapons-grade plutonium

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stuck with 50 tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium, the government plans to encase some of it in glass and bury it, but tons more may be burned at civilian nuclear power plants, officials say.

The Energy Department plans a decades-long, two-pronged approach for dealing with the plutonium left over from 50 years of nuclear weapons production during the Cold War, department sources said Sunday.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary called a news conference today to announce the \$2 billion project.

The decision follows several years of debate within DOE over how to get rid of the plutonium that is stockpiled from dismantled warheads and as nuclear waste at federal weapons production facilities.

It has been one of the most challenging and complicated issues facing the government as the United States and Russia shrink their nuclear arsenals.

The material stays highly radioactive for tens of thousands of years and only a small amount is needed to make a nuclear weapon.

The department said last March that it was considering three options:

—Using commercial atomic power plants to burn the plutonium after it is mixed with

uranium into a mixed oxide, or MOX.

—Encasing it under high temperature in glass — a process called vitrification — so it can be more easily handled and stored, and eventually buried.

—Putting the plutonium into deep bore holes.

Officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the department ruled out the bore hole approach and will concentrate over the next two years in resolving technical issues in vitrification and in commercial burning of the plutonium.

It is not known how much of the plutonium would be disposed through burning and how much would be encased in glass and buried. That likely will not be worked out for several years. The total disposal process could take decades.

One DOE official familiar with the plan said about one-third of the plutonium is not suitable for commercial burning as a fuel because of impurities. Sixteen electric utilities with more than three dozen reactors have expressed interest in taking part in the disposal effort, the official said.

No American commercial reactor currently uses MOX. The fuel was abandoned in the 1970s in the United States as part of a policy of not mixing military and civilian nuclear programs, although MOX is used in some European reactors.

World briefs

Mary Leakey, eminent fossil finder, dies at 83

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Mary Leakey, half of the team whose discoveries in East Africa brought the world closer to understanding the origins of man, died today. She was 83.

A statement from her son Richard announced her death but did not give its cause, saying only that she died peacefully.

Leakey and her late husband, Louis, astounded the world with their fossil discoveries in Tanzania and Kenya that indicated man's evolution began in East Africa far earlier than had been believed.

And in 1978, after her husband's death, she found footprints made in volcanic ash that showed early hominids walked upright 3.5 million years ago — again, much earlier than had been thought.

The Leakeys met in 1935 and were married the next year. Working with her husband in

Kenya in 1947, Mary Leakey discovered the skull of *Proconsul africanus*, an apelike ancestor of both apes and early humans that lived about 25 million years ago. In 1959, she discovered a skull of an early hominid Louis dubbed *Zinjanthropus* at Olduvai Gorge in northern Tanzania.

Milosevic tears up pledge to respect press' freedom

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — When presented with a statement pledging to respect the media's freedoms, Serbia's president tore it up.

Slobodan Milosevic eventually signed such a note, scribbled in long-hand, Kati Marton, chairwoman of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, said Sunday.

Milosevic had closed down two popular independent radio stations that covered huge daily protests against him, but relented under outside pressure and

allowed B 92 and Radio Index back on the air.

However, his actions prompted Marton to rush to Belgrade for a Saturday meeting with the president.

She prepared a statement for Milosevic to sign, pledging to abide by freedom of the media on issues including news reporting, advertising and licensing.

"I handed him the manifesto, which he proceeded to tear up," she said. Still, Marton said that she wanted to have something in writing, so she began again on one of the shreds of paper.

Milosevic signed her handwritten statement that he supported "the right to publish and broadcast here freely."



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Trustee Of College Makes Classes His No. 1 Priority

DEAR ABBY: May I add to your continuing saga of persons "too old to go back to school"?

At the age of 64 and having only a 1937 diploma from an apprentice training school, I decided to enroll in a new weekend college program at Findlay (Ohio) College — now the University of Findlay. The result? In 1985, at the age of 69, I was granted dual B.A. diplomas engraved "Cum Laude," which meant a five-year grade-point average of 3.56 on a scale of 4.0. My degrees are in business administration and information systems analysis (meaning computers).

My "excuse" for going to college at the age of 64 was to find out what I did right in business for 33 years. The secondary reason was to prove to myself that I was an "A" student — which I accomplished by making the dean's list the second semester.

Because the dean of the college knew I expected to be treated like any other student, we both laughed about the professor who rushed into the dean's office and exclaimed, "I have a trustee of the college in my class! What do I do?" When the dean told me about it, my response was, "I hope you told him to fail me if I didn't do the work." To which the dean replied, "That is exactly what I told him."

WAYNE I. PRIBBLE, NEW HAVEN, IND.

DEAR MR. PRIBBLE: Your letter proves it's never too late

Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

to resume one's education. We're never too old to learn as long as we're willing to make the effort. Congratulations on your accomplishment.

DEAR ABBY: "Wally" and I have been married for 15 years. We've had our ups and have been through some difficult situations. We support each other and care deeply, but there's one problem we cannot agree on.

Wally loves our house and has decided that all the walls should be painted white. We don't paint that often, but now that we've made some improvements to our home, it's time to paint again.

I would like to get away from the all-white look and consider using wallpaper. I've brought home wallpaper sample books and paint color charts, but all he'll say is that white looks best. He refuses to look through the books or compromise in any way.

We have lived in this white house for 12 years, and I think it's time I had my way. I could wait until he goes on a business trip and redecorate while he's gone, but that would be dishonest. I'm home more than he is since our children have come along. What should I do?

COLORLESS IN NEWBURYPORT, MASS.

DEAR COLORLESS: An interior decorator who is used to sales resistance may help you convince Wally that a dash of color will liven up the place. Keep in mind that it doesn't have to be all or nothing. A decorator can help you "accessorize" your home with accents of color and texture, making it more visually interesting and less sterile. The bathrooms and kitchens would be the least threatening places to begin.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat." THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Horoscope



Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1996

Conditions look favorable for you in the year ahead in regard to your ability to earn money. Your chart shows that you will have several new opportunities. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You can achieve your goals today without resorting to the unsavory methods an associate uses to get his way. Live by your own standards. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work.

Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might have second thoughts today about a commitment you made hastily. This situation can be readjusted to give you peace of mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Proceed cautiously in business deals today. Make sure that the terms are not altered after the deal is set. Get everything in writing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Strive to be considerate today, and don't slight one friend unintentionally by excluding her from plans you make with another friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can achieve a significant personal objective by yourself today. Do not try to seek support from well-meaning, but ineffective co-workers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Self-discipline will be your strong suit throughout most of the day, but in the evening your behavior might become too lax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Outstanding accomplishments are probable today.

provided you are tenacious and dedicated. Do not walk off the field until you've achieved a complete victory.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A concerned adviser might offer valuable advice today. Do exactly as this person says, because the advice will be less effective if you attempt to modify it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A joint endeavor in which you're presently participating will succeed as long as everyone contributes equally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do not be suspicious of others without proper cause today. If you are, you might misinterpret the motives of a colleague who is just trying to be cooperative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today you might accidentally stumble on a company secret which should be kept confidential. Subdue the temptation to reveal your findings to co-workers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It will be reasonably safe to gamble on something today as long as it has been well thought out. However, do not press your luck.

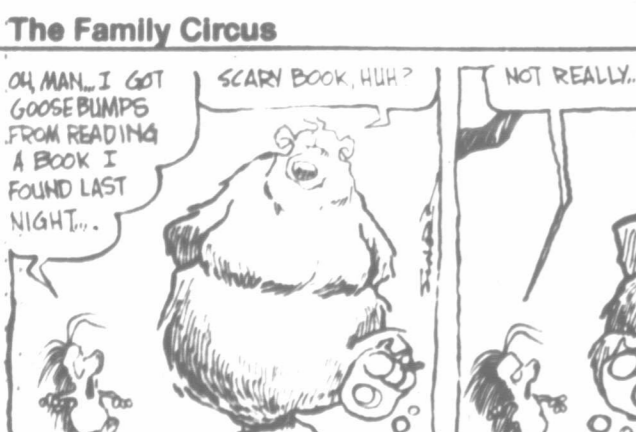
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"That's the presidential seal." "I thought they only had a cat."



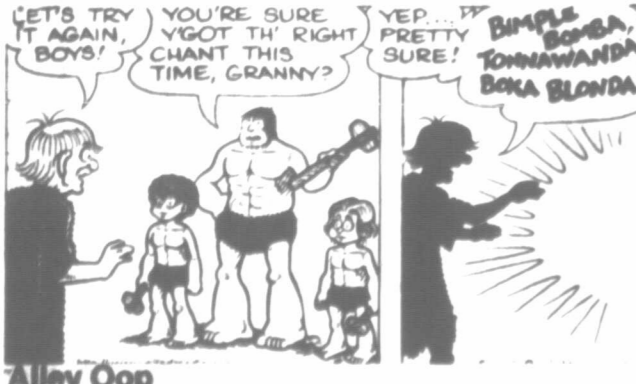
"What makes you think I want to trade my Christmas cookies for an old chewed-up slipper?"



Grizzwells



Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peenuts



Peenuts



Peenuts



For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



Garfield



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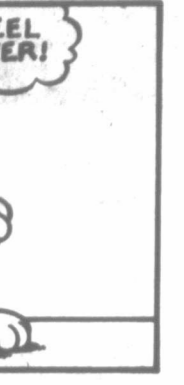
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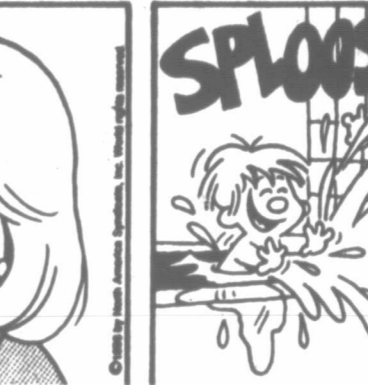
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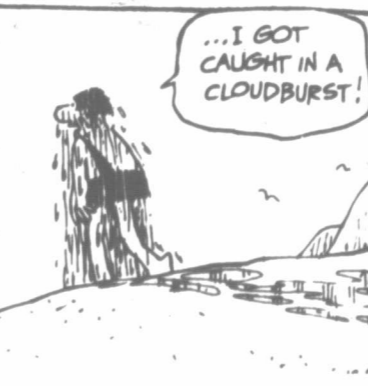
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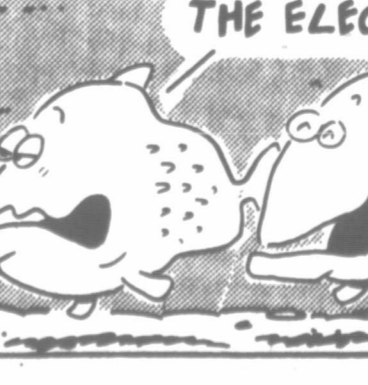
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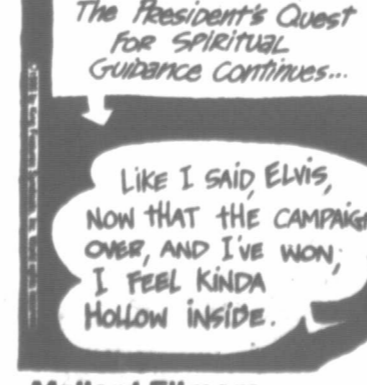
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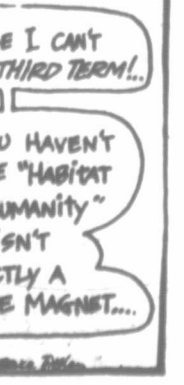
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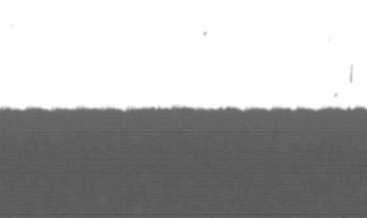
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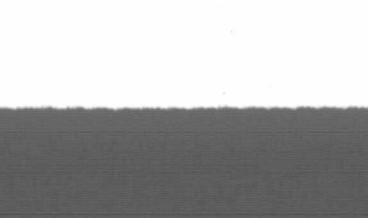
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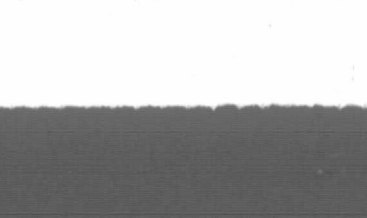
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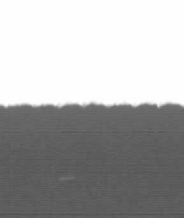
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Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The 9th grade Lady Harvester basketball team defeated Amarillo Caprock last Monday night by a score of 57-37.

The 9th grade girls played very well after getting off to a slow start. Pampa for the game had a total of 37 rebounds, 24 steals and twelve assists.

The 9th grade shot 50 percent from the free throw line, making 13 shots out of 26.

The 9th grade Lady Harvesters now have seven wins and one loss.

FOOTBALL

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin (eight catches for 198 yards) combined on a 50-yard touchdown pass, but it was a defense riddled by suspension and injury that won the game for Dallas (9-5).

Dallas was without the suspended Leon Lett and missed Deion Sanders for more than a half because of back spasms. Yet it kept the Cardinals (6-8) out of the end zone by forcing four turnovers, the most important a fumble on a hit by linebacker Randall Godfrey four plays before the TD pass.

GREEN BAY, Wisc. (AP) — Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes as the Packers (11-3) won consecutive division titles for the first time in 29 years.

Antonio Freeman, who returned last week from a broken left forearm and had 10 catches for 156 yards, had nine this week for 175 yards and three touchdowns. Denver (12-2) slipped to 2-8 in games Elway has missed.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens, Alex Fernandez and World Series MVP John Wetteland were offered salary arbitration Saturday night, when teams decided to cut their ties to 43 players.

Nineteen players were offered arbitration in the final two hours before the midnight deadline, raising the total to 22. Players have until Dec. 19 to accept or reject the offers, except for the 12 players who gained their free agency rights Saturday. The deadline for them to decide is Jan. 2.

The New York Yankees just beat the deadline with Wetteland, the first pitcher to save four games in one World Series. At about 10 p.m., Boston made the offer to Clemens and the Chicago White Sox made the offer to Fernandez.

BOXING

INDIO, Calif. (AP) — WBC straw-weight champion Ricardo Lopez extended the longest current championship reign in boxing to 18 fights Saturday night, stopping South Korea's Myung-Sup Park at 2:22 of the first round. Lopez, 29, of Mexico improved to 44-0 with his 34th knockout.

GOLF

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — They weren't the glamour names in the JCPenney Classic. They didn't amaze the gallery with booming drives.

Mike Hulbert and Donna Andrews just played the kind of golf that wins tournaments.

Both players, winless on the PGA and LPGA tours this year, continued to hit greens and make enough putts to build a comfortable lead, then parred the final three holes Sunday to win the rain-shortened event.

In a modified alternate-shot format, Hulbert-Andrews carded a 3-under-par 68 over the Inverness Resort Copperhead course to finish at 16-under 277, one stroke better than the teams of Tiger Woods-Kelli Kuehne and Joel Edwards-Missie McGeorge.

Scott McCarron and Pat Hurst, who began the final round tied for the lead, shot a 70 and finished two strokes back.

Florida a big winner as bowl bids go out

NEW YORK (AP) — Florida is the big winner, Brigham Young is the biggest loser and Notre Dame isn't playing at all.

Those are the bowl results, and the games haven't even begun yet.

Bowl bids were made official Sunday, and top-ranked Florida State found out for sure that it will have to beat Florida again, this time in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2, to win its second national championship.

Florida State (11-0) defeated then-No. 1 Florida 24-21 on Nov. 30. The Seminoles figured they'd have to beat Nebraska, but the Cornhuskers cost themselves a chance at an unprecedented third straight national title with a 37-27 loss to Texas in the Big 12 championship game Saturday.

Now, No. 3 Florida will have another shot at the Seminoles — the second time in three years the teams have met in a Sugar Bowl rematch.

"We didn't think we'd be back in the Sugar Bowl after what happened a week ago," Florida coach Steve Spurrier said. "But Texas upset Nebraska. Heck, we're looking forward to the game."

A win will give Florida an opportunity to win its first national title. Then again, No. 2 Arizona State (11-0) is hoping for that chance with a victory over No. 4 Ohio State (10-1) in the Rose Bowl.

Fifth-ranked Brigham Young was hoping for big things, too. But Brigham Young (13-1) saw an \$8.5 million payday disappear when it was excluded from an alliance game.

Instead, the Cougars will play No. 14 Kansas State (9-2) in the Cotton Bowl, which pays each team \$2 million.

Brigham Young, which beat No. 22 Wyoming 28-25 in overtime Saturday in the WAC title game, was passed over despite being the highest-ranked team available after the Sugar Bowl picked.

"I'm obviously disappointed," Brigham Young athletic director Rondo Fehlberg said. "I think Brigham Young clearly had a team and a season that deserved to be in the alliance."

In other top games, the Fiesta Bowl matches No. 7 Penn State (10-2) against No. 20 Texas (8-4)

on Jan. 1 and the Orange Bowl features No. 6 Nebraska (10-2) against No. 10 Virginia Tech (10-1) on Dec. 31.

Roy Kramer, chairman of the alliance and SEC commissioner, said the alliance basically puts together the two highest-ranked teams available "and the other bowls are free to select the at-large spots as they see fit."

After the Fiesta picked Penn State with the No. 3 choice, the Orange went for Nebraska with the fourth pick.

Keith Tribble, executive director of the Orange Bowl, explained his choice: "We tried to make a decision that, one, was going to get the highest-ranked team that we possibly can that was good for our community, that was able to put on a competitive game."

Notre Dame, meanwhile, will not play in any bowl. The No. 18 Fighting Irish (8-3) had hoped to make their 10th straight Jan. 1 appearance, but a loss to Southern California in their final regular-season game left them out of an alliance bowl.

Notre Dame attracted some interest from other bowls, but the Irish decided to pass them up, meaning Lou Holtz has coached his last game at the school.

Nebraska made the alliance despite its loss to Texas.

"We feel fortunate to be sitting here talking to you today," coach Tom Osborne said. "Our objective was to get through that game and we played a team kind of on a roll."

Texas qualified for the alliance as Big 12 champ, as did ACC winner Florida State, Big East champ Virginia Tech and SEC winner Florida.

"You would think that if you beat No. 1 during the regular season, you wouldn't have to beat them twice," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said. "But we will go into the Sugar Bowl more concerned with winning the national championship than who we are playing."

In another odd twist, Navy turned out OK despite Saturday's 28-24 loss to Army.

The Midshipmen (8-3) are off to Hawaii to play California in the Aloha Bowl. Army (10-1) instead a trip to Shreveport, La., to play Auburn in the Independence Bowl.

Lady Harvesters take third at Clayton tourney

CLAYTON, N.M. — Pampa defeated Dalhart, 74-34, Saturday to take third place in the Clayton Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Jennifer Jones led the Lady Harvesters in scoring with 15 points to go with 9 rebounds and 3 assists. Chandra Nachtigall had 12 points and 2 assists; Kristi Carpenter had 12 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists; Candice Nachtigall 10 points, 2 rebounds and 2 assists; McKinley Quarles 9 points and 4 rebounds; Yvette Brown 5 points 3 rebounds and 1 assist; Faustine Curry 5 points and 4 rebounds; Jami Wells 4 points and Tina Dwight 2 points.

Pampa opened the tournament with a 57-54 win over defending Class 2A champion Navaho Prep of New Mexico.

Jones had 17 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists; Carpenter 11 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists; Brown 6 points; Chandra Nachtigall 5

points; Candice Nachtigall 4 points and 4 assists; Wells 4 points; Curry 5 points and 3 rebounds; Quarles 3 points and 8 rebounds; Dwight 2 points.

Pampa fell to Dumas, 55-43, the second game.

Scoring for Pampa were Jones 15 points, 9 rebounds and 3 assists; Curry 11 points and 4 rebounds; Carpenter 8 points and 5 rebounds; Quarles 7 points and 4 rebounds; Candice Nachtigall 2 points.

"We played real well the first and third game, but we just didn't shoot the ball very good against Dumas. I felt like we should have won it," said Pampa coach Mike Jones. "Maybe the game will provide a wake-up call for us since we open district against Dumas."

The Lady Harvesters open the District 1-4A season Tuesday night at Dumas with the game starting at 7:30.

Carolina Panthers make the playoffs, control NFC West

By The Associated Press

There's no such thing as an expansion team in the NFL any more.

The Carolina Panthers demonstrated that Sunday by humbling the haughty San Francisco 49ers 30-24, clinching at least a wild-card playoff berth in their second season and taking control of the NFC West.

"We have never viewed ourselves as an expansion team. It's a nice feeling to be in the playoffs in our second season," said coach Dom Capers, whose Panthers are tied at 10-4 with the 49ers but have the tiebreaker because they won both meetings this season.

"It's a big, big step for us and it puts us in a position

now where if we can take care of business, we can be in the position we want to be in."

That business will be against Baltimore and Pittsburgh at Ericsson Stadium in Charlotte, where the Panthers have never lost; it opened this season and Carolina is 6-0 there.

The 49ers also play the Steelers, who themselves clinched the AFC Central with a 16-3 victory over San Diego.

In addition to the Panthers and Steelers, New England and San Francisco also clinched playoff berths Sunday — the 49ers when Washington lost in Tampa Bay.

Green Bay, which already had clinched a wild-card spot, won the NFC Central by rout-

College Bowl matchups

Division I-A games	All times EST
LAS VEGAS Nevada (9-3) vs. Ball State (9-3) Las Vegas, Dec. 19, 9 p.m. (ESPN)	ORANGE Nebraska (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (10-1) Miami, Fla., Dec. 31, 7 p.m. (CBS)
ALOHA California (6-6) vs. Navy (8-3) Honolulu, Dec. 25, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)	OUTBACK Alabama (9-3) vs. Michigan (8-3) Tampa, Fla., Jan. 1, 11 a.m. (ESPN)
LIBERTY Houston (7-4) vs. Syracuse (9-3) Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 27, 3 p.m. (ESPN)	GATOR North Carolina (9-2) vs. West Virginia (9-3) Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 1, 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
CARQUEST Miami (8-3) vs. Virginia (7-4) Miami, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. (TBS)	COTTON Brigham Young (13-1) vs. Kansas State (9-2) Dallas, Jan. 1, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)
COPPER Utah (9-3) vs. Wisconsin (7-5) Tucson, Ariz., Dec. 27, 9 p.m. (ESPN)	CITRUS Northwestern (9-2) vs. Tennessee (9-2) Orlando, Fla., Jan. 1, 1 p.m. (ABC)
PEACH Clemson (7-4) vs. LSU (9-2) Atlanta, Dec. 28, 8 p.m. (ESPN)	ROSE Arizona State (11-0) vs. Ohio State (10-1) Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1, 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
ALAMO Iowa (9-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-4) San Antonio, Dec. 29, 8 p.m. (ESPN)	FIESTA Penn State (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4) Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 1, 8 p.m. (CBS)
HOLIDAY Washington (9-2) vs. Colorado (9-2) San Diego, Dec. 30, 8 p.m. (ESPN)	SUGAR Florida State (11-0) vs. Florida (11-1) New Orleans, Jan. 2, 8 p.m. (ABC)
SUN Stanford (8-6) vs. Michigan State (6-5) El Paso, Texas, Dec. 31, 1 p.m. (CBS)	
INDEPENDENCE Auburn (7-4) vs. Army (10-1) Shreveport, La., Dec. 31, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)	

1996 football season unforgettable for Harvesters

PAMPA — Despite Pampa's 31-14 loss to Grapevine in the Class 4A state semifinals, the 1996 season will be an unforgettable one for the Harvesters.

Prior to Saturday night's game with No. 1-ranked Grapevine, PHS head coach Dennis Cavalier made know his feelings about this year's team.

"This team's been wonderful," Cavalier said. "Their accomplishments will remain forever regardless of the outcome of the game."

Heading the list of accomplishments is Pampa's advancement into the state semifinal game. No other football team in school his-

After Pampa's defense stymied Grapevine on its first four possessions, the Harvesters were able to get on the scoreboard first as Clint Curtis hooked up with tight end Devin Lemons on a 6-yard slant pass with 7:14 left in the first half.

However, things started going Grapevine's way after that and the Mustangs went up 14-7 at intermission. Grapevine scored on four straight drives in the second and third stanzas to take command, 28-7.

The Harvesters stopped themselves several times with penalties, drawing 11 flags for 127 yards.

Hull plays as Blues beat Oilers 3-2

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — They arrived in Edmonton in the midst of controversy and departed with a victory.

The St. Louis Blues, riddled with questions surrounding the relationship between head coach and general manager Mike Keenan and All-Star wing Brett Hull, put any problems aside Sunday night and defeated the Edmonton Oilers 3-2.

In the NHL's only other game, Florida and Dallas skated to a 1-1 tie.

Keenan and Hull weren't answering many of the questions upon their arrival, and Hull deflected away any talk of controversy after the game. The Blues' top shooter beat Edmonton goaltender Curtis Joseph with a quick shot midway through the third period for his 12th goal of the season and 33rd in 33 career games against the Oilers.

"It's over, there's nothing to deal with anymore," Hull said. "There's no sense in even talking about it."

"The circumstances had nothing to do with it. I just wanted to win."

Keenan and Hull have had their differences in the past and they surfaced again last week after the

Blues were shut out in two games. Although he didn't specifically name Keenan, Hull was critical of the team's game plan, particularly the power play where Hull is most dangerous. In response, Keenan scratched Hull from the lineup for Friday's game at Colorado.

Although he wasn't a factor for much of the game, Hull practically appeared out of nowhere to put away the game.

"Brett Hull's on the ice and nobody picks him up? I don't understand that," frustrated Edmonton head coach Ron Louie said. "Two guys in the other lane and neither one of them sees Hull breaking through. Bryan (defensesman Bryan Marchment) just stepped up and played him in the middle of the rink and lets him go by. It's inexcusable when he's on the ice to let that happen."

St. Louis took an early lead as Joseph was beaten on two of the first four shots he faced. Peter Zessel scored his fourth goal of the season as he banged in the rebound off Igor Kravchuk's initial shot which bounced off both goal posts. Just 97 seconds later, Joe Murphy put a wrist shot behind Joseph for his sixth goal.

Seifert said

Still, San Francisco, which trailed 30-17 in the fourth quarter, had a chance to pull it out. Steve Young, who passed for 393 yards, found Jerry Rice for a 5-yard score with 6:22 left. But Eric Davis, a former 49er, intercepted a pass that deflected off Terrell Owens two minutes later after San Francisco had reached Carolina's 30.

"I was just shocked the whole day," said tight end Wesley Walls, a former 49er who caught two TD passes. "People cursing you — that's not like the 49ers, not like the 49er team I played for. There was so much trash talking at the beginning, I thought I was in a pickup basketball game."

Jacksonville 23, Houston 17; Cincinnati 21, Baltimore 14; Atlanta 31, New Orleans 15, and Chicago 35, St. Louis 9.

Kansas City is at Oakland tonight.

The Carolina-San Francisco game was not only a shock, it was uncharacteristic for both teams.

The normally offense-shy Panthers got 327 yards and three touchdown passes from Kerry Collins and Willie Green had seven catches for 157 yards and a score.

The always disciplined 49ers had a team record 15 penalties for 121 yard, more like their neighbors across the bay in Oakland.

"They played like the team with tradition. We came unglued," coach George

Rancorous union battle left to voters to decide

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of name-calling and charges of corruption, it's all over but the ballot count in the fight for the Teamsters presidency.

"There's no more scheming room, there's no more plans, manipulations or ideas," said Tom Pazzi, campaign manager for challenger James P. Hoffa. "Now it's just grab onto your chair and watch the numbers."

A federally appointed election officer begins opening mail-in ballots Tuesday to see whether self-styled reformer Ron Carey will keep his Teamsters leadership. Protests are expected.

No one ever said Teamsters democracy would be pretty. The acrimony of the government-sponsored contest between Carey and the son of labor legend Jimmy Hoffa, who disappeared in 1975, cut deep divisions within the 1.4-million-member union.

The race is considered close and the possibility of victory by the namesake of a controversial leader from the Teamsters' past has raised questions about the ramifications for a rejuvenated labor movement.

"I think (a Hoffa victory) will hasten the writing of obituaries for labor," said Ken Paff, leader of the 10,000-member Teamsters for a Democratic Union, which was instrumental to Carey's 1991 victory.

But while the name Hoffa conjures up

images of corruption for some, in the minds of many Teamsters it is also inseparable from labor's golden days, when the union was a strong social force and its rank-and-file enjoyed good wages.

"What basis would you have to have any problems with the legitimate election of Jim Hoffa?" Pazzi asked. "Are you saying that the members of this union don't know what they're doing?"

To avoid federal racketeering charges, the Teamsters in 1989 signed a consent decree that established an independent review board to investigate wrongdoing by union officials.

The deal also provided the first direct elections of union officers, which Carey's slate won against the wishes of the Teamsters hierarchy.

Working with regulators, Carey has placed 66 locals in trusteeship and suspended officers suspected of corruption. Carey says Hoffa's supporters are hurt most by such reforms.

Hoffa, a Michigan lawyer, wants to return power to regional and local Teamster bodies. He accuses Carey of being a weak negotiator and allowing union funds to dry up.

Voting has outpaced 1991's poor showing, but not by much. As of Friday, 462,000 ballots

had been returned, about nine percent more than last time.

Most returns have come from the central region of the country, where Hoffa is thought to be strongest. But a poll taken for Carey in late November showed him leading, 55 percent to 45 percent.

Predictions are unreliable with so little voting history against which the returns can be judged or likely voters can be screened.

Carey's support was key to John Sweeney's insurgent campaign for the presidency of the AFL-CIO last year, but the federation is barred from meddling in the internal affairs of its affiliates.

While some federation officials privately expressed concern about the public relations ramifications of a Hoffa victory, they said the choice of Teamsters members must be respected.

"If the members of a union in a union's fair election vote for a candidate, then it would not be a very smart thing to not honor that," said one AFL-CIO official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The federal government is paying about \$22 million to underwrite the cost of the race in the belief that union democracy is key to Teamsters reform. Most unions allow convention delegates to choose their presidents instead of having members vote directly for candidates.

Group reports \$627,500 missing in wake of atheist's disappearance

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The mystery of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair's disappearance has deepened amid allegations that hundreds of thousands of dollars vanished about the same time she did.

Two atheist groups once controlled by Ms. O'Hair say that \$627,500 disappeared last year about the same time that she, her son and adopted daughter disappeared, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported Sunday.

The American Atheists Inc. and the United Secularists of America reported \$627,500 in missing assets to the Internal Revenue Service, the newspaper said.

O'Hair, whose lawsuit led to the landmark 1963 Supreme Court decision outlawing public school prayer, was last seen more than a year ago when she told friends she was going to New York City to picket the pope's appearance.

Her disappearance prompted

rumors that she had died and her followers kept it quiet because they feared Christians would claim she found God on her deathbed. Besides O'Hair, now 78, her son, Jon Murray, and adopted daughter, Robin Murray-O'Hair, also vanished.

The two organizations which reported the losses are among five operated in Austin by the Murray O'Hairs to promote atheism and the separation of church and state. The other groups did not report missing funds.

The United Secularists in its 1995 tax statement said it believed Jon Murray has \$612,000 of its missing assets; he was also blamed by American Atheists for \$15,500 in missing assets.

Ellen Johnson, who replaced Murray as president of the American Atheists and the United Secularists, did not return a telephone message left Sunday at her home in Rockaway Township, N.J.

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