

Nation

Ruling boosts possibility of trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major obstacles to an Iran-Contra trial of Oliver L. North were removed when the judge in the case sharply restricted the number of classified documents the former White House aide may use for his defense.

By deciding to bar as evidence more than 90 percent of the classified documents North wanted to disclose, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell greatly increased the chances that the case will go to trial, possibly late next month.

Navy missile kills ship's crewman

HONOLULU (AP) — A crewman aboard an Indian merchant ship was killed Monday when the ship was struck by a half-ton practice missile launched from a Navy jet during a military exercise, the Navy announced.

The accident took place 80 miles north-northwest of the island of Kauai within an area of several thousand square miles of ocean which had been closed to merchant vessels by a notice to mariners issued by the Navy on Thursday, the statement said.

Quayle's successor chosen



DAN COATS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Dan Coats of Indiana will succeed Vice President-elect Dan Quayle in the Senate, once again following his mentor into a congressional job.

Lifestyle

Couple doesn't want another check

DEAR ABBY: With Christmas just around the corner, I'll bet many of your other readers are struggling with this issue.

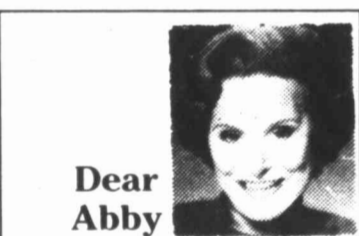
For years, my in-laws sent us checks for Christmas instead of "tangible" gifts, and now my parents are starting to do the same. I thought of sending each of them a check, too, but my husband refuses to go along with it, saying it is too cold and impersonal. I heartily agree. But why should I run around shopping for personal gifts for each of them, then go through the trouble of gift wrapping and mailing them on time (we all live in different states), only to receive a check or two in return? None of them are incapacitated or very old, and they have as much time as we have.

Neither my husband nor I are difficult to buy for; we have always enthusiastically thanked them for gifts in the past. So, I thought I'd send them a list of practical gift ideas (titles of books, sizes and colors of desirable items of clothing) that they could shop from.

If, upon receiving the lists, they still choose to send money, can I tell them in the future they should contribute the money to a charity in our name? I'd rather do that than get more checks. It really bugs me to get money from close relatives because they don't know what we need or want and don't bother asking. — THE OREGON INITIATIVE

DEAR OREGON: Accept the checks graciously, and be grateful that you were remembered at all. (Lots of people aren't.) Don't complain, and don't send any lists.

DEAR ABBY: I have the perfect solution for "Brentwood Mom," who is experiencing the "empty nest syndrome."



Dear Abby

their school work, and they really liked having me around.

An unexpected bonus came along. A position for an instructional aide opened up, I took the test, passed with flying colors, and now I am employed by the school!

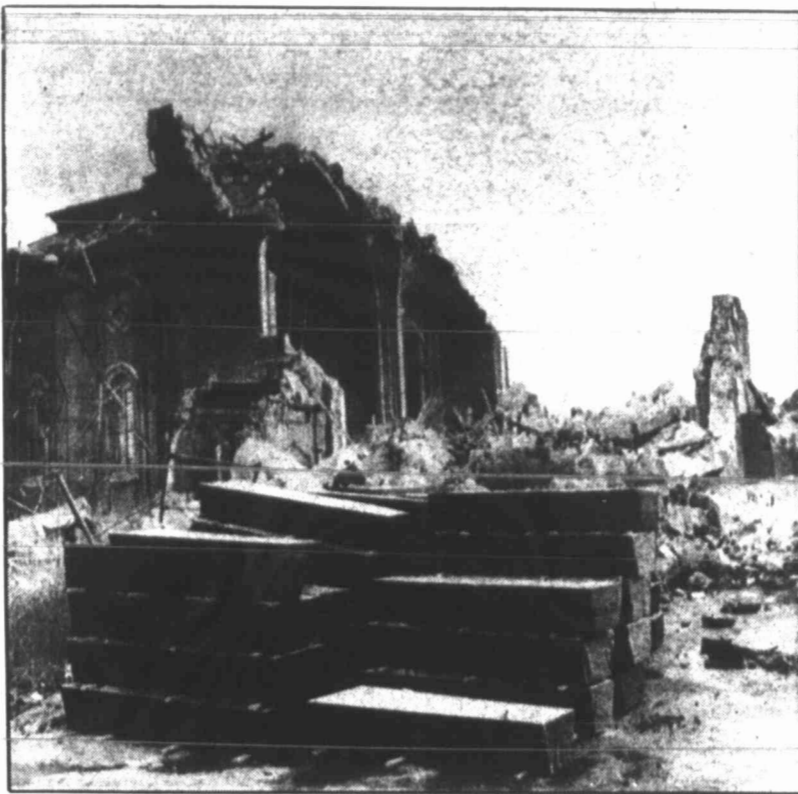
Abby, there is no better way to be close to your children. And there is nothing like spending time in a classroom to make you appreciate and respect a schoolteacher.

Whenever I hear people gripe about how teachers are underworked and overpaid, I make this suggestion: After you've spent two weeks as a teacher's aide and seen for yourself what her daily routine includes, come back to me and I'll listen to your gripes.

Moms, volunteer in a classroom! It's the best thing you can do for your children. — HAPPY MOUNTAIN MOM, AUBERRY, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Can you stand one more letter about smoking, and how difficult it is to quit? They say that "cold turkey" is the hardest way, but I did it, and there was nothing to it.

On March 20, I had my first date with a very young 75-year-old woman. (I was 15 months older.) We met for lunch, and from the tone of her voice when she asked if we could be seated in the no-smoking area, I knew how the lady felt about smokers. Well, I quit cold



LENNAKAN, U.S.S.R. — Coffins pile up in front of a demolished church in the aftermath of last Wednesday's earthquake.

Armenian relief slowed by lack of organization

YEREVAN, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Survivors of the Armenian earthquake are freezing to death at night because only a fraction of the thousands of tents sent to the disaster area reach the homeless, a Soviet newspaper reported today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov today gave the latest official death toll in the quake as 55,000. He said 13,000 had been injured.

"The collapsed villages are suffering especially from the disaster," the newspaper Kom-somolskaya Pravda said, citing helicopter Capt. Sergei Bobylev. It quoted Bobylev as saying that in one unidentified village, 20 children died.

"Now survivors are dying from cold," the Communist youth newspaper said. Officials say a half million people were left homeless by the quake.

As hopes dimmed for the living who remained trapped under rubble, Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov blamed shoddy construction for the high death toll and acknowledged that rescue efforts had been plagued by disorganization.

Pravda, the Communist Party daily, demanded prosecution of the "scrap-builders" who put up apartments that crumbled into "concrete and metal graves."

Hope dwindled for those still trapped in the ruins, and the smell of decaying corpses filled the air by day. Temperatures plummeted below freezing at night.

Shelter and salvage equipment were in short supply and the rescue effort was being carried out mostly by friends and relatives using little more than their bare hands and small tools.

Only two roads and one rail line were open to the quake-stricken region, hindering the delivery of heavy rescue equipment like cranes and bulldozers. Many supplies were arriving by helicopter and parachute.

In hard-hit Leninakan, a city of 250,000, remaining residents are beginning to suffer from a lack of drinking water, sewage and garbage-hauling facilities, and transport, said the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya.

World

Rival factions battle in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Rival Shiite Moslem factions battled today with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in south Beirut, where most of the foreign hostages are believed held. Police said at least one militiaman was killed.

The violence came one day after kidnapers holding U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins announced that they had decided to put him to death for allegedly spying for Israel.

Police said one combatant was killed and three pedestrians were wounded in the fighting between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or

Party of God. The battles went on for two hours in the streets of the Chiyah and Hay Madi districts before Syrian troops in charge of security in Beirut's Moslem sector moved in to stop them.

Many of the 15 hostages in Lebanon are believed held in Hay Madi, Hezbollah's main stronghold in south Beirut. Hezbollah is believed to be an umbrella for pro-Iranian extremists holding the foreigners.

Amal and Hezbollah have long been vying for dominance of the 1 million Shiites in Lebanon. They clashed in a six-day battle in west and south Beirut two weeks ago.

A van Gogh is among stolen art

OTTERLO, Netherlands (AP) — Police searched today with a helicopter and tracker dogs for the burglars who took Vincent van Gogh's early masterpiece "The Potato Eaters" and two other of his paintings from a country museum.

Monday night's theft from the Kroeller-Mueller National Museum appears to be Holland's biggest art theft. Also taken were the 19th-century Dutch master's "Dried Sunflowers" and

Weaver's Interior." The thieves gained entry by smashing a window in the sprawling, single-floor building in the midst of a 25-acre national park near the West German border, police said.

No official valuation has been disclosed for the three works, but "The Potato Eaters", a somber reflection on hunger, is considered an immensely valuable example of van Gogh's Dutch realism.

U.N. opens meeting in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly today opened debate on the Palestinian issue in an unprecedented meeting in Geneva expected to be dominated by PLO chief Yasser Arafat's speech seeking support for Palestinian independence.

Arafat was surrounded by his security men and Swiss police as he entered the Hotel Intercontinental, where the Palestinian delegation to the General Assembly has its headquarters.

In Israel, radio reports said that after Arafat's speech, the United States would announce it accepted the Palestine Liberation Organization as a partner in Middle East peace talks.

The reports on Israeli radio and army radio said the PLO chief's speech was submitted to American officials and Arafat agreed to change the language to meet U.S. conditions of recognizing Israel.



YASSER ARAFAT



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Big Spring Herald

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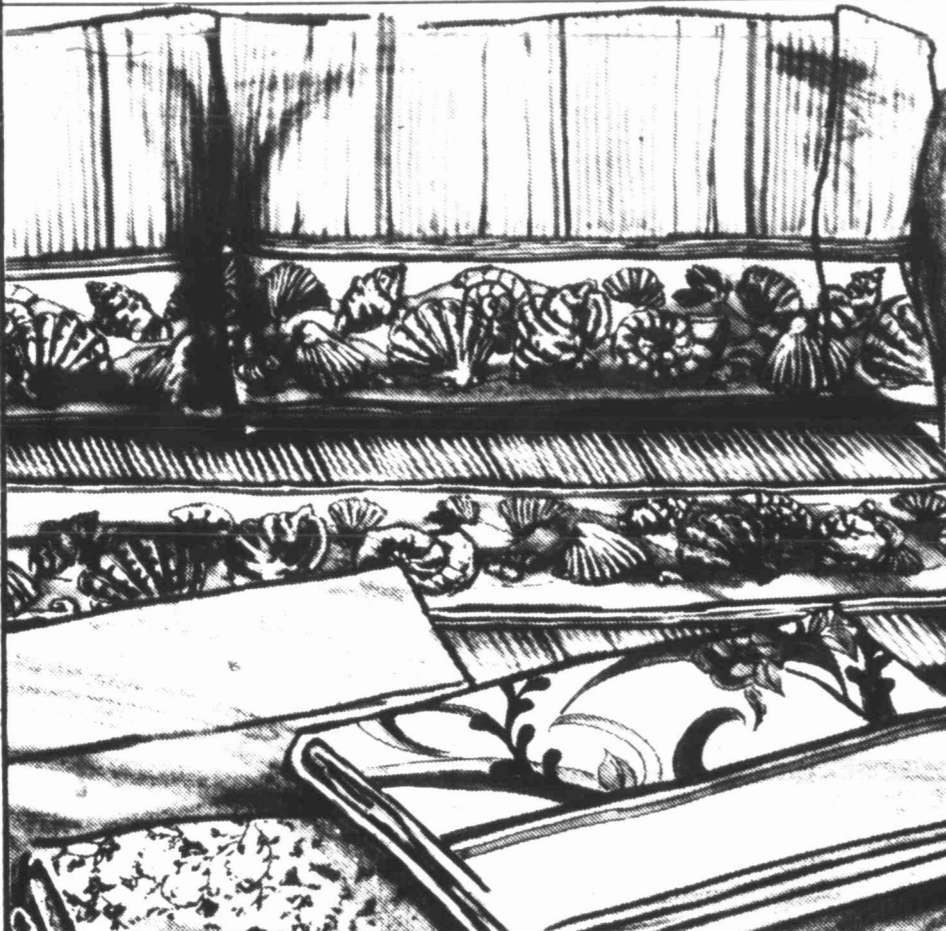
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 Reg. 15.00

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Bath	Reg. 15.00	Sale 10.99
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Juliet Fashion Shag Rugs by Regal®

Blueberry	Navy
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 In Holiday Red and Green

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Go
Texas

COLLEGE ST Texas A&M start era today under R.C. Slocum a director John former Heisman the Aggies.
 The Jackie S Monday when S head coach and amid accusation money to a form an NCAA investi Sherrill led th straight Cotton I and compiled a seven seasons.
 But the Aggie probation in violating NC guidelines.
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 "Because of this school and removing myself at Texas A&M," prepared statem
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	KMID	ESPN	KERA	FAM	KOSA	WFAA	SIN	TBS	KTPK	KPEJ	NASH	NICK	LIFE	USA	DISH	TMC	SHOW	MTV	
5 PM	Cosby	SportsCenter	Sesame Street	Bonanza	Curr. Affair	News	El Tesoro	(05) 1 Day	News	Double Dare	Fandango	Dennis	Cover Up	Albert	Disney	Premium	Premium	Music	
5:30	ABC News	Target Shoot	Animals	Our House	News	News	Noticiero	(35) 9 to 5	NBC News	Hillbillies	Be a Star	Don't Sit	ER	Cartoons	Movie	Movie	Movie		
6 PM	News	SportsCenter	Survival Wild	Win, Lose	Wheel	Wheel	Nombre Es Coraje	(05) Andy	USA Today	Star Trek Next G	Crook	Can't TV	Street	Small 1				Remote Cntrl	
6:30	Who's Boss?	Muscle Mag	Nova	Movie ANZACS: The War Down Under, Pt. 1	TV 101	Who's Boss?	Primavera	(05) NBA Basketball	Matlock	Airwolf	Nashville Now	Mr. Ed	Cagney and Lacey	Murder, She Wrote	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	
7 PM	Roseanne	Professional Boxing	America Experience	Movie Promise	Moonlighting	Sera Anunciado	In Heat of Night	Movie Dead Heat on a Merry Go Round	3 Sons	Movie	New Country	Reed	Movie	Sun Also	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	
8 PM	Moonlighting	Professional Boxing	America Experience	700 Club	Thirtysomething	Noticiero	Midnight Caller	(20) Tribes	Crook	Sat. Nite	SCTV	Discipline	Comedy	Gub Stars					
9 PM	Thirtysomething	Lighter Side	MacNeil Lehrer	Remington Steele	News	News	Mala Noche	No	News	Bob Newhart	Be a Star	Laugh	Cagney and Lacey	Miami Vice	JFK Part 2	Movie	Movie	Movie	
10 PM	News	Cheers	Corvette	Fresh Fields	Paper Chase	Night Heat	Nightline	Movie	Movie	Hawai Five-0	Nashville Now	Mik Room	MacGruder and Loud	Dragnet	Staire	(40) Barfly	Monty Python	Classics	
11 PM	ET	Ski World	EastEnders	Straight Talk	Movie The Hiller	De Hollywood	Bob Costas	Movie Trigger	Sat. Nite	Invest Advisory	Insider	Vaudeville	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	
12 AM	News	SportAmerica	Lone Star	Run, Race															

Weather

By the ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Much of the East today remained in the icy grip of arctic air that brought record low temperatures, while chinook winds howled through the Rockies.
 Temperatures dropped below zero in eastern New York state and northern New England but the cold was less intense and widespread than during Sunday night and Monday morning.
 A developing area of low pressure off Florida's east coast produced sleet and snow along coastal areas of North Carolina.
 Windy conditions developed in the northern Rockies ahead of a cold front moving across the

Pacific Northwest. Livingston, Mont., recorded a gust of 58 mph Monday evening. A high wind warning remained in effect this morning for the east slopes of the Rockies and the upper Yellowstone Valley in Montana.
 The chinooks — or winds that blow down the eastern slopes of the Rockies — were expected to spread southward into the central Rockies today.
 Predicted highs: teens in northern Maine, 20s and 30s from the rest of New England across the mid-Atlantic coast, the northern Appalachians, the Great Lakes, the Ohio Valley, the upper Mississippi Valley and eastern North Dakota.



The rest of the nation should generally reach the 60s.

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



PEANUTS



WIZARD OF ID



BLONDIE



BEEBLE BAILEY



SNUFFY SMITH



B.C.



GASOLINE ALLEY



Jeanne Dixon's Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1988
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love and understanding will win you more than ultimatums. Make plans to go on a major trip. You radiate more authority than usual. Take a romantic relationship one step at a time.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to deal with difficult people makes you a winner today. The more active you are the better you will feel. A plan is being developed that will pay you handsomely.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Details are more important than ever today. You have prophetic insights. Follow your instincts and you will achieve great success. Family ties are strengthened by a phone call or small remembrance.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your directness works well in a personal relationship, helping you obtain

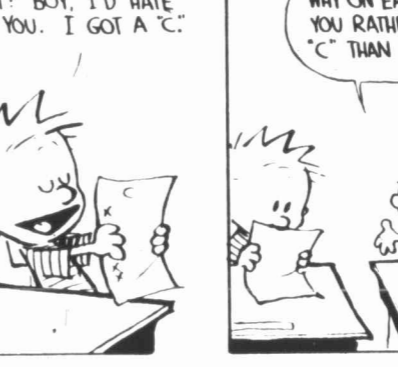
financial support for a bright idea. You feel you have the key to the universe. A management offer fuels your energy.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Cash flow improves. Love takes wing! Go with the flow. You profit from information that is channeled to you. You can win the battle against the bulge. Avoid temptation. Give away fattening goodies.
VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make a special effort to stay on top of things despite distractions. Give what it takes and you will succeed. When partner acts in an erratic way, do not ask too many questions.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your shrewd business sense and you can make a fresh start. A promotion or raise could result. Quick thinking helps save your hide. An exciting evening awaits you if you attend a party.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Gentle persuasion serves you well. So does discretion. Greed could interfere with your usual good judgment. Maintain a low profile

around an aggressive person. Postpone romance.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spend the morning tending to essential tasks and devote the afternoon to creative projects. A rare financial opportunity comes your way. Consult mate before investing. Protect joint resources.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A short business trip proves more productive than expected. You reach a decision that could radically change your life. Convincing others you have done the right thing may be a challenge.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your high hopes are well-founded. Your diligent homework begins to pay off. Success is around the corner! Others are impressed and want to climb on your bandwagon. Choose allies with care.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share your success with the deserving. Domestic harmony and family affection should be yours. Seek help from experts. Avoid taking on responsibilities shirked by others.

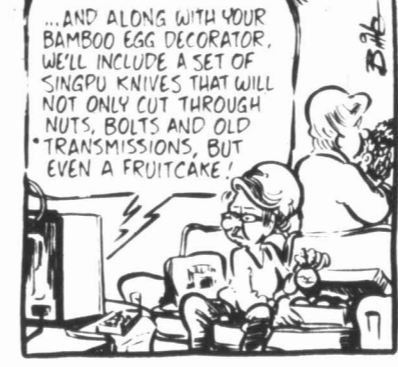
CALVIN AND HOBBS



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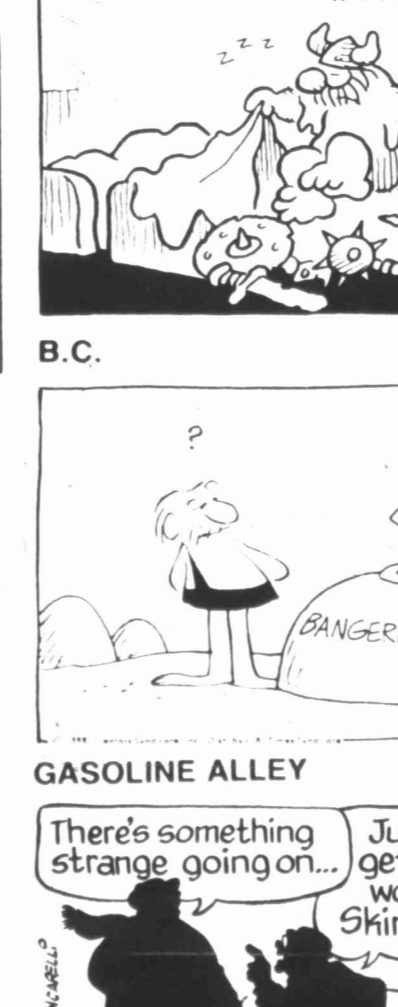
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