

BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
April 29, 1997

Reflecting A Proud Community

50 cents

McLaren vows not to surrender; SWAT team lies in wait

FORT DAVIS (AP) — Armed members of a group demanding independence for Texas issued a defiant statement in response to claims by authorities that talks were making progress. They had no plans to surrender.

Two miles from the group's remote sprawling community, a 15-member state SWAT team watched and waited early today, joining at least 75 state and federal law-enforcement agents for the third day of the standoff.

Late Monday, officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety turned away an attorney who said he was hired by Richard McLaren, the self-styled "ambassador" of one faction of the Republic of Texas secessionist group.

"This is my client and I just want to talk to him," Houston attorney Terry O'Rourke said. "I want to get him out alive."

The DPS told him he could meet with authorities later this morning.

Negotiations with the Republic group were cordial, with topics ranging from political philosophy to the weather, DPS spokesman Mike Cox said.

"Some degree of progress has been made," he said, refusing to elaborate. "I think there's some optimism."

But within hours of that statement, McLaren issued his own, interpreting the FBI proposals as demands for surrender — a move his group was not prepared to make.

"Mr. McLaren states that they have

no intention of surrendering — they're only interested in getting the foreign agents off of Texas soil," the statement read.

Asked if McLaren's hiring of a lawyer meant a surrender was imminent, O'Rourke said: "He can't win a battle with guns in the mountains with the FBI and the Texas Rangers." He added, however, that Republic members were "well-armed" and prepared to fight.

About 10 Republic members were believed to be entrenched in the rugged 6,000-acre Davis Mountains Resort community, located 175 miles southeast of El Paso. However, The New York Times reported today that state officials said they did not know

the exact number and could not rule out the possibility that there were children at the "embassy," McLaren's ramshackle trailer in the development.

Authorities believed group members were hiding out in or around the trailer.

As many as 80 residents of the area were urged to leave, but no one was considered to be in danger.

Six Republic members were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity, a first degree felony. Cox said three were also charged with aggravated kidnapping for Sunday's hostage-taking that led to the standoff.

Members held Joe and Margaret Ann Rowe hostage for 12 hours, demanding the release of two jailed comrades and

a referendum on Texas independence.

Mrs. Rowe said she and her husband believed the attackers were willing to kill them.

"It wasn't an empty threat. If somebody will come shooting in your door, they mean it," Mrs. Rowe said at a medical center in Alpine, where her husband was in stable condition with shrapnel wounds to his shoulder.

The attack followed months of conflict between McLaren and Rowe, head of the community's property owners' association.

Earlier Monday, the Rowes were exchanged for Robert Scheidt, identified as the Republic's "captain of the

Please see **STANDOFF**, page 2

County wants VFD out of rescue

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

No formal decision was made at Monday's meeting of the Howard County Commissioners' Court concerning the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) acting as a first responder unit, but it was strongly suggested that the VFD stay out of the rescue business.

Referring to the letter recently sent to the Big Spring Police Department outlining the protocol for dispatching the VFD, County Judge Ben Lockhart said the commissioners' court has determined what the VFD's job is.

Speaking to Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, Commissioner Sonny Choate said, "We can't fully fund the VFD to fight fires, and over the years you have expanded the department into rescue."

"I put more than \$5,000 of my own money into Rescue 10 (the vehicle the VFD used as a first responder unit)," Sullivan said. "We can run as a first responder from our own personal vehicles, because every time I've been chewed out, it has been over Rescue 10."

If the VFD uses personal vehicles as first responder units and does not act under the umbrella of Howard

MAKING REPAIRS



Kayne Stroup tunes his remote control car as he prepares to run it on the miniature track in Comanche Trail Park. Races are held in the park every other Saturday.

HERALD photo: Jonathan Garrett

Volunteers disagree with county plans

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
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Volunteer Fire Department, then the department, whatever it calls itself, is only responsible to the Texas Department of Health where rescue work is concerned.

"We have more than \$20,000 worth of rescue equipment that you're telling us to throw away and I'm not going to throw it away," Sullivan said. "If we lose the first responder unit, I have 35 people who will have to pay \$75 each to keep their certification."

As a first responder unit, members of the VFD do not have to pay for the certification.

Choate and Commissioner Emma Brown told Sullivan they had no problems with volunteer firefighters using personal vehicles as first responder units.

Speaking to Commissioner Bill Crocker, Choate said, "We can't tell them what to do in their personal vehicles any more than we can Meals on Wheels."

"We can change the name of the volunteer fire department (for the purpose of rescue work) because it is a completely separate entity," Sullivan told commissioners.

"My people do their job and they do it right," Sullivan

Please see **COUNTY**, page 2A

Court tables county's insurance issue

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

After a lengthy discussion with Howard County Insurance Agent Jerry Gaylor about the county's health insurance policy with Utah-based GEM Insurance, the Howard County Commissioners' Court tabled the issue until its May 12 meeting.

The discussion centered around GEM's recent trouble in paying insurance claims in a timely manner, taking up to 90 days in some cases.

Gaylor told commissioners that GEM's parent company, Foundation HMO recently merged with another company, which added to the delays.

"GEM has grown tremendous-

ly, but 90 days is too long to wait to have a claim paid, Gaylor said. "GEM has \$90 million in assets, \$30 million of it in cash and \$50 million in short-term investments. The company is twice the size it was a year and a half ago."

Commissioners are concerned about the continuing delays, but Gaylor assured them that the situation is improving.

GEM recently sent a letter to its providers stating that because of the company's growth, the following steps have been taken to improve service:

- Customer service hours have been expanded to include Saturdays between 8 a.m. and noon.

- Additional customer service representatives have been

hired.

- Additional claim processors have been hired and GEM has put into place procedures to streamline its claim processing methods.

According to commissioners, the bid with GEM specifies that claims be paid within 90 days, which means GEM is not violating its agreement with the county.

"Between 30 days and 60 days is an acceptable industry standard for paying a claim," Gaylor said.

"One problem is that for three months, the county has never talked to the same GEM representative twice," Gaylor said. "When a claim is sent in to the company a copy of the contract has to be sent in with it with

the section in question underlined."

According to commissioners, there are about 790 employees and their dependents on the county's insurance policy.

"Howard County pays a lot of money for insurance and if the county is not happy, it could seek other bids," Gaylor said.

Because GEM is not in violation of its contract with the county, commissioners told Gaylor to stay after the company to speed up its processing of claims.

According to Gaylor, GEM is working through its problems, but has given the county premiums that could be hard to beat if the county decides to seek other bids.

Burton says White House is stonewalling inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief House investigator of Democratic campaign fund raising is accusing the White House of stonewalling — a charge hotly denied by President Clinton's staff.

The barbs traded Monday by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., and the White House signal a stormy relationship between the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee and the president's staff as the panel prepares for hearings on Clinton's re-election fund raising.

Burton accused the White House of foot dragging in the production of documents about fund-raiser John Huang, Indonesian businessman James Riady and former Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell.

The panel has sought White House documents on Huang since November, when reports first surfaced that the Democratic National Committee received large amounts of money from foreign donors — contributions forbidden by federal law.

"The president promised the Congress 'full cooperation,' and instead the committee is being stonewalled," Burton said in a statement.

White House special counsel Lanny J. Davis called Burton's statement "flat wrong."

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TODAY'S WEATHER

93 ▲ Highs **54**
Lows ▼

Today: Clear and sunny. High in the lower 90s. Low in the 50s.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high in the upper 80s. Low in the 50s.
Extended outlook: Thursday through Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s to mid 90s. Lows in the upper 50s to near 60s. Saturday, fair with a high in the lower 80s. Low in the upper 50s.

FREE CONCERT

The United States Army's Jazz Ambassadors will perform in a free concert tonight at 7:30 at the Big Spring City Auditorium. The concert is sponsored by the Herald and the Cultural Affairs Council.

Courtesy photo



TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man says wife deserved being stabbed to death

FORT WORTH — A man stabbed his wife to death because she and their children started eating dinner without him, police say. Officers said Federico Perales, 52, stabbed Sharon Perales, 48, to death Sunday night while their two children ran to call for help.

Fort Worth police spokesman Lt. Mark Krey said that as he calmly waited for police to arrive, the man told the children that their mother "deserved it."

Perales, a computer specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration, was being held in the Tarrant County Jail Monday in lieu of \$100,000 bail after he was charged with murder.

Sharon Perales was stabbed at least once in the chest and died on her kitchen floor as her 12-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter called 911.

More than 3,000 cattle die following late snowstorm

AMARILLO — More than 3,000 cattle died as a result of the snowstorm that dropped as much as 15 inches of snow in some areas of Texas and New Mexico last week, authorities say.

W.J. Hill, a Dimmitt veterinarian, said more than 500 cattle died in the Dimmitt area alone, making it the worst snowstorm for cattle deaths he's ever seen in 30 years of working in the area.

"In my 30 years in Dimmitt, I believe that's the biggest number of dead cattle I've seen in spite of all the blizzards we've had," Hill told The Amarillo Globe-News Monday.

Ronnie Griffith, dispatcher for Hereford Bi-Products, said the company picked up 4,000 to 5,000 head in the past three days in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Some of them can be attributed to normal losses, but more than 3,000 were caused by the snowstorm, Griffith said.

Lottery set to release lotto winner's name

AUSTIN — The Texas Lottery has given a Houston lotto winner until the end of business today to file a legal challenge before having his name made public.

The Texas attorney general last week, in the first-ever legal opinion on the subject, ruled that the lotto winner's name and age are public information.

The lottery was told to release the name of the \$11.3 million lotto winner last Friday despite his contention that his name should be kept secret.

But the agency declined to release his name, giving the winner until next week to file a legal challenge. The lottery on Monday decided to give him until 5 p.m. today.

"This time limit balances your client's interests in preventing the untimely disclosure of the information," lottery attorney Diane Morris wrote to the winner's lawyer, Jeff Frasier. "Likewise this time limitation respects the public's right to reasonable access to public information."

Three accused of plotting to bomb plant held without bond

FORT WORTH — Three suspects discussed plotting to blow up a natural gas processing plant while they cased the site shortly before they were arrested, a secretly made videotape purports to show.

About 15 minutes of the tape was played in federal court Monday during a preliminary hearing at which the suspects' lawyers unsuccessfully argued that their clients should be released from jail.

Shawn Dee Adams, 37, his 35-year-old wife, Catherine Dee Adams, and 34-year-old Edward Taylor Jr. are charged with conspiracy to commit robbery affecting interstate commerce. They have not been indicted.

The Adamsons and Taylor reportedly are heard on the tape discussing their plans to bomb the Mitchell Energy & Development Corp. plant in Bridgeport as cover for an armored-car heist.

Board terminates, replaces executive director

AUSTIN — The state Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies voted to fire executive director Clema D. Sanders effective immediately.

The board voted 6-2 to replace Sanders with Larry R. Shimek in the wake of an expense-account scandal with the board.

"It's been a long day. I don't have a reaction yet," Sanders said Monday after the board's announcement.

Sanders was reassigned less than a week ago from executive director to the agency's chief of training and education, effective May 1. That reassignment is no longer in effect and Sanders was terminated "in any capacity" with the agency.

Senate tax bill to be much smaller

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate is likely to pare down by billions of dollars a House plan to lower local school property taxes by raising numerous other state taxes, according to two key lawmakers.

Sens. Ken Armbrister, head of the Senate committee that will consider the plan, and Teel Bivins, head of the Senate Education Committee, on Monday said they need more time to review the nearly \$5 billion House tax overhaul approved early Saturday.

Both said the Senate is likely to pass a much smaller proposal. How that would affect property owners and other Texans remained unclear.

The House plan would lower local school property taxes by just less than 50 percent. To pay for the cuts, the proposal would expand the state business tax,

increase the number of goods and services subject to the state sales taxes, raise some other taxes and add \$1.3 billion in other state funds to school spending.

Combining the cuts with the increases, most Texans would save about 2 percent in total state and local taxes.

"The House has put forth a dramatic plan," said Bivins, R-Amarillo. "Our challenge in the precious little time we have left is to try to get something out of here so we can get to conference and essentially hammer out a property tax reduction plan for the state."

"I want a plan that has property tax relief for all sectors, not to have one sector of the economy feel that they came up on the short end of the stick," he said.

Many conservatives have said

the House plan would hit businesses too hard, while others say it would weigh too heavily on consumers.

Any changes in the Senate would force a conference between Senate and House lawmakers to work out differences.

The Senate work, a conference committee and final votes would have to come before June 2, when the legislative session ends. Voters would have the final say on Aug. 9.

"It's going to be extremely hard," said Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who presides over the Senate. "We do not have that luxury of time."

Armbrister, D-Victoria, said two likely differences between the House plan and a likely Senate proposal include:

— The number of items subject to the sales tax.

The House proposal would

add nearly 30 items to the list of sales taxable goods and services. That would raise about \$1.2 billion every two years.

Armbrister said a Senate plan would more likely raise about \$132 million every two years. He said items most likely to be removed from the list would be those that most closely affect consumers, like utility taxes.

— The way the state sends money to schools.

The House plan proposes a complete rewrite of the school funding structure. It would tax business property on a statewide basis, rather than on a local basis. That would eliminate the so-called "Robin Hood" funding system, which forces the richest districts to share wealth with the poorest.

The Senate plan, Armbrister said, would work within the current structure.

Lott, Gingrich downbeat on reining in CPI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The road to a budget deal is getting rockier as Republican congressional leaders say a limit on inflation boosts for benefits like Social Security can't be included in the package because GOP lawmakers oppose the idea.

Blaming President Clinton for failing to endorse the concept, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said Monday that too many Republican legislators are worried if they support it, Democrats will attack them in the next campaign.

"I've been warning him for weeks the moment was upon us," Lott told reporters. "Now, House Republicans and Senate Republicans, they won't vote for a legislative fix on that issue and have Democratic attacks,

the AFL-CIO and others. I'm afraid he's missed the opportunity."

At a secret meeting last week, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., told White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles that Republicans could not accept the cost-of-living changes in a budget-balancing package, said sources from both parties who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The government adjusts the income tax and Social Security and some other benefits every year to reflect the effects of inflation. Many economists insist those adjustments are too big because the increase in inflation is overestimated.

Reducing them would mean smaller increases in benefits

and slightly higher taxes. It would also mean saving the government tens of billions of dollars over the next five years, and many think the reductions are crucial to any bipartisan budget pact.

But if the trims are truly off the negotiating table, it would be harder for bargainers to agree on balancing the budget by 2002 because few politically palatable options remain.

It was uncertain whether the leaders' remarks depicted political reality or just posturing during ongoing budget bargaining.

Bowles is scheduled to meet this evening with House Democrats to discuss the budget talks. Many Democratic lawmakers believe administration

bargainers are surrendering too much to Republicans.

Despite the GOP leaders' positions, chief White House lobbyist John Hillely gave Democratic House aides a cautiously upbeat assessment of the budget talks Monday, said Democrats who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hillely said he believes the two sides will agree to send a budget-cutting measure through Congress first, followed later by tax cuts. That would anger conservatives who want tax cuts to be a top priority. But it could gain votes for the budget-balancing package from Democrats opposed to tax reductions, and help Republicans avoid attacks for paring Medicare to pay for tax cuts.

Cosmic dust samples gathered on first U.S.-Russian spacewalk

KOROLYOV, Russia (AP) — An American astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut worked outside the Russian Mir space station today, gathering cosmic dust samples and installing a radiation meter during the first joint U.S.-Russian spacewalk.

The two men conversed in Russian as they worked, asking each other to pass tools or operate controls.

Russian mission control said the five-hour walk by Jerry Linenger and Vasily Tsibliyev was going well.

"They are both feeling fine," mission control spokeswoman Vera Medvedkova said. "A voice link has just been established and I can hear our mission controllers congratulating Linenger on making his first spacewalk. He is laughing and saying he likes it fine."

It was the first spacewalk for

Linenger, and the first time an American astronaut has used a Russian-made spacesuit.

A giant screen at Russian mission control in Korolyov, just outside Moscow, showed the two astronauts in white space suits using a crane and other equipment.

The two astronauts were conducting experiments on materials for building future spacecraft that include the removal of samples of material mounted on the outside of the Mir by American astronauts and taking samples of cosmic dust.

A radiation meter and other equipment are being installed outside the Mir.

"Scientists need to know what happens just outside the outer surface of spacecraft, how materials behave there and which are best for building spacecraft," Medvedkova said.

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LIQUID-FAST

Hey Kids, Mother's Day Is May 11th!
Big Spring Mall would like to help you honor your mother & here's how:
Create a picture of your mother to hang in the mall art contest display
•Grand Prize is \$50 Mall Gift Certificate, Dinner for 2, & Flowers
•Contest Open to Kids through 6th Grade
•Entry Forms Available From Mall Merchants
•Entry Forms Must Be Returned By Thursday, May 8th & Winners Announced Friday, May 9th at 5:00 p.m.
BIG SPRING MALL

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APRIL 29 1997

TUESDAY

APR. 29

	KMID 2	KPEJ 3	KERA 5	FAM 6	KOSA 7	WFAA 8	KWES 9	WTBS 11	UNI 13	DISN 14	NASH 15	TMC 16	SHOW 20	HBO 22	KMLM 24	A&E 25	DISC 26	TNT 28	FSN 29	ESPN 30	AMC 31	BET 33
6 PM	Midland	Odessa	Dallas	FAM	Odessa	Dallas	Midland	Atlanta	Spanish	Premium	Nashville	Premium	Premium	Premium	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Classics	Black Ent.
6:30 PM	News	Simpsons	Science Gu	Walt Dis	News (829)	News Wh	News (570)	NBA Basket	Luz Caria	Land Before	Dukes of	(55) Movie	(165252)	the Dead	Light of the	Law & Order	Wings	In the Heat	FOX Sports	(64) Stan	The Private	Hit List
7 PM	News	Movie: The	News (CC)	Hi-way	Promised	Home Imp	Mad Ab: You	Playoffs	Te Sigo	Valley	Yesterday	Walking (CC)	Movie: The	Movie: The	(253813)	Biography	Wild	NBA Basket	In Their	Playoffs	O Farrell	Planet Groov
8 PM	News	Movie: The	News (CC)	Hi-way	Promised	Home Imp	Mad Ab: You	Playoffs	Te Sigo	Valley	Yesterday	Walking (CC)	Movie: The	Movie: The	(253813)	Biography	Wild	NBA Basket	In Their	Playoffs	O Farrell	Planet Groov
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11 PM	News	Movie: The	News (CC)	Hi-way	Promised	Home Imp	Mad Ab: You	Playoffs	Te Sigo	Valley	Yesterday	Walking (CC)	Movie: The	Movie: The	(253813)	Biography	Wild	NBA Basket	In Their	Playoffs	O Farrell	Planet Groov
12 AM	News	Movie: The	News (CC)	Hi-way	Promised	Home Imp	Mad Ab: You	Playoffs	Te Sigo	Valley	Yesterday	Walking (CC)	Movie: The	Movie: The	(253813)	Biography	Wild	NBA Basket	In Their	Playoffs	O Farrell	Planet Groov

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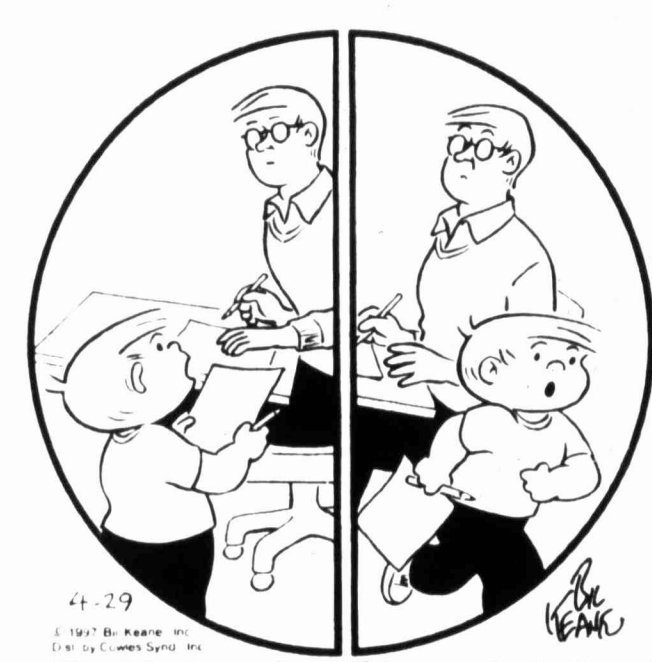
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BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, April 29, the 119th day of 1997. There are

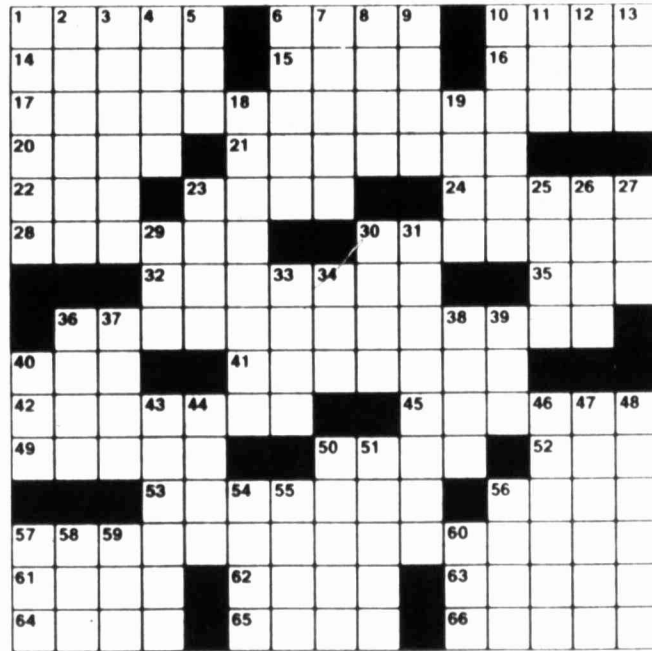
246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Five years ago, on April 29, 1992, deadly rioting that claimed 54 lives and caused \$1 billion in damage erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the video-

taped beating of Rodney King. On this date: In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a victory over the English. In 1861, Maryland's House of Delegates voted against seceding from the Union. In 1862, New Orleans fell to Union forces during the Civil War. In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities. In 1945, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp, that same day, in a Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Admiral Karl Doenitz his successor. In 1946, 28 former Japanese leaders were indicted as war criminals. In 1974, President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of secretly made White House tape recordings related to the Watergate scandal. In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago. Ten years ago, Ronnie DeSillers, a 7 year old with liver problems whose story brought support from thousands of Americans, including President Reagan, died at a Pittsburgh hospital while awaiting a fourth transplant. Five years ago, Exxon executive Sidney Reso was kidnapped outside his Morris Township, N.J., home by Arthur Seale, a former Exxon security official, and Seale's wife, Irene; Reso died in captivity. One year ago: Former CIA Director William Colby was missing after an apparent boating accident in Maryland; his body was later recovered. Today's Birthdays: Actress Celeste Holm is 78. Musician Danny Davis (The Nashville Brass) is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Gardner (The Coasters) is 69. Singer-musician Lonnie Donegan is 66. Poet Rod McKuen is 64. Actor Keith Baxter is 64. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 61. Actor Lane Smith is 61. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 54. Singer Tommy James is 50. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 43. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 42. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 40. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 40. Actress Eel Plumb ("The Brady Bunch") is 39. Rock musician Phil King (Lush) is 37. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 29. Actress Uma Thurman is 27.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Stupid one
 - Funny Johnson
 - Retiree's org., perhaps
 - Pump iron
 - Aretha is its queen
 - Mishmash
 - British film
 - Behind schedule
 - Goes to a restaurant
 - Comp dir
 - Post-grad. degrees
 - Calendar entries
 - Go off track
 - Segment
 - Woman of myth
 - Time for scores
 - French film
 - Scare word
 - Popeye and Ahab
 - Diplomat's digs
 - Yeltsin's base
 - Town in Italy
 - 50 Foreleg
 - Hockey name
 - Make a deep impression
 - Worm, to bird
 - "A..." (Kubrick film)
 - Skin feature
 - Prepiche
 - Cookie jar contents
 - 64 Messages
 - Requirement
 - 66 Intended



by Elizabeth C. Gorski 04/29/97

Monday's Puzzle solved:



- DOWN
- Fashioned
 - Fold
 - Dress style
 - 1760 yards
 - Yoko
 - Syrian president
 - Wins by a mile
 - Oleo containers
 - 9 Big Bird's pal
 - 10 Ways to the heart
 - 11 Clay, today
 - 12 Tin Tin
 - 13 "The Bells" author
 - 18 Health
 - 19 Artifact from way back
 - 23 Prevaricator
 - 25 In... (completely)
 - 26 Genie portrayer
 - 27 Red or Black
 - 29 Mimic
 - 30 Of a time period
 - 31 Horse
 - 33 June 6, 1944
 - 34 Geisha's accessory
 - 36 Vault
 - 37 Train hopper
 - 38 - Hubbard of sciology
 - 39 CIA precursor
 - 40 Skeep occupant
 - 43 "Restaurant"
 - 44 Basin
 - 46 Eye part
 - 47 Northwest trail
 - 48 Most ironic
 - 50 Beetle Bailey's boss
 - 51 Hoofed it
 - 54 Dancer Verdon
 - 55 Used a bus
 - 56 Peel
 - 57 EMT's training
 - 58 Rawls of song
 - 59 Sphere
 - 60 CD

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Thought for Today: "Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right." - Sir Laurens van der Post, South African author (1906-1996).