

# BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

MONDAY  
December 29, 1997

50 cents

## Government still seeks solutions to Union Pacific's problems

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A recent spate of Union Pacific accidents has prompted a National Transportation Safety Board hearing.

Investigators plan to meet in February in Houston to look into a head-on train collision and a string of other accidents earlier this year.

Officials worry that the accidents show how little control the government has over Union Pacific, the nation's largest railroad and, at \$900 million in 1996 earnings, the most profitable, the San Antonio Express News reported.

Ten Union Pacific employees have died on the job this year, more than on any other railroad, according to a Federal Railroad Administration spokesman. Union Pacific's five train-collision deaths in 1997 equal the combined total from 1991 to 1996.

On Oct. 25, a Union Pacific freight train with faulty brakes was dispatched from a Houston rail yard for a 1,500-mile trip to California.

The brakes failed after 10 miles, sending the train through a red signal and into a head-on collision.

The air brakes were not inspected properly before departure, in apparent violation of federal law, according to interviews with Union Pacific employees and government investigators.

The crash happened eight weeks after federal inspectors targeted the company for the largest railroad safety probe on record.

A company spokesman declined to speak about the Houston incident, but an internal Union Pacific investigation faults a blocked air-brake line for the crash, according to the

train's engineer. Ensuring the line is clear is part of the pre-departure inspection.

In August, after three fatal collisions and five employee deaths, the Federal Railroad Administration sent 80 inspectors to examine every aspect of the company. The agency said it found a "fundamental breakdown" in safe operations and announced plans to correct the collapse.

Union Pacific President Jerry Davis promised at the time to cooperate: "We want the same thing as the FRA, and that is to quit hurting people and run a

safe railroad."

Four Union Pacific employees were hurt when they jumped off the two trains involved in the Houston accident.

The two most serious injuries were on the westbound train with faulty brakes. Keith Cronin, the 26-year-old engineer, leapt off the rear of the locomotive at 25 mph and severely injured his ankle.

From the ground, he turned and saw conductor Tom Wittie engulfed in a diesel fire. As the giant engines began to stack up and fly off the track, Cronin fled into nearby woods.

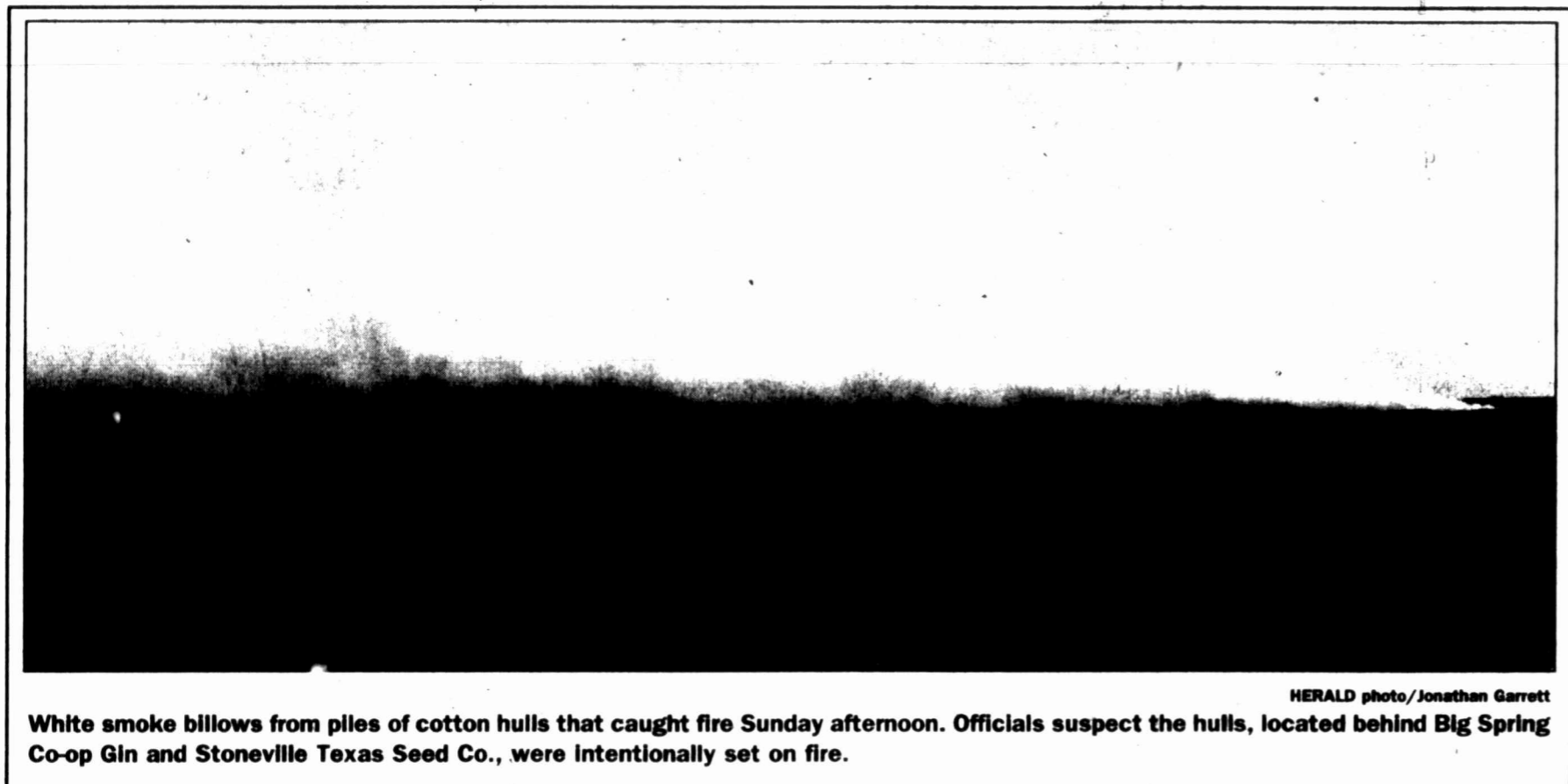
Wittie, 53, suffered facial burns and back injuries.

Both live in San Antonio and are recovering from their injuries. Neither has returned to work.

The federal government also believes cutting corners during inspections is widespread.

"The FRA found examples of UP train crews being ordered to move trains that had defective equipment," a summary of the federal safety probe stated.

Fifty-seven percent of the locomotive fleet had defects, the report found. In Texas, the figure was 75 percent.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

White smoke billows from piles of cotton hulls that caught fire Sunday afternoon. Officials suspect the hulls, located behind Big Spring Co-op Gin and Stoneville Texas Seed Co., were intentionally set on fire.

## Teen smoking

### Grace period over for Texas' teen smokers as toughest anti-tobacco law in nation goes into effect January 1

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer



Lonnie Smith  
BSPD Chief

"It's a law we're going to enforce. We've been getting together with our officers and talking to them about this ... and they will enforce it as they see it."

The grace period for Texas teen smokers is now over, as the nation's toughest anti-tobacco law goes into effect Jan. 1.

The anti-tobacco law, approved by state lawmakers earlier this year, lets law enforcement officers who catch anyone under the age of 18 smoking, or possessing tobacco products, send those teens to court.

There, the minors could be sentenced to pay fines, attend education courses or complete community service. And if the youths don't fulfill their sentence, their driver's licenses are revoked or suspended.

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith said local police officers are being briefed on the new law, and will begin enforcing it once the new year begins.

"It's a law we're going to enforce," Smith said. "We've been getting together with our officers and talking to them about this ... and they will enforce it as they see it."

Smith said the department will enforce the law much like a traffic offense, and added that officers would be allowed to show some flexibility to offenders.

"If there are extenuating circumstances ... we may do something like bring the person down to the police station for release here," Smith said. "I think it's a good law."

The number of younger smokers has grown in recent years. In 1987, 15 percent of smokers were between the ages of 18 and 24, compared with 22.9 percent in 1995, according to a 1995 health department study.

And the Centers for Disease Control estimates one of every three children now using tobacco products will die early from a tobacco-related disease.

Chemicals found in tobacco smoke infect body parts from the heart to the lungs to blood cells, health officials say.

More than 400,000 Texas youths now use tobacco products, according to a health department report.

"Our effort makes Texas a national leader in protecting our children's health," said state Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, who sponsored

the nation's toughest anti-tobacco law.

Some portions of the bill took effect Sept. 1, but enforcement provisions don't until Jan. 1.

Retailers who sell tobacco products to underage Texans face fines or suspended permits. Retailers are responsible for posting warning signs about penalties for violations, as well as training employees about the new law.

The law also prohibits posting tobacco ads within 1,000 feet of a school or church. And health department officials are working up new ad campaigns encouraging Texas teens to stay away from tobacco.

But Texas minors are the key targets, officials say.

"This will be another tool we can use. It's like zero tolerance on alcohol," said Mark Clark, a spokesman for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas. "Sure, this rule may make it harder to be a teenager."

"But there's a chance it could make some stop smoking. And I haven't met an adult yet who said they wished they hadn't gotten started smoking as a young person," said Clark, whose group the largest law enforcement organization in the state. "This isn't a laughing or joking matter. It's serious and it's the law."

Minors caught the first time can take the awareness class. If the class is completed, the ticket can be wiped from their record. Minors caught a second time, or who don't attend the class, would have to pay a \$125-to-\$250 fine or lose their driver's license.

The third time a minor is caught with tobacco, a Class C misdemeanor would be filed. Class C misdemeanors are punishable by a fine up to \$500.

Scripps Howard News Service contributed to this report.

## City will take old trees ... if you keep decorations

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN  
Features Editor

Your old Christmas tree, properly disposed of, will become mulch to beautify city parks and downtown.

Take the tree, stripped of all ornaments, tinsel and other decorations, to either the municipal balefill at FM 700 and I-20, or the compost facility at the airport. Leave it in one of the designated areas at either facility — there is no charge.

City workers plan to let the trees dry out, and then chop them into mulch that will be used at local parks and in the downtown area, said solid waste superintendent Howard

**"I've had them come in fully decorated, plug them in, they'll light up."**

Howard Shivers  
Solid Waste superintendent

Shivers.

"This makes a very nice, fragrant mulch that will work well in certain areas of the city," he said. "It releases that nice fragrance every time you water it."

It is important to remove all decorations and get the tree as clean as possible, Shivers said.

"I've had them come in fully decorated, plug them in, they'll light up," he said, "but that's not

how we want it. Then we've got to take everything off before we can mulch it."

Both dropoff points will be open from now through February, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Those who choose not to follow the city's request could be in violation of city ordinance. Shivers said garbage trucks will not pick up trees left by the

curb or beside dumpsters.

"They will be in violation of the city ordinance that requires you to keep your alley clean," he said, "and they can get substantial fines."

Other dropoff areas for used Christmas trees have been provided in the past, but Shivers said those spots were not available for the city's use this year. That means citizens will have to drive a bit farther to the designated facilities.

But, Shivers said, the end result will be worth any inconvenience of complying with the city's plan.

"You can bring the tree out here and leave it, free of charge," he said. "We're going to get some good use out of it."

## BSPD officer injured by paintball improving

### Department not expected to review incident despite officer's not wearing issued safety glasses

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring Police Department officer continues to improve after being injured in a training accident earlier this month, but officials are unsure when he will return to duty.

Police Cpl. Wayne Wright was struck in the eye by a .50-caliber paint ball during a joint training exercise with Cornell

Corrections personnel Dec. 16, BSPD Sgt. Roger Sweatt said.

The accident occurred at the training facility jointly operated by the city and Cornell

Corrections. Officers from both departments were involved in an exercise involving carbon dioxide-powered guns when Wright was struck in the eye by a projectile. Safety glasses had been issued to officers, but Wright was not wearing his at the time of the accident, Sweatt said.

Wright was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, then transported to Midland

**The accident occurred at the training facility jointly operated by the city and Cornell Corrections. Officers from both departments were involved in an exercise involving carbon dioxide-powered guns when Wright was struck in the eye.**

Memorial Hospital, where he was kept overnight before being released.

Sweatt said today that Wright's vision is improving, but he has not received medical clearance to return to duty.

"The last we heard, he was seeing OK, or a lot better at least," Sweatt said. "They're going to let (Wright continue resting) for awhile, then he'll go back to the doctor."

Sweatt said it will be at least mid-January before doctors examine Wright again.

Although paint guns provide a non-lethal version of firearms training for officers,

Sweatt said precautions still need to be made.

"(Paint balls) are not as fast as a bullet," he said. "Still, anytime you're hit with something that size, it is going to hurt. It is going to do some damage."

Sweatt said that BSPD Chief Lonnie Smith has had informal discussions with officers over the incident, but no official review is forthcoming.

### WEATHER

Tonight:



Tues:



Wed:



Thur:



Tonight, fair. Lows 25-30. Tuesday, sunny. Highs 60-65. Tuesday night, fair. Lows 30-35. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, Partly cloudy. Lows 35-40. Highs 60-65.

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

### WHAT DID SANTA BRING YOU FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?

 "I got an Elmo t-shirt, CDs and a Giga pet."	 "I got a VCR and a jacket."	 "I got clothes mostly, and a lot of junk."	 "Play station games and money mostly."	 "I got clothes, Elmo house shoes, pajamas and money."	 "CDs, a phone, clothes, money and a necklace."	 "Money, clothes, a CD player, shoes, a lot of stuff."	 "I got a TV, a VCR, CDs and money."
Christina Greve Big Spring	Tina Anez Big Spring	Ashley Reed Big Spring	Jeremy Deanna Big Spring	Alex Owen Big Spring	Emma Yanna Big Spring	Ashley Kasper Big Spring	Jessica Yanna Big Spring

OBITUARIES

Evelyn Vigar

Service for Evelyn Vigar, 76, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.  
She died Monday, Dec. 29, 1997, at Comanche Trail Nursing Home following a long illness.

BRIEFS

**MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH** WILL celebrate New Year's Eve with a special candlelight service at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday.  
The public is invited to attend the service, 6200 South Service Road E. I-20.

**BIG SPRING FAMILY YMCA** is continuing a holiday camp for children in the community whose parents must work during the school break.  
Trained staff will provide educational, fun activities in a safe environment, this week — Tuesday and Friday. Hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
For more information, call 267-8234.

**THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE** is looking for volunteers to assist taxpayers with preparation of their 1997 Income Tax Returns. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) training for volunteers will be Monday-Friday, Jan. 12-16 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Rannels.  
For more information call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522.

**THE HISTORIC SPRING IN Comanche Trail park** will be decorated with a lighted display of thousands of lights nightly beginning at 6:30 p.m. through Jan. 1.  
For more information, call Pat Simmons, 263-4607.

**THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, also known as Meals on Wheels, needs volunteers to deliver meals.  
If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

**THE HISTORIC SPRING IN Comanche Trail park** will be decorated with a lighted display of thousands of lights nightly beginning at 6:30 p.m. through Thursday.  
For more information, call Pat Simmons, 263-4607.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8238  
Mike L. Daniels, 80, died Friday. Services are 2:00 PM Monday, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial at Trinity Memorial Park.  
Evelyn Vigar, 76, died Monday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory  
906 Gregg St.  
(915) 267-6331  
Charles W. (Buck) Parks, 79 of Big Spring, died Friday. Services were 11:00 AM, Monday, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Internment followed at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Big Spring Herald  
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SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA GARZA, 263-7831 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8:30 A.M. AND 2 P.M. All Springboard items must be submitted in writing. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1481, Big Spring, Texas 79720; bring it by the office at 710 Scurry; or fax it to 264-7205.

**TODAY**  
•Big Spring Evening Lion's Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third. Call Al Valdes, 263-6810.  
•Project Freedom, Christian support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.  
•TOPS Clubs (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:15 p.m. weigh in and 6:15 p.m. meeting. Best Home Health Care, 1710 E. Marcy Dr.  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.

**TUESDAY**  
•Most Excellent Way, a chemical dependency support group, 7 p.m., Living Water Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m. or 263-3168 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 to 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.  
•Beginning line dance class will be taught at 9 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information. All ages welcome.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
•Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Archie Kountz, 267-3821.  
•Line dance classes, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, following lunch. For more information call 398-5522 or 267-1628. All ages welcome.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.  
**THURSDAY**  
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.  
•Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright, has free food for area needy, 10 a.m. to noon.  
•Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classed, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 55 and older.  
•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria.  
•NA meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting, 615 Settles, 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.  
•Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster. Call Ron Long, 267-8715.

**FRIDAY**  
•Country/Western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music by CW & Co. Area seniors invited.  
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study.  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study.  
**SATURDAY**  
•Candlelight NA meeting, 10 to 11:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Gollad.  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open meetings at noon, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
**SUNDAY**  
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

**MONDAY**  
•Big Spring Evening Lion's Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third. Call Al Valdes, 263-6810.  
•Project Freedom, Christian support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.  
•TOPS Clubs (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:15 p.m. weigh in and 6:15 p.m. meeting. Best Home Health Care, 1710 E. Marcy Dr.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.  
•Gospel singing, 7 p.m., Kentwood Center, 2805 Lynn. Call 267-6764. Guest singers from Stanton, Midland and Colorado City.

New year brings new smoking laws to California

DAVIS, Calif. (AP) — On New Year's Eve, there will be two "last calls" at most California bars — one for drinkers, the other for smokers.  
"It will be 'Happy New Year, put out your cigarettes,'" said Bob McNeil, manager of Plainfield Station, a bar and grill outside this Sacramento suburb. "I think we all might be having that last cigarette right at 11:55 p.m."  
On Jan. 1, California will become the first state in the nation to ban smoking in most bars and gambling casinos.

Health groups and labor leaders say it will protect employees and customers, but some bar owners are worried that it will cripple their businesses.  
"My smoking customers are quite upset about it because the bar environment was the last place where they were allowed to indulge in their bad habit in a social setting," said Kathleen Harrington, who owns Harrington's Bar and Grill in San Francisco with her husband.

California banned smoking in most indoor workplaces in 1995, including the non-bar areas of restaurants. Bars and casinos were initially exempt on the assumption that the state or federal government would come up with ventilation standards that would reduce smoke to safe levels.  
A bill to extend the exemption died on the last night of the Legislature's 1997 session. As of Jan. 1, the only exempt businesses will be casinos and bars on American Indian reservations and mom-and-pop businesses that have no employees.

"We expect that most Californians will fully embrace this new change," said Ken August, a spokesman for the Department of Health Services. "Eighty-two percent of Californians do not smoke. Of those that do smoke, the majority do not want their children to smoke and they do not want their smoke to harm others."  
Questions remain on how to enforce the law. One union official said their members may look the other way if someone lights up.  
"If another customer objects, let them call the sheriff or the manager," said Joe McLaughlin, secretary-treasurer of a union representing about 2,000 hotel employees and restaurant workers. "Our people are being told: Don't get involved."  
Owners breaking the law could be fined up to \$100 for a first offense and up to \$7,000 per violation for a series of offenses. Customers who insist on smoking could also be fined with the amount determined by local authorities.

The National Smokers Alliance, which gets money from tobacco companies, has sent letters to bar owners urging them to join a campaign to reinstate the exemption.  
"Hopefully legislators will wake up to the fact of what they have done here and reconsider," said Gary Auxler, a spokesman for the alliance.  
Paul Kneppath, a spokesman for the American Lung Association, is confident that the law is on the books for good.

"This is a landmark law for public health," he said. "California has always stood up for protections on the job, and we think this is just another example of it."  
Beverly Swanson, a Santa Cruz bar owner, says she and her husband are willing to fire their employees and operate the bar themselves if the ban hurts their business.  
"The government is giving us a choice," Swanson said. "They are saying you can have customers or you can have employees. Our goal is to accommodate all of our customers."  
A University of California study published in November concluded that local smoking

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

bans in five California cities and two counties did not hurt bar or restaurant sales.  
Jim Kopp, owner-manager of The Rumpus, says an earlier decision to ban smoking in his San Francisco bar has saved money by cutting insurance and maintenance costs.  
"It's possible that there have been some guests that came in the door and not stayed because of it, but I think we gained more guests than we lost," he said.

But Scott Rea, general manager of the Paragon, estimates that his business dropped about 20 percent when Davis banned smoking in its bars in 1993.  
"The problem was you could go anywhere else to smoke in a bar," he said. "We were like an island here."  
After Davis enacted its ordinance, some of the city's smokers ended up at Plainfield Station, a tavern just outside of town.

**Teens arrested when family returns to trashed home**  
LUBBOCK (AP) — A teenager remained jailed Sunday after a family returned from a holiday ski trip to find its house trashed and five teenagers partying among a tipped-over Christmas tree and cigarette-burned couch.  
A police report said the home reeked of marijuana and was dotted with animal feces and vomit when the family returned Friday. Total damage was estimated at nearly \$12,000.  
Three teens were arrested and charged with burglary in connection with the incident.  
Brock Adam Hall, 17, and Shervin Bagheri, 18, were released Saturday on \$2,500 bond. Jordan Andrew Broome, 17, remained in the Lubbock County Jail on the same bond Sunday.  
Two other teen-agers were suspects in the incident, police said.  
Rick Don Wilson told police he had asked one of the teens — it wasn't clear which one — to watch his house. The teen was instructed to feed the family's two dogs, but was not given a key or permission to enter the home, Wilson said.  
When the Wilson family returned from spending the holiday in Taos, N.M., the teen-agers ran from the home, police said.  
The Wilsons managed to stop a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old in the driveway. Another teen was arrested down the street.  
Both the 17-year-old and 18-year-old were charged with burglary of a habitation and another 17-year-old was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of tobacco by a minor.  
Two other teen-agers found in the home might be charged with burglary, police said.  
A neighbor said something suspicious had been going on at the home for the past three days and nights.  
Police photographed the damage, which included scorched carpeting throughout the house, a burned table top and entertainment center, a broken back door, Nativity scene and reindeer.  
The police report said no food or water had been set out for the dogs and the Wilsons returned to almost empty cupboards.  
The report said the teen-agers ate most of the family's food during their party.

Tiger found abandoned given home at sanctuary

HOUSTON (AP) — Tigger, a 300-pound Bengal tiger found chained to a tree near downtown Houston three months ago, was to leave Monday for his new home at a wildlife sanctuary in North Carolina.  
The Houston SPCA got help from the Houston Zoo in nurturing Tigger back to health and prepare him for his new home in North Carolina.  
"I'm going to miss him a lot, but I am happy that there's going to be a place for him," said Greg Olszewski, SPCA shelter manager.

Representatives from Carnivore Preservation Trust arrived and will drive Tigger to the trust's sanctuary in Pittsboro, N.C.  
Plans to fly Tigger to North Carolina on a Continental Airlines flight had to be scrapped because the size of his cage would have required a DC-10, a plane too large to land at Raleigh, the nearest airport to the sanctuary.  
SPCA spokesman Stacy Fox said it was difficult to find a home for Tigger because most sanctuaries were full or lacked the funds to take in another tiger.  
Exxon donated \$10,000 to build Tigger a new habitat in North Carolina and other contributors raised a few thousand dollars more.  
The tiger will have three acres to roam in at his new home, which will be the closest he will ever get to the life intended for him.

• RICHARD WHITE, 21, arrested on a charge of theft under \$50.  
• MARK EDWARDS, 39, arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.  
• ASENCION RIOS, 45, arrested on a charge of fictitious registration.  
• JEFFREY HART, 37, arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.  
• RANDY ULRICH, 22, arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.  
• THEFT on the 1100 block of N. Thea's Hwy. (two reports) and the 2500 block of Wasson.  
• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION on the 600 block of N. Rannels.  
• ASSAULT on Third and Owens.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported no incidents between 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

**Friday**  
7:49 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transferred to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.  
9:42 a.m. — Five miles north on Hwy. 87, traffic accident, patient transferred to SMMC, four refused.  
11:53 a.m. — 1900 block Wasson, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
4:26 p.m. — 1300 block Baylor, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
4:35 p.m. — 2300 block Wasson, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
11:02 p.m. — 1200 block E. Sixth, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

**Saturday**  
7:34 a.m. — 1900 block Lamesa Highway, medical call, patient transferred to VA Medical Center.  
9:27 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call patient transferred to VAMC.  
10:49 a.m. — 2300 block Wasson, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
11:14 a.m. — 1900 block Wasson, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
1:29 p.m. — 1800 block S. Main, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
6:31 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
8:15 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
11:00 p.m. — 2400 block Scurry, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
11:24 p.m. — 2100 block Rannels, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
**Sunday**  
6:55 p.m. — 1500 block Scurry, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
9:43 a.m. — 2500 block West Highway 80, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
12:42 p.m. — 1300 block Scurry, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.  
8:12 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

RECORDS

Sunday's high 46  
Sunday's low 22  
Average high 55  
Average low 28  
Record high 79 in 1928  
Record low 4 in 1983  
Precip. Sunday 0.00  
Month to date 1.65  
Month's normal 0.59  
Year to date 19.86  
Normal for the year 19.24

FOR HOME DELIVERY, CALL 263-7331

DUNLAPS  
111 E Marcy 267-8283  
Mon.-Sat. 10 am-6 pm

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday:  
• LASANDRA HUNTER, 29, arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct/language.

Monday-Friday 9 AM-8 PM  
Saturday 9 AM-5 PM  
CLOSED SUNDAY  
MEDICAL CARE PLAZA  
264-6860 1300 GREGG

PURINA  
20% Range Cubes  
\$5.70 bag or \$215 Ton  
HOWARD COUNTY FEED & SUPPLY  
RANCH DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
701 E. 2ND 267-6411

Tee

MARTIN Christina, at the age of 100, was found out while being a run to. Now her charged abuse, and life and death public light tudes toward. Fat active mother did ter's death. ety they against obei. "How how t. The wel heavier on weight," se

Gov idea

AUSTIN (George W. Bush) is pushing school unacademical challenger his first retoo, support promotion. But Maur grade son 1 flaws in the nor's plan, v motion to st state acaden points in the "I went ho my 10-year-c Bush came idea, Ad... straight A's flunk one te: to be prom make any se "I initially just wouldn' body's reall: they'd pass a "Then all t stopping m tions." Caur view, citing dents who' passing the of Academ wrong." Mauro, ex Democratic g nation, said a state test i

Turbu plane

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# Teen who died at 680 pounds becomes focus for obesity issues

MARTINEZ, Calif. (AP) — Christina Corrigan died alone at the age of 13, a child in a 680-pound body whose heart gave out while her mother was making a run to the grocery store.

Now her mother is on trial charged with felony child abuse, and Christina's private life and death have made her a public lightning rod for attitudes toward food and weight.

Fat activists say Christina's mother didn't cause her daughter's death. They blame a society they say is prejudiced against obese people and doesn't know how to help them.

"The weight of shame was heavier on her than her own weight," says Marilyn Wann,

editor of the magazine FATISO? "It's the last safe prejudice," said Frances White, president of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance. "This woman would not be on trial if her daughter had any other condition beside being large."

Prosecutors say that's not true. They say they charged Marlene Corrigan strictly because of the condition in which her daughter's body was found on Nov. 19, 1996 — lying on a dirty sheet, scarred with bedsores and with feces trapped in the folds of her flesh.

Corrigan's trial resumed today.

Christina spent the last months of her life lying in front

of a television, barely able to hoist herself up to go to the bathroom, according to police reports.

Defense attorneys say Corrigan was a caring but overworked single mother who was working full time and checking in frequently on two sick parents while raising Christina and her brother, Chad. And they say police exaggerated the apartment's conditions.

"If we were to be somewhat bold we would title this a 'full catastrophe of life,'" defense attorney Michael Cardoza said in his opening statement Dec. 17, quoting from the movie "Zorba the Greek."

Cardoza says Christina didn't

tell her mother about the bedsores. He suggested the girl may have had a disorder called Prader-Willi Syndrome, whose sufferers have a raging desire to eat combined with a very slow metabolism, in addition to a tendency to pick at sores.

On the other side, prosecutors question why Christina had not seen a doctor since 1992 and had dropped out of school after sixth grade.

Doctors saw Christina 90 times during her life — the last time when she was 9 and weighed at least 237 pounds — but instead of calling in specialists they advised her to "eat less, exercise more."

And school officials, accord-

ing to Cardoza, ignored Corrigan's requests for help in getting Christina up a steep hill to a junior high school.

Endocrinologist Dr. Dianne Budd testified that putting Christina on a diet probably only made her fatter because as food is restricted, the body switches into starvation mode, lowering its metabolic rate.

Weight experts say the case highlights the shame attached to obesity and how difficult it is for obese people to get help.

"We are so afraid of what fat has come to mean... we are so terrified of it and we so want to control it and get rid of it and surgically remove it and suck it out of our bodies," said Debora

Burgard, a psychologist who treats people with eating disorders and weight preoccupation.

And Burgard said a parent of an overweight child "may or may not get hooked up with people who will be helpful to you. There's not a program for fat kids."

Wann, the FATISO? magazine editor who herself is 5-foot-4 and 270 pounds, said the trial has generated a lot of interest but not much sensitivity, judging by the phone calls she has taken while doing radio talk shows.

"I think it's giving people a field day to express their kind of venomous anger under the guise of 'I am concerned,'" she said.

# Governor's social promotion idea stirs opposition from Mauro

AUSTIN (AP) — When Gov. George W. Bush called for a halt to pushing students through school unless it's warranted academically, likely Democratic challenger Garry Mauro said his first reaction was that he, too, supported ending social promotion.

But Mauro said his fourth-grade son has alerted him to flaws in the Republican governor's plan, which would tie promotion to students' passing the state academic skills test at key points in their school career.

"I went home that night and my 10-year-old said, 'Governor Bush came up with a crazy idea, Dad. ... Even if you've got straight A's all year long, if you flunk one test, you aren't going to be promoted. That doesn't make any sense.'"

"I initially said to him... that just wouldn't happen. If somebody's really got straight A's, they'd pass a reading test."

"Then all these people started stopping me on the street, telling me about their situations," Mauro said in an interview, citing parents of good students who've had problems passing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. "I was wrong."

Mauro, expected to secure the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, said Bush's reliance on a state test is at odds with the

governor's professed support of local control of public schools.

It would be better to get to the root of the problem by raising teacher salaries and reducing class sizes and letting local officials enforce the law against social promotion, he said.

Mauro predicted that Bush will retreat from his proposal, calling it a bad and costly idea because of all the students who will be retained.

"After he spends a little time campaigning and gets away from the (Governor's) Mansion, he's going to find out that you can't say you're for local control and a state-mandated test to determine promotions at the same time," Mauro said.

Sure you can, said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes.

Bush's proposal is consistent with his belief that the state must set high standards but allow schools flexibility in how they achieve them, she said.

When he recently visited 26 Texas cities, people overwhelming told Bush they want public schools to teach youngsters to read, she said.

"We spend \$22 billion a year on our public schools. Governor Bush thinks it's not too much to ask those schools to teach our children the minimum skills they need to succeed in school and in life," she said.

"He thinks a number of new

programs he fought and won funding for will help achieve that goal," such as reading academies.

Bush plans to propose additional expenditures for public schools, she said. She didn't have a cost figure, saying the legislation is being developed and would fit into a balanced state budget proposal.

His proposal would require third-graders to pass the TAAS reading exam to go on to fourth grade. Fifth-graders would have to pass the reading and math TAAS, and eighth-graders would have to pass reading, math and writing, she said. It would take effect beginning with students in the 1999 kindergarten class.

Among supporters is the person expected to win the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, state Comptroller John Sharp.

Sharp said he agreed that some standardized test should be in place. When students are socially promoted and can't keep up, they can get frustrated and drop out, he said.

"Too many of them wind up in our prison system costing us about \$50,000 a year," Sharp said. "It is too expensive a proposition, not only to those children but to the state of Texas. The future of what this state is about is smart, healthy kids."

"Social promotion is simply something we cannot tolerate any more. The governor is exactly right."

State law already says students may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency. But there's no state standard to ensure students aren't passed without demonstrating knowledge.

The Texas Federation of Teachers estimated in 1996 that 150,000 Texas students of 3.7 million are promoted every year without passing their courses. In a straw poll, association members said school administrators have overridden teachers' grades.

While strongly opposing social promotion, the federation doesn't want to use TAAS as the sole way to stop it, said John O'Sullivan of the federation.

"We think the more appropriate stopper for social promotion is a reassertion of the teacher's grading authority," he said. "We're not saying standardized tests shouldn't play any role... we don't support it as the sole trigger."

Brenda Urps, a special education teacher in Austin who also has taught regular classes, added, "I'm totally against social promotion, but I guess I have a problem with students being judged on whether or not they can pass state-mandated tests. Some kids just do not do well at all on paper-and-pencil tests."

Superintendent Jesus Chavez of the Harlingen Independent School District, however, said he has no objection to using TAAS to ensure students are ready to move on.

"There's got to be some measure," he said.

# Passengers complain of unbearable conditions on Houston-based cruise

HOUSTON (AP) — A Caribbean cruise turned out to be "the voyage of the damned" because of air conditioning and other mechanical problems, according to passengers returning from a cruise aboard the Norwegian Star.

The problems that had been voiced by earlier voyagers on the cruise ship were heard again Sunday as passengers left the ship complaining of unbearable conditions.

The Norwegian Star, operated by the Norwegian Cruise Line, is the only full-time cruise ship using the Port of Houston.

In the wake of problems during the Christmas cruise, the line canceled a scheduled New Year's week cruise, but not before more than 900 of the scheduled passengers already had made the trip to Barbours Cut terminal.

The cruise line offered them a full refund and a certificate for a free cruise. Passengers also were invited to spend Sunday night on the ship with free dinner, drinks and entertainment, and free breakfast today.

"We built our reputation on providing a quality vacation experience, and we want to be generous," NCL spokeswoman Fran Sevcik said.

Hundreds chose to spend the night on the ship in port, saying they were pleased with the compensation package offered by NCL.

"I think it's overdue," said Bob Schappert of Colorado Springs, Colo., who stayed on the ship Sunday night. "I think they should have done it three cruises ago when they had troubles."

"They're finally owning up to the fact that it's an old ship that needs maintenance," he said.

On as many as four recent cruises, air conditioning has failed for long periods, forcing passengers to sleep on open decks.

Passengers also complained of bad plumbing and brackish, undrinkable water.

"It was terrible, the ship from hell, the voyage of the damned," said Tom Kowicz, a physician from Edmonton, Alberta. "It wasn't just the air conditioning. It was everything."

Conditions were so bad that at least 28 passengers chose to fly home from the last port of call, Roatan Island in Honduras, on Christmas Day.

Several top NCL officials met the ship, handing out certificates for a free seven-day make-up cruise anywhere in the Caribbean.

"We have nothing to hide," Sevcik said. "We're in business to make people happy. That's what we're all about. We're going to do everything we can to get this problem fixed."

Another person who was on hand as the passengers departed at the end of the latest cruises was David "Trey" Stiles III, an associate of the Chaffin Law Firm, which filed a multimillion-dollar class-action suit for about 2,000 previous passengers.

Stiles said his law firm planned tentatively to inspect the Norwegian Star next Sunday.

"I'm just here to find out what went wrong with this boat," he said. "Sounds like the same things as before."

Last week's voyage was plagued from the outset when one of the four main engines failed, Sevcik said.

After arriving in Cozumel, Mexico, on Wednesday, the generator that helps power the air-conditioning system failed, reducing cooling by 60 percent to 70 percent, she said.

The engine and generator failures were not connected nor were they related to the mechanical problems that beset previous cruises, she said.

Passengers said many of them slept on open decks Christmas Eve because of the unbearable heat in the cabins and common rooms.

The generator was repaired on Christmas Day and the air conditioning was operating again by that night, Sevcik said.

# Turbulence over Pacific sends plane plunging, woman dies

NARITA, Japan (AP) — Sudden turbulence over the Pacific sent a United Airlines jumbo jet plunging toward the sea, tossing passengers and crew headfirst into the ceiling. One woman was killed and 102 other passengers were injured, and the plane returned to Japan today.

Screams filled the cabin of Flight 826 as the plane plummeted nearly 1,000 feet without warning en route from Narita to Honolulu. Food and drinks were flung throughout the cabin.

Passengers said the turbulence was so violent that those standing in the aisles were thrown several feet into the air, while some who were seated bumped their heads on the overhead luggage compartments.

"I thought I was dying," said Kiyotaka Eto, a 16-year-old high school student from Osaka who had been headed for a surfing vacation in Hawaii.

He said his seatbelt saved him from injury.

A traveling companion, Yuji Takahashi, 17, who wasn't wearing a seat belt, hit his head on the ceiling. "It was like something straight out of the movies," he said.

The plane left Narita about 9:00 p.m. Sunday night with 374 passengers and 19 crew aboard for what is normally a 6 1/2-hour flight. It hit the rough air just as meals were being served about two hours later.

After the severe jolting, the plane turned back and landed early today at Narita, 40 miles northeast of Tokyo.

Of the 102 people treated for injuries, 11 passengers and one crew member remained hospitalized today, said Toru Kawai, an airport police spokesman at Narita.

A United spokeswoman said the Boeing 747 encountered

"severe clear-air turbulence," — unanticipated rockiness that develops when there are no storms visible.

The turbulence rocked the plane when it was 1,100 miles east of Narita, flying at cruising altitude, and lasted several minutes.

The plane was flying near an area that a local observatory warned might contain turbulent air, Japanese news reports said.

Most of those hurt suffered head or neck injuries, Kawai said. Konomi Kataura, 32, of Tokyo died of internal cerebral bleeding, he said.

In a videotape taken by a passenger aboard and shown on Japan's NHK television, oxygen masks swayed from the ceiling and people lay in an aisle. Screams could be heard.

"Suddenly the plane dropped and people were jumping and falling, and things came flying at me... like juice cans, food," said Chieko Ejiri, 28, who was on her way to a vacation with her boyfriend.

Many people were dozing when the plane lurched, rattled for a few minutes then went into a sudden free fall. The seatbelt sign was off, and some people were wandering around the aisles, passengers said.

Ejiri saw one woman, who had just walked out of the rest room, flung against a seat.

"When she got up, there was blood on her shirt," Ejiri said, speaking at the hotel where United took the passengers to wait for another flight. "I saw people with bleeding bandages on their heads and someone with his arm in a sling. And one person was crying out in pain that his ribs hurt."

Ejiri escaped unscathed.

When the plane finally settled down, the ceiling was sprayed with red wine and broken plates filled the aisle, passengers said.

programs he fought and won funding for will help achieve that goal," such as reading academies.

Bush plans to propose additional expenditures for public schools, she said. She didn't have a cost figure, saying the legislation is being developed and would fit into a balanced state budget proposal.

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## New Year Holiday

### Office Hours and Advertising Deadlines

for the  
**Big Spring Herald**

The Big Spring Herald offices will close for New Years Day, January 1, and will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m. Friday, January 2.

#### Advertising Deadlines

Wednesday, December 31.....	Monday, 3 p.m.
Thursday, January 1.....	Tuesday, 12 NOON
Friday, January 2.....	Wednesday, 12 NOON
Sunday, January 4.....	Wednesday, 3 p.m.

#### Classified Deadlines

Wednesday, December 31.....	Tuesday, 12 NOON
Thursday, January 1.....	Wednesday 3 p.m.
Friday, January 2.....	Wednesday, 5 p.m.

The January 1 paper will be delivered as a afternoon product. Phone hours will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!**

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DECEMBER 29 1997

EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*  
-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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Publisher  
Steve Reagan  
Copy/Layout Editor  
John H. Walker  
Managing Editor  
Debbie Jensen  
Features Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Steel workers used to strive for "straight five and day" — daylight hours, Monday through Friday — a shift that enabled them to live normal lives. That was back in the days when few industries were, in the current slang term, 24-7 — round the clock, seven days a week. Now, our whole economy is becoming 24-7, researchers say.

Less than one third of working Americans 18 and older regularly work a standard, Monday through Friday workweek. While some work off-hour shifts because of school or child care, most who work nights and weekends do so because their jobs demand it.

And, notes University of Maryland researcher Harriet Presser, looking ahead to 2005, "The largest job growth ... will concentrate in occupations that have high proportions of people working evenings, nights and weekends." Much of that growth, in turn, will be in fields like sales, nursing care, food service, "jobs disproportionately filled by women."

Since women handle most of the disposable income, retail and professional services — supermarkets to dentists — will begin keeping evening and weekend hours.

The 24-7 economy, with its strains on marriages and child-rearing, not to mention the national body clock, may be one of our first social problems in the new century. And the worker lucky enough to finally get "straight five and day" may wonder where everybody went.

By Scripps Howard News Service  
Dale McFeatters

The final score is not in yet, but right now it looks as if Christmas shopping this year fell below expectations in many parts of the country, despite an economy that is about as chipper as economies get.

In the New York Times, economists and others ruminated about the possible causes. One of those is consumer debt. When credit cards are already overloaded — and in America these days, many are — there is a natural reluctance to pile more debt on top, the fear being the whole thing will collapse and bankruptcy ensue.

But maybe something more is at work here, such as a long-term change in how Americans celebrate the holiday. Perhaps, some quoted in the story say, families that are spread throughout the land are not getting together as much as they once did. Or maybe, it is suggested, parents have become more reluctant to fight the crowds to make purchases when both the father and mother have jobs outside the home, as is so often the case today.

It might even be that many people are deciding that the traditional emphasis on gift-giving is something they care about less than other ways of expressing their feelings, some believe.

Even after more definite figures become available in a couple of weeks, it will not be crystal clear whether that sort of cultural change is taking place. If it does ultimately turn out that people are still buying gifts but not spending quite as much relative to their personal financial state, a period of possibly painful readjustment will be necessary for some businesses. The hope and likelihood is that these businesses would continue to thrive over the long run, just as Christmases would continue to be merry.

Jay Ambrose  
Scripps Howard News Service

LETTER POLICY

The Big Spring Herald welcomes your letters to the editor. We ask that you adhere to our policies so that we might have the opportunity to share your opinion with others.

- Please:
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words, or about two handwritten pages.
  - Sign your letter.
  - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
  - Faxed or computer-generated letters must be signed and also provide telephone number and address.
  - We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
  - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
  - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.

HOW TO REACH US

You may reach us by telephone at 263-7331, by fax at 264-7205, by mail at P.O. Box 1431 or by e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com. Our physical address is 710 Scurry St., Big Spring, and our office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our offices are closed to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holidays.

Keep faith out of public policy

By BONNIE ERBE  
Scripps Howard

A stunning article came in the mail this week — an entry in the Autumn 1997 (posted late, no doubt) Ripon Forum. You remember the Ripon Society — that now out-of-favor wing of the Republican Party that promotes what some would call true Republicanism. Ripon Society adherents countenance lower taxes and less government, but progressive use of government to boost the status of the poor, to preserve natural resources and to marshal our collective power to keep America free and economically vibrant.

The article was written by Prof. David Walsh who teaches Theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Titled, "Faith as a Matter of Public Policy," it illuminates the case, for keeping personal faith out of the realm of public policy, politics and most of all, social legislation. And it does so more deftly than this writer has ever seen it elucidated before.

Prof. Walsh reiterates beautifully what the Framers of our

system of government knew first-hand, and what Conservatives pushing for more religious influence on government seem to never have known or have chosen to forget. That is, that when religious beliefs are enacted into law and forced on a populace that does not embrace them by choice, they become meaningless.

In responding to a call by the conservative Heritage Foundation to (in effect) eliminate the wall between Church and State, Prof. Walsh writes, "(A) serious consideration for distancing religion from the public square is the reluctance to reduce it to a thing of this world. Once a religious community is organized to lobby public officials and voters, then it assumes much of the character of such a special interest. It cannot be the horizon that includes and redeems all of human life if it has become merely the organized force of one particular faction. Political success may be achieved, but something more important has been lost."

One reason so many Americans are turned off by

organized religion is the cheapness of religiously based political lobbies to which Prof. Walsh alludes. Yes, Pat Robertson and his Christian Coalition have achieved financial success and political clout. But Robertson debases true belief in the process. On one recent night, I was channel-surfing and caught Robertson (and a senescent babe of a co-host) preaching the Bible on "The Family Channel." He was quoting Scripture to try to persuade women to stop working outside the home and devote more time to children and spouses. The senescent babe (although obviously no stranger to paychecks, herself) was urging him on. The sight would have made Jesus of Nazareth sick to his stomach. It was certainly no enticement to organized religion in the eyes of an intelligent viewer.

Professor Walsh argues along the same lines that the conversion of evangelical power to promote political change, debases the concept of pure faith. He writes, "The goal is laudable, but the effect strikes at the core of religious belief. A faith whose deepest inspira-

tion is the attainment of functional success in this life is not true faith. Nor will it endure. As any believer knows, it is when our faith no longer serves our utility that it is truly tested."

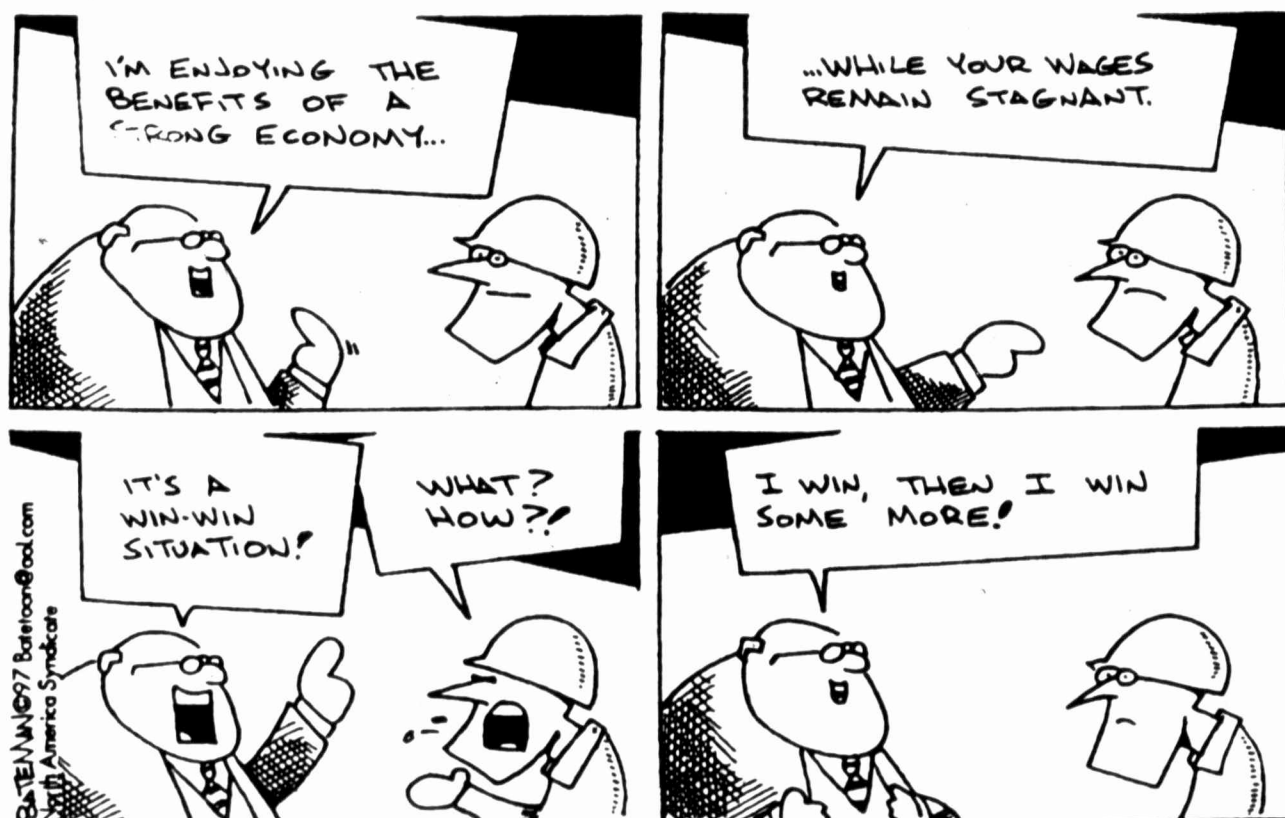
One more reason for keeping church and state quite apart is that taught by history. Church-based governments easily slip into the realm of tyranny (to wit, Georgian England and the Colonies, or present-day Iran and Afghanistan). They overzealously control the citizens, stultify economically as a result of self-imposed social repression and ultimately collapse of their own torpidity. We are a long way from that, but the Christian Coalition, the Heritage Foundation and others keep pushing us closer. Too bad they, and not the Ripon Society, are the dominant factions within the Republican Party.

(Bonnie Erbe, host of the PBS program "To the Contrary," writes this column weekly for Scripps Howard News Service. Her e-mail address is 102404,3317@CompuServe.com.)

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Out-of-date law needs revamping

When American forces left the Asian theater after the war in Vietnam, they left behind them a sad legacy of death and destruction. They left something else behind — they left hundreds of children born out of wedlock to Asian women.



James J. Kilpatrick

Now one such child, Lorelyn Pender Miller, has challenged a law that treats alien-born legitimate and illegitimate children differently in the matter of citizenship. The Supreme Court heard argument in the case on Nov. 4. The court pays great deference to Congress in the field of immigration and naturalization, but my guess is that the law will be overturned. And high time.

The facts are straightforward. Only the law is tangled. Lorelyn, born in June 1970, is the illegitimate daughter of Luz Pender and Charlie R. Miller. He was a serviceman stationed in the Philippines. She was a Filipino national. In February 1992, Lorelyn applied for U.S. citizenship. The State Department turned her down. In the government's view,

Lorelyn had failed to comply with an immigration act of 1952 that treats illegitimate children differently. Under the law, a child born abroad to an unmarried American mother and a foreign national becomes a U.S. citizen. But if the father is an American and the mother is not — as in this case — all kinds of barriers arise. The father must prove his paternity and promise support. Miller belatedly took these steps, but not to the satisfaction of the State Department.

The theory is that mothers are more likely to love their children, and fathers are more likely to abandon them. Lorelyn contends that the law is based on a stereotype — that women have closer ties to their children than do men. Lorelyn sued to gain U.S. citizenship, but she lost at every step of the way. Lower courts relied upon what is known as the Fiallo case of 1977, which ringingly upheld the power of Congress to pass the act.

Listening to argument in the Lorelyn Miller case a few weeks ago, I developed a strong feeling that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will vote to declare the current law unconstitutional. When counsel dwelled upon the inequality of women before the law, the justice had the look of a raven about to dive on a worm. She interrupted counsel so rudely that Chief Justice William Rehnquist intervened

to shut her up. My hunch is that the high court will overrule Fiallo and clear the way for 27-year-old Lorelyn to pursue her goal of citizenship. Of the nine justices who participated in the Fiallo case, only Rehnquist and Justice John Paul Stevens remain on the bench, and Stevens may have changed his mind. After all, a whole lot has happened to women's rights over the past 20 years.

In one case after another, the court has struck down laws based on the stereotypical notion that woman's place is only in the home. At one time, Illinois would not let women become lawyers — or even bartenders, for that matter. An Alabama law on alimony failed its constitutional test. The armed services once provided different benefits for male and female officers. And there was the recent case of women's admission to the Virginia Military Institute.

The 1979 case of Caban v. Mohammed dealt with a New York law that permitted an unwed mother, but not an unwed father, to prevent the adoption of their illegitimate children. The mother, Maria Mohammed, contended that the law was justified by a "fundamental difference between maternal and paternal relations." A natural mother, she argued, "bears a closer relationship with her child than a

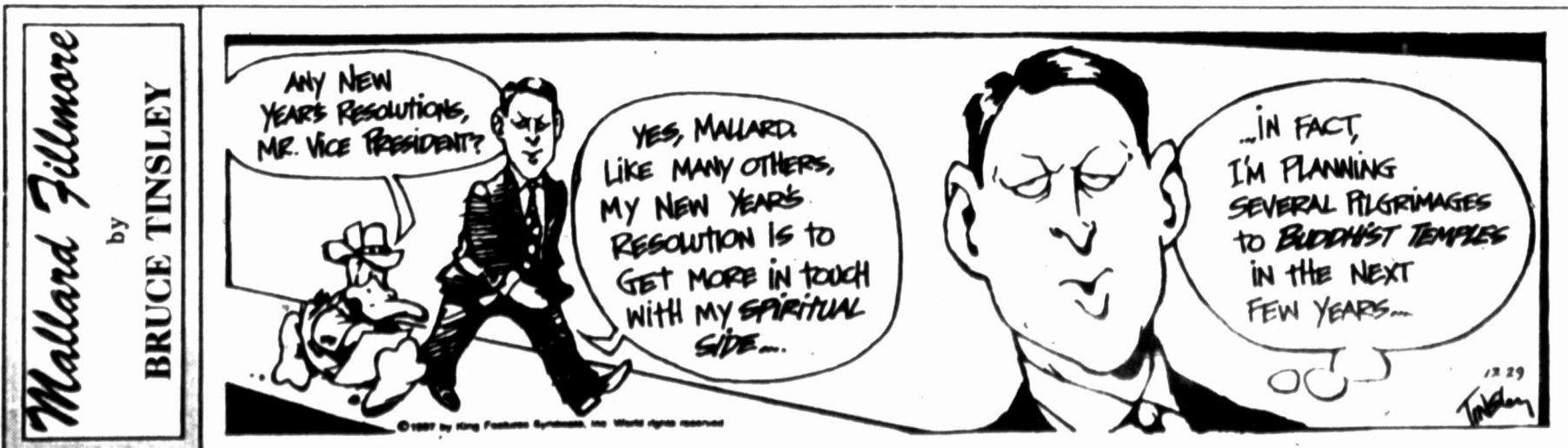
father does." Justice Lewis Powell would have none of it. Speaking for the court's majority, he commented that "an unwed father may have a relationship with his children fully comparable to that of the mother." The New York statute denied fathers equal protection of the laws.

Stereotypes fade. Roughly three-fourths of married women with children under 18 are holding down a job. The woman at the stove or in the nursery has become the woman in the office or the factory. Fathers are pushing baby buggies. It's a whole new world out there.

This, too: Proof of paternity, which once was a key element of immigration cases, may now be convincingly established by genetic evidence. Illegitimacy, which once implied moral turpitude, is now distressingly commonplace. As a matter of law, gender-based distinctions cannot avoid the gimlet eye of Justice Ginsburg.

Fine with me. In fighting her case all the way to the high court, Lorelyn has demonstrated the kind of spunk and persistence that we identify with 100 percent Americanism. Let her in!

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The ASSOCI

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**On the Tube**  
Carquest Bowl  
Georgia Tech vs. West Virginia, 6:30 p.m., TBS, Ch. 11  
Holiday Bowl  
Colorado State vs. Missouri, 7 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30

**On the Tube**  
Women's College Basketball  
Texas at Washington, 9:30 p.m., FXS, Ch. 29  
Hockey  
Dallas Stars at Detroit Red Wings, 6:30 p.m., FXS, Ch. 29

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## LSU backs feast on Notre Dame in 27-9 Independence Bowl win

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHREVEPORT, La. — Cecil Collins, Kevin Faulk, Rondell Mealey. It doesn't matter who LSU has in the backfield, he's going to run all over you.

Take the Independence Bowl on Sunday night. Faulk, the Southeastern Conference's top rusher, went down early with a twisted ankle. That would be a disaster for most teams.

But LSU coach Gerry DiNardo simply turned and told Mealey to get into the game. And Faulk wasn't even missed as Mealey ran for 222 yards, two touchdowns, two Independence Bowl records, and one LSU record.

Not a bad night for a backup. "They don't really lose much when Faulk is out," Notre Dame linebacker

Kory Minor said.

Actually, No. 15 LSU (9-3) didn't lose anything, beating Notre Dame 27-9. It was the third straight bowl victory for LSU. It also avenged LSU's worst game of the season, a 24-6 loss to Notre Dame (7-6) seven weeks ago in Baton Rouge.

Teams that lost the regular-season game have now won seven of the 13 rematches in bowl games.

"He was mentally into the game," DiNardo said of Mealey, the offensive MVP of the game. "He prepared himself to play the whole game and that's what he did. A secondary player has to do that in order to play well."

LSU has made a science of that this year. When Collins went down with a broken fibula four games into the sea-

son, he was the SBC's top rusher and No. 2 in the nation. Now it's Cecil "The Diesel" who? Faulk and Mealey simply picked up the slack, giving LSU the top rushing offense in the SEC.

So when Faulk got hurt, Mealey didn't think much of it.

"I don't want to say I was the biggest star," he said. "My role on this team is to respond and that's what I did."

He did a little bit more than that. With the Irish leading 6-3, Mealey came out strong in the second half, rushing for 185 of his 222 yards in the final 30 minutes.

After Notre Dame kicked a 33-yard field goal to cut LSU's lead to 13-9, Mealey ripped off a 78-yard run — the longest in Independence Bowl and

LSU's bowl history — before being shoved out of bounds at the 2. He scored on the next play. Faulk had set the previous mark with a 68-yard run in 1995.

"I saw the last three yards of it," DiNardo said. "I was on the bench with the defense and I had no idea what was going on until everyone started cheering."

Mealey scored once more for good measure, a 1-yard run with 3:19 left. LSU finished with 326 yards total offense, including an Independence Bowl-record 265 rushing.

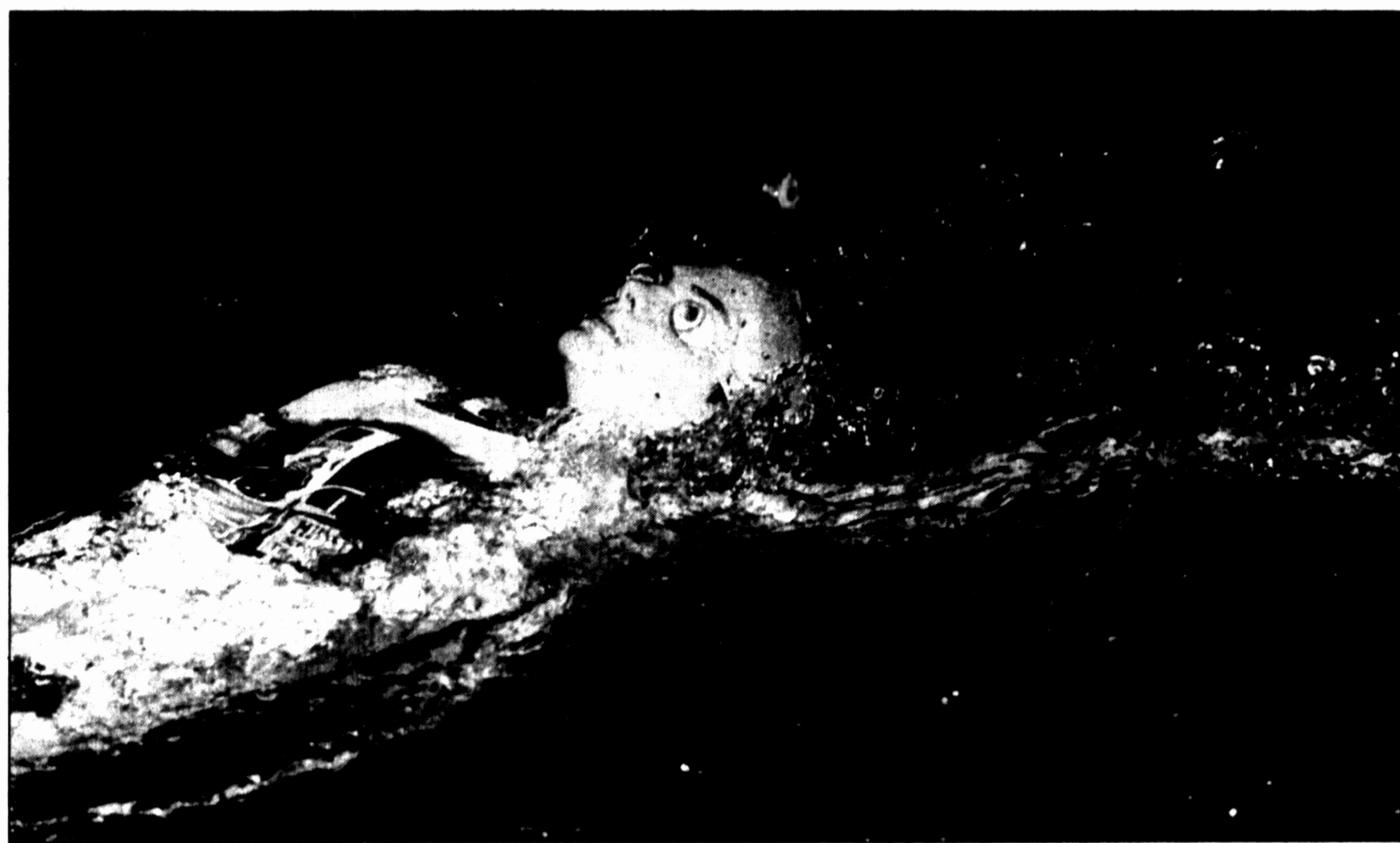
"Mealey ran the football at us extremely well," Notre Dame coach Bob Davie said. "They mixed in some option, they controlled the football in the third quarter."

While Mealey had LSU humming, the Irish were falling apart. They finished with 243 yards, but just 91 came in the second half. All of their scoring came on three field goals by Scott Cengia.

Quarterback Ron Powlus was sacked four times in the second half, including a brutal hit that seemed to knock the wind out of him.

It was an ugly end to what had been a stunning turnaround. After starting 1-4, Notre Dame won six of its last seven regular-season games and came into the bowl with a five-game winning streak.

"It was tough to stand on the sidelines and watch guys end their careers, the clock ticking down," a weary Powlus said afterward.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Big Spring Lady Steers swimmer Melissa Sheedy powers through a backstroke workout in the YMCA pool as she and other members of the high school's swimming team take part in a practice session prior to the Christmas holiday break. Sheedy and her Steers teammates will have a long break before returning to competitive action which will come Jan. 31 during the District 4 championships.

## Not unanimous, North Carolina holds No. 1 spot

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina easily held the No. 1 spot in the AP's college basketball poll today, but came up one short of a unanimous selection after sweeping the first-place votes last week.

The Tar Heels (13-0), who had to go to overtime to beat Georgia in their only game last week, received 69 first-place votes and 1,749 points from a 70-member media panel. It was the third straight week North Carolina has been top-ranked under first-year coach Bill Guthridge.

Kansas (15-1), which will be without All-America forward Raef LaFrentz for 6-8 weeks, held second with 1,646 points, 16 more than Duke (10-1). LaFrentz, averaging 21.2 points and 11.4 rebounds, broke his right index finger in a scrimmage Friday.

The Blue Devils, who received the other No. 1 vote, lost freshman Elton Brand, their leading scorer and rebounder, for the rest of the season after he broke his left foot in practice Saturday.

Utah and Purdue both jumped two spots to fourth and fifth, while Kentucky, which lost at home to Louisville, fell two places to sixth.

The next three spots were held by Pac-10 teams — Stanford, Arizona and UCLA — while Connecticut rounded out the Top Ten.

South Carolina, which switched places with Connecticut, led the Second Ten, and was followed by New Mexico, Xavier, Iowa, Florida State, Mississippi, Princeton, Michigan, Syracuse and Maryland. The last five teams were Clemson, West Virginia, Arkansas, Rhode Island and Marquette.

Michigan, which made its first appearance in the Top 25 two weeks ago the fell out after a loss to Eastern Michigan, reentered at No. 18. The Wolverines (10-3) won a holiday tournament in Puerto Rico last week, handing Syracuse its

### TOP 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and records through Dec. 28:

	Record
1. North Carolina (69)	13-0
2. Kansas	15-1
3. Duke (1)	10-1
4. Utah	11-0
5. Purdue	11-2
6. Kentucky	10-2
7. Stanford	9-0
8. Arizona	8-3
9. UCLA	8-1
10. Connecticut	11-1
11. South Carolina	7-1
12. New Mexico	7-1
13. Xavier	7-2
14. Iowa	11-1
15. Florida St.	9-2
16. Mississippi	8-1
17. Princeton	10-1
18. Michigan	10-3
19. Syracuse	11-1
20. Maryland	7-3
21. Clemson	9-3
22. West Virginia	11-1
23. Arkansas	9-2
24. Rhode Island	6-1
25. Marquette	8-0

first loss of the season in the championship game.

Marquette (8-0) was the other newcomer this week. The Golden Eagles, who beat Central Florida and Illinois-Chicago last week, were ranked for three weeks last season, reaching as high as No. 24.

Temple, No. 24 last week, and Texas Christian, No. 25 a week ago, dropped out. Temple (6-3) did not play last week, but the Owls have lost two straight. TCU (11-2) lost to Syracuse in the semifinals of the tournament won by Michigan.

The week's biggest drop was Arkansas' fall from 12th to 23rd. The Razorbacks (9-2) went into the Puerto Rico tournament undefeated, but lost to American University of Puerto Rico, the Division II host school, and Murray State before beating Saint Louis in the seventh-place game.

## Sanders, Marino and Giants gone from playoffs

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NFL PLAYOFFS

It was the end of a wonderful season for Barry Sanders. It was the end of a distressing slide for the Miami Dolphins.

Sanders' MVP season finished ignominiously as he was held to 65 yards rushing and his Detroit Lions fell at Tampa Bay 20-10 on Sunday in the wild-card round of the NFL playoffs.

Exiting a few hours earlier were the Dolphins, who lost their last two games in the regular season with the AFC East title theirs for the taking.

"We got tired of hearing about Barry Sanders all week," Bucs All-Pro linebacker Hardy Nickerson said. "No disrespect to him, but we felt that if we could limit the number of carries Barry had and put him in long second- and third-down situations, we would put the game in our own hands."

Sanders, who shared the MVP award with Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, was never a factor in the outcome of the

game.

The Patriots sacked Marino four times, and he was 17-for-43 for 141 yards. The Dolphins gained only 162 yards, their lowest total ever in a playoff game.

Tampa Bay (11-6) is at Green Bay (13-3) on Sunday. New England (11-6) visits Pittsburgh (11-5) next Saturday.

The playoffs began with an upset when Minnesota won at the New York Giants 23-22 on Saturday. The Vikings (10-7) earned a trip to San Francisco (13-3) following the Patriots-Steelers game.

Denver (13-4) avenged last year's playoff loss to Jacksonville with a 42-17 rout and will be at Kansas City (13-3) on Sunday.

### Buccaneers 20, Lions 10

Trent Dilfer threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Horace Copeland, Mike Alstott scored on a 31-yard run, and Michael

Husted kicked two field goals for Tampa Bay, which hadn't won a playoff game since 1979.

Detroit also lost quarterback Scott Mitchell to a mild concussion late in the third quarter.

### Patriots 17, Dolphins 3

It was the second victory in six days over Miami and the third time the Pats have shackled Marino this season.

"The defense made big plays all day," said Collins, who added the Patriots were able to read some hand signals Marino used for audibles in noisy Foxboro Stadium. "You play a team three times, you learn some of the tendencies. He throws the ball to you, you try to catch it."

The Patriots intercepted Marino six times in their three victories over the Dolphins this year.

### Vikings 23, Giants 22

The Vikings won their first playoff game in nine years with 10 points in the final 90 seconds. Until then, the Giants used five

field goals by Brad Daluiso and a turnover-inducing defense to charge in front.

But New York (10-6-1), which went from last to first in the NFC East this year, saw its charmed season end as Randall Cunningham hit Jake Reed with a 30-yard touchdown pass, then Minnesota recovered an onside kick that led to Eddie Murray's game-winning 24-yard field goal with 10 seconds to play.

The Giants led 16-0 and 19-3.

### Broncos 42, Jaguars 17

Denver ran over the Jaguars after taking a 21-0 lead and seeing Jacksonville close to 21-17. Denver's ground game finished with 310 yards, 184 by Terrell Davis and 103 by Derek Loville, who replaced Davis when he went out with bruised ribs.

For the game, the Broncos outgained the Jaguars 511-237.

"It was somewhat of a pathetic showing for our defense," Jacksonville linebacker Bryan Schwartz said. "We'll never forget this."

## Arizona State quarterback gets first start in Sun Bowl

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO — Arizona State's hopes to beat Iowa in the Sun Bowl rest on the tall shoulders and rifle arm of a junior who already has conceded next year's quarterback battle.

Steve Campbell, built more like a basketball player at 6-foot-8 and 240 pounds, will lead the 16th-ranked Sun Devils (8-3) Wednesday.

"This will be my first and only collegiate start," said Campbell, who has been thrust into the starting role because of a knee injury to freshman Ryan Kealy in ASU's 28-16 loss to Arizona in the last game of the season. "Next year, Ryan will be the starter again, so this will probably be the only start I'll have in college."

Asked if he was conceding the job, the junior from Corona, Calif., said, "There's no reason to blow smoke. Ryan had a great year. He matured a lot. I'll definitely go out there every practice in spring ball and give it everything I have."

"But we have a rule on the team that you don't lose a starting position due to an injury. And also, Ryan is a very good quarterback. He will be the starter again next year."

Campbell's more immediate worry is the Hawkeyes (7-4), who were second in the Big Ten Conference in total defense.

"I think they're probably the best defense we've played all year, without a doubt. We've watched them play against Iowa and Washington got after us, but as far as watching those three teams on tape, Iowa's the best," he said.

## Co-MVPs won't get a chance to settle tie

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREEN BAY, Wis. — This one won't be settled on the field.

Barry Sanders, the NFL's co-MVP with Green Bay's Brett Favre, was knocked out of the playoffs on Sunday when the Detroit Lions lost to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20-10.

So, the Packers' Jan. 4 playoff game at Lambeau Field will be a Battle of the Bays instead of a dual between the first co-MVPs in 37 years.

Sanders, the third player ever to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season, had only 65 on 18 carries Sunday, the first time since Tampa Bay held him to 20 yards in Week 2 that he didn't gain at least 100.

So, Sanders will have to be satisfied with sharing the MVP award, a tie that neither player seemed to mind.

"The more I've thought about it, the more excited I am about it," Favre said. "Sure, I'd like to win it outright. But I can't complain. I'm sharing it with probably the best running back ever to play the

The deadlock didn't diminish the award, Favre said. In fact, he called the draw poetic justice.

"Barry's team hasn't been, record-wise, as good as we have. But yeah, I think it would have been a shame for either one of us not to win it with the years we've had," said Favre, who became the first passer to throw 30 or more touchdowns in four consecutive seasons while leading the Packers (13-3) back into the playoffs to defend their Super Bowl title.

Sanders, who carried the Lions (9-8) into the playoffs, was similarly satisfied with the first MVP tie since Philadelphia quarterback Norm Van Brocklin and Detroit linebacker Joe Schmidt shared the award in 1960.

"I guess it puts me in elite company," Sanders, who set a league record with 14 straight games of more than 100 yards rushing, said before the Lions were knocked out of the playoffs.

"I'm glad he let me share it with him this year, because the last couple he's taken it for himself."

It was the first MVP for Sanders, an unprecedented third for Favre, who said the latest award was his most satisfying.

"I can't believe a little country kid like me has won it three times. No one has ever done it before. Considering where I came from and how hard it was to get here, it's

everything I thought it would be and then some," said Favre, who has overcome a car accident in college and an addiction to painkillers to etch his place in history as one of the finest quarterbacks to play in the NFL.

"The scary thing is he's not done," Packers receiver Antonio Freeman said. "He's still in mid-stride."

Sort of like Sanders, who only gets better just when you think he couldn't top himself again.

Besides their extraordinary talent and work ethic, what separates Favre and Sanders from their contemporaries is their uncanny ability to turn broken plays into big ones.

"You might stop Barry 10 times in a row, but you can't shut him out," Favre said. "As soon as you say, 'Well, we got him,' he gets away. He's a great player and you can't hold a great player down for long."

The admiration is mutual. "He reminds me a lot of Michael Jordan," Sanders said.

"No matter how successful he's been, he's still always the most competitive person on the field. Outside of his incredible talent and everything, he's always just really competitive."

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 30:**

No one can stop you in 1998. You finally clear obstacles, and are ready to present the new you to the world. Release a difficult personal situation, and move toward greater security and happiness. You are more upbeat in the coming year. A major purchase enhances the quality of your daily life. If you are single, a relationship of significance enters your life. You could feel restricted by this person. If attached, you might mourn that the fun and passion have lessened. Look at the pluses instead. **CAPRICORN** inspires you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Success comes when you clear the decks, finish work and touch base with others. It takes more time than you want to complete it all, but you will. Call relatives and loved ones, and share resolutions. Tonight: Stay in the limelight.\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Take the high road, and listen to your loving inner voice. Make plans for the future with a partner. Visualize more of what you want, and arrange to make it happen. Make long-distance calls, reach out for others and visit another. Tonight: Go out for exotic cuisine.\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Close relating is unusually pleasant, as you display your colors in the finest light possible. Examine what is going on with a partner. Be humorous, witty and loving. The merger

between you and another allows a new beginning. Tonight: Do I have to spell it out?\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Knock on another's door, and know why you are there. Popularity is high, as is the need for closeness. Make time to visit friends; do the holiday thing. Open up when talking resolution; listen to suggestions, knowing another means well. Tonight: Play the night away.\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** You are compelled to clear up work and other priorities. This is going to be a special New Year's for you, and you won't want to worry about anything. Get in an extra bottle or two of champagne. Do something for yourself. Tonight: Get extra sleep.\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You are already in the mood to christen the new year, so you have difficulty doing anything serious. Use your creativity to maximize your time and tend to obligations. Your need to share comes out in the twinkle in your eye. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** You are less than mellow, even down and blue. The good news is that the mood will pass. The bad news is that eventually you will need to deal with a domestic situation. You can no longer put your needs on the back burner. Make New Year's resolutions. Tonight: Laughter works!\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Now is not the time to hold back; express your feelings. Doing things halfway doesn't

HOROSCOPE

work. It is all or nothing! Follow through on what appears as an intuitive thought. Call others, and gather feedback. Tonight: You are up for celebrating!\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Curb spending; examine your finances. Question what you need for security, play and other needs. Focus your yearly resolutions on creating the financial backing you need. Make adjustments that will make you happy. Tonight: Have a ball.\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Charge full speed ahead, and fulfill more desires. Laughter and fun mark your adventures. Greet what happens spontaneously. Talking about a dream is the first step in making it a reality. You are surprised by the role fantasy plays. Tonight: Enjoy life.\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Keep Key facts under wraps. You don't have the full story, and that is OK. Dynamic thinking leads to new beginnings.

What you are mulling over could actively take shape in the next few days, months or years. Intuition is accurate about money. Tonight: Be mysterious.\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** Aim for what you want. Your sixth sense tells you more than you realize. Let your sense of humor make this a rewarding day. Bring friends together, and allow them to share. Listen to your instincts, and follow through on a friend's need. Tonight: Find the action.\*\*\*\*

**BORN TODAY** Sprinter Ben Johnson (1961), actor Jack Lord (1930), actress Tracey Ullman (1959)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

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**Grandmother senses trouble in mom's conspiracy with son**

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a grandmother and I watch my two grandchildren every day while their mothers work. The boy is 5, the girl is 4.



Abigail Van Buren  
Columnist

My two daughters do a lot of children's activities in the evenings and on the weekends. Their cousins are close. They don't fight, and they really love each other.

The girl's mother includes the boy in every special thing they do — pizza, fishing, swimming, etc. The boy says when he and his mother do things, he wants to be alone and he does not want his cousin included. His mother coddles him and tells him it's OK to want to be alone. She tells him to not mention when he's going to the beach, etc., so they will not have to take the little girl along.

I think she is demonstrating to her son how to be secretive and manipulative. I also think it's cruel. Of course, my daughter does not agree. I see disaster ahead. Please advise. — **CONCERNED GRANDMOTHER IN PORTLAND**

**DEAR CONCERNED GRANDMOTHER:** This situation is not a question of all or nothing. Since you watch the children during the day, their time with their mothers is limited, and therefore I see no reason why they shouldn't each spend one-on-one time with their mothers for special outings. There should be no need for secrecy about it.

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

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Do you have a house for sale? A car? Let the Herald Classified section help you. Call us Today! 263-7331

TOO LATES

SOFA & LOVESEAT fairly new \$500., go kart, \$500, mink coat, fox coat, \$300/ea. trampoline, \$150.00, gas grill bar-b-que, \$150. 263-7597 leave name & number.

Comanche Trail Nursing Center is accepting applications for LVN's positions. We offer: SIGN ON BONUS Competitive Pay • Health Insurance • Dental Insurance • Paid Vacation • 401(k). Please apply in person 3200 Parkway. If you enjoy long term care & working with the elderly.

Comanche Trail Nursing Center is accepting applications for Nurse Aid positions. We offer the following: competitive wages, Dental Insurance, Holiday pay, Vacation Pay, 401K Program. Please come by 3200 Parkway and see Paula Lawrence, EOE.

CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS DEADLINES

Church and club news items are due at the Herald office by noon Wednesday for Friday publication.

Items should be dropped off to the office, 710 Scurry; mailed to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721-1431; or faxed to 264-7205.

For more information call 263-7331, extj. 235.

Pictures of one person who may be speaking at a club or church can also be submitted.

**NO MONEY DOWN!!!**

ALL VEHICLES IN INVENTORY ARE ZERO DOWN!\*

<b>REBATES UP TO \$2,000</b> (on select models)	<b>88 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</b> stk. #48040 \$19,997	<b>88 DODGE DAKOTA</b> stk. #48063 \$12,997	<b>88 DODGE STRATUS</b> stk. #38007 \$15,997
	<b>88 DODGE RAM 1500 SHORTBED</b> stk. #48018 \$14,997	<b>88 DODGE AVENGER</b> stk. #38018 \$14,997	<b>88 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB'S ARE NOW AT VILLAGE!!!</b>

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DECEMBER 29 1997

MONDAY

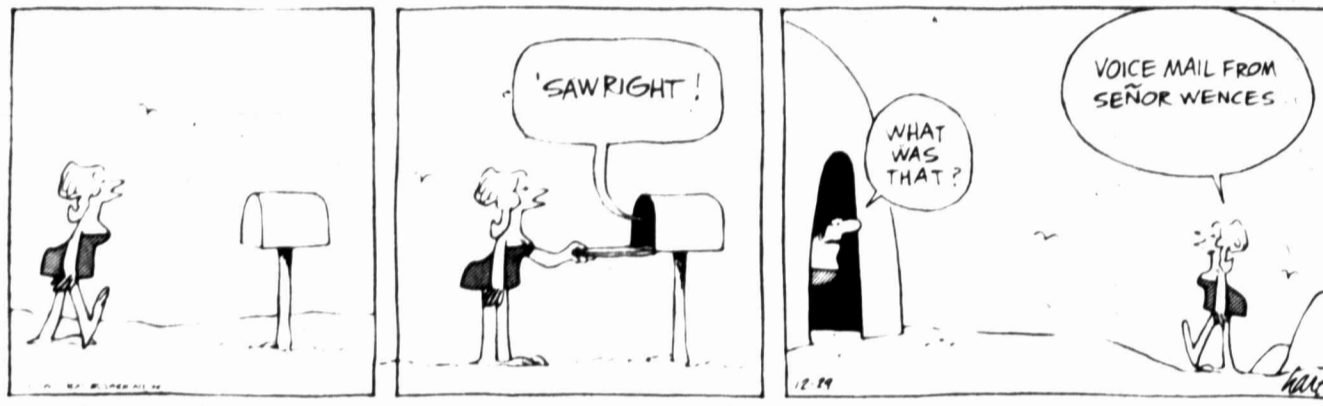
DEC. 29

Television schedule grid for Monday, Dec 29, listing channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and programs (News, Movies, Sports, etc.) with their respective times.

HAGAR



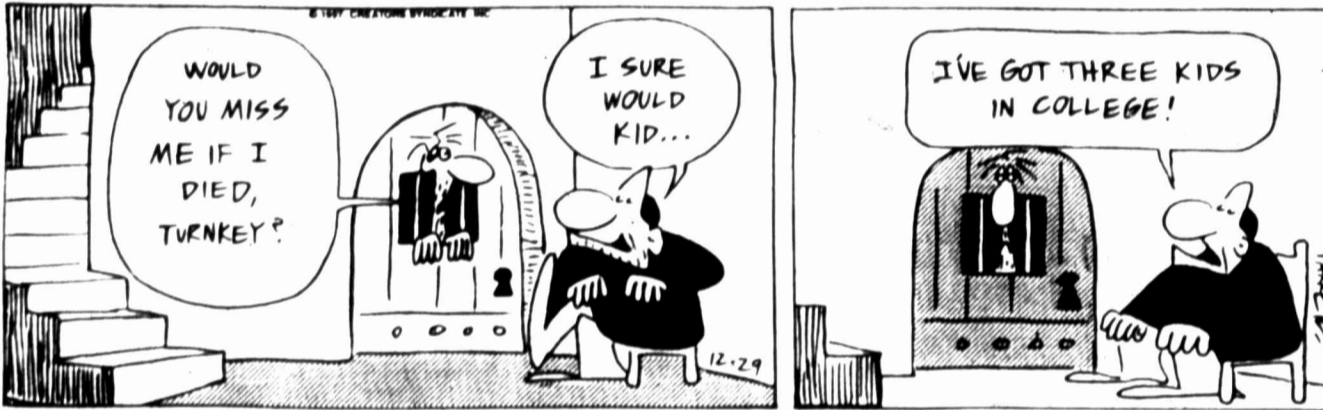
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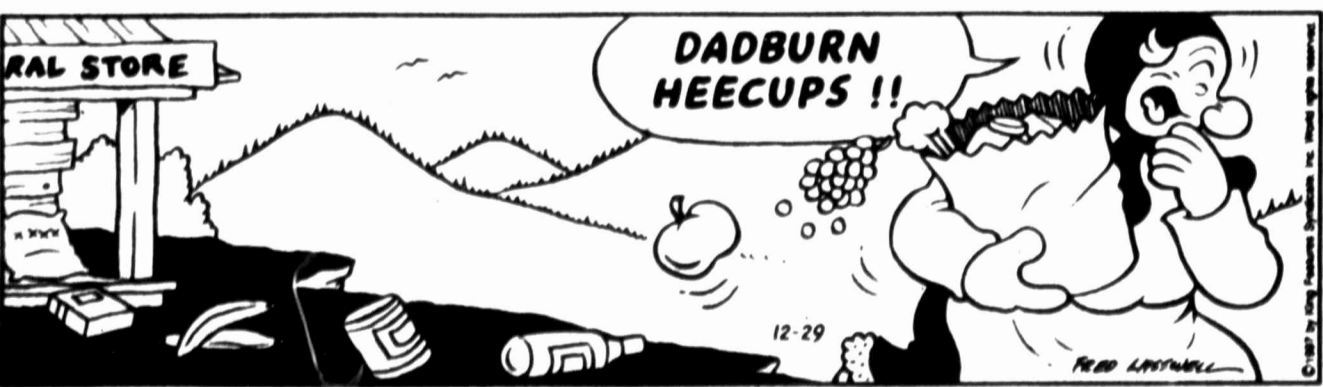
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GASOLINE ALLEY



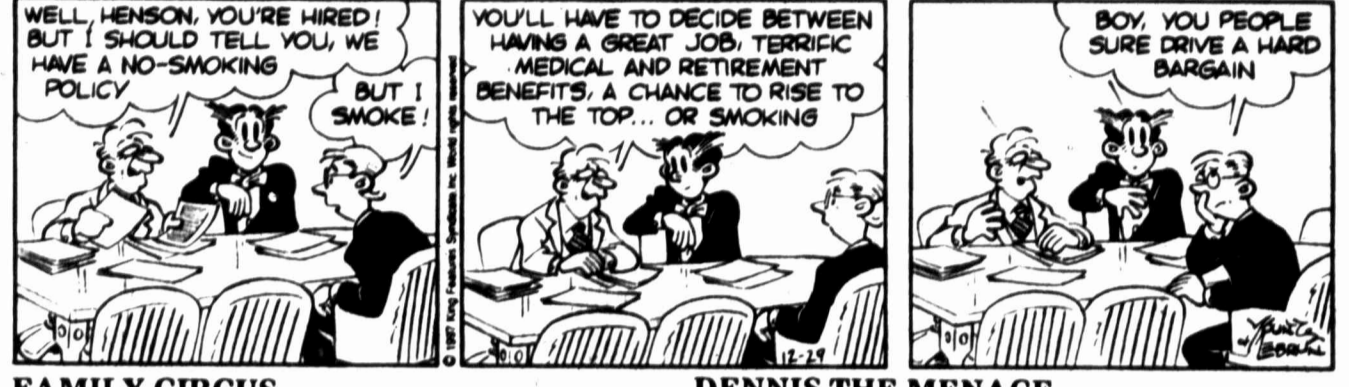
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



'You f'got one ornament, Mommy! It's the one I made in school.'

DENNIS THE MENACE



'I DIDN'T SPEAK TO HER BECAUSE SHE LOOKED LIKE SOMEBODY I DON'T KNOW.'

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

363rd day of 1997. There are two days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date: In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Answers to the crossword puzzle, including words like 'Snick', 'Sullivan and McMahon', and 'Phone opener'.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information: 915-263-7331, (Fax) 915-264-7205.

Historical notes and trivia including: In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.; In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812; In 1837, Canadian millitamn destroyed the Caroline, a U.S. steamboat docked at Buffalo, N.Y.; In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Assn. was organized, in Boston; In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them; In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930; In 1940, during World War II, Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on London; In 1957, singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas; In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people; In 1986, former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, of Britain, died at his home in Sussex, England, at age 92; Ten years ago: NASA delayed the planned June launch of the space shuttle - the first since the Challenger disaster - because a motor component failed during a test-firing of the shuttle's redesigned booster rocket; Five years ago: The United States and Russia announced agreement on a nuclear arms reduction treaty. Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello resigned. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo commuted the prison sentence of Jean Harris, the convicted killer of 'Scarsdale Diet' author Herman Tarnower. David and Sharon Schoo of St. Charles, Ill., were arrested at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago upon their return from vacation for leaving their young daughters at home, alone; One year ago: War-weary guerrilla and government leaders in Guatemala signed an accord ending 36 years of civil conflict. North Korea apologized for sending a spy submarine into South Korean waters; Today's Birthdays: Former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is 80. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 63. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 60. Actor Jon Voight is 59. Country singer Ed Bruce is 57. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 51. Jockey Laffit Pincay is 51; Thought for Today: 'The wise man must be wise before, not after.' - Epicharmus, Sicilian Greek comic poet (? - c.450 B.C.)