

Jury finds LIRR gunman guilty of 6 murders

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP) — In a courtroom packed with survivors of his attack and families of his victims, the man accused of gunning down six people on a commuter train listened impassively as the jury returned the verdict even he expected:

Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty.

A smattering of applause greeted the first guilty verdict Friday night, and the courtroom erupted in cheers when a handcuffed Colin Ferguson was led out by court officers. Jury foreman Delton Dove sat in the jury box, crying and clasping his arms.

Ferguson, who faces life in prison, will be sentenced March 20.

"I'm sure he's suffering now and that makes me feel good," said Robert Giugliano, a passenger who was shot point-blank in the chest but recovered to testify against Ferguson.

"I never want to hear his name

again," said Carolyn McCarthy, whose husband was killed and son Kevin crippled in the massacre. "He's not worth my thoughts. He's not worth my time."

Ferguson, armed with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol, walked down the aisle of a crowded Long Island Rail Road train on Dec. 7, 1993, firing randomly at commuters. He killed six and wounded 19; the killing spree ended only when Ferguson, attempting to reload, was tackled by passengers.

His legal adviser, Alton Rose, said Ferguson was "unfazed" by the verdict and surprised only by how long it took the jury to deliberate — about 10 hours.

The conviction ended an often surreal three-week trial in which Ferguson refused his lawyers' advice to plead insanity and instead conducted his own bizarre defense.

He claimed a white man stole his automatic weapon and opened fire while he slept; tried to subpoena President Clinton and ex-Gov. Mario Cuomo; and announced there was a murder conspiracy against him that was linked to the prison slaying of Jeffrey Dahmer.

His defense consisted of a single witness — a Nassau County homicide detective already called by the prosecution. In his closing argument, Ferguson accused the surviving victims of conspiring with police to implicate him.

All but two of the 19 surviving victims testified against Ferguson. The first person shot on the train, Maryanne Phillips, coolly told him during the trial, "I saw you shoot me" — a scene that was repeated over and over in the Long Island courtroom.

The parade of victims included Kevin McCarthy, whose father died in his lap on the train; Lisa Combatti, who was seven months pregnant when shot; and war veteran Thomas McDermott, who said the carnage was worse than anything he'd seen in Vietnam. Ferguson was convicted on six

murder charges, 19 attempted murder charges, two counts of weapons possession and a single count of reckless endangerment.

He was acquitted of 25 counts of civil rights violations, alleging he targeted the shooting victims because of their race.

"He did shoot white people, black people, Japanese people — he shot everyone. It wasn't racially motivated," said juror Fred Hecker. "He was against society; he hated everyone."

During the jury's closed-door discussions, Ferguson's pistol was placed at the center of the table.

After the verdict, juror Thomas Talbot said: "I sure wish there was a death penalty."

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Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The Pick 3 winning numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-4-0 (nine, four, zero)

Senior Center announces February birthday party

Senior citizens born in February are invited to celebrate their birthdays at the Senior Center's birthday party Wednesday. The party will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a performance of the Kitchen Band at 11 a.m.

Skip Bo will be the feature of the center's Game Day on Monday. Games will begin at 10 a.m. A Nine Ball pool tournament is also planned Monday morning.

Ron Shaw will be in the Center at 11 a.m. to give senior citizens details about a trip being planned to Branson, Mo. A minimum of 25 people will be needed for the trip, scheduled for May 15.

The Scurry County chapter of

the American Association of Retired Persons will meet in the center at noon on Monday.

Meeting in the center at noon Tuesday will be the Golden K Kiwanis Club. The club will hold a Fish Fry in the center on March 19 and invites the public to attend. Tickets are \$6 each and can be purchased from club members or at the center.

Hoss Clayton and his band will perform in the center at 11 a.m. Tuesday. The Sunshine Choir will go to Snyder Oaks Care Center for a program at 10 a.m. Friday.

A program on nutrition facts will be presented at 11:45 Thursday. The program will be a reminder to senior citizens of the importance good nutrition plays in maintaining their good health. Exercise is also an important part of good health and all senior citizens

are invited to participate in the modified exercise class held in the center at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. Senior citizens can have their blood pressures checked free of charge from 9:30-11 a.m. each Friday.

Senior citizens who need transportation to the center are invited to call the office at 573-4035. They will be picked up at their home and returned there. Transportation can also be arranged for those who need to keep medical appointments or run necessary errands.

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Bill McChilton, Managing Editor

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Chad Beaver garners first

Chad Beaver of Scurry County 4-H showed a first place medium weight European Crossbred in the Junior Steer Division at the 99th edition of the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show.

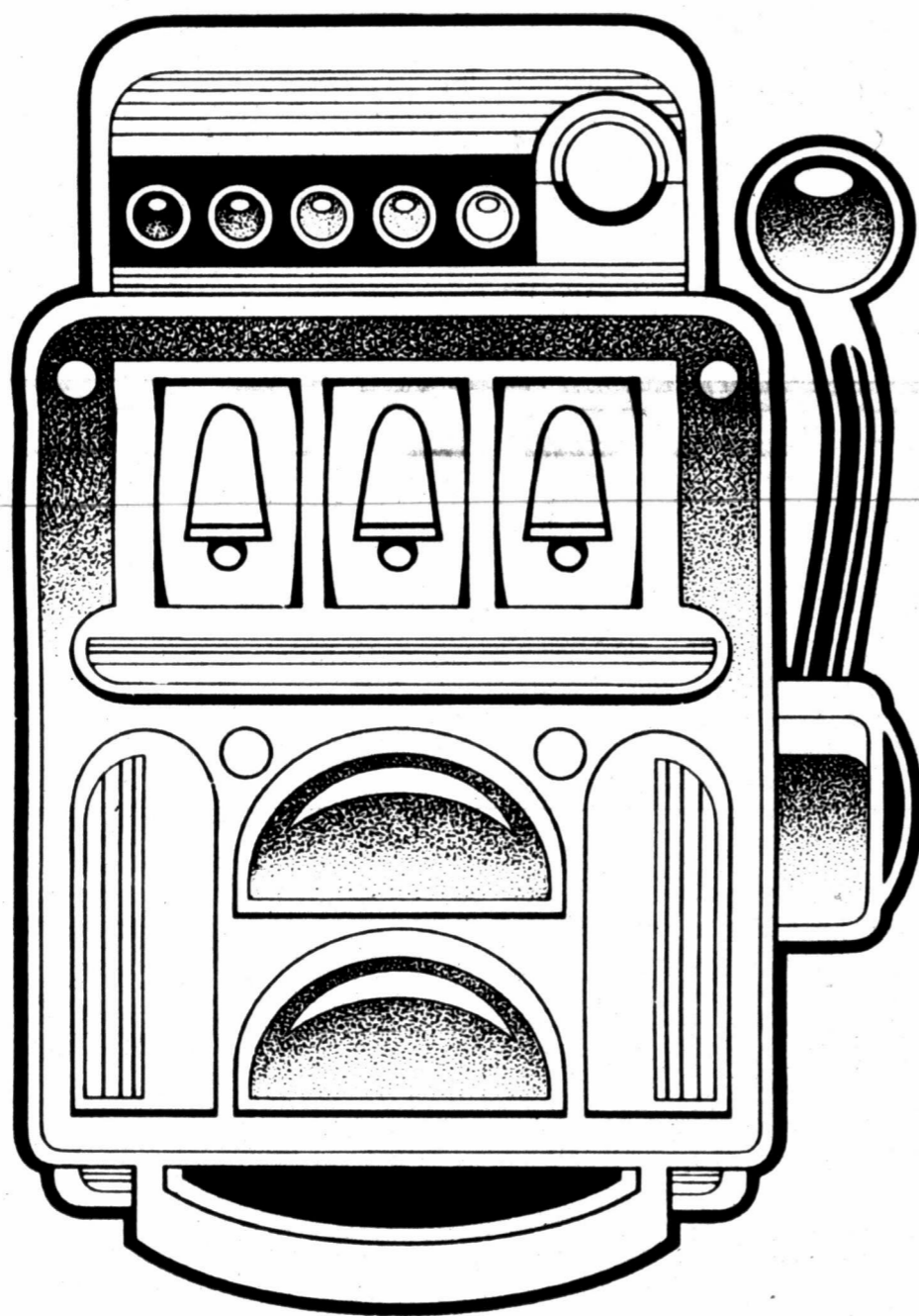
This outstanding event was judged by Randy Daniel of Colbert, Ga. The Stock Show's Junior Division posted a record 8,171 entries by the youth of Texas as the culmination of year-long agricultural educational projects in various areas of livestock production. Junior Show premiums exceeded \$56,600.

The Junior entry list is part of the overall count of more than 18,000 head of cattle, sheep, swine, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, goats, pigeons, and rabbits. The Stock Show, underway at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, continues through Sunday, Feb. 5.

Total prize and premium money at this year's show was in excess of \$650,000. In conjunction with the livestock events, the schedule also included 28 performances of the World's Original Indoor Rodeo, featuring a record 730 cowboy champions and challengers in the five major rodeo events.

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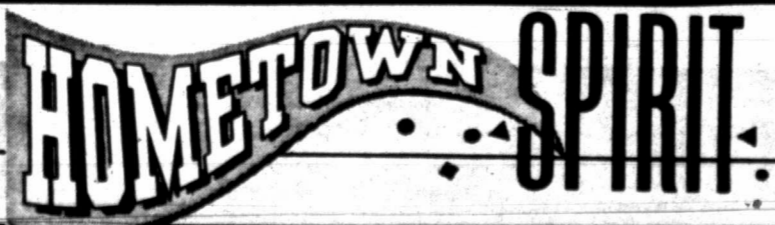
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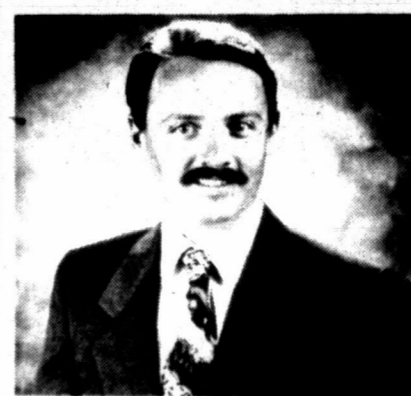


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CHELSEA MADDUX

Maddux said Texas winner

SAN ANGELO — Chelsea Maddux, granddaughter of H.E. Bone Maddux of Snyder and the late Jo Maddux, has recently been named the first place winner in Texas for the Letters About Literature contest, sponsored by Read Magazine and Weekly Reader Corp.

As the Texas state finalist, she will receive a cash award of \$100, which will be presented at a future date by representatives from the Texas Center for the Book at the Dallas Public Library.

Maddux's award will probably be presented in conjunction with the Texas Library Association Conference slated in April.

Her letter was written to Charles Dickens and will be considered for publication in "Dear Author," a collection of winning letters from students to authors to be published by the Conari Press in the fall of 1995.

More than 10,000 students entered this year's Letters About Literature Contest. National judges were the editors of "Read" magazine and the Weekly Reader Corp.

Maddux is the daughter of Ronnie and Patsy Maddux of San Angelo.

Fans may give up on baseball

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says he's "in a slump" on trying to settle the baseball strike but hasn't given up hope.

"They'll be playing to more empty stadiums if they don't settle it pretty quick," Clinton predicted. "The parties have a big stake in trying to resolve this. I mean, baseball is being hurt."

Clinton commented in an interview with ABC radio's Tom Joyner Thursday night. A transcript was released Friday.

The president said he was "in a slump, all right," over the baseball strike and disappointed that a White House meeting with players and owners produced no settlement.

"There's still a lot of kind of personal hard feelings... that's accumulated over the years that may be getting in the way," he said. "But I still have hope that it will be settled."

Clinton said that if the two sides miss the season, "they're going to hurt a lot of big cities who have invested massive amounts of money in trying to support their teams and helping to pay for stadiums."

"And along the way they're going to lose millions of more American fans who will just get fed up with it," he said. "So, I'm really hoping we can get this thing settled. I think it's in the interest of both the players and the owners. Otherwise, you're going to wind up losing the fans."



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Two to leave PBS

NEW YORK (AP) — Two of the Public Broadcasting Service's top programmers, including its first chief programming executive, have resigned.

Chief programmer Jennifer Lawson and her senior vice president, John Grant, said they will leave the service on March 10. PBS President Ervin S. Duggan announced their resignations Friday in a news release from PBS headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Both Lawson and Grant blamed their departure on Duggan's decision earlier this month to split PBS

into three operating divisions. "I've been here now for five years and it's been five wonderful years," Lawson said in a telephone interview. "I wouldn't even consider this, had not my role ... within the company changed."

Lawson became PBS' first chief programmer in 1989. During her tenure, PBS aired its two most-watched series, "The Civil War" and "Baseball" by Ken Burns. She also is credited with launching PBS' Children's Initiative, which nearly doubled PBS' preschool viewership.



COT GRADUATING CLASS — Seventy students completed the Correctional Officers Training Class of Western Texas College Wednesday. Instructor is Leonard Dodgen and Linda Proctor is the secretary. Graduates include Maria Alfaro, Snyder; Michael Alonzo, Snyder; Davis Anderson, Abilene; James Anderson, Abilene; Melinda Bailey, Snyder; John Berry Jr., Hamlin; Tammy Brewer, San Angelo; Jerry Brim, Snyder; Robbie Brown, Lamesa; Ronnie Bussey Jr., Snyder; Tracie Calvert, Snyder; James Cate, Abilene; David Chambers, Rising Star; Carson Clayton, Colorado City; Rachael Cook, Roby; Sharon Cornett, Sweetwater; Duane Craghead, Colorado City; Mitzie Cribbs, Snyder; Richard Daniel, Abilene; Clint Daniels, Hamlin; Byron Deal, Abilene; Lowery Deering, Knox City; Phillip Estep, Ralls; Jennifer Fallin, Roscoe; Stephen Faulkenbery, Snyder; Marc Flores, Anson; David Frazier, Hawley; Kathy Gann, Abilene; Ernest Garcia Jr., O'Donnell; Mitzie Gonzales, Abilene; Alfredo Guerra, Lamesa; Katina Hall, Hawley; Delaine Hansen, McCaulley; Terry Haws, Cisco; John Hernandez, Hamlin; Joe Hicks, Snyder; Christopher Hickson, Lorraine; Sandra Hoglan, Plainview; John Houston, Big Spring; Clifton Howard, San Angelo; David Iglesias, Lamesa; Edith Kerby, Snyder; Eliane Lackey, Abilene; Janet Lalone, Abilene; Bill Lane, Haskell; Micheal Lozano, Paducah; Gilbert Lujano, Winters; Andy Martinez, Welch; Anna McCanlies, Breckenridge; Christine McDowell, Ranger; Julie Miranda, Roby; Richard

Mooty, Colorado City; George Motley, Albany; Johnny Ogeda, Lamesa; Mario Ortegón, Roscoe; Barbara Parker, Seymour; Franklin Parsons, Lubbock; Richard Pate, Eastland; Charles Peterson, Snyder; Brad Poyner, Andrews; Eduardo Ramirez Jr., Sweetwater; Pepper Rickman, Lamesa; Guadalupe Rodriguez, Big Spring; Edward Rosas, Lorraine; Lezzulli Salazar, Lubbock; Jerry Salinas, Ralls; Jesus Sanchez, Winters; Lynn Schnabel, Abilene; Maricela Shields, Carlsbad, Tex.; Timothy Smith, Mesquite; Deborah Snow, Abilene; Kimberly Stewart, Winters; Paul Stewart, Hamlin; Billy Tabor, Lueders; Eddie Templeton, Abilene; A.Z. Thomas, Snyder; Mark Thompson, Snyder; Eddie Torres, O'Donnell; Toni Trent, Snyder; Kellie Vaerewyck, Seymour; Harley Vineyard, Hermleigh; Richard White, McCamey; Michael Whitfield, Gustine; Clifford Williams, Graham; and Kenneth Woodall, Knox City. (SDN Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

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Financial Focus

Mutual funds have become one of the most popular investments available. They were introduced in this country less than 70 years ago, and today investors can choose from more than 4,000 funds.

When you consider how well mutual funds in general have performed, it's easy to understand why they're so popular. For years, mutual fund shareholders enjoyed the benefits of a rising stock market. During that time, many mutual funds posted gains that are not likely to be repeated in the near future.

In 1994, however, the market stalled and began to consolidate. As a result, some mutual funds experienced sharp declines in value, and their shareholders, who had grown to expect regular increases, were surprised.

One reason many investors were surprised is that they didn't understand the investing parameters of their mutual funds. These are described in each fund's prospectus, which should be read thoroughly before an investment is made. Rather than reading the prospectus, though, many investors look for publications that rank mutual funds, hoping to discover the magic fund. However, these magazines seldom agree, because they each use their own criteria.

Investors also may seek answers from mutual fund advertisements. No-load funds market their shares to the public mainly through advertising. As the number of funds has increased, so has the number of advertisements.

To help investors better evaluate their mutual fund choices, the SEC recently approved mutual fund ranking guidelines proposed by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). The bottom line of these guidelines is that if a fund claims to rank first in a category, it must be able to prove the claim.

The guidelines should help protect investors from overzealous advertising. The new rules allow funds to promote themselves, but also require the funds to include standard information including sales charges and fees, what category the funds are in, how many funds are in that category, the period of time covered and more.

Mutual fund reporting requirements should help investors avoid being taken in by conflicting rankings and confusing jargon. Simple, understandable language that explains the risks and rewards of each mutual fund will help you avoid surprises and make it easier to select the right fund for your objectives.

Don't let taxes take a bite out of your lump sum distribution.

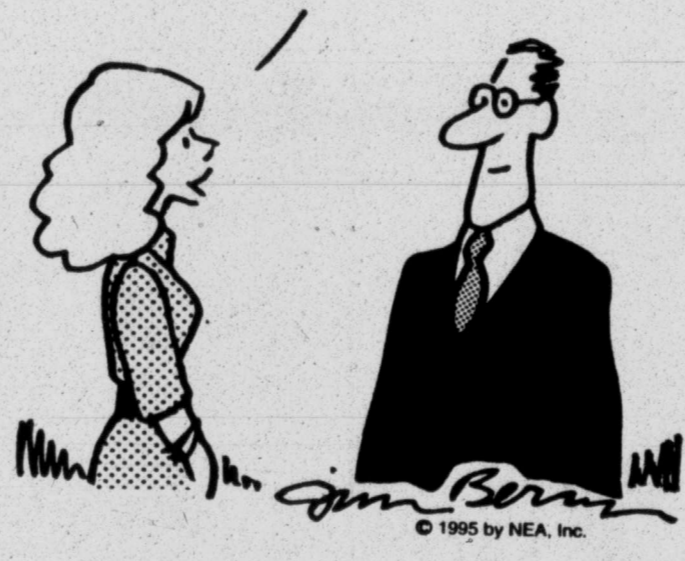
If you're scheduled to receive a lump sum distribution from a pension or profit-sharing plan where you work, don't let Uncle Sam take a bite out of it in taxes. By rolling it over into an IRA, you may avoid paying taxes on this distribution until you retire.

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- 1. Economize:** Become conscious of the amount of water you're using, and look for ways to use less whenever you can.
 - 2. Repair Leaks:** Most leaks are easy to detect and easy to repair with some basic know-how and a few simple tools.
 - 3. Install Water-Saving Devices:** There are many devices you can either buy inexpensively or make yourself, such as aerators, flow regulators, and displacement devices.
 - 4. Reuse Water:** Make the most of any water before you let it go down the drain.

Practicing water conservation can save you money on your utility bills, save energy and save the environment by helping ease the burden on water storage, purification, distribution and treatment facilities.

City of Snyder Utility Department

The Knock-Abouts will perform here Wednesday

The Knock-Abouts, including Terry and Cindi Knock, along with their children Jeremy, 9, and Rachel, 6, will present a concert of inspirational and Gospel music at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The program will consist of a variety of songs from both categories, some old and some new. The music of the Knock-Abouts is for people of all ages and includes a special kids section.

Everyone is invited to attend. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be received.



The Knock-Abouts...in concert Wednesday

1,500 attend bullfighter's wedding

CASTIBLANCO, Spain (AP) — O! More than 1,500 people showed up at bullfighter Jose Ortega Cano's wedding, and many were forced to watch from a large screen outside the small chapel. Ortega Cano married singer Rocío Jurado on Friday at the couple's estate near Seville. The couple met about three years ago in a doctor's waiting room.

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FBI investigation of Foster finished

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI completed its background report on President Clinton's embattled nominee for surgeon general Friday as Clinton pledged "to wage an all-out fight" to see Dr. Henry Foster confirmed by the Senate.

Press secretary Mike McCurry said the White House counsel's office was reviewing the FBI report on Foster and assembling other necessary paperwork, such as financial disclosure forms, to forward to the Senate.

He rejected suggestions the White House wanted to delay Senate hearings on Foster's nomination in hopes that opposition to the nomination would subside.

Clinton, in an interview with ABC radio's Tom Joyner, expressed hope Foster would surmount Senate opposition.

"I know a lot of people are trying to defeat him, but I think they basically have a political ax to grind," he said.

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SAVE A SWEET HEART — Members of the Snyder High School FFA had a "Save A Sweet Heart" program this week that encouraged everyone to sign a pledge that he or she would not use tobacco products for a year. Shown planning the project are, from left,

Lena Atkinson, Twylla Brown, Mrs. Carolyn Limmer, Becky Powell, Shanda Bowlin, Dena Atkinson and Heather Kirkpatrick. (SDN Staff Photo)

Murders will increase within decade

ATLANTA (AP) — The U.S. murder rate, already described by some as an epidemic, will increase sharply and lead to a "blood bath" within the next decade as the number of teen-agers grows, a researcher says.

Murders committed by children aged 14 to 17 have increased by 165 percent since 1985, said James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at North-

eastern University. That will surge even more as some 40 million young children mature into their teens, Fox said.

"Unless we act today, I truly believe we'll have a blood bath in 10 years when all these kids grow up," Fox said Friday at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "I'm not optimistic."

Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie

Mellon University called Fox's description "excessive," but agreed that America should brace for a spurt in the national murder rate.

"I do expect that as there are more people in the high crime ages, of 14 to 24, then the rates will go up," he said. "It will be a shift upward on the order of 10 percent."

Murder rates among teens actually dipped in the 1970s, but surged suddenly in the mid-1980s when crack cocaine — and the guns that came with it — became common on the streets.

"With the introduction of crack, there were far more drug transactions and the number of sellers expanded," Blumstein said. "If you're in the drug business, you have to carry a gun."

"The more guns there were, the greater the incentive for a kid to get one," he said. "Teen-age fights, which are inevitable, esca-

lated into shootings." Blumstein and Fox were on a panel of scientists presenting research into American homicides.

Another panelist, Douglas Lee Eckberg of Winthrop University, said that the United States has endured violent eras in the past. The current rate — about 50 murders per 100,000 people — is similar to those from the 1920s and 1930s, he said. Estimates put the homicide rates in 1800s even higher.

Despite billions of dollars spent by the government on social programs, the solution to widespread violence in American is still unknown, even by the experts, Blumstein and Fox said.

Fox said the government's concentration on correcting teenagers may be too little, too late.

"We need to invest in kids at age 6 or 7," he said. "If we wait until high school, then there is little we can do to reach them."

Shortages said to change what's on America's plate

ATLANTA (AP) — Energy shortages, exhausted land, scarce water and a doubling in population will combine to radically change the U.S. diet by the year 2050: Expect less meat and dairy, more grains and beans, and a sparser variety of vegetables.

A panel of experts said Friday that U.S. lands already are pushed nearly to the limit of production and crop yield increases are not going to keep up with a American population that will double within 60 years.

That means there'll be less meat and more potatoes, pasta and beans on dinner tables, the experts said at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

American agriculture depends heavily on oil, using about 140 gallons of petroleum for every acre of corn, and domestic oil wells will be sucked dry within 20 years, said Albert Allen Bartlett of the University of Chicago.

"The basis for our farm technology is largely petroleum," Bartlett said. "Modern agriculture is using land to convert petroleum to food."

When the domestic supplies are exhausted, the United States will be forced to import more expensive foreign oil, raising the cost of growing food and prices at the supermarket.

The United States now has about 1.8 acres of farmland per capita and grows enough to export \$155 worth of food per capita annually, said David Pimentel of

Cornell University.

But about 120 million acres of farmland will be lost to urbanization and erosion in the next 60 years while the nation's population doubles to 520 million, he said. To add to the problems, available water for irrigation is declining.

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21 LVN students receive caps or pins in WTC event

Twenty-one Western Texas College LVN nursing students were recognized Thursday evening either by being pinned or capped in ceremonies at Trinity United Methodist Church. Robert Adams, history instructor at WTC, was the featured speaker. Also on the program, WTC President Harry Krenck of-

ferred both the invocation and the benediction.

Bettie McQueen, dean of instruction, gave the welcome; and Melanie Smith, choir director at Snyder High School, provided music.

Diane Edard and Carol Watkins, nursing instructors, handed out the certificates. After the graduation, a reception was held in the fellowship hall.

Nurses capped, which qualifies them to take their state board exams to become licensed vocational nurses, included Tamatha Kimmel, Leigh Ann Mott, Roger Powell, Melody Sargent, Mary Kate Simmons and Drennan Webb, all of Snyder.

Others were Gayle Duke and Shawna Speck of Rotan and Shannon Allen of Gail.

Students who completed the first half of LVN school pinned at the ceremony included Debbi Black, Donna Bolton, Ryan Byrd, Georgina Carr, Kristy Lovelace and Linda Tippens of Snyder.

Others were Charla Rains of Hermleigh, Pat White of Ira, Joanna Hargrove, Lisa Johnson and Robin Walls of Colorado City, and Jayland White of Big Spring.

Investigations into deaths set

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army plans four separate investigations into the exposure deaths of four soldiers during rigorous Ranger training in a Florida swamp.

Preparation for the toughest combat assignments "will never, never be risk-free" and there has been no apparent increase in training accidents generally, Defense Secretary William Perry said Friday. "Nevertheless, we look at them very carefully."

The Army has ordered four separate investigations into the tragedy — the worst in the 44-year history of the Ranger training program.

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CAPPED — These Western Texas College nursing students were "capped" Thursday in ceremonies at Trinity Methodist Church, completing a 12-month cycle of instruction at the local college. The group is now eligible to take their state board exams to become licensed vocational nurses. Pictured are (back row, from left) Leigh Ann Mott, Snyder; Shannon Allen, Gail; Tamatha Kimmel, Snyder; Mary Kate Simmons, Snyder; Roger Powell, Snyder; (front row) Drennan Webb, Snyder; Melody Sargent, Snyder; Gayle Duke, Rotan; and Shawn Speck, Rotan. (WTC Photo)



PINNED — Pinning ceremonies Thursday honored Western Texas College LVN students who completed the first six months of their studies. Students pinned at the ceremony were (back row, from left) Georgina Carr, Snyder; Donna Bolton, Snyder; Jayland White, Big Spring; Linda Tippens, Snyder; (middle row) Charla Rains, Hermleigh; Ryan Byrd, Snyder; Joanna Hargrove, Colorado City; Debbi Black, Snyder; Kristy Lovelace, Snyder; (front row) Lisa Johnson, Colorado City; Pat White, Ira; and Robin Walls, Colorado City. (WTC Photo)

The Uniform Code of Military Justice is composed of the laws covering members of the U.S. armed forces.

Citizens cheer shooting vandals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — William Masters was out on a midnight walk when he ran into two men spray-painting graffiti on a freeway underpass. He says he planned to report them. He ended up shooting them.

Masters claims he reached into his fanny pack for his 9mm handgun and fired at the men, killing one and wounding the other, only after he was threatened with a screwdriver. The survivor says he may have looked menacing but didn't mean to threaten Masters.

Prosecutors declined to charge Masters with murder, sparking outrage among the Hispanic community. Relations were further strained when Masters, on his release from jail, referred to the victims as "Mexican skinheads." The dead man was Hispanic, the survivor is of Middle Eastern descent.

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Astrograph By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 19, 1995

You have great potential for improving your financial conditions in the year ahead. However, before reaching your desired bottom line, you might suffer a setback or two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It might be necessary to work around a few roadblocks today. If your first plan isn't feasible, replace it with another one immediately. Aquarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, NY 10163. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) For a joint endeavor to go smoothly today, everyone involved must meet the group's expectations. One slacker could ruin the operation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Establish the pace and the rules yourself instead of leaving it up to associates or companions today. Rely on your initiative, not theirs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Something urgent may arise today concerning your work or career. It will turn out to be more manageable than you thought, so keep a cool head and don't panic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Do not let anyone take the control of a critical matter out of your hands today and delegate it to someone else. Hold the reins tightly on this one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Prepare to compromise today if you and your mate disagree about sensitive issues. It will be up to you to find the middle ground.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not let it be

DATE BOOK

Feb. 18, 1995

Today is the 49th day of 1995 and the 60th day of winter.



TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1930, the planet Pluto was discovered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: George Peabody (1795-1869), merchant-philanthropist; Jack Palance (1920-), actor, is 75; Helen Gurley Brown (1922-), author, editor, is 73; Toni Morrison (1931-), novelist, is 64; Cybill Shepherd (1950-), actress, is 45; John Travolta (1954-), actor, is 41; Matt Dillon (1964-), actor, is 31.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1990, Derrike Cope, winless in 86 Winston Cup races, captured the Daytona 500 trophy. Dale Earnhardt had led the race for 499 miles but blew a tire with just two turns to go, allowing Cope to stage the biggest upset in NASCAR history.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Such strains as would have won the ear / Of Pluto, to have quite set free / His half-regain'd Eurydice. / These delights, if thou canst give, / Mirth, with thee, I mean to live." — John Milton

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1990, Washington, D.C., experienced its only dry weekend (along with the day before) in the 17 weekends between February and May.

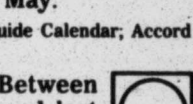
SOURCE: 1995 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Feb. 15) and last quarter (Feb. 22).

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Feb. 19, 1995

Today is the 50th day of 1995 and the 61st day of winter.



TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1919, Paris hosted the first Pan African Congress.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), astronomer; Stan Kenton (1912-1979), musician; Eddie Arcaro (1916-), jockey, is 79; Carson McCullers (1917-1967), writer; Lee Marvin (1924-1987), actor; John Frankenheimer (1930-), director, is 65; William "Smokey" Robinson (1940-), singer-songwriter, is 55; Amy Tan (1952-), author, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1994, American Bonnie Blair skated her way to her third straight Olympic championship in the 500-meter speed skating event, setting a record with a time of 39.25 seconds.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "As if seated upon a royal throne, the sun rules the family of planets as they circle round him." — Nicolaus Copernicus

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1884, an outbreak of tornadoes and winds raked the Southeast from Missouri to Virginia, hitting rural areas hardest and causing about 185 deaths.

SOURCE: 1995 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Feb. 15) and last quarter (Feb. 22).

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said that you're unwilling to help others if there isn't something in it for you. Put friendship before profit today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take time to carefully study any proposals which look like exceptional bargains today. If you don't, you'll end up with a lot of sizzle but no steak.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Although you are normally tolerant in a certain arrangement, today you could be a stern disciplinarian if everything doesn't go your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Any impediments or restrictions you experience today will probably be of your own making. Try not to let self-defeating thoughts put you behind the eight ball.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have a good chance of fulfilling your plans today, but take care not to use tactics that others might find deceitful or disingenuous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) In order to achieve your goals today, you'll have to be thick-skinned and ready to cope with setbacks. Treat life's victories and defeats philosophically.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Feb. 20, 1995

Friends and acquaintances could play constructive roles in the year ahead, so try to participate in as many social activities as possible. The more people you know, the greater your opportunities will be.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Do not impose your views on your friends today, especially if your comments are of a religious or political nature. They already have core beliefs. Major changes are ahead for Pisces in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, NY 10163. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Even though you may not be mindful of details today, you'll have the capability to achieve most of your objectives. Strive to do the best you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Anything newsworthy you accomplish today will not go unnoticed by your associates, so don't toot your own horn. Modesty becomes you, bragging does not.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Before appointing yourself as an instructor today, make sure you know what you're talking about. Misinformation at this time could create severe problems.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your family should be your first priority today, so don't let others who feel they have a claim on your time and talents lead you astray.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep your ego under control today when dealing with companions. Instead of bickering over who is right, give others a chance to prove their points.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might hear some interesting gossip about a friend early in the day. Although you'll be tempted to tell someone else, let the

story stop with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Occasionally you overanalyze a situation to an extreme. Today, however, you'd be wise to review every aspect before rendering an important financial decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Although you might be quite competent to handle large, complex problems today, watch out for the details. The little things might trip you up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Pride might be your biggest impediment today. Do not feel ashamed to seek advice from a friend who may have the answers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Try to avoid putting yourself in the position today of having to borrow from a friend who is not known for his/her generosity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Resist the temptation to use a new tactic in business matters if you've never tested it. There is a chance it needs more polishing.

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Hacker can't have telephone

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The FBI's most-wanted computer hacker can't get at the tool he needs most for his computer piracy: a telephone.

Kevin Mitnick, who is jailed without bond, may use the telephone to speak to his lawyers, his mother and his grandmother. But marshals or jailers must place and monitor the calls, U.S. Magistrate Wallace W. Dixon said Friday.

Mitnick, 31, was arrested Wednesday in Raleigh and charged with computer fraud and illegal use of a telephone access device. He is accused of cracking security on some of the nation's most protected computers.

Prosecutors say Mitnick commandeered cellular phone circuits to raid corporate computer systems and steal information worth more than \$1 million, including at least 20,000 credit card numbers.

He was arrested in Raleigh, N.C., with the help of Tsutomu Shimomura, a researcher at the San Diego Supercomputer Center and one of Mitnick's alleged victims.

Prosecutors say Mitnick commandeered cellular phone circuits to raid corporate computer systems and steal information worth more than \$1 million, including at least 20,000 credit card numbers.

He was arrested in Raleigh, N.C., with the help of Tsutomu Shimomura, a researcher at the San Diego Supercomputer Center and one of Mitnick's alleged victims.

"He was not very difficult to catch," Shimomura said. "The same tools he used to snip networks are the tools we used to monitor him and catch him. From what I've seen he does not have a whole lot of technical expertise. Primarily, he's persistent."

While Mitnick is considered one of the best hackers, networks are concerned about the hundreds of others who also get thrills breaking into computers.

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NBC drops foreign ownership complaint against Fox network

WASHINGTON (AP) — NBC put an end to a regulatory feud with the rival Fox network, withdrawing a complaint challenging the emerging network's ownership structure.

The action, announced Friday, will not affect a separate Federal Communications Commission investigation into Fox's ownership because the network is not a party to that case, Richard Cotton, NBC's general counsel, said in an interview.

NBC said it dropped the petition because the company had succeeded in doing what it had intended to do: turning up the regulatory heat on Fox and persuading the FCC to re-examine its foreign ownership rules and national ownership limits.

NBC also said the feud was interfering with business and political dealings with Fox.

For one thing, negotiations had been broken off several times with Fox's parent, News Corp., for carriage of two NBC program services on a satellite TV system serving much of Asia, News Corp. officials said.

News Corp. now has an agreement in principle with NBC to carry CNBC Asia and NBC Super Channel Asia on the Star TV system, which is received by hundreds of millions of people, a News Corp. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday.

Citing common political interests in pending telecommunications reform legislation, NBC officials said it makes more sense to work with Fox in Washington rather than fight.

"We believe it is now appropriate to seek withdrawal of our petitions and for us to cooperate with Fox on other matters of mutual interest," said NBC President Bob

Wright.

News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch agreed. "With NBC's withdrawal, News Corp. looks forward to working together with NBC and other networks to seek elimination of outdated broadcast regulations and to the resumption of normal business relations with NBC," he said.

Last week, the FCC opened proceedings to consider making it easier for foreign companies to invest in U.S. broadcast stations and telecommunications companies.

By law, a foreign company or individual is not allowed to own

more than 25 percent of a broadcast station unless the FCC finds that it is in the public interest.

NBC also said it plans next week to withdraw petitions contesting the acquisition of nine TV stations, including NBC affiliates, in deals involving Fox and an affiliate, SF Broadcasting.

The stations are: WTXF, Philadelphia; WFXT, Boston; KDVR, Denver; WLJK, Green Bay, Wis.; WVUE, New Orleans; KHON, Honolulu; KAIH, Wailuku, Hawaii; KHAW, Hilo, Hawaii; and WALA, Mobile, Ala.

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'Days' named top soap opera Friday

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "Days of Our Lives" won six awards, including favorite show, and Deidre Hall, who plays the passionate psychiatrist Marlena Evans, won best lead actress at the 11th annual Soap Opera Digest awards.

Nominees in 17 categories were chosen by editors of Soap Opera Digest, except for the "hottest male and female stars" and "hottest soap couple," which were based on viewer mail.

Other awards handed out Friday night went to "Days" cast members Jason Brooks for outstanding villain, Drake Hogestyn as hottest male star, Robert Kelker-Kelly and Lisa Rinna as hottest couple and Louise Sorel as female scene stealer.

Tom Eplin of "Another World" was named outstanding lead actor.

"General Hospital" earned four acting trophies and a special award for head writer Claire Labine. Jonathan Jackson was named outstanding child actor,

Brad Maule won supporting actor, Kristina Wagner won hottest female star and Rena Sofer was named younger leading actress.

The "Editor's Award" was presented to Labine in recognition of contributions to the field of continuing drama.

Other winners were: Brooke Alexander, "As the World Turns," female newcomer; Keith Hamilton Cobb, "All My Children," male newcomer; Roger Howarth, "One Life to Live," younger leading actor; Kimberlin Brown, "The Bold and the Beautiful," villainess; Signy Coleman, "The Young and the Restless," supporting actress; and Michael E. Knight, "All My Children," male scene stealer.

The magazine's readers were asked to choose from a list of three nominees per category in all but favorite show category, which included all the current daytime serials.

Actor John Larroquette co-hosted the event at the Beverly Hilton hotel.

Divorce risk rises when available people around

NEW YORK (AP) — Warning: The area you live in may be hazardous to your marriage.

The risk of divorce or separation goes up for young couples if they live in an area with plenty of unmarried and available men or women, a new study finds.

That suggests many husbands and wives keep an eye out for a better partner, said researcher Scott J. South.

The more possibilities they see, the better the chance of finding someone worth leaving a marriage for, South said Friday.

He said he assumes unhappy marriages are especially vulnerable, but that he could not rule out some effect on people quite satisfied with their marriages who happen to meet the partner of their dreams.

South noted that a national

survey found that about 15 percent of ex-wives and ex-husbands said they had been romantically involved with somebody outside the marriage before getting divorced.

Since either spouse can cause a divorce, the result suggests that at least 30 percent of divorces occur after one spouse has started an affair, South said.



PRINCE, PRINCESS — The Children's Day Out Valentine Prince and Princess named this week at First United Methodist Church include Dylan Bunch and Nicole Means. (Contributed Photo)



KING, QUEEN — The Children's Day Out Valentine King and Queen named this week at First United Methodist Church include Austin Calley and Allison Cox. (Contributed Photo)

Sheriff's dispatcher killed when DPS trooper swerves to miss cow

BONHAM (AP) — A Department of Public Safety trooper swerved to miss a cow on Texas Highway 78 early Saturday and careened into a tree, killing a Fanjin County sheriff's dispatcher who was in the car with him.

The dispatcher, Gaddis Capps, suffered head and internal injuries. He was taken to Northeast Medical Center in Bonham and then transferred to a hospital in Sherman, but died.

The car was being driven by DPS trooper Brad Oliver of Windom, who was responding to a backup call on a chase that involved a driver suspected of driving while intoxicated, officials said.

The accident occurred about 1:30 a.m. about five miles north of Bonham.

Forty minutes later, another

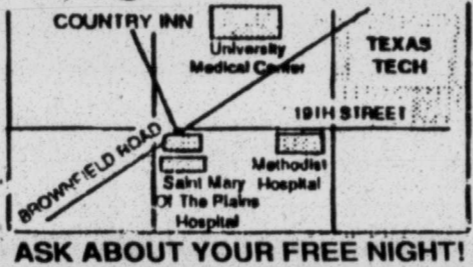
fatal accident occurred one mile south of Bonham on Texas Highway 121. The victim was identified as Joseph Glenn Walton of Dodd City, which is near Bonham.

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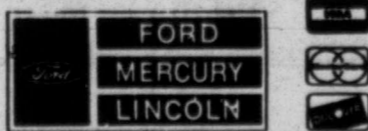
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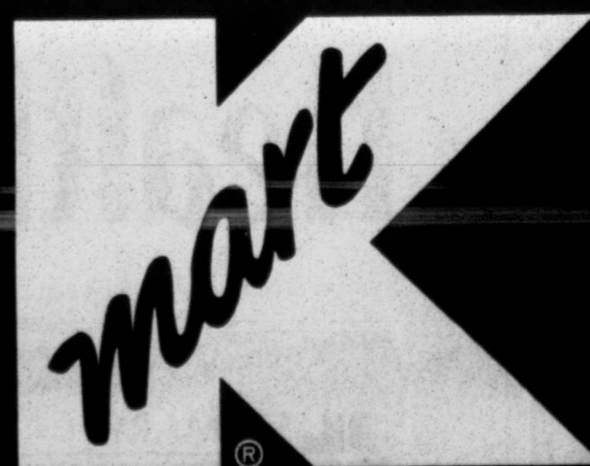
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Scurry County Folks

By Shirley A. Gorman

Foreign exchange students visit in county

Scurry County usually hosts at least one foreign exchange student per school year. The 1994-1995 school year is an exception as four are currently residing with local families.

Three are seniors at Snyder High School and another is a senior at Hermleigh High School.

Steve and Kim Krueger recently welcomed Gina Bark into their home. Her visit will extend through July 5 and was arranged through the American Intercultural Student Exchange program. Lannie and Loretta Lee and their children, LaTrisha and Lyndell, are the host family for Marichka

Trach of the Ukraine. She is here courtesy of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Marichka joined the Lee family in January, after spending the first semester with Mike and Rebekah Thornton and their children.

Martin Miotto of Ecuador is staying with the Tim and Kandy Bolding family. His visit was arranged through the Youth Exchange Service.

Katarina Mijailovic of Yugoslavia is staying with Clarence and Mary Spieker of Hermleigh. The International Education Forum Inc. has arranged her visit.

This is the second time the

Spiekers have hosted a foreign student. Two years ago, Christof Probst of Germany spent the 1992-1993 school year with them. His visit was privately arranged.

Kim Krueger said she and her husband decided to apply to AISE because "we have always enjoyed the foreign exchange students in Snyder and wanted one of our own."

Last summer, the Kruegers visited Emma Skold, a former visitor to Snyder, in Sweden.

They learned of the American Intercultural Student Exchange program through Trish Burdett of Midland, former Snyder resident

who now places foreign visitors in the area through AISE. Skold stayed with the Burdetts when they lived here.

Gina, a native of Sydney, Australia, is the first foreign visitor the Kruegers have hosted, but they could not be happier with their student. Steve is a teacher and trainer at the high school and Kim teaches a second grade class at Stanfield.

The Kruegers and Gina have enjoyed a trip to San Antonio where they toured sites such as the River Walk, plus area shopping excursions and trips and to the movies.

Both Kim and Gina will accom-

pany Steve and the high school choir on their upcoming tour to Florida. Every two years, the choir participates, and, among other engagements, performs at Disney World. The two women are paying their own way.

"Gina is delightful," Kim added. "We are learning a lot from her."

Gina calls the people in Snyder "fantastic and friendly."

At Snyder High School, she is involved with the school newspaper, drama, track and tennis. She is also studying economics and U.S. history.

She is enjoying her time at SHS,

though she recently noted a few differences between high schools in the two countries.

In Australia, academics are strongly stressed and students are usually under pressure to get good grades. Since university education is free, admission is based on grades, and only those who achieve certain grades will be allowed to advance or study a particular field.

For instance, Gina said she missed out on being accepted into the law program by .02 percent. She will choose another area of study when she returns home.



FROM ECUADOR — Martin Miotto from Ecuador is staying with the Tim and Kandy Bolding family in Snyder. (SDN Staff Photo)



FROM YUGOSLAVIA — Katarina Mijailovic, visiting from Yugoslavia, is shown relaxing in the home of Clarence and Mary Spieker, her host couple in Hermleigh. (SDN Staff Photo)



FROM THE UKRAINE — Marichka Trach from the Ukraine is shown working a jigsaw puzzle, a favorite pastime. The visitor from the Ukraine, is staying with the Lannie Lee family. (SDN Staff Photo)



FROM AUSTRALIA — Gina Bark recently arrived from Australia and is living with Steve and Kim Krueger. Summer plans include traveling in Europe and Israel. (SDN Staff Photo)

The SDN Section B
SUN., FEB. 19, 1995

DISCOVER
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New this fall, *The Birds of Texas*, by John L. Tveten, brings hundreds of birds to life in beautiful color.

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This is not a field guide—the book's entries are full-length and packed with facts on bird behavior and natural history as well as identification tips. But its unique organization, according to birds' appearance and habitat rather than hard-to-see scientific details, makes it easy to use. And experienced birders will appreciate the intelligent, informative text by noted naturalist John L. Tveten.

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Scurry County Folks Continued from page 1B

Scurry County families host foreign exchange students

Though Gina said she wants to "get a good degree behind me," her ultimate goal is to become a writer. She is considering study-

ing psychology. Though tougher, Gina said Australian schools encourage students to "think for themselves."

She said they often study works of literature that are considered controversial here. Students attend primary school

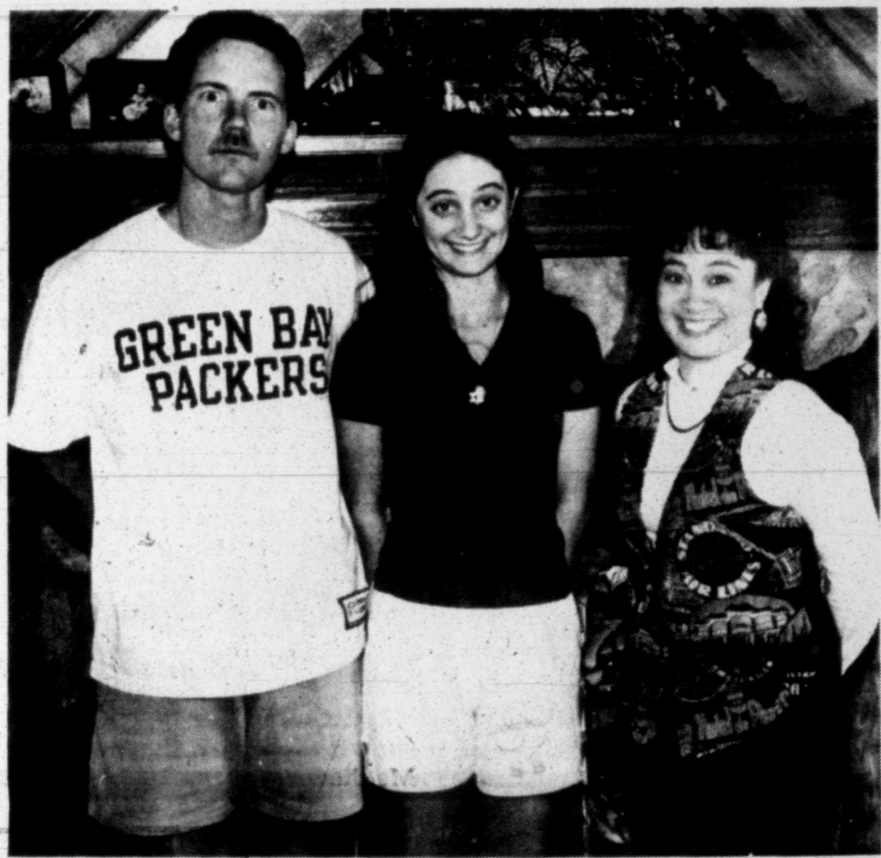
horseback riding. Students are also classified by grade number rather than a name like senior, she explained.

chose to come to the U.S. instead. All of her friends were surprised to learn that she would be living in Texas.

turn here in the fall where she will enroll at Western Texas College. Katarina said her classes here have been easier than she expected.



Lannie and Loretta Lee, shown standing in left photo, and their children, LaTrisha, front row left, and Lyndell, are host family to Marichka Trach, center, this semester. During the fall semester, the visitor from the Ukraine lived with the Mike and Rebekah Thornton family. Katarina Mijalovic, shown left in the top right photo, is spending the 1994-1995 school year in Hermleigh with Clarence and Mary Spieker. She is from Yugoslavia. Steve and Kim Krueger, shown in the bottom right photo, are the host couple for Gina Bark, center, who recently arrived from Australia. (SDN Staff Photos)



She believes traveling will help her develop as a person. Her philosophy is "if I put my trust in destiny I can never go wrong."

Gina's father is a computer consultant and her mother is a pharmacist. Gina loves her homeland and misses her family and friends, all of whom she is close to. She has an older brother who is 20, a younger sister, 13, and a younger brother, 8.

She is used to a large household as her grandparents and cousins also live with her family.

Marichka, too, comes from a large city — population 750,000. In the Ukraine, schools already follow block scheduling which Snyder High School will implement in the fall. Their schools only have 11 grades.

She is enjoying her classes here, especially drama, where she has tried out for one-act play. Organized sports are not offered at Ukrainian schools. The state operates special schools for individual sports or other areas like music for students who want to specialize.

Marichka has taken part in the Rotary arranged trip which included sites in Texas. This summer, she will visit points in the Eastern part of the U.S.

She has studied English for several years and while a member of the International Club in her country she exchanged letters with U.S. pen pals.

Since she was acquainted with several students who visited in the U.S., her dream for two years was to come to America. Though she was "scared and had second thoughts," she said her family insisted she go through with her plans. Marichka is glad she followed their advice and said she has been too busy to become homesick, but she does miss her only sibling, a sister who is 14.

After she returns home, Marichka will continue her schooling, perhaps in the economics field, but she hasn't decided.

Marichka shares the Lee home with LaTrisha, a sophomore, and Lyndell, a sixth grader.

It's been somewhat of a big change for LaTrisha, who has never had to share a room before; but basically, she and Marichka "get along like sisters."

Lannie is the local police chief. The Lees said they chose to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program because he is a member of the organization.

Loretta, a speech therapist at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, said they think of Marichka as another member of the family, even when it comes to chores.

The Lees have taken Marichka to area towns for visits and shopping excursions and are planning a trip to San Antonio if it does not conflict with a Rotary sponsored ski trip for all foreign exchange students in this area.

For Thanksgiving, Marichka accompanied the Lees on their annual holiday celebration to Kerrville State Park.

Loretta particularly enjoys meal time because that is the one time they can all get together. She said they are learning a lot about Marichka's homeland.

In her spare time, Marichka loves to work jigsaw puzzles.

Katarina's trip to the U.S. was a long one, encompassing three days and several flight changes as well as other public travel modes, but the succeeding months have made it all worth while.

She will visit her parents in Yugoslavia this summer and then re-

turn here in the fall where she will enroll at Western Texas College. Katarina said her classes here have been easier than she expected. In Yugoslavia, she studies 15 subjects on a rotating basis. One day is reserved for science classes while another will be all language arts. One week she attends only morning classes and the next week all classes are conducted in the afternoon.

She has been studying English since the fifth grade. Several students from her school are also studying in the U.S. That was a motivating factor in her want to come here. Also getting a chance to improve her command of English prompted Katarina to sign up for the foreign exchange student program in her school.

In Hermleigh, she is a member of the Beta Club and recently attended a club convention in Fort Worth.

She has visited the Waco area with her host family, spent Thanksgiving in Dallas and plans a trip to San Antonio.

Perhaps the biggest "culture shock" she experienced here was language, she said. The food has been similar, including McDonald's.

She has a sister, Jelena, who is two years younger. She said they miss each other and talk on the phone often.

Her dad is a civil engineer and her mother is a lawyer.

Two years ago, the Spiekers hosted Christof Probst from Germany. They met Christof's older brother while living in New Castle, later arranging Christof's year-long visit with them.

The summer before last, the Spiekers visited the Probsts in Germany and this summer he and his family are planning to visit here.

The Spiekers say they learn a lot from their foreign exchange students and especially enjoy their "lively discussions."

Speiker, principal at Hermleigh for the past five years, is a former coach at the school. Mary teaches science. She has also worked at Cogdell Memorial Hospital as a registered medical technologist.

They have a son, Mark, who lives in San Angelo and a daughter, Michelle Ozmun of Atwater, Calif.

OKBG, 100, seeks oldest overalls

The company that started its life making bib overalls for railroad workers and farmers wants families to search their attics and trunks to find the oldest pair of its adult or children's overalls in existence.

OshKosh B'Gosh, now one of the top producers of children's wear, was founded in 1895 as the Grove Manufacturing Company and produced a "J&C" brand (after the owners, J. Howard Jenkins and James G. Clark) overalls. The company assumed its current name in 1911.

Design clues to early models are buttons or fabric striping with the "J&C" lettering, buttons with steam engines, or shoulder straps with slim, W-shaped hooks, says Heidi Hansen, researcher at the Oshkosh Public Museum in Oshkosh, Wis.

When found, the oldest overalls will be on loan for one-year exhibit at the museum. The owner will get cash or merchandise in return for the loan.

Deadline for the search is May 31. For more information, contact OshKosh B'Gosh Public Relations, 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901.



Shown: Mi Amor with Golden Tribute Crystal by Noritake

Our Bridal Registry

... and how it works for you

The engaged couple register their preferences in china, crystal, flatware and giftware.

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Couples currently in our registry:

- April Blair and Robert Romero, Jr.
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- Sonya Huisman and Steve Huisman
- Amy Lancaster Rodriguez and Steve Rodriguez
- Melissa Hernandez and Marcelino Aquirre
- Amber Adams and Perry Crafton
- Melissa Hodges and Eric Olson
- Rebekah Williams and Sidney Franklin
- Magdalena Aquirre and Pablo Jaimez
- Melanie Bennett and Stephen Sullenger
- Denise Merritt and James Koonce
- Annette Williams and Charles Al Barrineau
- Stacy Botts and Tim Derryberry

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during their early years and then transfer to a high school. Some teachers teach from notes rather than textbooks.

Students often get to work at their own pace, with guidance from a teacher. Gina chose this method for math and biology. This much independence is somewhat unusual, but Gina said she "pushed for it."

She said students in Australia "bond" during their school years because they work so closely together for several years. The grades each makes reflects on the class as a whole, she noted, and that can increase the pressure.

Though it is exciting for them to go on to the next stage in their lives, she said the waning days of their last year together can be difficult because they know they will soon be saying good-bye.

The last time she and her classmates were all together as a class was for the formal prom.

In Australia, sports are not a part of curriculum but are played after school. Students have a variety of activities or clubs to choose from. Gina particularly enjoyed

Twelfth graders in Australia are allowed more freedom and privileges than the younger students. For instance, a semi-private "common room" is reserved for them. Teachers don't usually come into this room except to write something on the blackboard.

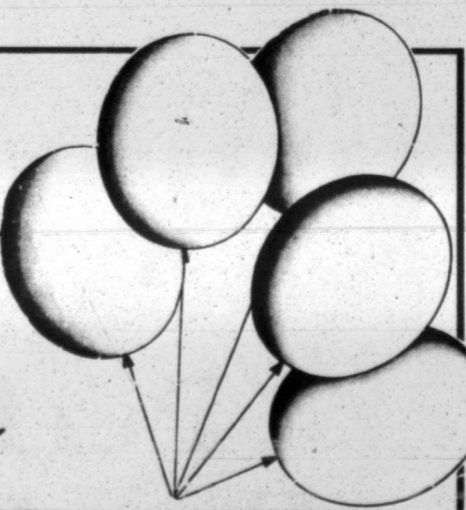
The common room contains a refrigerator and comfortable furniture. It is a good place for 12th graders to study or relax between classes.

Growing up in Sydney, which has a population of 2 1/2 million people, Gina appreciates the chance to live in a smaller town like Snyder. In July, she will tour Europe and Israel with friends before coming back to the U.S. for another visit. When she returns she will have her best friend with her.

Gina said she is able to do more traveling, because money that would normally pay her university expenses can be applied to travel instead.

Since she was seven, Gina said she had always wanted to go to France, but as she is planning to visit France this summer, she

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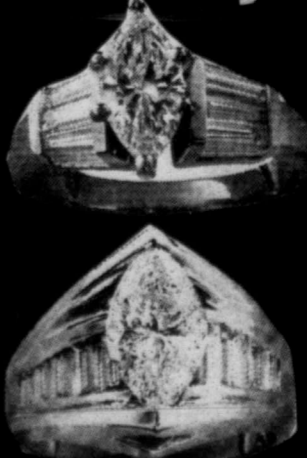
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APRIL VOWS SET — The children of Rose M. Constancio of Snyder are announcing the engagement and upcoming marriage of their mother to Marcus A. Jalomos, son of Isidro and Apolonia Dela Rosa of Del Rio. The couple will marry on April 16. (Contributed Photo)



MARCH NUPTIALS — Max and Roberta Warford of Clyde and Carol and Jimmie Siddall of Odessa announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Lou Ann Adams of Clyde and Keith Siddall of Snyder. They have set March 11 as their wedding day, at 6:30 p.m. in Odessa. The officiating minister will be Don Fankhauser, youth pastor of Antioch Christian Church in Odessa. (Contributed Photo)



JUNE MARRIAGE PLANNED — Mr. and Mrs. Courtney King of Snyder announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Joellen Kay, to Jackie Vernon Qualls, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Qualls of Abilene. Both are attending Abilene Christian University where Joellen is majoring in biology with plans toward physical therapy. Qualls is a Bible major. A June 3 wedding is set at East Side Church of Christ in Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge By Phillip Alder

NORTH 2-18-95			
▲ J 9 7 4			
♥ 10 9 8			
♦ Q			
♣ K J 8 6 3			
WEST			
▲ 6 3			
♥ Q 7 3 2			
♦ A J 10 9 6 5			
♣ A			
EAST			
▲ A 5			
♥ J 6 5 4			
♦ 8 4 3 2			
♣ 10 7 2			
SOUTH			
▲ K Q 10 8 2			
♥ A K			
♦ K 7			
♣ Q 9 5 4			
Vulnerable: North-South Dealer: East			
South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ▲	2 ♦	2 ▲	3 ♣
4 ▲	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♣ A			

with the spade ace and gave his partner a club ruff. The diamond ace was the fourth defensive trick.
Don Yarmy is better known as Don

Adams of "Get Smart" fame, which has just been reincarnated on the Fox network.
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Snyder Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

Dot Casey directed games for Friday, Sunday and Tuesday of the Snyder Duplicate Bridge Club at the Snyder Country Club.

FRIDAY

Ten tables.

N-S

1. Ena Carroll, Sue Mize.
2. Dora Blakey, Charley Blakey.
3. Maribeth Vestal, Jane Hinton.
4. Johnnie Vandever, Mary Bast.

E-W

1. Anita Talbott, Mal Stevenson.
2. Polly Ballard, Verdi Kimbro.
3. ElWanda Nall, Lucille Joyce.
4. Rube McKinley, Tizzy Hall.

SUNDAY

Four tables.

Keep luster on leather

NEW YORK (AP) — Leather may be water resistant, but it's not indestructible in heavy rain or snow.

If your leather jacket gets wet, let it air dry away from direct heat. If a white film appears after it dries, don't worry. This "spew" is the skin's natural oil rising to the surface. Remove it by rubbing the leather with a piece of chamois.

Schott Bros. of Perth Amboy, N.J., a manufacturer of leather outerwear, recommends that leather coats be treated with a stain repellent and water repellent before they are worn. If the garment is pre-treated at the factory, follow manufacturer's instructions.

1. Rube McKinley, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Dora Blakey, Charley Blakey.
3. Jane Hinton, Margaret Birdwell.
4. Nona Morrison, Polly Ballard.

TUESDAY

Five tables.

1. Jane Hinton, Billisue Stuard.
2. Louise Thompson, Ann Davis.
3. Frances Stevenson, Mal Stevenson.
4. TIE: Dot Casey, Rick Hall and Polly Ballard, Barbara Yorgesen.

Rx for thin skin

NEW YORK (AP) — Thin skin is more than a euphemism for touchy feelings. In reality, the thinnest skin is around the eyes, on the neck and on the hands. Thus all three areas require special care.

Eye protection should be a daily routine for both men and women. Creams with vitamins A and E and natural oils work best, according to Sylvie Hennessy, developer of Pevonia Skin and Body Care products.

The neck, area of second-thinnest skin, should be included in the daily moisturizing and protecting routine for the face. Hand protection should also be daily and year-round even when hands don't feel dry. Hands also should be protected from the effects of the sun year-round.

Enter partner's mind

The final bridge player of the week who operates under a pseudonym is Don Yarmy. By what name do we know him?

Signaling is a difficult but vital part of defense. You want to give partner the right information. But will he always be confident you know what he needs to know? Sitting East on today's deal was a young Australian player, Avon Wilsmore. He averted disaster with a thoughtful signal.

Defending against four spades, with which club should East signal at trick one?


You might not like East's three-diamond raise, particularly with no honor in the suit. But he had to consider the possibility of a profitable sacrifice given the prevailing vulnerability.

Many players would drop a discouraging club two at trick one. Yet it is wrong. Clearly, partner has led a singleton ace or from A-x. If the former, do you foresee the danger? At trick two, partner is likely to lead a low diamond, playing you for the king. As you don't have the king, you must signal with the club 10.

If partner has a doubleton club, he will treat this as a come-on signal and lead another club, which is fine. If he has a singleton, though, he will read the 10 as a suit-preference signal for hearts.

And that's what happened. Wilsmore's partner switched to a heart at trick two. Wilsmore won trick three

I CARE

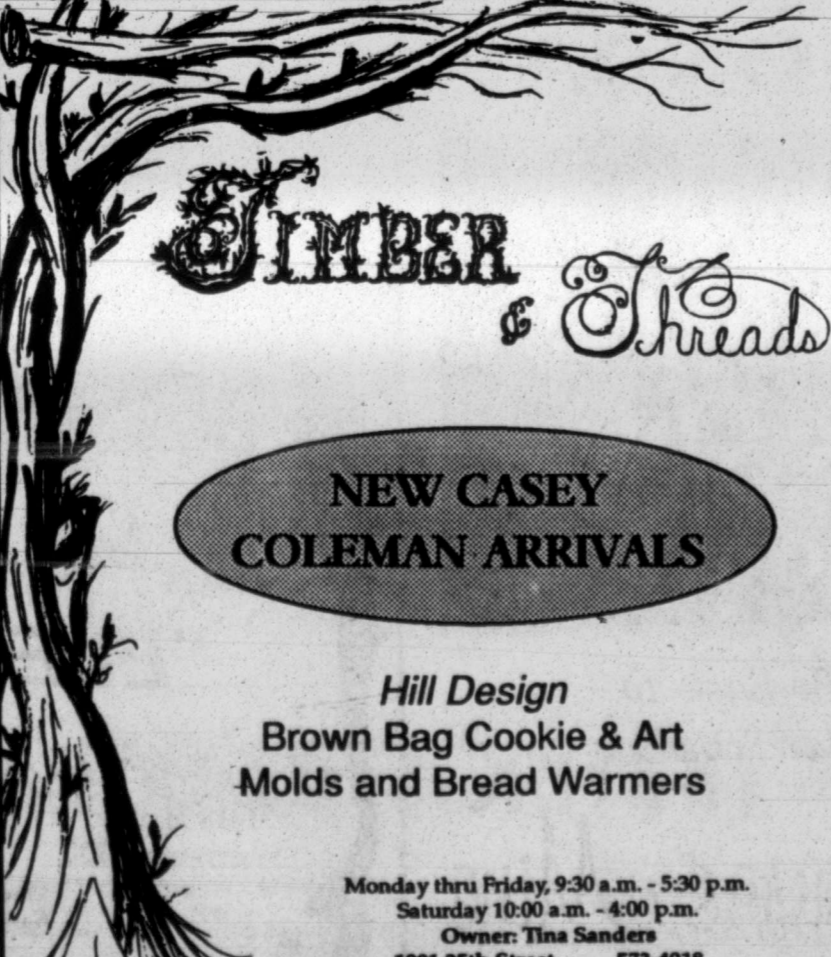


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Club furnishes tray favors

Patchwork Squares members answered roll call with "the teacher or person who had the greatest influence on your life" at a meeting held Feb. 13 in the family center of 37th St. Church of Christ.

Group discussion followed on ways to lend positive influence or assistance to local teachers and students.

Attending were new member Sherry Claxton, Dorothy Campbell, Frieda Dever, Ruby Clark, Cleo Clare, Sharon Wemken, Katrina Wemken, Mary Terrazas, Dycie Kemp, Kerri Williams and her children, Aaron, Shayne and Matthew.

Bride & Groom Registry

Marika Sittton & David Clark	Denise Merritt & James Koonce	Amy Lancaster & Steve Rodriguez
April Blair & Robert Romero, Jr.	Melissa Hernandez & Marcelino Aguirre	Melanie Bennett & Stephen Sullenger
Joy Harveson & David Harveson	Rebekah Williams & Sid Franklin	Sonya Huisman & Steve Huisman
Deone Farmer & Brent Knight	Stacy Botts & Tim Derryberry	Amber Adams & Perry Crafton
		LaFon Daniel & Glenn Daniel
		Magdalena Aguirre & Pablo Jaimez

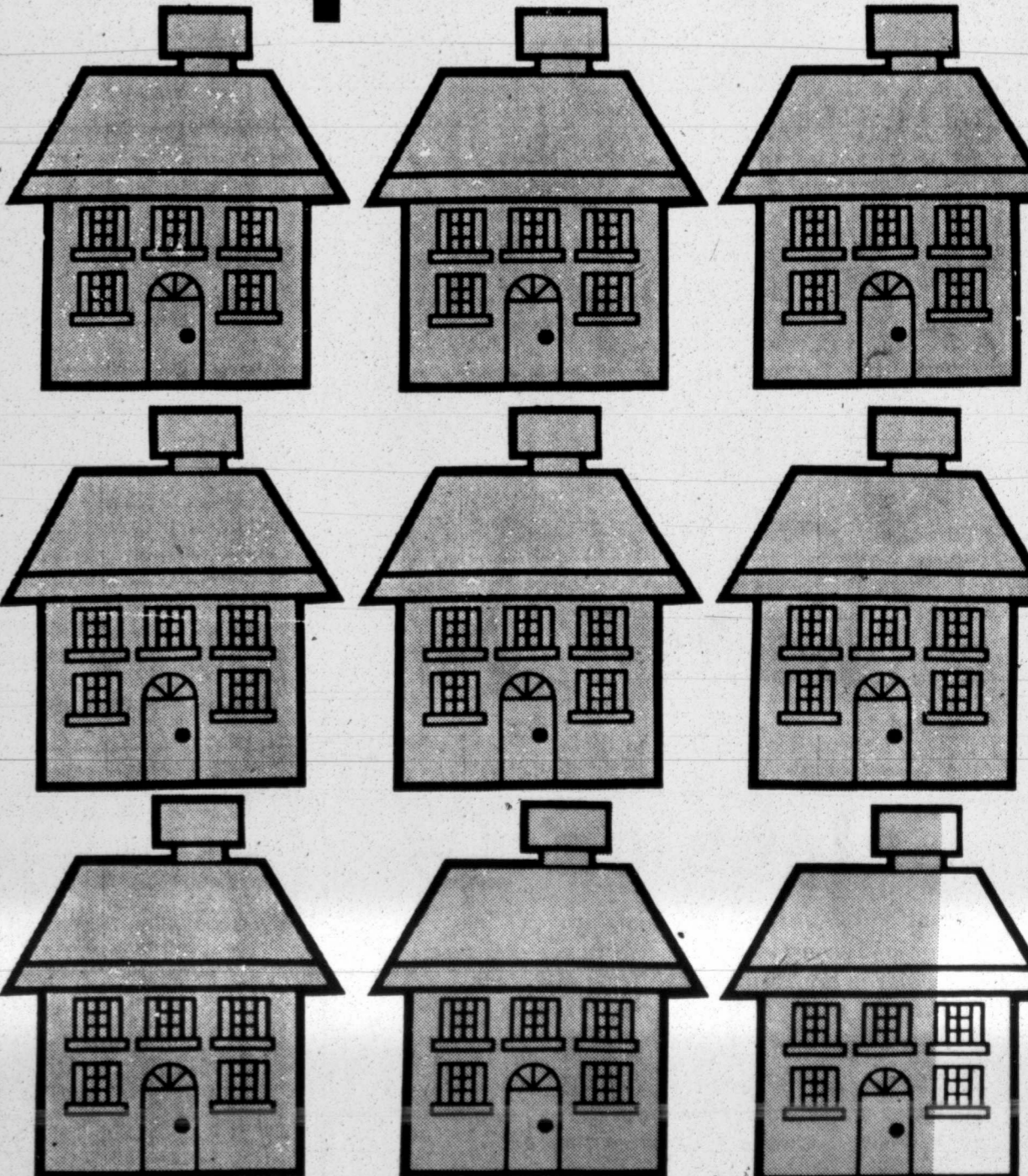
Infant Registry

David & Lisa Tate
Clay & Emily Jacobs Shower March 4
Elizabeth Ann daughter of Sidney and Nancy Brunson

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Snyder Daily News



ADN GATHERING — Prospective students attended an Accelerated Associate Degree Nursing (RN) information session Feb. 10 at Cogdell Memorial Hospital. From Howard College, instructor Velma Clay and director of nursing Jose Rheinscheld, led discussion and answered ques-

tions. From left are Melissa Ray, Roxana McDonald, David Henson, Sam Dennis, April Velasquez, Michelle Hunter, RN liaison Becky Stewart, Clay and Rheinscheld. (SDN Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Women desire individual look

By The Associated Press
It's not what you wear but what you wear with it that gives your outfit its individual look:

Handbags

Bags that don't overwhelm the wearer are included in the soft nubuck Sonoma collection from Coach. An elegant but unassuming classic shoulder flap bag, a bucket zip, a drawstring and a backpack come in weather-resistant leathers which drape like fabric and are dyed in muted tawny colors called bramble, sage, sand, chamois and spruce.

Also hardy and classic are the waterproof Cedar collection bags from Timberland. The nubuck bags, many trimmed with contrasting smooth leather, feature backpack, drawstring and shoulder bag designs. Colors are muted: tan, chestnut, black, sand and antique loden.

Shoes
People who need shoes that are comfortable but dressy enough for

most workplaces might choose skimmer flats in various designs and colors from Dexter. Both Meredith and Chris designs feature decorative topstitching; the latter also has leather weave. Dexter also has plenty of sandals for summer wear, including its versions of cross- and buckle-strap classics.

The evolution of the sandal has taken it into the realm of the athletic shoe. Flojos come in both closed and open-toe designs and feature heavy lugged rubber tread.

Eyewear

Almost 150 million American adults wear prescription eyewear, and of these, 81 percent wear glasses, according to the Vision Council of America.

Even with the ophthalmologist's prescription in hand, choosing eyeglasses can be a bewildering experience, especially since you'll expect to wear them every day. Dealers participating in YICA's

"Envision Yourself" program can help you pick the right ones by analyzing facial shape, skin tone, hair color and lifestyle.

Nikon, best known for cameras and other optics, recently introduced a line of eyewear. Most of the frames are metal, in trendy and classic designs, and feature the company's borosilicate glass lenses — clear, tinted, and polarized for sun and sport.

Snyder School Menu

BREAKFAST MONDAY
Holiday

TUESDAY
Breakfast Pizza
Assorted Cereal w/Toast
Grape Juice
Milk

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast Taco
Assorted Cereal w/Toast
Fresh Oranges
Milk

THURSDAY
Cinnamon Roll
Assorted Cereal w/Toast
Fresh Apples
Milk

FRIDAY
French Toast Sticks w/Syrup
Assorted Cereal w/Toast
Orange Juice
Milk

LUNCH TUESDAY
Cheeseburger
Corn Dog
Lettuce & Tomatoes
French Fries
Cookie

WEDNESDAY
Chicken Nuggets w/Gravy
Salisbury w/Brown Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Fudge Brownies
Hot Rolls

THURSDAY
Nachos Grande
Frito Pie
Refried Beans
Fruit Gelatin
Corn Bread

FRIDAY
Lasagna w/Garlic Toast
Chef Salad w/Crackers
Buttered Corn
Fresh Peaches

Three 'Rs' for arthritis sufferers to remember

HOUSTON — Arthritis sufferers can control joint pain if they have access to a pool and remember the "three R's": relaxation, range of motion and resistance.

"Regular exercise can be better than medication for many people. Pool therapy is good for working sore joints because body weight is supported by water," said David Brennan, an assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The first step — relaxation — is as simple as easing into the pool, tensing the muscles and slowly relaxing them several times.

The second "R" — range of motion — involves slowly rotating and flexing the joint or joints needing exercise. This part of pool therapy sometimes requires the help of a professional therapist to determine if the arm or leg is moving correctly.

"Because of pain or lack of mobility, some people with arthritis

are not able to move an arm or leg the way it once did," Brennan said.

Resistance, the third "R," builds muscle strength around the joint by increasing the speed of underwater movements. Strap-on devices that capture more water with movement can create greater resistance. Some high-tech pools can provide additional resistance by creating stronger underwater currents with jets or paddles.

A typical pool workout should last about 30 minutes, longer if the patient can also do some light swimming or deep-water running for a cardiovascular workout.

Brennan says a heated pool is better for arthritis therapy because warm water aids movement and decreases pain. The ideal temperature is between 88 and 90 degrees. Higher water temperatures may affect the cardiovascular system and limit the workout. Colder water increases pain.

The key to successfully using the "three R's" to reduce arthritis pain is to progress through them slowly. Since movement in the water appears easy, some people, particularly the elderly and the obese, can overdo it, Brennan said.

Senior Citizens Menu

- MONDAY**
German Sausage
Sauerkraut
Scalloped Potatoes
Tomato Wedges
Chocolate Pudding
- TUESDAY**
Country Fried Steak
Cream Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Chopped Broccoli
Jellied Vegetable Salad
Bread Pudding
- WEDNESDAY**
Beef Stew
Fried Squash
Cucumber-Onion Salad
Corn Bread
Fruit Salad
- THURSDAY**
Baked Chicken
Potato Salad
Pinto Beans
Lettuce & Tomato Salad
Pineapple Flop Cake
- FRIDAY**
Fried Fish
Whole Kernel Corn
Tomatoes w/CROUTONS
Pea & Cheese Salad
Apple Turnover

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Sat., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hermleigh School Menu

BREAKFAST MONDAY
Juice
Buttered Grits
Toast
Milk

Toast & Jelly
Milk

WEDNESDAY

Juice
Cinnamon Coffee Cake
Milk

THURSDAY

Fruit
Pancake Pups
Milk

FRIDAY
Student Holiday

MONDAY

Barbecued Franks
Mashed Potatoes
Fried Okra
Hot Rolls
Apple Cobbler
Milk

TUESDAY

Beef Stroganoff
Buttered Corn
Glazed Carrots
Hot Rolls
Fruit Bars
Milk

WEDNESDAY

Pinto Beans
Au Gratin Potatoes
Corn Bread
Chilled Peaches
Milk

THURSDAY

Chopped Barbecue on Bun
Tater Tots
Relish Cup
Rice Krispie Bars
Milk

MAWC elects officers, plans future events

Election of officers was held at the recent Martha Ann Woman's Club board meeting and several fund-raisers were discussed.

Officers for next year include Christy Thompson, president; Doris Spikes, vice president; Linda Walton, second vice president; Gussie Gray, recording secretary; Jane Crenwelge corresponding secretary; Katy McKenzie and Frances Denman, co-treasurers. Serving on the activity committee with Walton will be Margaret Drum, Jan Harrell and Francine Noah.

Upcoming activities begin with the Feb. 22 Game Day/Luncheon. The luncheon, \$6.50 per plate, will begin at 11:30 and is open to those who may not be able to stay for games throughout the afternoon.

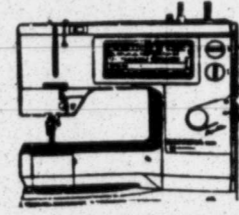
The Ritz performances of "Broadway Review" will be held at the clubhouse. The show will run Feb. 24-26 and March 10-12. Two Saturday shows, Feb. 26 and March 11, will be dinner theatre performances.

A garage sale is being planned for April 7 in the front yard at the clubhouse. Two luncheons have been planned, April 16 Easter luncheon and May 14 Mother's Day Luncheon, catered by Shirley McMillan. A smoking area has been designated for guests.

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AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I STILL CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT...

HE'S ALOOF BUT I'M ALONE

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BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce

I'VE GIVEN UP HAVING AN INVENTED MIDDLE NAME FOR MYSELF! INSTEAD, I'M JUST GOING TO GET RID OF MY LAST NAME!

NO MORE NATE WRIGHT! FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE KNOWN BY MY FIRST NAME ONLY: "NATE"!

MY CARD.

"NATE."

NO, NO! SAY IT IN BOLD-FACE! "NATE"!!

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Barney Google and Snuffy Smith® By Fred Lasswell

I LOST \$2.00 IN TH' CARD GAME!!

DON'T CRY OVER SPILT MILK, HONEY POT

IT WAS YORE BUTTER AN' EGG MONEY!!

DON'T SQUAWL OVER SPILT MILK, HONEY POT

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ROBOTMAN® by Jim Meddick

WHAT THE...? OH MY GOD!

HEY, I FINALLY FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CHEERIOS REBATE OFFER!

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BLONDIE® by Dean Young and Stan Drake

WOULDN'T THAT BE EASIER IF YOU GOT AT IT FROM UNDERNEATH?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE USING A BOX WRENCH INSTEAD

AHHHH-H!!

ACTUALLY, THIS WORKS BETTER ON HUSBANDS THAN IT DOES ON PIPES

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ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

VERY URGENT PRIORITY... THAT'S MOST UNUSUAL!

WELL, SINCE I'D PLANNED TO TAKE YOU TO MEET HIM ANYWAY, SUPPOSE WE GO AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

SUITS ME!

GOODBYE, ALLEY OOP!

SO LONG, TWILLA! SEE YOU LATER!

YOU LOOK KIND OF WORRIED, LEFFER BEN!

I AM, ALLEY OOP! THE DIRECTOR HAS NEVER BEEN URGENT ABOUT ANYTHING BEFORE!

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GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

BEFORE GETTING A DIVORCE... DID YOU AND WARREN EVER THINK ABOUT GOING ON A SECOND HONEYMOON...

SURE...

...BUT THEN I FIGURED, WHY THE OVERWHELMING URGE...

...TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

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POP CULTURE™ by Steve McGarry

The sons of a farmer who played dobro and fiddle in a bluegrass band, David and Howard Bellamy hit the number one spot in 1976 with "Let Your Love Flow." Three years earlier, Jim Stafford had sold two million copies of his version of David Bellamy's "Spiders and Snakes."

1. What was the 1979 chart hit for The Bellamy Brothers?
2. "Let Your Love Flow" replaced which Johnnie Taylor smash at the top of the charts in 1976?
3. Jim Stafford married which chart-topping artist in 1978?

Answers: 1) "I Said You Had a Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me?" 2) "Disco Lady" 3) Bobbie Gentry

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T SLEEP ON MY SWEATERS.

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BEATTIE BLVD.® by Bruce Beattie

"He must really be into those video games... He wants to be paid in quarters."

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Freshwater fish
 - 7 Filled with wonder
 - 11 Breathe in
 - 12 Celtic language
 - 14 Earlier
 - 15 Genus of ants
 - 16 Hesitation sounds
 - 17 Eye layer
 - 19 Unusual
 - 20 Changed
 - 22 Military acronym
 - 25 Dr.'s field
 - 26 Wedding words
 - 29 Downy duck
 - 31 Food
 - 33 Beginnings
 - 35 Grabs
 - 36 Born
 - 37 — jongg
 - 38 California wine valley
- DOWN**
- 1 Alpine wind
 - 2 — about
 - 3 — the Boss?
 - 4 Cooling device
 - 5 Part of the small intestine
 - 6 Daring
 - 7 Part of a circle
 - 8 Mysterious
 - 9 — Kett of the comics
 - 10 Entrance
 - 12 Decorated with glass pieces
 - 13 Compass pt.
 - 18 Caught in a net
 - 20 Shake —!
 - 21 Work on text
 - 22 Vast period of time
 - 23 Metal strand
 - 24 Dog in Garfield
 - 26 Actress Chase
 - 27 Profound
 - 28 Greek peak
 - 30 Long narrow opening
 - 32 Type of shell or stand
 - 34 Household linen
 - 39 Road worker's cone
 - 40 Ceremonies
 - 41 Uncanny
 - 42 Coarse wool
 - 43 Mustard plant
 - 44 Askew
 - 46 Raise
 - 47 Arrow poison
 - 48 Capri, e.g.
 - 50 Chemical ending
 - 52 Rear of a ship

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DOERS	DODGE
ECLAIR	EDWARD
PEDDLE	PALLED
OLE	DEWEY
TORS	DER
TSAR	EGRESS
TUN	NET
REE	EEE
EVADED	KRIS
WRAP	DES
ERG	ALCAN
LAURIE	PERILS
STEAMS	SETTEE
HARES	DEEDS

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"I'm going home. There's a limit to roughing it!"

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DENNIS THE MENACE

"IT'S EASY TO FORGIVE DENNIS, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET HIM."

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Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren
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South Texans seeking defense installations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just weeks before the Pentagon issues its list of recommended base closings, more than 100 South Texans swarmed to the nation's capital to put on a defense of their area's military installations.

Members of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, comprised of community leaders and others interested in saving the area's bases, were in town Thursday to make their case.

After arriving on a chartered flight, the Texans had lunch on Capitol Hill with some members of the House Armed Services Committee. They received a briefing from the staff director of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the independent panel that will decide which bases to shutter.

After a tour of the Pentagon and a meeting with a high-ranking Navy official, the South Texans toured the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and then went to a swanky evening reception hosted by Texas GOP Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison. Also hosting the event were South Texas Democratic Reps. Solomon Ortiz and Kika de la Garza.

"I think that by them being here, it created a very positive impact among members of Congress and especially among members of the Armed Services Committee," said Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi.

The region of concern to the group includes Kingsville Naval Air Station, Naval Station Ingleside, Corpus Christi Naval Air Station and Corpus Christi Army Depot.

The South Texas effort is just one of dozens occurring among communities nationwide seeking to defend their installations as the Pentagon prepares for its fourth round of base closings.

Defense-rich Texas, with 19 military facilities, thus far has been spared much of the pain meted out in the earlier rounds.

By March 1, the Pentagon must recommend to the base-closings commission which facilities it is

willing to see closed. From that list and any other bases it may wish to weigh for closure, the commission will prepare its own hit list. The commission's recommendations must be accepted or rejected in their entirety, without amendment, by the president and Congress later this year.

"It looks very positive," Ortiz said of the South Texas bases' chances in the upcoming round. "Of course, there are a lot of rumors circulating like every time we have a base closure commission."

New area codes having problems

NEW YORK (AP) — You can't dial there from here.

Many businesses in Washington state and Alabama are having trouble receiving phone calls since new area codes were introduced last month.

The Wall Street Journal, reporting on the problem Friday, said many business callers trying to reach these area codes failed to get through. A recording instructs the caller to check the number and try again.

The new codes, 360 in western Washington and 334 in Alabama, are the first in the country not to use a one or zero as the middle digit.

The problem appears to be rooted in the automated switchboards, known as PBXs, used by many companies to expedite phone calls, the newspaper said. PBXs are programmed only to dial codes with a one or zero in the middle.

For the new area codes to work, the PBX switchboards must be upgraded or replaced at a significant cost, the paper said.

The telephone companies introduced the new codes after the boom in fax machines, modems and cellular phones consumed the pool of available area codes, the paper said.

More regions will get new area codes this year, including Los Angeles, Denver and Tampa.

Wife Not Ready for Divorce Hopes Love Will Find a Way

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago, after a 30-year marriage, my 59-year-old husband suddenly announced that he didn't love me anymore, and moved out. I had known for some time that something was wrong, but no matter how hard I tried to "fix it," nothing worked. My once warm and loving husband became cold and indifferent.

We have three grown children who never gave us a minute's trouble. We're both professionals and have never had financial problems, although we are far from wealthy.

To my knowledge, he's not involved with another woman, although he admits he had a brief affair with a much younger woman four years ago. He is very concerned about his age, and loves to be told how "young" he looks. He refuses to be called "Grandpa." He quit going to church several years ago. The only thing he cares about is his golf game.

I don't want a divorce, and he doesn't care whether we get one or not. I'm seeing a counselor, and am learning how to handle his rejection. He refuses to consider counseling. Our children are urging me to get a divorce.

I still love him, Abby. My counselor tells me to get on with my life, but in my heart I believe he still loves me. I don't know where to turn. What do you advise?

HIS WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Since you still love him and don't want a divorce, don't allow yourself to be talked into one.

Continue with your counseling, and should you change your mind about divorce, you can always file for one. You appear to have a good head on your shoulders. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, you have held that all children should be treated equally when it comes to leaving them an inheritance.

I disagree. I would be inclined to be more generous to one who needed financial aid at the time.

I have one daughter who had cancer and needed a lot of financial help over a period of several years. (Thank God, she recovered.) My other children understood, and never questioned the fact that I did more for her than I did for the others.

It's not possible to treat all grown children equally. Some are more ambitious, talented or luckier than their siblings. It makes more sense to help the child who needs it most at the time — regardless.

FAIR IS FAIR IN PRINCETON, N.J.

DEAR FAIR IS FAIR: I agree

that because life does not always present equal challenges to siblings, the amount of help each needs may not be identical. Your daughter's situation illustrates that.

However, when there is a disparity in the division of property between siblings after the parents are gone, it can affect their feelings toward each other for the rest of their lives. And that is why I recommend equality.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: Your Iowa-bred sense of fairness requires you to print a response to the anti-circus letter of Phyllis J. Mayer, Evansville, Ind. By her own admission, circus-boycotter Evans has not attended a circus for years.

I have followed circuses for more than 40 years, and I know many people in the circus world.

Abby, circus animals are not abused or exploited, nor are they treated in a cruel or inhumane manner. Circus people have better sense than to abuse or mistreat the tools of their trade. Just as Iowa farmers do not abuse \$50,000 tractors, circus folks do not abuse animals that are very costly to acquire and train.

After 3,000 hours of scientific observation of trained and exhibition animals, and after long periods devoted to close studies of many circuses and zoos, Dr. Marthe Kiley-Worthington of the University of Edinburgh concluded, "... circuses do not by their nature cause suffering and distress to animals." She further took a position against the expenditure of money, effort and activities to ban circuses and zoos.

The reference to the "fear of a tiger being forced to jump through a flaming hoop" is nonsense; no one forces a tiger to do anything. Endless patience and kind treatment persuade a tiger to jump through a flaming hoop. (Incidentally, the flames are confined to the top half of the circle — heat rises — and a human could step through that same flaming hoop wearing a bathing suit and feel no discomfort.)

Circuses are inspected regularly by those empowered to protect the welfare of circus animals. The discovery of animal abuse is rare, and when such abuse is discovered, it is dealt with and eliminated.

The tragic episode of the circus elephant who went berserk in Hawaii is not typical of wild animals that have been placed in an "unnatural" environment. Some humans have been known to go berserk without warning. However, circus folks are more concerned about such tragedies, because their livelihood is involved.

Bottom line: This occurs so seldom that we should not deny ourselves the pleasures of circus entertainment because of the possibility of a tragedy. (We do not shut down airlines because airplanes crash occasionally.)

So, Abby, the next chance you get, take a kid to the circus, and experience the sheer joy that comes from watching the clowns, acrobats, dancing bears, prancing horses, the large, graceful cats, and all the other features of the greatest family entertainment on earth.

Seat belt complaints will be investigated

DETROIT (AP) — A brand of seat belts used in millions of Japanese cars is under investigation for possible defects, according to published reports Friday. The seat belts, made by Takata Inc. and installed in 1986-1991 model vehicles, may come undone in crashes, The Detroit News said. They are used in more than 6 million cars, minivans and other vehicles sold in the United States and Canada, the newspaper said.

No deaths or injuries involving the alleged defect have been reported in either country.

The federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is focusing on seat belts in vehicles made by Honda, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Mazda, Subaru, Suzuki, Isuzu and Daihatsu, the News said. USA Today said some Japanese-designed cars sold under American brand names, such as Dodge Colts, could be affected.

Regulators have not determined that the Takata seat belts are unsafe. The NHTSA is investigating allegations that broken pieces of the release button fall into the buckle's receiving end, jamming the buckle.

That might prevent the belt from being buckled, from being unbuckled once it is latched, or falsely latched, the News said.


The NHTSA has received 177 consumer complaints about buckle problems. Nine accidents and three lawsuits have been

reported. Canadian regulators have received 18 complaints involving Takata belts in vehicles sold by Honda, Mazda, General Motors and Chrysler, said Paul Marriner, the federal government's chief of auto defect investigations. Six complaints involved false latching.

Reid Rundell, president and chief operating officer of Takata's North American headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., told the News that the belt issue was under investigation.

Automakers supplied by Takata have reported more than 10,500 warranty claims for seat belt repairs or replacements. The automakers caution that the claims might involve parts other than the buckle, the News said.

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