

Dollar skids against other currencies

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writer

The dollar continued to drop against other currencies today, oil prices rose, and carmakers, whose surging year-end sales helped spur a 4.4 percent rise in December retail sales, saw new car sales drop sharply early this month from the same period last year.

Some economists say the dollar's latest skid may help shrink the big U.S. trade deficit, but it also could re-ignite inflation and even trigger a recession if it gets out of control. The

dollar's fall is heightening tensions with major U.S. trading partners, particularly the Japanese, whose exports to the United States have been devastated by the cheaper dollar.

The dollar began its most recent slide late last month after the government reported a record monthly trade deficit of more than \$19 billion for November bringing last year's total to more than \$170 billion, the economy showed signs of weakness and oil prices rose.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that retail sales

rose in December on the basis of a 16.2 percent increase in car sales and a spurt of last-minute Christmas shopping.

But with many car purchases out of the way, the major automakers' sales dropped 38.4 percent from Jan. 1-10 compared to the first 10 days of 1985. Passenger and light-duty truck sales also fell 24.5 percent.

Sales were down without exception for automakers. They also were down for truckmakers except American Motors Corp., which was buoyed by sales of its ever-popular

Jeeps.

The automakers said they had sold 107,735 cars, compared with 174,954 in the year-ago period. The five domestic truckmakers sold 51,524 light trucks, down from 68,279 in early January 1986.

Auto sales moved at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.3 million vehicles, well below the normal rate of 7.7 million vehicles a year.

Analysts attributed the activity in the nation's auto showrooms to buyers moving up purchases to take advantage of the sales tax deduction

that expired Dec. 31.

New car owners can expect to pay higher prices for gasoline, as oil prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange continued to climb. The February contract for West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark crude oil, closed at \$19.13 a barrel, up from \$18.89 on Tuesday.

Indications that OPEC may find more support from outside the cartel for its plan to prop up the oil market has helped push prices up, some observers have said. Continued record low temperatures in Europe,

and predictions of a cold snap soon in the United States also helped strengthen prices Wednesday, traders said.

The December retail sales jump was the biggest one-month increase since a 5.6 percent gain in September, the Commerce Department said.

But while retail sales ended the year on a positive note, for all of 1986 they rose 5.2 percent, the smallest annual gain since a 3 percent rise in the recession year of 1982, the department said.

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Congressman in Hereford

U.S. Rep. Larry Combest held a "Community Comment" meeting at the Hereford Community Center this morning. Combest is shown visiting with Ike Graves, left, Republican county chair-

man, and Bill Bradley, Deaf Smith County commissioner. The congressman was here to receive citizen input on Congressional matters.

Nuke dump, farm, finance top meeting with Combest

By DEBE GRAVES
Feature Writer

Concern about a nuclear waste repository, agriculture, finance, illegal aliens, drugs and the Iran arms deal were among the topics of a town meeting with Rep. Larry Combest this morning.

A large gathering of residents turned out to ask questions of the second term congressman.

Speedy Nieman opened the informal question and answer session with a comment in appreciation of Combest's efforts to curb legislative pay raises.

Combest addressed agricultural concerns regarding limitations placed on family farming. He stated, "Anytime they start talking about payment limitations in Washington you can be assured you are going to be hurt."

A member of the agriculture committee, Combest told constituents, "The members of the agriculture committee are of like mind. We are concerned about family farms and the fact that some of these limitations really prevent good business practices."

Combest was congratulated by one resident of his role in clarifying last year's farm bill in regard to sugar beet contracts in the area. It is estimated that several million dollars were made available to area sugar beet farmers as a result of Combest's efforts. He responded, "Last minute changes in the ag program are sometimes like elimination of the death penalty retro-active. It doesn't help the farmers who have already planted."

Combest further commented, "I have never liked the grain portion of the bill but we have to be careful not to change areas which are working."

Referring to an early morning meeting with the Nuclear Waste Task Force, Combest said he was willing to meet with any group and that he is "extremely concerned about the location of the site."

He listed sources of concern relating to agricultural impact on the area due to direct loss of acreage and disposition of salt deposits. He said, "I am concerned about the process of selection of the site in terms of the process established in the early 1980's."

He explained that there is a possibility that with the elimination of a quest for a second site, the law was violated.

"Dealing realistically I want you to know as much as possible about

what is going on. The decision eventually will be made politically," he stated. Listing a significant defeat of legislation to remove total funding of the Department of Energy project, Combest expressed a skeptical view that a Texas governor's veto would stand.

He explained, "A governor's veto can be over-ridden by a majority vote of both houses of Congress. The chances of overriding a decision to place it here are not great." He suggested that no state really wants the dump site and to agree with a governor's veto of site selection would potentially place the dump in a congressman or senator's home state.

"If all efforts fail and Deaf Smith County is selected, I want to see that we get as much benefit as possible," declared Combest.

Commenting on the Iranian arms scandal, Combest stressed the need for an early resolution.

"The country will not be served well if this matter preoccupies Congress," he said.

Combest expressed the belief that the Iran-Contra testimony will be heard behind closed doors to prevent violation of national security. He said the congressmen are not well informed currently, but the potential to be informed is now established.

Regarding news coverage of the incident, Combest remarked, "I am distressed that the liberal media has belittled the office of the presidency. They have tried to tear the office of the presidency down rather than attack the issue itself. I think the American public is tired of this behavior."

On the subject of a link between illegal aliens and drug importation Combest stated, "This has to be a Federal problem. Drug abuse is the basis of a key issue of national concern." He cited recent legislation passed to spend more money on the drug-immigration problems as a positive step, but recommended more stringent action on the illegal alien problem.

"It is a sham that there are more Capitol Hill police than those patrolling the entire Texas-Mexico border," Combest noted. A failed bill which he co-sponsored last session would have provided military patrol of the border.

"I get very frustrated at what goes on the floor of the House which is strictly political," stated the Congressman.

Responding to personal issues brought forth by citizens present Combest stated, "The bureaucracy is many times not an efficient operation, it can be mind boggling in red tape."

He offered, "Any of you who have a specific problem with an agency of the federal government should let us

(See COMBEST, Page 2)

Brides exceed ex-wives

By DEBE GRAVES
Feature Writer

More people married and fewer divorced in 1986, according to Deaf Smith County records. Officials recorded 229 marriages in 1986 a slight rise over the 219 recorded in 1985.

Deputy County Clerk, Lou Ann LaFever noted, "On reviewing the records I was surprised to see that more marriages took place in August than any other month. I assumed that June would be the biggest month for weddings."

August led the tying-the-knot record with 31 marriages. June placed second with 26 followed by a three-way tie between February, September and October with 25 each.

District Clerk records revealed a considerable drop in the number of divorces sought by county residents. One hundred-eleven petitions for divorce were filed in 1986 compared to 138 filed in 1985. Divorces granted in 1986 stood at 80 while 108 were granted in 1985. The discrepancy between the number of divorces filed and granted each year is accounted for by cases pending and a large number of couples who reconcile.

Most divorces were filed in July. June had the second highest rate and romantic February the least.

Overconfidence causes wrecks after winter storms, police say

Tonight is when drivers should start planning to face the cold, hazardous streets forecast for Friday morning - set the alarm clock earlier!

Clouds and foginess blanketed almost the entire state this morning as a cold front slowly plodded across Texas and sent temperatures into a downward skid.

Hazardous driving conditions are expected in the Panhandle tonight due to snow, patches of ice and blowing snow.

Temperatures are to slide down to the teens this afternoon and drop to near 10 degrees tonight in the Panhandle. A 60 percent chance of freezing rain changing to snow is forecast for tonight with a 60 percent chance of snow expected Friday. Accumulation of 1 to 3 inches is expected.

A 60 percent chance of freezing rain, turning to snow, is expected with accumulations of one inch.

Lt. Pat Michael of the Hereford Police Department says it is important to allow plenty of time to get to work and school when streets are slick. Starting out earlier can help avoid the need to hurry.

"I was really proud of the motorists this last go-round with snow," Michael said.

He warns that there may be more cars on the streets taking to school kids who usually walk. Drivers need to be extra-careful in the school zones and watch for kids who are crossing intersections, because the children won't be thinking about the possibility of cars trying to stop but sliding.

Michael says a lot of drivers are under the wrong impression that sliding through a stop sign is justified when streets are slick. He said citations will be issued because traffic laws are even more important when conditions are hazardous.

"Don't get overconfident on those roads just because you've driven on it (the snow and ice) for a day or two," the lieutenant cautions. "It appears that when streets are slick, more accidents are on the second or third day."

A few other hints:

-Put the vehicle in neutral prior to stopping. The brake will not fight against the engine pull and reduce the chance of sliding.

-If it is snowing, it is good to have the lights on.

-Make sure all windows and mirrors are clean of snow and ice.

-It's not a bad idea to have a tune-up before cold weather hits, so that the vehicle is in top driving condition.

-Throwing in a shovel to dig out of snow and some scraps of carpet or cardboard for traction is helpful.

-Don't drive unless necessary when streets are dangerous.

Local Roundup

Drug conviction nets 20 years

Nellie Herrera, 59, was convicted Tuesday of possession of heroin with intent to deliver and sentenced to 20 years in prison following a jury trial this week in 222nd District Court.

Herrera was arrested April 24 on a search warrant by the Hereford Police Department. Police found eight "papers" or hits of heroin.

She entered a nolo contendere plea and the jury decided her sentence.

Weather

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH: 51 OVERNIGHT LOW: 25

OUTLOOK: Much colder tonight with 60 percent of freezing rain, changing to snow late evening. Snow accumulation one inch or less, but patches of ice and snow on roads and low visibilities due to snow and blowing snow will cause hazardous driving conditions. Lows near 10. Wind northeast 10 to 20 mph and gusty.

Friday, colder with a 60 percent chance of snow with accumulations of 1 to 2 inches, and occasional low visibilities due to snow and blowing snow, causing hazardous driving conditions. High in mid teens.

Sugar beet growers to meet

The annual meeting of the Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association begins at 10 a.m. Friday in the Community Center. Lunch will be served to members and Michael Warner of Hillsboro, N.D., is the principal speaker.

The business session includes the election of directors and discussions on legislation and other matters relating to the sugar beet industry. The annual Sugar Beet Banquet is scheduled Saturday night at the Bull Barn and tickets are available to the public at \$7.50 each.

Police arrest 4

Hereford Police arrested four persons Wednesday and early today. Two were arrested for driving while license suspended, a 33 and a 24-year-old, and one 34-year-old was arrested for public intoxication and on a warrant for theft by check. Early today, a 52-year-old was arrested at the Holiday Motel for breaking down a room door.

Two thefts, a battery from a truck at Hereford Glass and a bike from 222 Bradley, were reported.

Police responded to three domestic related calls, filed a report on harassment, checked a fight at the high school involving a non-student, checked a house for theft, investigated a dog poisoning, and property dispute over a vehicle.

Officers stood by to assist a woman who had fallen on West Fifth Street and injured her leg. An ambulance was called.

Nine citations were issued and one minor wreck reported.

Concerned citizens to meet

The next meeting of the Concerned Citizens of Deaf Smith County will be held Saturday at the Community Center from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., it was announced today by Pete Lafuente Jr. and Irene Cantu, co-chairmen.

The three standing committees studying education, conditions at the labor camp and elections will report on their findings. The main subject will be the upcoming elections. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

(La proxima junta de los Ciudadanos Interesados en el Condado de Deaf Smith se llevara acabo el Sabado en el Hereford Community Center. Los tres comites seleccionados para estudiar la educacion, condiciones en la comunidad de San Jose y las elecciones, reportaran en sus resultados. El sujeto principal sera las elecciones proximas. Todo ciudadano interesado esta invitado.)

Semester ends Friday

Semester ends Friday for Hereford Schools and students get a vacation day Monday, thanks to an in-service workday for teachers. Report cards will be sent home next Thursday, Jan. 22.

Lifestyles

Wesley United Methodist Women name 1987 officers

Officers for 1987 were named when members of Wesley United Methodist Women met Tuesday evening for a business meeting. Ellen Collins will serve as president; Marilyn Bell, vice president; Pam Ruckman, secretary; and Jane Eggan, treasurer. It was decided that the organization would meet for business at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month and a salad supper will be held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thurs-

day. Members voted to sponsor the youth at the Methodist Home in Waco as their yearly project. They will furnish socks. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 for a salad supper and program, "Call to Prayer" and "Self Denial" will be discussed. Those in attendance included Bell, Collins, Georgia Riley, Ruckman, Clara Trowbridge, Jackie Wheeler and the Rev. Lanny Wheeler.

DR. GOTT The best reasons for being a doctor

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

The cat is out of the bag, so to speak. In addressing the grumpiness of doctors, Dr. Carla Eisenberg, dean of student affairs at Harvard Medical School has concluded that "as long as we (doctors) emphasize self-serving complaints — threats to our incomes and to our freedom to practice as we see fit — we will remain isolated and impatient."

According to Dr. Eisenberg, medical students are becoming increasingly more distressed and discouraged because their teachers are saturating them with information about physicians' shrinking incomes, endless paperwork and declining research grants. Although intellectual challenges still exist in medicine, doctors-in-training are being told that the good old days of medical practice have passed; medicine is no longer "fun." She says that "to lose sight of just how lucky we are to have a profession in which we do well for ourselves by doing well for others reflects a puzzling loss of perspective."

I think the dean of student affairs should get out of the real world. Maybe she would gain more insight if she were made dean of faculty affairs — not affairs of the heart; I'm talking about grown-up affairs of the checking account. Money, that is.

It seems to me that the issue is one of expectations. Eisenberg may not understand this point because she is probably salaried by Harvard and puts in a 40-hour week counseling budding healers about their class schedules, love lives and indebtedness on student loans.

We older physicians, who traditionally have acted as role models for young doctors, are no longer doing the neophytes any favors. They see us driving luxurious cars, summering in Nantucket and occupying the fanciest houses in town. And they want that good life. They expect it. They just after the perquisites of medical practice. After living in roach-infested railroad flats during their years in training — and having their spouses work to be able to afford spaghetti sauce — they anticipate that the glass slipper will fit. When they enter practice, the good life will be theirs; it's just sitting there waiting for the right — and very magical — key, the "Open, Sesame" or "Shazam!"

We practicing doctors actually have encouraged this fantasy of expectations. In large part, we are to blame for painting the medical-career picture in unrealistic, shimmering brush strokes. Judging from the shock and depression now being seen in medical students, the profession may be painting itself into a corner. I think that we more experienced oldies owe young practitioners the courtesy of showing them what is really important in medical practice. We have to reject the philosophy of "I make money because my patients are healthy." Many disgruntled doctors would be less disgruntled if they would stop showing off and would get back into a service profession, with the emphasis on service.

Physicians and surgeons have a right to reasonable remunerations for

their time and skills. However, the feature that makes medicine so attractive — in fact, it's what sustained us doctors during our early training — is that we are in a position to help others and relieve suffering. To the good doctor (who is rarely rich), true work satisfaction comes from doing a good job; income is secondary.

Cutbacks in medical research are disastrous not because there will be fewer jobs for doctors, but because the patient's well-being is penalized when new cures are not discovered. The Medicare shell-and-pea game threatens to undermine financial security for millions of elderly middle-income patients. Forget the potential drop in doctors' incomes; that's not as important as the effect on the patient. Doctors need to be reminded, not of their own fees, but that the tidal wave of medical-cost escalation is a far greater concern to patients, fewer and fewer of whom can afford illness.

I believe that we would be a lot happier if we kept in mind the fundamental reason we chose medicine in the first place: to heal the sick and make ourselves useful, not wealthy. Medical teachers should remember that, too, and make absolutely sure that young doctors get the message. You can't buy respect and gratitude, and that, unseasoned colleague, is what it's all about.

Then, again, perhaps this pompous and pious view is itself merely a reminiscence ...

Send your questions to Dr. Gott in care of this newspaper at P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Due to volume of mail, individual questions cannot be answered. Questions of general interest will be answered in future columns.

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Camp Fire camping committee offering winter ski trip

A winter ski camp, sponsored by the Camp Fire camping committee, will be held Saturday and Sunday. The group will stay at Camp Summer Life in Vadito, N.M. with skiing at Sipapu Lodge.

All students in second through 12th grades are invited to attend. The committee is also taking Camp Fire families. Registration fee is \$55 per person and \$15 is non-refundable. Those interested in going to the camp need to

call or come by the Camp Fire Lodge office to make reservations.

The \$55 fee does not include skiing expenses. The lift rates at the ski area are \$17 for adults and \$13 for children 12 and under. Price of ski equipment rental is \$9.75 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

All non-member Camp Fire skiers must become registered by paying an additional \$7 which will provide insurance coverage for the trip.

Officers announced during recent meeting

The Women of St. Thomas Episcopal Church met recently in the home of Anne McClarty with Mary Fraser serving as co-hostess.

Mrs. Fraser opened the program by giving the devotional entitled "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." During the business meeting, officers for the year were announced. Serving as president will be Mary Fraser; vice president, Anne McClarty; secretary, Jerre Clark; and treasurer, Olivia Denning.

Chairpersons for committees include devotional, Frances Hennen, who has chosen the book "Be Happy Attitudes" by Dr. Robert Schuller for study by the group; Christian social relations, Claudia McBrayer; United Thank offering, Linda Gilbert; church periodical, Jaime Neepser; and publicist and historian, Rachel

Hine. A Christian renewal program, entitled "Faith Alive", was discussed. This is set for the first weekend in March with Butch and Sherry Davis in charge of arrangements.

It was announced that there are still some "Cuisine a la Mexicana" cookbooks available at \$6 apiece.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in the home of Frances Hennen.

Ann Landers Helpful hints

DEAR ANN LANDERS: You have allowed many groups to air their gripes in your column. May I speak for one that is assumed to be the most crooked? I am referring to auto mechanics.

I started working in my father's driveway 21 years ago. Today I have five locations and nearly 100 employees who sell tires and automotive service.

I have built my business on the basis of good and honest work at a fair price, but you would be amazed how many people believe that all auto mechanics are thieves. Actually, we like people who work in any other field. A few rotten apples can give a bad name to the whole barrel. Here are a few tips to help you choose the right garage for your repairs:

1. Ask your friends who they have had good or bad experiences with.
2. Is the shop clean and orderly? Do the personnel talk and act professionally?
3. Is the work guaranteed? Do they give you a complete estimate in advance? Do they give you a breakdown of all charges and parts used?

4. Most states have consumer protection law. Find out what they are.
5. Compare prices, but find out what the prices include. A big difference in price is usually due to a big difference in parts or services. The classic ripoff is a "brake job."

My mechanics must attend classes and seminars to keep up with what is new in the industry. Doesn't it stand to reason that my mechanic would know more than "Albert" down at the office? So often I hear, "He knows a lot about cars and he said..."

Also, keep track of your receipts. It is not my responsibility to find them for you.

Above all, don't get angry with me when my estimate is more than you would like it to be. Your car will not heal itself, it must be repaired. I will not compromise your safety and my reputation by doing the job half right.—AN HONEST MECHANIC

DEAR H.M.: A great letter. My repair mechanic, Marion Jelks, at Village Cadillac, doesn't need to read it, but a lot of others do. Thanks for writing.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Recently a young child in our city was beaten

to death by her stepfather. The reason: She wet her pants. The youngster was 23 months old.

There is a message here that needs to be screamed from the rooftops: MOST CHILDREN ARE NOT READY TO USE THE BATHROOM UNTIL THEY ARE ALMOST 3 YEARS OLD. Some later, girls earlier than boys. When they are ready, they will do it by themselves. There need be little "training" involved.

You will hear countless stories claiming little Susie trained at 1 year. She probably did, but most children don't. It has nothing to do with intelligence.

This subject is the source of much needless anger and frustration for all concerned.—A MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: Pediatricians agree that children will learn on their own eventually but many mothers prefer to accomplish this sensibly without rigid training by the time they are 2 or older, which is perfectly OK, according to Dr. Jay Arena, that great Duke University pediatrician in Durham, N.C.

By-laws, constitution discussed

The constitution and by-laws of the Hereford Young Homemakers Club were discussed and revised when its members met Tuesday evening at La Plata Junior High School's homemaking department.

Also, during the business session, members decided to have a Valentine's party on Feb. 14 for their children. The event will be finalized at the next meeting Feb. 10 in Dalene Burns' home.

Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned by President Melinda Henson.

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Sports

Presented by NEA, World Almanac

Simms receives MVP award

By Murray Olderman

NEW YORK (NEA) — Phil Simms wants to make one thing clear. He doesn't hate the NFL fans in New York. Nor those from northern New Jersey, which is where he actually plays for the New York Giants.

He's not, well, enamored of them either, because for eight years they've been critical of his efforts as a quarterback. In the most vocal terms.

Maybe Phil feels magnanimous about them now because it's difficult to boo a quarterback who has led his team to the most victories for one season in the franchise's history.

For this, he has been named winner of the Jim Thorpe Trophy as the most valuable player in the National Football League for 1986. The award, originated by NEA in 1955, is now presented jointly with the World Almanac.

The MVP award, which reflects the views of pro football coaches, scouts and journalists, was made by experts representing the World Almanac and its 140 co-sponsoring newspapers, and its publisher, NEA. The results were distributed by NEA to more than 600 daily newspapers.

Simms has persevered through a string of career-threatening injuries and a string of bad teams. At the age of 30, he has matured as a winner.

The physical wounds — two shoulder

separations, a damaged knee, a fractured thumb on his throwing hand — all have healed.

Over the last three seasons, in blooming health, Simms has been a productive passer, with successive yardage totals of 4,044, 3,829 and 3,457.

"If we weren't running the ball so well," he claims, "I'd throw for 4,000 every year."

In 1985, Simms was picked for the Pro Bowl and became its most valuable player. In consecutive Giants losses in '85 to Dallas and Cincinnati, he threw for 945 yards, an all-time NFL record for back-to-back games. His 513 yards against the Bengals was exceeded in NFL history only by Norm Van Brocklin.

But Simms still has psychological scars from derision by the fans.

"I still get it every game," Simms says, diffidently. "You're human, and regardless of the situation, it bothers me. I don't know if the people of New York will ever accept me. Sometimes I wonder if I want them to."

Simms came to the Giants in 1979 as a No. 1 choice out of Morehead State in Kentucky. He was an unknown expected to lift a team that had not made the playoffs since 1963 — a team that had six straight losing records.

While Simms was getting on-the-

job training, the Giants continued to struggle. And he became the target of the fans' anger.

"It does baffle me at times," Simms muses, "as well as I've played, and to make one little mistake — it gets ridiculous. But that's the way it is. There've been some great quarterbacks here. One of them is Fran Tarkenton, and they ran him out."

Well, Phil Simms has staying power. And he is vital to the Giants' concept of football.

Their dominant defense and a running game built around little Joe Morris, the other top contender for the Jim Thorpe Trophy, have generally been considered the staples of head coach Bill Parcell's formula.

But a Monday night game in San Francisco on Dec. 1 revised the assessments of the Giants. With the Giants trailing 17-0 at halftime and the ground game shut down, Simms took to the air and bombed the 49ers. New York won, 21-17.

Because of injuries to the receiver corps, Simms had to work with a changing cast of targets in 1986. Yet down the stretch and into the playoffs, his long casts downfield were decisive in making the Giants the most effective team in the league.

For this, Phil Simms gets deserved applause as the MVP of 1986.

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JIM THORPE TROPHY:

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER, 1986
PHIL SIMMS, NEW YORK GIANTS



VITAL STATISTICS:
6'3", 215 POUNDS
30 YEARS OLD
8TH YEAR PRO
3,487 YDS. PASSING
259 COMPLETIONS
468 ATTEMPTS
21 TOUCHDOWNS

MUSIC & FOOTBALL

CHICAGO (AP) — Offensive tackle Keith Van Horne is also a disc jockey for Chicago radio station WCKG. He thinks his two jobs are similar in some ways.

"Nerves are involved in each job," Van Horne said. "Each involves performing but it is a different type of nerve for each job."

When the Bears were in London early in August for an exhibition game with Dallas, Van Horne drove 110 miles just to shake hands and converse with Ringo Starr of the Beatles.

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Broncos are in short supply of size on defense

By JOHN MOSSMAN
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — In Lawrence Taylor, Carl Banks and others, the New York Giants have players with a rare blend of size and quickness, the sort of commodity the Denver Broncos have found in short supply.

Denver has one of the quickest teams in the league, but size is lacking, especially on defense.

The physical mismatch could be decisive in Super Bowl on Jan. 25 in Pasadena, Calif., but if Broncos Coach Dan Reeves is worried about it, it's not showing.

Asked on Wednesday about his team's lack of size, Reeves said: "I'm not sure why that's happened. We can't seem to bulk 'em up. Nobody can accuse us of using steroids, that's for sure."

Reeves said watching film of the Giants' two playoff victories over San Francisco and Washington — two teams that combined to score just three points — was "kind of depressing. No one has done anything against them."

But Reeves is relishing the role of underdog. "We've got to try to play the perfect game," he said. "If we do that and if the Giants are a little bit off, we can win."

Perkins is key player for Dallas Mavericks franchise

By CHARLES RICHARDS
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Sam Perkins, the center on Dean Smith's great North Carolina basketball teams of the early 1980s, was eagerly plucked high in the first round of the 1984 NBA draft by the Dallas Mavericks.

Co-captain of the victorious U.S. Olympic basketball team and winner of the Lapchick Award for outstanding college senior basketball player, Perkins was installed as the Mavericks' power forward.

For the young Dallas franchise it looked like another big step toward a brighter future.

Now, 2½ years later, the 1986-87 Mavericks lead the NBA's Midwest Division and are the closest thing to an elite group that Dallas fans have seen in the club's seven-year history.

But the 25-year-old Perkins is the only Dallas starter whose name seldom comes up as a possible NBA all-star selection.

He isn't among the top 10 pro scorers, and he hasn't tossed in any winning 3-point shots at the buzzer lately.

However, neither is the 6-9½, 238-pound Perkins in danger of losing his starting job. Head coach Dick Motta and assistant coach Richie Adubato are among his most ardent admirers.

Fans who spend too much time with the offensive statistics see only half the picture, says Adubato, who was hired last year because of his reputation as a top defensive coach.

"He's a very underrated player. Perkins anchors our defense. Inside, he's like Kevin McHale. He has long arms. He gets a lot of deflections and steals," Adubato said.

"He's just sacrificing himself on offense. He'll only take about 10 shots a game, but he'll hit five of them. He could score a lot more, because he shoots inside and out, but we've got two forwards in Mark Aguirre and Detlef Schrempf who are more offensive oriented."

Perkins played center much of his rookie season with the Mavericks. When Dallas acquired 7-2, 278-pound center James Donaldson a year ago, Motta was able to move Perkins to power forward.

"He (Perkins) is the kind of player whose value you realize most when he's not in the game," Adubato said. "We really miss him when he's not there. With Sam, Donaldson, and either Aguirre or Detlef, we're pretty solid. Anytime you're building a defense, you can carry one player. But when he's out, we're got two offensive forwards."

Motta calls Perkins the "best defensive big forward I've ever coached. Watching him grow up on the court was a real highlight. Once he started working at forward, you could see him pick up the subtle aspects of my offense."

Perkins often draws the toughest defensive assignment in a game.

"Sam's ability to play head up with the other team's best player means we don't often double back on Sam's man. When we play the Lakers, we let him play (James) Worthy one-up, which means we don't have to lay off (Byron) Scott, for example."

"A lot of the time, you try to take the 65 percent shot away from a player and let him try a 50 percent attempt instead. With Sam guarding Worthy, we don't have to leave Scott open for the 50 percent shot either."

Adubato calls Perkins a clutch re-

bounder who comes through when he's really needed.

Perkins says he's pleased with the added emphasis on defense instilled by Adubato.

"It has made 100 percent difference from last year. We've got guys trying consciously to play good D. It helps us a great deal," Perkins said.

"It has made a key mental difference for sure this season. There's a new emphasis on defensive rebounds and holding them to one shot. He (Adubato) is enthusiastic and aggressive and stays on our case to get us to play good defense. He's tenacious."

A three-time All-America at North Carolina, Perkins averaged 15.9 points during his college career. His high game was 36 points against Ralph Sampson and Virginia in 1983. Some of his better games as a pro also have come against Sampson, now with the Houston Rockets.

Perkins is averaging a little over 13 points per game this season. His highest scoring output this season has been 23 points.

"Ideally, you like to do both, play good defense and score a lot of points," Perkins said.

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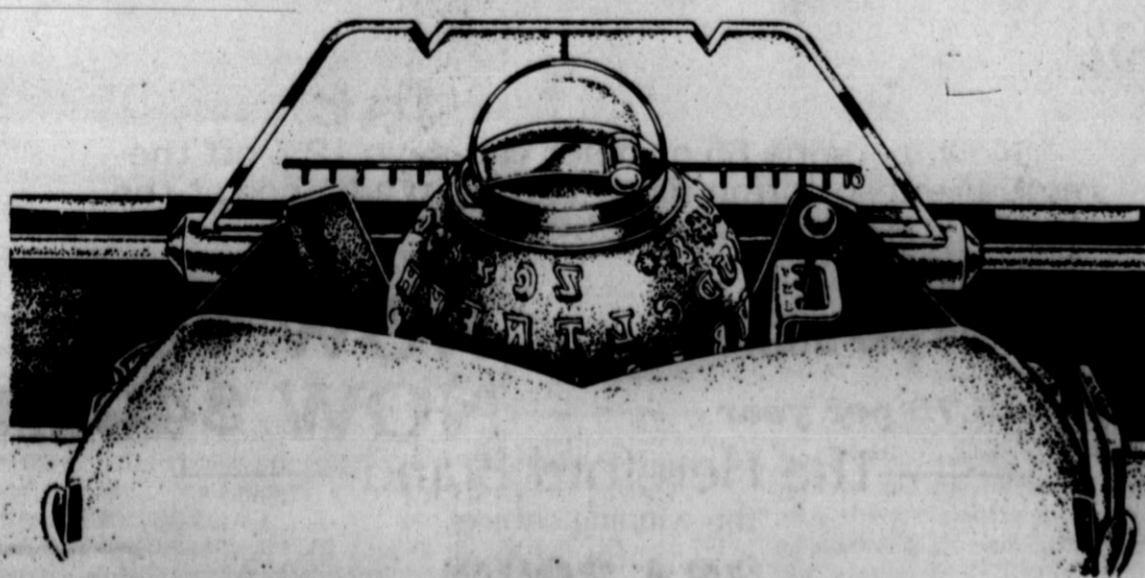
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Seattle beats San Antonio Spurs, 130-104

Celtics score 117-108 win over Mavericks

By The Associated Press

Shortly before he limped off to work Danny Ainge of the Boston Celtics received a phone call from his family on the West Coast.

"They asked if I would play; they were going to watch the game via satellite or go to the movies," Ainge said. "I guess they went to the movies."

Ainge didn't think he'd be able to play against the Dallas Mavericks Wednesday night because of a twisted ankle.

But, after treatment from trainer Ray Melchiorre, Ainge felt better and played a major role in the Celtics' 117-108 NBA victory over the Mavericks.

Larry Bird and Kevin McHale led Boston with 25 points each, while Ainge had 24, including a dozen on four 3-point rocket shots, along with 11 rebounds, 8 assists and 2 steals.

"I can't explain why I had the kind of game I did," Ainge said. "Maybe when your body hurts you concentrate more. I'm just glad we don't have a game tomorrow."

"Danny is playing the way he did in the playoffs last year," Boston Coach K.C. Jones said. "He's running the (fast) break, scrapping on defense and hitting the boards. When he and DJ (Dennis Johnson) are hitting the outside shot we have something going for us."

Johnson finished with 20 points and Robert Parish 16, just 24 hours after all five Boston starters scored more than 20 in a 123-117 victory at New Jersey.

McHale scored 21 points in leading the Celtics to a 62-57 halftime lead, then sat out much of the second after picking up two quick fouls, his third and fourth, early in the third period. He had 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocked shots.

Bird sparked a 40-point third quarter with 14 points. He also had 15 rebounds, 6 assists and 2 blocked shots in his first Boston appearance since he suffered a back injury which sidelined him for three games two weeks ago.

"This was a sweet victory for us," Jones said. "We came off a tough game in New Jersey and the Mavs played us real tough. It was a tight game most of the way."

"Larry got going in the third quarter. We were getting him open with the picks. You have to stick the ball in his hands and get him started. He's been off for a long time and we should have got him going earlier."

"It was my mistake not calling plays for him in the first quarter. You can see when Larry is ready to light it up. That's when you've got to start calling his number."

The Mavericks, who led the Midwest Division, built a six-point lead late in the second period, but the Celtics went on a 15-4 run for a 62-57 advantage at the intermission. Dallas also was hurt by the ejection on two technicals of Mark Aguirre, the team's leading scorer with a 25.6 game average.

Dallas pulled to within two, 82-80, in the third period, but Boston went on another surge, outscoring the Mavericks 20-10 for a 102-90 lead heading into the final period.

"You have to pay attention to business when you play the Celtics and it was tough without Aguirre," said Dallas Coach Dick Motta, who was hit with a technical midway through the first period.

"They beat us," Motta added. "They're just as good basketball team."

"We played well enough to win against anyone else," said Sam Perkins, who led Dallas with 29 points. "You can easily tell Boston has been together a long time. The only mystique is that we can't win here (0-7 since coming into the league). It's been one of those things, we can't put it together here."

With McHale going over 20 points for the 34th time in 35 games, the Celtics improved their record to 25-10. They have won 9 of the last 10 and are 15-1 at the Garden this season.

Elsewhere Wednesday, it was Seattle 130, San Antonio 104; the L.A. Clippers 123, Denver 105; Washington 118, New Jersey 100; Philadelphia 96, Atlanta 93; Detroit 104, Cleveland 87.

SuperSonics 130, Spurs 104
If it were up to Seattle Coach Bernie Bickerstaff, guard Dale Ellis would be on the West team for next month's NBA All-Star Game.

"He was super tonight. He responded very well," Bickerstaff said Wednesday night after Ellis pumped in 32 points in only 28 minutes as the SuperSonics drubbed the San Antonio Spurs 130-104.

Ellis hit a three-point field goal to open the scoring for the Sonics and went on to score 17 in the first period as his team jumped to a 28-20 lead. The Spurs never challenged.

"When I hit the three-pointers, it gets my confidence up, and lets me get into the flow of the game early," said Ellis, who hit 3-of-4 from three-point range. For the game, he shot a blistering 11-of-13 from the field, and was 7-for-7 from the free-throw line.

The Sonics outscored the Spurs 30-19 in the third period to take a 91-71 lead. Three times in the fourth quarter, the Sonics led by as many as

31 points. "Coach (Bickerstaff) asked me if I wanted to play in the fourth period," said Ellis, whose 32 points were just three shy of his career high, "but I told him to give some of the others guys a chance to play. The numbers don't mean anything to me."

Spurs Coach Bob Weiss concurred with Bickerstaff that Ellis was the key to the game. "Ellis did everything tonight. He hit the outside shot and drove to the hoop. He just did everything well," Weiss said.

Weiss said his team was tired during the game, the last in a five-game road trip.

"Sometimes when you're on a long road trip that last game is the toughest. It sure was tonight. Everyone seemed a little slow. We were just flat," said Weiss.

The Spurs have lost three straight games and six of their last seven. They're 1-14 on the road this season.

Rookie Walter Berry led the Spurs with a career-high 24 points and 13 rebounds. Alvin Robertson added 17.

For the Sonics, Xavier McDaniel had 20 points. In all, 11 players scored. Maurice Lucas was the only Sonic not to score. Alton Lister added

14 points, plus game-highs of 15 rebounds and six blocked shots.

The win was the 50th in Bickerstaff's NBA coaching career, all of them coming as head coach for the Sonics.

Clippers 123, Nuggets 105
The Los Angeles Clippers haven't proven much except for how bad they are this season. The team with the NBA's worst record has gotten tired of that — and the finally did something about it.

The Clippers snapped a 16-game losing streak with a 123-105 rout of Denver Wednesday night. The 5-31 Clippers got 22 points from Michael Cage and Mike Woodson added 20 for their first victory since beating Seattle Dec. 10.

The streak was three games shy of tying the franchise record for losses, set in 1981-82.

"We're a better team than we've shown," Woodson said. "It's no fun going through something like that."

Denver's Alex English had 39 points.

Bullets 118, Nets 100

Moses Malone led seven Bullets in double figures with 21 points as he moved into 12th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list, ahead of Dolph

Schayes and Bob Lanier. He also kept the Bullets in hot pursuit of the 76ers.

Malone was dealt to Washington last summer in a trade which brought Jeff Ruland to Philadelphia. Ruland returned to the 76ers' lineup Wednesday night following a knee injury.

76ers 96, Hawks 93
Ruland had missed 34 games with the knee injury. His performance in returning to the lineup Wednesday was a key to host Philadelphia's victory.

"It's great to be out there again," the 6-foot-11 center said after he scored 19 points, had five rebounds, two assists and blocked a pair of shots.

Ruland played with a brace on his left knee following arthroscopic surgery on Nov. 19.

Dominique Wilkins' 27 points was high for Atlanta.

Pistons 104, Cavaliers 87
Detroit swept its home-and-home series with Cleveland behind 26 points by Adrian Dantley, a season-high 22 from Sidney Green and 20 by Isiah Thomas. Detroit also won 103-101 on the road the previous night.

CBS plans promotion of Dan Rather at Super Bowl

By RICK WARNER
AP Sports Writer

Despite the furor over Tom Brokaw's newscast at the Fiesta Bowl, CBS is planning a similar promotion for Dan Rather at the Super Bowl.

However, there will be one important difference.

"I can guarantee you that Rather won't have a band blasting in his

ear," said Ted Shaker, executive producer of CBS Sports.

Television critics ripped NBC for allowing Brokaw to deliver the halftime news at Sun Devil Stadium while a marching band played in the background. The festive music was particularly jarring because Brokaw's lead story was the latest death count from the hotel fire in Puerto Rico.

"We aren't going to put ourselves in that position," Shaker said. "Rather won't even be at the stadium."

Rather will be in a studio in New York or Los Angeles when he appears on the pregame show Jan. 25. Depending on what kind of news day it is, he will either deliver a brief newscast or a special report.

"We're not absolutely sure what he will do, but whatever he does, it will be news and only news," said Tom Bettag, executive producer of "The CBS Evening News."

Shaker insists that Rather's appearance will be more than a promotional gimmick, even though the anchorman normally does not do weekend newscasts.

"I think it's legitimate because we are pre-empting the (evening) news that day," he said. "This may be the only time all day that people find out what's going on in the world."

CBS also can't resist the opportunity to have its star newscaster watched by more than 100 million viewers.

"It's no secret that it's a very attractive audience," Shaker said. "Just about everybody watches the Super Bowl."

NBA standings

By The Associated Press

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
	W.	L.	Pct.-GB.
Boston	25	10	.714 —
Philadelphia	21	16	.568 5
Washington	19	17	.528 6½
New York	12	24	.333 12½
New Jersey	10	26	.278 15½
Central Division			
Atlanta	24	10	.706 —
Detroit	23	10	.697 ½
Milwaukee	23	14	.622 2½
Chicago	18	15	.545 5½
Indiana	17	18	.486 7½
Cleveland	14	22	.389 11
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Midwest Division			
Dallas	23	13	.639 —
Utah	21	14	.600 1½
Houston	16	18	.471 6
Denver	16	22	.421 8
Sacramento	9	26	.257 13½
San Antonio	9	26	.263 14½
Pacific Division			
L.A. Lakers	27	8	.771 —
Portland	24	14	.632 4½
Golden State	21	16	.568 7
Seattle	19	16	.543 8
Phoenix	14	22	.389 12½
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.278 22½

Wednesday's Games
Boston 117, Dallas 106
Philadelphia 96, Atlanta 93
Washington 118, New Jersey 100
Detroit 104, Cleveland 87
L.A. Clippers 123, Denver 105
Seattle 130, San Antonio 104

Thursday's Games
Milwaukee at Atlanta
Washington at Indiana
Houston at Chicago
Utah at Phoenix
Golden State at L.A. Lakers
Portland at Sacramento

The Minneapolis Lakers won five of the first NBA league championships but the Boston Celtics then took 16 of the next 30.

Hank Aaron, the all-time home-run king with 755, played in 24 All-Star Games.

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Winkler host of telethon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Henry Winkler spends so much time behind the camera these days that one of the few places you'll see him is on the annual "Weekend With the Stars Telethon for Cerebral Palsy."

"The Fonz," as he was known for 11 years on "Happy Days," lately has been working as a producer and director.

Winkler and his partner John Rich produce ABC's "MacGyver," developed the short-lived series "Mr. Sunshine" and have several other projects in the works.

For eight of the last nine years, Winkler has been on the screen for the cerebral palsy telethon. This year's 21-hour event will be carried Saturday and Sunday on 83 stations.

The telethon, which raised \$18.5

million last year, also features John Ritter and his wife, Nancy Morgan, and Nancy Dussault in Los Angeles, with Wayne Newton, Dennis James and Florence Henderson in New York.

Winkler hasn't appeared in a movie since "Night Shift" five years ago, and his run on "Happy Days" ended in 1984.

"I haven't thought about acting in three years," he said one morning in his office at Paramount Studios, where he works as a producer and director. "I'm a character actor. I'm not a leading man. I guess a part will come along."

"I'm not consciously moving away from acting. It's weird, but it's happening. I have nothing to do with it. I would like to become a good director."

Winkler, a vision of casualness in a four-day beard and a dark green sweater, said he did not think his acting career had been hurt by playing the Fonz.

"The Fonz helped me in my whole life," he said. "I can't think of one negative. I have lived the most incredible life and partly because I

was fortunate enough to be picked to play the Fonz."

Winkler became involved with the cerebral palsy telethon while he was still playing the ducktailed, leather-jacketed Arthur Fonzarelli. His wife, Stacey, was his co-host the first year, but Winkler said she was uncomfortable in front of the camera. Nancy Dussault has been his co-host since then.

Stacey Winkler is now a commissioner overseeing the city's Department of Children's Services, and both Winklers are heavily involved in various events and services for children.

"I spend most of my time working on child abuse and neglect," said Winkler, who is a spokesman for United Friends of the Children.



Water has a greater molecular density in liquid form than as a solid. This is why ice floats.

Film to be shown Friday

The public is invited to view the film "Last of the Mohicans" to be shown at 7 p.m. Friday at Walcott School.

COMICS

PEANUTS by Charles Schultz



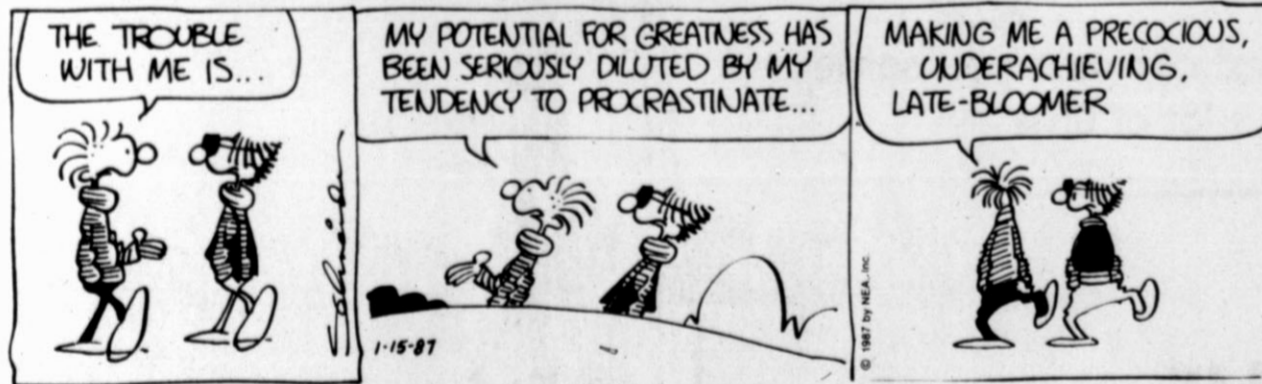
STEVE CANYON by Milton Caniff



FRANK AND ERNEST by Bob Thaves



EK & MEK by Howie Schneider



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sansom



ALLY OOP by Dave Graue



MARMADUKE

Brad Anderson



Television Schedule

THURSDAY

- 6:00 Hardcastle and McCormick
6:30 M*A*S*H
7:00 Daktari
7:30 Family Ties
8:00 M*A*S*H
8:30 Wheel of Fortune
9:00 L.A. Law
9:30 TBA
10:00 Hardcastle and McCormick
10:30 Tonight Show
11:00 Burns and Allen

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FRIDAY

- 6:00 Hardcastle and McCormick
6:30 M*A*S*H
7:00 Celebrity Chefs
7:30 American Snapshots
8:00 Miami Vice
8:30 Dads
9:00 Crime Story
9:30 Motorweek
10:00 Hardcastle and McCormick
10:30 Tonight Show
11:00 Burns and Allen

Crossword puzzle section with 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues and a grid.

Panel members sift through report language

AUSTIN (AP) — The Select Committee on Higher Education plans to make next Wednesday its final meeting and spent this week's meeting combing through the language to be presented to lawmakers.

Members encountered several snares as they looked over two drafts of recommendations for improving the state's higher education institutions.

Some were settled Wednesday but many were left to be taken up at the next meeting, which one member said may take all night.

An alternative report, drafted by member Peter O'Donnell Jr. of Dallas, was given to members Wednesday. It included an enlarged introduction and revised sections.

"I wanted to more clearly state our goals and indicate which are our priorities," O'Donnell said.

Members never formally voted to accept his draft, but spent the meeting poring over it and comparing it with the original.

The Select Committee on Higher Education, appointed by Gov. Mark White to study the state's colleges

and universities, has met for the past 15 months.

The first item discussed Wednesday was a section listing the goals and priorities for higher education.

O'Donnell stressed the need to depict higher education as an generator of economic development and creator of employment.

"I think this approach will win support for our efforts among the general public and Legislature," O'Donnell said.

Another member, Bob Inman, agreed. He said education leaders failed to convince lawmakers last legislative session that higher education is an economic generator.

"What we want to reinforce in this basic principal is that sustained investment in higher education is a critical component of economic growth for the state," Inman said. "Enhancing that research component of higher education has a high potential for payoff."

But some members were concerned the emphasis on research would force institutions to forego their traditional roles of education in liberal arts. The section was reworded to include both items.

A revised page on admission standards took up the latter portion of the meeting.

A paragraph that set a goal of increasing SAT scores of entering freshmen by one percent a year from 1985 to the year 2000, was changed to say admission standards would be increased to reflect improvement in the state's secondary education system.

The change came after state Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, said Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are not a reliable indication of a student's ability.

State Rep. Al Luna, D-Houston, asked members to adopt language in the admission standards section that would allow waivers for minorities who don't meet the standards, but show promise.

But chairman Larry Temple disagreed, saying waivers already are granted by many colleges and universities.

The suggestion was left for further study and will be discussed at the next meeting, scheduled for January 21.

Temple said he hoped the upcoming meeting would be the panel's last.

Names in the News

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Meryl Streep, who sometimes makes her own clothes, topped the 27th annual list of worst-dressed women issued by dress designer and fashion arbiter Mr. Blackwell.

"The problem is that most of the women in the world could have made the list," said Blackwell, who prefers to be known by his professional name. "The whole trouble is, we only had room for 10."

Miss Streep, the acerbic designer told a news conference Wednesday, "looks like a gypsy abandoned by a caravan." She was followed by game show hostess Vanna White — "She wins fashion's booby prize of the year" — and the Duchess of York, formerly known as Sarah Ferguson, who "looks like the queen of last year's English county fair." Actress Bea Arthur took fourth place.

Actually, there were 11 on this year's list, with actresses Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly, stars of the "Cagney and Lacey" television show, tying for fifth place. Also on the list were Barbra Streisand, Kathleen Turner, Cher, Whoopi Goldberg, and Jean Kasem, wife of radio announcer Casey Kasem.

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor says she's making another commitment. But this time it's to help develop, market and sell a perfume — "Elizabeth Taylor's Passion."

At an invitation-only news conference Wednesday, the violet-eyed actress revealed what had been billed for days as her "top-secret news" — a deal with Parfums International Ltd.

Making light of the actress' well-publicized unions — she has been married seven times, twice to the late actor Richard Burton — her new business partners referred to the venture as "Miss Taylor's latest marriage."

"It's funny how any announcement I make turns into a marriage," the 54-year-old actress said.

The perfume will be in a limited number of department and specialty stores by September. The price has not been decided.

Miss Taylor said she will do a barrage of print, magazine and television interviews to help promote the fragrance, with one exception.

"Don't ask me if I'm going to go on Joan Rivers' show," she quipped.

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Several hundred writers, critics and scholars will gather this weekend to explore why such writers as Wallace Stevens, Ernest Hemingway and Tennessee Williams have been drawn to the nation's southernmost city.

"This is one of the most important literary colonies in the country and it has been since the 1920s," said novelist David Kaufelt, co-founder of the Fifth Annual Key West Literary Seminar and Tour, which starts today.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The doors of the Executive Residence were flung open for a procession of moving people as Tennessee's literally outgoing first lady hustled to pack up her family so the new chief executive can move in.

Honey Alexander, wife of Gov. Lamar Alexander, spent Wednesday doing such things as stuffing her youngest son's backpack with toys for their six-month trip to Australia, which begins Saturday.

The Alexanders, who have four children, spent eight years in the mansion.

CBS wins second week in a row

NEW YORK (AP) — Two movies and a championship football game helped CBS win the ratings war for the second straight week, and with the Super Bowl coming up, the network is in a strong position to extend its winning ways.

Football played a part in boosting CBS to the top during the week of Jan. 5-11, as the New York Giants-Washington Redskins game on Sunday spilled into prime time, according to the A.C. Nielsen Co.

The post-game show wound up as the fifth-highest rated show of the week.

CBS had an average rating of 18.3 last week, followed by NBC at 17.6 and ABC at 14.0. For the 16 weeks of the season, NBC's average rating is 17.9, followed by CBS at 16.0 and ABC at 14.1.

NBC's "Nightly News" led its competitors with a 13.2 rating and 22 share, compared with 12.9 and a 22 share CBS's "Evening News" and an 11.3 rating and 19 share for ABC's "World News Tonight."

Each rating point represents 874,000 homes with television; the share is the portion of sets in use dur-

ing a time period. "Footloose," broadcast Tuesday, and "At Mother's Request," the two-part movie that finished Monday night, were the keys to CBS's victory, said Gerald Jaffe, NBC's vice president for research projects.

"Footloose" drew exactly the same rating as NBC's "Remington Steele" movie on Monday, but "Steele" started earlier against two strong CBS series: "Kate & Allie" and "Newhart." The CBS movie had the luxury of finishing against a low-rated NBC News "White Paper" about schools.

"At Mother's Request," which ranked No. 13, starred Stefanie Powers in the true story of Francis Schreuder, the heiress who browbeat her son into killing her father. NBC's version of the story, starring Lee Remick, will be broadcast later this season.



House debates free lunch

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House opened its review of the 1987 legislative menu by discussing free lunch.

The session's first floor debate, albeit a calm one, occurred Wednesday in response to Rep. Ed Watson's suggestion that the House should provide food for top staff members who miss meals during long legislative days.

While House members can wander off for quick bite on long days, the clerks and other top workers must stay at their posts.

"Our employees are required to stay here and serve us. It's only fair we provide some food during those hard times they work," said Watson, who traditionally makes the motion for House lunch breaks.

He tried to add his proposal to the so-called "housekeeping" resolution that sets ground rules for House operations. Resolution sponsor Mike Millsap, D-Fort Worth, opposed the amendment as unnecessary. He said negotiations are under way with a Capitol complex cafeteria to provide food for the hungry staff members.

Watson withdrew his amendment. The housekeeping resolution also raised the maximum salaries allowed for House members' employees. The old rules set an \$1,850 per month maximum. The new rules allow \$2,000 per month, but did not change the total that a representative can pay to his or her full staff.

"We're leading by example. We're saying to the state we recognize the economic situation we're in," Millsap said of maintaining the cap on total salaries.

The House Wednesday also unanimously approved the suspension of a constitutional rule that bars floor votes on bills during the first 60 days of the 140-day session. The constitutional rule is intended to reserve the first 60 days for committee consideration of bills.

House rules approved with no opposition Wednesday include minor changes in the committee structure. The biggest change is the division of the House Committee on Law Enforcement into the newly established corrections committee and public safety committee.

The corrections panel will handle prison matters while the public safety committee assumes the old law enforcement committee's jurisdiction over crime prevention.

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Witness testifies suit costing government \$1.5 million

DALLAS (AP) — After two days of hearings on new Medicare regulations governing the fees that doctors can charge, parties on both sides left the courtroom saying they have no clear idea how the judge will rule.

U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders is expected to clear up some of the uncertainty as early as Friday in the lawsuit filed by doctors against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The doctors' suit contends that they should not be required to decide on participating in Medicare without information on fees they will be allowed to charge — information not expected to be available until March.

At first, doctors were required to decide by Jan. 1 on participation in

Medicare, locking them into a government-set fee structure. But a temporary restraining order postponing the deadline until Jan. 20 was granted after the American Medical Association and other groups sued HHS Secretary Otis Bowen on Dec. 24.

Meanwhile, there technically are no "non-participating doctors" in the Medicare program, or physicians who choose not to accept Medicare assignments.

Those doctors normally receive only 96 percent of federal reimbursement when they treat Medicare patients, but until the restraining order expires they are eligible for 100 percent reimbursement.

That is costing the government \$1.5 million a day, Charles Booth, reimbursement director for the Health Care Finance Administration, testified Wednesday.

An AMA lawyer disagreed, calling Booth's statement "nonsense."

Patients stand the possibility of increased medical fees until the section of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, signed Oct. 21, is allowed to take effect, Booth said. The law calls for establishing maximum allowable charges.

"There is no reason that a physician could not increase charges to Medicare beneficiaries," Booth said.

"I say, your honor, that is

nonsense," said Jack R. Bierig, a Chicago lawyer representing the AMA. He said the government will be able to force doctors to adjust their fees after the issue is resolved, if they are found to have charged too much during the restraining order period.

The American Association of Retired Persons, the Gray Panthers and the Alliance of Social Security

Disability Recipients on Monday were denied a request to intervene on behalf of the government, but sat in as friends of the court.

"During this interim period, we think a ceiling should apply," David O. Stewart, an attorney representing the AARP, told the judge.

Doctors who are found in the course of the year to have willfully charged more than the accepted

amounts are subject to federal sanctions under the disputed Medicare law.

Doctors have resisted deciding on Medicare participation because they say they don't know if they are in compliance.

"It's very clear that no sanctions will be issued for some isolated charge," said Sheila Lieber, a Justice Department attorney.



The largest bird's nest on record is one nine-and-a-half feet wide and twenty feet deep that was made by a pair of bald eagles. It was estimated to weigh over two tons.

Damaged eggs may be nature's birth control plan

BOSTON (AP) — Women may have trouble getting pregnant because about half the eggs they produce are genetically defective, according to research that a doctor said could show one way nature promotes survival of the fittest.

The study, published today, found that among women taking fertility drugs, half their eggs have major genetic defects. Researchers said it's possible that all women produce so many damaged eggs.

If so, it would help explain a mystery of human fertility: why it's hard to get pregnant. Many mammals can achieve pregnancy during almost every menstrual cycle. But experts estimate there's only a 15 percent to 20 percent chance that a woman will get pregnant during a month when she's having intercourse without using birth control.

"We believe that chromosomal ab-

normalities in the gametes (eggs) are one major explanation for this fact," said Dr. Hakan Wransby, who directed the study in Sweden. "We have to search for other explanations, too, I think, but this is very important."

Dr. Dorothy Warburton of Columbia University takes the speculation a step further. She says that most fertilized human eggs get expelled early in pregnancy because of genetic problems or some other difficulty.

"For much of the history of our species, this could have served as a natural barrier to excessive fertility, leading to greater overall fitness, given the high expenditure of energy required to raise a human child to maturity," she wrote. "Thus, a reduction in the total number of live births may ultimately mean that a couple leaves more grandchildren."

Warburton's suggestion was published as an editorial in today's New England Journal of Medicine, which also published Wransby's study from General Hospital in Malmo, Sweden.

Experts believe many women have miscarriages even before they know they are pregnant. Genetically damaged sperm, problems of early development — some inside the womb — and other factors all may play a role in this loss. However, the new research suggests that the dominant problem could be faulty eggs.

"This is very suggestive that it's the egg itself that may be abnormal in a large percentage of women," said Dr. Patricia McShane of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The researchers believe most of the genetic mistakes in the eggs are so massive that the eggs cannot survive after fertilization and are expelled.

"In some ways, nature has been very kind to us by recognizing early that these are not normal and aborting them," said McShane. "The body has a wisdom in that regard."

Hospital Notes

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

Veronica Abrego, Martina Andrade, Edith Auslam, Adam Caballero, Becky Cameron, Emma Castillo, Girl Castillo, Marie Cogdell, Margot Cortez, Girl Cortez, Orville Culp, Pedro Diaz, Lois Duggan, F.L. Eicke, Willie Flippin.

Gregoria Garza, Ramon Gonzales, Kaye Hansard, Boy Hansard, Liz Hays, Vena Hudson, Terrie Hutson, Billie Jeter, Grace Lawson, Victoria Leal, Ross Lomenick, Cindy Manning.

Jacinto Martinez, Javier Martinez, Jr., Lou Morrison, Ralph Morrison, Brenda Pagett, Rosa Reyes, Sylvia Rios, Dolores Sanchez, Eva Stacy, Della Stagner, Wallace Steinkruger, Silveril Segovia.

Norma Utsman, Mary Valdovinos, Boy Valdovinos, Cecil Williams, Bill White, Tomasa Zamora.

New Arrivals

Mr. and Mrs. George Castillo are the parents of a girl Cassandra Marie born January 12, 1987.

EXHIBITION

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Maurice Prendergast is noted not only for his appealing paintings but also is considered America's master of the monotype — a printmaking process that allows the artist to produce an image that is soft, diffuse and impressionistic.

An exhibition of these prints is on view at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts through Feb. 15.

"Monotypes by Maurice Prendergast From the Terra Museum of American Art" features 55 prints that depict Americans at play in the 1890s. The works are filled with the images of children, balloons, horses, parasols and other romantic impressions from the past.

Ways with Wine by David Hutchins

AT FIRST BLUSH

The Grenache grape makes rose wine in France as well as in America. There are also many other sorts of roses in the U.S., usually produced from blends. Recently in California, there has been a turn-out of white and rose wines from essentially red-wine grapes. Now, roses of Cabernet Sauvignon and white Zinfandel can be found side by side on many shelves. They are also much alike in the color spectrum, pretty pink. However, there is no consistency when it comes to the taste and quality of these wines. Each wine enthusiast must make his or her own decision about such basic facts as sweetness or dryness. One thing, however, that does apply to this new generation of rose-type wines is the name — "blush wines."

The folks at THE STORE are very knowledgeable about wines so don't ever hesitate to ask our advice. Whether you have a question about what wine to serve with a particular menu or need some help in estimating quantities for a party you will receive our personal attention. You'll find us at 400 N. 25 Mile, 364-7882 where we are open Mon.-Sat. 10-9. Use our drive up door until midnight for beer and wine, on Sun. only beer and wine is available from 12-12. Uncomplicated rose wines benefit from chilling.

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