Hutchison indictments, Page 5 | Harvesters beat Brewer, Page 9 | William Shirer dies, Page 3

The Pampa News

25¢ Daily 75¢ Sunday

Wednesday

December 29, 1993

PAMPA -- The Pampa post office will begin offering window service on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon beginning Jan. 8, according to Postmaster Richard A. Wilson.

LUBBOCK (AP) — A man who shot and killed his ex-wife at her office, then shot himself, died today, officials said.

Eden Santos Ramos, 30, died about 8:40 a.m. at University Medical Center from a gunshot wound to the head, nursing supervisor Nancy Smith said.

Authorities said Ramos on Tuesday walked into the office where Ida Ortiz Sifuentez worked and shot her, less than a week after the couple's divorce became final.

Ms. Sifuentez, 39, filed for divorce in April based on "discord or conflict of personalities" with Ramos, according to courthouse documents. The divorce became final Dec. 21.

Ms. Sifuentez was shot twice in the face, said Justice of the Peace Tom Head. Authorities said Ramos went into the graphics office where Ms. Sifuentez worked at about 8:45 a.m., brandished a .22-caliber rifle and ordered his ex-wife's co-workers to leave. He said he was going to shoot her, said Lubbock police Sgt. Don Davidson. Workers were calling police when five shots rang out from the rear of the office. Ms. Sifuentez was found lying in the middle of the office. Ramos was lying near her. He had shot himself in the roof of the mouth, Davidson said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sometime next week, millions of Americans will receive their annual New Year's greeting from the Internal Revenue Service: The 1993 tax forms are in the mail.

Starting Monday, the Postal Service will begin stuffing 86 million forms into mailboxes. Some mistakenly have already been delivered.

Earlier this month, the Postal Service delivered 22 million postcards to farmers and other self-employed people who used professional tax preparers last year.

Until two years ago, the IRS had the forms dropped off the day after Christmas, but changed the practice after complaints of Scrooge-like timing.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — In the long run, the Hartford Archdiocese says, people will see the wisdom of its decision to keep a soup kitchen out of a downtown church.

In the short term, the Roman Catholic archdiocese's decision to reject the soup kitchen as bad for business has brought it stinging criticism.

"It's not a day to be proud to be Catholic," Stephen Grabek of suburban Andover, a parishioner at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, said Tuesday.

The Franciscan friars who run St. Patrick-St. Anthony and the governing council of the parish had both agreed to let the House of Bread operate rent-free out of the church basement.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's population stood at 257,908,000 on July 1, up 2.8 million from a year earlier, the Census Bureau says.

The government's population estimates, released Tuesday, showed that for the first time in 20 years, California is growing slower than the nation as a whole.

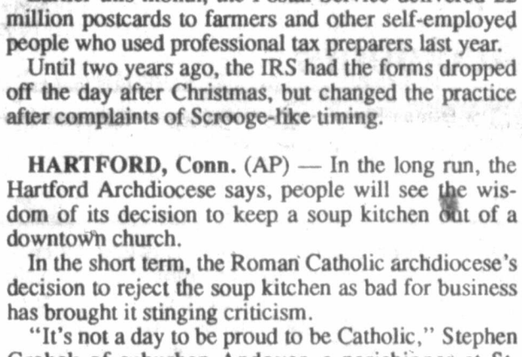
Nationally, the population rose by 1.1 percent. California's population grew by 1 percent, to 31.2 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Say you left $1,000 in the cookie jar and your kitchen burns to cinders. Should you just kiss those cash ashes goodbye?

Not necessarily, says Vicki Singleton. Singleton solves jigsaw puzzles, piecing together bits of mutilated money to verify claims for currency often damaged beyond recognition.

She's one of 20 Treasury Department experts who decide whether the ashes and paper fragments sent to the department really were money – and how much. Confirmed losses are replaced free.

Leading indicators



INSIDE TODAY

A FREEDOM NEWSPAPER

Classified.....10
Daily Record.....2
Editorials.....4
Food.....6
Lifestyles.....7
Obituaries.....2
Sports.....9

VOL. 86, NO. 230 12 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Leading index signals prosperous New Year

By DAVE SKIDMORE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's chief economic forecasting gauge is predicting a prosperous new year while a separate report shows sales of existing homes selling at a record pace.

The Index of Leading Indicators rose 0.5 percent last month, the same as in October and the fourth consecutive increase, the Commerce Department said today.

Three straight moves in any one direction are considered a good, but not foolproof, signal of economic activity six to nine months in advance.

Meanwhile, The National Association of Realtors said sales of previously owned homes jumped 2.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.21 million.

That broke the old monthly record of 4.15 million in November 1978. It was the seventh increase in sales in eight months. Every region except the West participated in the gain.

The economy is finishing 1993 strongly after a weak start. While economists anticipate some retrenchment in the first quarter, most expect a healthy growth overall next year.

The gross domestic product — the value of goods and services produced in the United States — advanced in the first quarter of 1993 at an anemic 0.8 percent annual rate.

It has improved in each quarter since and analysts think it will top 4 percent in the fourth quarter. They predict the growth rate will pull back to around 3 percent next quarter.

Low interest rates are fueling consumer buying of homes and durable goods such as autos and appliances and business purchases of computers and machinery.

Economists say that should continue next year, although they caution the defense industry will continue to shrink and a tax increase for upper-bracket consumers may dampen spending a bit.

In November, eight of the 11 forward-looking indicators contributed to the upturn in the leading index. They included a decline in applications for unemployment benefits to an average of 334,000 a week, from 356,000 in October, an increase in orders and contracts for new commercial buildings and business equipment, a rise in prices of raw materials, a sign of increased industrial demand, a gain in building permits, and an increase in the inflation-adjusted backlog of orders at factories for durable goods.



Amid the abstract contours of a Gray County winter wheat field, Pampa-area farmer W.C. Epperson inspects his thirsty wheat crop. (Staff photo by John McMillan)

Wheat suffering from dry winter

By JOHN McMILLAN
Staff Writer

Dry weather in the area is undermining the expected wheat crop, agriculture and weather observers say.

"It's very, very dry on the wheat in the Pampa area," said Darrell Sehorn, KGRO radio meteorologist.

"It's not good," agreed Danny Nusser, county agricultural extension agent for Gray County. "We haven't really had any moisture to speak of since late August."

Nusser estimated that 70,000 acres of hard red winter wheat have been planted in Gray County for this season. Most of the planting of the wheat occurred in August, and the height of the wheat crops in Gray County currently ranges from those crops that have not even sprouted to wheat three or four inches in height, he said.

Because of dry conditions in Gray County, the amount of grazing on wheat cropland this season has been minimal, Nusser said.

He said well below 10 percent of the wheat cropland in Gray County is being used for grazing.

"We're needing rain, there's no doubt about that," said Brent Bean, extension agronomist for the district office in Amarillo of Texas A&M University's Agricultural Extension Service. "It (the wheat) hasn't been growing like they would want it to."

Bean estimated that 15,000 acres of wheat have been planted in Hemphill County. The comparable figures for other area counties are: Carson County, 120,000 acres; Roberts County, 15,000 acres; and Wheeler County, 45,000 acres.

"It's not unusual for us to have a dry fall. But this is a bit dryer than normal," Bean said.

Total precipitation of .19 inch has been reported in Pampa thus far in the month of December, Sehorn said. The amount compares with an average monthly precipitation total for the month of December of .60 inch, he said.

Total precipitation in Pampa since Jan. 1, 1993, stands at 19.70 inches, Sehorn said.

"It's real important (for the wheat crop) that we get some moisture, in the form of snow or rain, in the winter months," Nusser said.

Bean sounded an optimistic note.

"There's still plenty of time to make a great crop because the rain from the spring of (1994) are what's going to determine if we have a good crop,"

Russ Jones, county executive director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Hemphill County, also struck an optimistic note.

"Wheat's an awful hardy crop," he said. "It can withstand a long period of dry weather. But we're probably looking at a 40 percent yield reduction (in Hemphill County) unless we get some substantial moisture (within 60 days)."

Bean also pointed out that much of the wheat farmland in area counties is irrigated and does not suffer from dry conditions. He estimated that irrigated cropland comprises 18 percent of the wheat farmland in Gray County. Comparable percentages for other area counties are: Hemphill County, 2 percent; Carson County, 34 percent; Roberts County, 7 percent; and Wheeler County, 4 percent.

If dry conditions continue in Gray County, the corn and sorghum crops that are planted next spring might also suffer, Nusser said.

One Pampa-area wheat farmer, W.C. Epperson, said he has frequently prayed for rain this season. He added that his prayer, which he generally recites just before bedtime, is worded as follows:

"I pray that we will have the right amount of moisture to make the crops grow so that we will have crops in abundance to live by."

Epperson, 70, who has planted about 300 acres of hard red winter wheat this season, said the wheat-crop season thus far has been as dry as any he can recall in the recent history of this area.

"I'm always optimistic," the Pampa-area farmer said. "This is an important time to have falling moisture, because it puts subsoil moisture in the ground as well as surface moisture."

Bomber with grudge against family kills 5

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press Writer

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. (AP) — A bomber with a grudge against a family sent explosives hidden in tackle boxes to half a dozen places, killing five people and wounding two, authorities said today. Three people were being questioned.

Four of the bombs exploded within 90 minutes Tuesday night after being delivered to farflung members of the same family across upstate New York.

Rochester Police Lt. Patricia Cona said three people were brought into custody early this morning and were being questioned. She would not give any details.

"It's such a complex investigation. ... At this point we have not made arrests," Cona said.

In Washington, a law enforcement source identified two of the suspects as Michael Stevens and Earl Figley.

"This matter is moving very quickly to resolution," the source said. "The motive is unclear at this point but it is probably something like vengeance."

Two people were killed at an armored car garage in Cheektowaga, a Buffalo suburb; two died at an apartment house in Rochester, 70 miles to the east; and one was killed in a blast that heavily damaged a home in West Valley, 30 miles south of Buffalo. A bomb also exploded in Hogansburg, in northeastern New York wounding one person.

The Buffalo News quoted law enforcement sources today as saying the bombings apparently stemmed from a dispute bertween Stevens, an ex-convict, and his estranged wife, Brenda, who is a member of the Fowler family. Figley was described as a friend of Stevens' from prison.

The News said Stevens, Figley and Mrs. Stevens were the three people being questioned today, but sources did now know whether Mrs. Stevens was considered a suspect.

Earlier, authorities said they had a suspect and released a description: a white man in his 40s, with glasses, a moustache and a weak eye or possibly a glass eye.

"We are zeroing in on a person but I cannot divulge whom at this time," said Thomas Staebell, Erie County sheriff's chief of patrol. "All the folks injured and killed have some connection with the person we are looking at."

The bombs were delivered in brown cardboard boxes measuring about 3 inches by 12 inches by 18 inches with tape wrapped around the parcels, authorities said. Inside were metal tackle boxes containing the homemade bombs.

Several boxes carried a return address of "The Liberty Iron and Metal Company" of Erie, Pa. The bombs apparently were detonated by opening the boxes. Authorities said they had not determined the type of explosive used.

"Whoever did this knew what they were doing," said FBI agent Dave Webster.

The parcels were delivered either by private delivery service or through the mail to members of the family of Robert and Eleanor Fowler of West Valley. Mrs. Stevens is Mrs. Fowler's daughter by a previous marriage, *The Buffalo News* said.

Pampa plans chipping of the green next month

For the fourth consecutive year, Pampa residents can do something positive for the environment, themselves and the city.

Beginning at 9 a.m., Jan. 8, Clean Pampa Inc., along with the city, will be sponsoring the annual Chipping of the Green program in which Christmas trees will be chipped into mulch for use by area residents in their yards and gardens.

"If anyone would like a bag of the chips, just bring a bag and we'll give them a bag full," said Pam Green, executive coordinator of Clean Pampa, Inc.

The program is conducted following the end-of-the-year holidays in an effort to help prevent Christmas trees from going into the local landfill, taking up much needed space, Green said.

"It's been increasingly good over the years," Green said of the mulching program. "We're looking forward to a bumper crop this year. I've seen a lot of trees that were sold in Pampa, and I'd like to see them all composted rather than put into the landfill."

The mulching will be done by D.E. Ward and is scheduled to take place at 900 N. Duncan, where the trees are currently being collected. Ward does much of the tree-trimming for the city, Green said.

For more information about the program or disposing of Christmas trees, contact the Clean Pampa, Inc. offices at 665-2514.

Panhandle porker to be auctioned off this week

Looking for cute, loveable pet that's intelligent and good with children? How about a sweet, sanguine swine.

That's right, a pig.

Pampa's Animal Control Shelter will be auctioning a male, Pot Belly porker to the highest bidder beginning at 3 p.m. on Thursday at their offices behind Hobart Street Park.

The pig, which weighs about 100 pounds, is black and white and will go to the highest cash bidder above the minimum bid of $72, according to city officials.

Over the past few years, miniature pigs, like Vietnamese Pot Belly pigs, have become popular pets among a growing number of people who admired their reported intelligence and loyalty.

For a Class Ad call 806-669-2525

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

ADKISSON, Mevelyn 'Myrt' — 11 a.m., Brown's Chapel of the Fountains, Borger.

REYNOLDS, Florence May — 10 a.m., Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home Chapel, Ardmore, Okla.

SANSING, Clara F. — 2:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Higgins.

SNUGGS, John S. — Graveside, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Obituaries

MEVELYN 'MYRT' ADKISSON

BORGER — Mevelyn "Myrt" Adkisson, 77, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1993, in Borger. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in Brown's Chapel of the Fountains, with the Rev. Art McAninch, pastor of Fairlanes Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery. Arrangements are by Ed Brown and Sons Funeral Home.

Mrs. Adkisson was born in Oran, Mo. She had been a Borger resident for 57 years. She worked as a food supervisor at North Plains Hospital for 26 years before retiring. She was a member of Fairlanes Baptist Church and Grandmothers Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, W.R. Adkisson, on April 7, 1992.

Survivors include two sons, John Adkisson of Borger and Tom Adkisson of Dallas; three daughters, Barbara Jett of Borger, Phyllis Key of Sanford and Claudette Caldwell of Pampa; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

REGINA DIANE BRIGHT

Regina Diane Bright, 19, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1993, at Houston. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Ms. Bright was born on Oct. 19, 1974, in Pampa. She was a lifelong resident of Pampa, attending Pampa schools and graduating from Pampa High School in 1993. She was a member of the Pampa High School choir and received the 1993 Hugh Sanders Award, an award given to an outstanding senior choir member. She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church and was very active in the youth programs. She had been attending Clarendon College and was a teacher's assistant at Lamar Elementary School at the time of her death.

Survivors include her parents, Bobby and Patsy Bright, of the home; a sister, Dena Hainer of Pampa; maternal grandparents, F.C. and Mabel Adams of Pampa; and a niece, Ashley Hainer of Pampa.

E.R. CLOYD

CANADIAN — E. R. Cloyd, 98, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1993. Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. today in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday with Monsignor Stanley Croccholia of Canadian and the Rev. James McGhee, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the Edith Ford Cemetery by Stickley-Hill Funeral Directors.

Mr. Cloyd was born in Pilot Point. He married Bessie K. Hargrave in 1924 at Miami; she died in 1990. He moved to Canadian in 1927 from Hereford and lived in Canadian until moving to Stratford in 1987. He was a former XIT cowboy and a rancher. Mr. Cloyd also served as sheriff and tax assessor and collector from 1945 until 1949. He later was the owner of Cloyd's Custom Slaughtering from 1949 to 1969. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include two sons, Cmdr. David Cloyd, retired, of Alexandria, Va., and Jim Cloyd of Stratford; three daughters, Mary Lou Pedigo of Seminole, Katherine "Katy" Sessions of Alma, Ark., and Theresa Judson of Thomaston, Maine; a sister, Louise Morton of Florida; 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the Coldwater Manor Nursing Home in Stratford or to a favorite charity.

HAROLD W. GIDLEY

PERRYTON — Harold W. Gidley, 68, mother of a Lefors resident, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1993. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Todd Dyess, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Ochiltree Cemetery in Ochiltree. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home.

Mr. Gidley was born in Perryton and lived there all his life. He married Mary Small. He was employed by Equity for 25 years, retiring in 1988. Mr. Gidley was a veteran, serving in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Connie Shedeck of Lefors; a sister; and a granddaughter, Michelle Shedeck of Lefors.

The family requests memorials be to the First United Methodist Church or Masonic Lodge #910 AF&AM.

FLORENCE MAY REYNOLDS

ARDMORE, Okla. — Florence May Reynolds, 91, died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1993. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home chapel, with the Rev. Ernest A. Flusche officiating. Graveside rites and burial will be at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Edith Ford Memorial Cemtery at Canadian, Texas.

Mrs. Reynolds was born in Lake City, Ark., and had lived in Amarillo many years before moving to Ardmore in 1962. Her husband, Jonathan Henry Cross, preceded her in death. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. James J. Cross of Ardmore and Jonathan Henry Cross Jr. of Trinity, Texas; a daughter, Laura West of Plano, Texas; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

CLARA F. SANSING

HIGGINS — Clara F. Sansing, 86, mother of a Canadian resident, died Monday, Dec. 27, 1993. Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the First United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Monte Kreis officiating. Burial will be in the Higgins Cemetery. Arrangements are by Stickley-Hill Funeral Directors in Canadian.

Mrs. Sansing was born on a ranch north of Wolf Creek in Lipscomb County. She was a lifelong resident of Lipscomb County. She attended school in Higgins and in Springfield, Mo. She also attended Oklahoma City University, where she majored in music. She married Roy Sansing in 1929 at Higgins. She worked with her husband in his Higgins Law Office until his death in 1973. She was a lifetime member of the Higgins United Methodist Church, where she served as a pianist and organist from an early age.

Survivors include two daughters, Dorothy Huter of Tulsa, Okla., and Nell Beth Steele of Dallas; a son, Mack Sansing of Candian; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

JOHN S. SNUGGS

John S. Snuggs, 74, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1993. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with the Rev. Lonny Robbins, pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Snuggs was born on June 28, 1919, in Jackson, Miss. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1926. He married Bobbie Cole on April 9, 1949, at Pampa; she died on Aug. 20, 1989. He was a former member of the Knights of Pythias and a former ham radio operator, W5IJI. Mr. Snuggs had served with the Army during World War II and took part in the Battle of the Bulge.

Survivors include two sons, Charles C. Snuggs of Lubbock and Johnny Lee Snuggs of Pampa; three sisters, Dorothy Cockrell of Pampa, Merle Booz of Sun City, Calif., and Neva Bailey of McLean; a brother, Ray McDowell of Pampa; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to the Pampa Sheltered Workshop, P.O. Box 2808, Pampa, Texas 79066-2808.

The family will be at 821 N. Wells.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

TUESDAY, Dec. 28

The city of Pampa reported someone unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Steve Beckham, 2619 Seminole, reported criminal mischief.

Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks, reported a theft of under $20.

The city of Pampa reported a traffic complaint.

Tommie Darden Rape, Houston, reported lost property.

Tracy Irene Blackshear, 812 N. Frost, reported a theft.

Hastings, 1500 N. Hobart, reported a theft.

Tarbox Apartments, 412 N. Somerville, reported a burglary of a building.

Preston Reid Parrish, Rt. 2 Box 87, reported a theft of over $20 but under $200.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 29

Peggy Sue Shay, 1021 E. Campbell, reported trespassing in a habitation.

Arrests

TUESDAY, Dec. 28

Brandie Wallin, 19, Bedias, was arrested in the 300 block of North Hobart on two outstanding warrants.

Binh Van Tran, 27, 621 E. Kingsmill, was arrested at the intersection of Huff Road and Brown Street on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Hospital

CORONADO HOSPITAL
Admissions
Pampa
Miles Colbert Sr.
Herman Virgil Kelly
Frank Slazenski
White Deer
Pamela Dee Urbanczyk
Births
To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ray of Pampa, a boy.
To Mr. and Mrs. Shayne Sanders of Canadian, a boy.
Dismissals
Pampa
Fred Glen Hupp
Jerry Dale Ledford
Nellie Bess Martin
Delmer W. McClure
Mildred B. Lafferty (extended care)

SHAMROCK HOSPITAL
Admissions
Shamrock
Carrie Edwards
Denver Ashlock
Wheeler
James Hubbard
Dismissals
Shamrock
Doris Bruton
Bill Bruton

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Wheeler-Evans of Pampa.

Wheat	3.79
Milo	4.98
Corn	5.43

The following show the prices for which these securities could have traded at the time of compilation:

Serfco	3 5/8	up 1/8
Occidental	17 1/8	NC

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Magellan	70.64
Puritan	15.74

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward D. Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Amoco	53 1/8	dn 1/2
Arco	105 1/4	dn 3/8
Cabot	55 3/4	NC
Cabot O&G	20 3/4	NC
Chevron	87 7/8	dn 1
Coca-Cola	45	up 3/8
Diamond Sham	23 3/4	NC
Enron	29 5/8	up 1/2
Halliburton	31 1/4	dn 1/8
HealthTrust Inc.	25 1/8	dn 1/8
Ingersoll Rand	39 1/8	up 1/4
KNE	25 3/4	up 1/4
Kerr McGee	45 3/8	dn 3/8
Limited	17 1/4	up 3/8
Mapco	60 3/4	up 1/4
Maxus	5 3/8	up 3/8
McDonald's	57 1/8	NC
Mobil	79	up 5/8
New Atmos	27 1/2	up 1/2
Parker & Parsley	23 1/4	dn 1/8
Penney's	54 1/4	dn 5/8
Phillips	29 1/8	dn 1/2
SLB	58 1/2	up 3/8
SPS	31	up 1/8
Tenneco	51 3/8	dn 3/8
Texaco	64 5/8	NC
Wal-Mart	26	dn 1/8
New York Gold		386.30
Silver		5.10
West Texas Crude		14.13

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported no incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Arrests

TUESDAY, Dec. 28

Jo Dalene Grace Kreider, 31, 700 Doucette, was arrested on a charge of theft over $20 but under $200. She was later released from custody after posting bond.

James T. Bailey, 31, Carrollton, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated. He was later released from custody after posting bond.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

TUESDAY, Dec. 28

9:57 a.m. – Two units and four firefighters responded to a medical assistance call at 120 S. Russell.

9:25 p.m. – Three units and seven firefighters responded to a good intent call at 1900 Duncan.

Calendar of events

VFW DOMINO DAY

VFW Domino Day is set for 1-5 p.m. Thursday at the Post Home, Borger Highway. Free coffee, bring your own dominos. No alcohol permitted.

Israelis, Palestinians reach framework to resolve issues blocking peace accord

By G.G. LaBELLE
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) – Israeli and PLO negotiators said today they have agreed on a framework to resolve issues blocking their peace accord, but Palestinian leaders insisted Israel still isn't honoring its prior commitments.

"The two delegations have reached a meeting of the minds," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a news conference after a joint meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He added that "there were issues that we couldn't achieve" that will be referred to other negotiating teams for more discussion.

One Palestinian official who insisted on anonymity said it could take another 10 days to iron out details.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who also attended the meeting, said the basic understandings reached by the negotiators still needed approval by the Israeli government and Palestine Liberation Organization leadership.

However, the PLO leadership in Tunis, Tunisia, expressed strong reservations about the deal.

A statement by the PLO's Executive Committee, issued after an urgent meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of delaying implementation of the Israel-PLO accord calling for self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"The Israeli side has returned to its position of controlling and supervising the crossing points to Gaza and Jericho where the Israeli army is supposed to withdraw from, according to the declaration of principles," said the statement, carried by the Palestinians' WAFA news agency.

Committee members said Israeli control of the crossings would make the expected withdrawal a hollow promise that would amount only to a redeployment.

Arafat also insists on "an international border" for Jericho, which means expanding the area of Israel's initial withdrawal to the Jordan River, a senior PLO official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in Tunis.

The Israelis rejected this idea, the official said.

Arafat today headed back to Cairo from Tunis for meetings with Mubarak, who was expected to try to convince him to accept the deal.

Under the PLO-Israel accord signed Sept. 13 at the White House, Israel was to start withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

But the deadline was missed when Israel and PLO teams failed to resolve the sticking points.

They include control of crossing points from the territories to Jordan and Egypt, the size of the Jericho area to be given back by Israel and security for Jewish settlers who remain in the territories.

Peres said the delegations "have reached a meeting of the minds on the three or four major issues, which are the passage on the bridge, the Jericho area, and some items concerning the Gaza Strip."

He said it was now up to the Israeli and PLO leaderships "to approve or reject this paper," but that a negotiating subcommittee would resume work immediately on still-disputed issues "so we shall not waste time."

The chief PLO negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, also sounded upbeat.

"I think that this round of talks was constructive," he said. "We hope that we will reach comprehensive agreement about the disputed points."

Earlier today, Israel's army radio said a compromise emerging on the border crossings indicated both Israelis and Palestinians would have monitoring posts, with the Israelis' positions closest to the frontiers. The Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronoth* said Israel would retain the power to refuse entry to anyone.

Israel sees the protection of borders as a question of security that should remain in its hands, while the Palestinians say guarding borders is part of the autonomy they were promised in Gaza and Jericho.

The radio said Israel was offering the Palestinians control of 20 square miles of land around Jericho, more than double its earlier offer. Arafat had demanded 80 square miles.

The West Bank and Gaza were seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The Palestinians expect the peace agreement to culminate in an independent state in all the occupied territories.

Pampa Lake to get rainbow trout

Pampa City Lake will be filled with 1,000 catchable-size rainbow trout Thursday. This will be the first of three winter stockings provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A total of 3,000 trout will populate the lake by March 3.

The TPWD winter trout program is funded by trout anglers. Anglers are required to purchase a $7 trout stamp to legally fish and keep trout. People over 65 or under 17 are exempt from the stamp requirement.

The daily bag limit is five fish, with no length limit. The possession limit (the maximum number that may be in one person's possession at any time after the first day of fishing) is 10 fish. On the first day of fishing, the possession limit is the same as the daily bag limit.

If you witness illegal harvesting, call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-792-GAME. You are guaranteed complete anonymity if requested and could earn a cash reward, TPWD officials said.

Hemphill County, Canadian await prosperous New Year

Even accomplishments can be bundled up like trash, at least in the opinion of Hemphill County Judge Bob Gober.

One of the 1993 accomplishments for Hemphill County is that it and the city of Canadian cooperated in creating a solid waste transfer system to bale and transport garbage to the local landfill, Gober said. The Canadian landfill, which is scheduled to close in April, will be replaced by service in Pampa or Amarillo, the judge said.

"That's what we're hoping," Gober said.

In 1994, Gober said, Canadians anticipate a prosperous New Year. Housing is in high demeand, and oilfield activity has increased, Gober said. He said he hopes the trend continues.

Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported no accidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Court report

COUNTY COURT
Criminal

An order was entered to revoke the probation of and order the arrest of John Robert Miller because he has failed to report to the probation office since he was placed on probation and is delinquent on his probation fees.

An order was entered to revoke the probation of and order the arrest of Rondelle Perry Green because he failed to report to the probation department, is delinquent on court costs, fine and probation fees and failed to furnish the probation department with proof of completion of DWI education classes.

An order was entered to revoke the probation of and order the arrest of Charles E. Johnson II because he failed to report to the probation department and is delinquent on court costs, probation fees and fine.

An order was entered to revoke the probation of and order the arrest of Ted Lee Williams because he failed to report to the probation department, is delinquent on his fine, probation fees and failed to furnish the probation department with proof of completion of DWI classes.

Marriage licenses issued

Brandon Edward Standerfur and Jenny Lee Couts
Robert Mark Thompson and Robyn Lee Wilcox
Garland Dewey Kysar and Rhynetha Gay Gray

DISTRICT COURT
Criminal

An order was entered to dismiss a charge of attempted murder against David Kane Hauck because the defendant was convicted in another case.

Civil

Darrel Crafton, et al. vs. Justin Long and The Millers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Texas, damages

First Deposit National Bank vs. Anne W. Robinson and Clois D. Robinson, suit on sworn account

Divorces

DeLinda L. Ramirez and Armando G. Ramirez

City briefs

HOME ALARM $300 plus tax. Free demonstration. 665-4237. Adv.

EASY'S POP Shop - 12 inch meat and cheese tray $11.95. 665-1719. Adv.

PERSONAL TOUCH: 25, 30, 50 and 75% off. Also a $10 rack. Adv.

LAKEVIEW APARTMENTS: 2 and 3 bedroom, furnished and unfurnished. 669-7682. Adv.

AFTER CHRISTMAS Sale, remaining Christmas items, pictures, boxed cards. The Gift Box Christian Bookstore, 117 W. Kingsmill. Adv.

CELLULAR BAG Phone: 1 week only $19.95 with activation. Borger Radio Shack, 274-7077. Adv.

HOUSECLEANING, $6 a hour. 669-9818. Adv.

NEW YEAR'S Eve Dance, Double Duces. Members and guests. Get reservations early. Moose Lodge. Adv.

CARPET CLEANING New Year's Special, 3 room, hall $21.95. 669-9818 Monday - Saturday. Adv.

JOANN'S CREATIONS 50% Off all Christmas Decorations, Thursday Only, 1200 Mary Ellen, 669-2157. Adv.

ST. ANNE'S Nursing Home in Panhandle Texas has 3 openings for Private pay residents. Excellent nursing care. Call 537-3194 for application. Adv.

RECEPTION HONORING Bill Duncan. 27 years of service. Thursday, December 30, 1993, 2-3:30 p.m. 221 N. Gray, Pampa, Tx. AmWest Savings Assoc. Adv.

NEW YEAR'S Eve Celebration: 10 p.m.-midnight, Faith Christian Center, 118 N. Cuyler. Ed and Dorothy McKendree leading praise and worship in our 5th annual gathering. Adv.

HAVE YOU ever drank a Desperado. Try it. New Year's Eve, 669-9171. Adv.

ROYSE ANIMAL Hospital easy access due to Hobart construction, thru alley of 21st or 19th. Royse Animal Hospital, 665-2223. Adv.

CLOSING STORE Sale. Everything 20% off. Major League, 321 N. Ballard. Adv.

DANCE LOCK - In, New Year's Eve, 123 N. Ward, 7 p.m.-7 a.m. $6 additional $2 to deliver child home on New Year's Day 7 a.m. Speed Skaters Adult Sponsors. Adv.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Tonight, clear, low of 22, southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy and warmer with a high of 52. The high on Tuesday was 32; the overnight low was 20.

REGIONAL FORECAST

West Texas – Panhandle: Tonight, fair. Lows 15-25. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs 50-55. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the 20s. South Plains: Tonight, fair. Lows around 25. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs 50-55. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows 25-30.

North Texas – Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 27 to 30. Thursday and Thursday night, partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain south. Highs 44 to 49. Lows 28 east to 36 west.

South Texas – Hill Country and South Central: Tonight, cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in mid to upper 30s. Thursday and Thursday night, cloudy with a chance of rain. Highs in upper 40s. Lows in the 30s. Coastal Bend: Tonight, cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows near 40. Thursday and Thursday night, cloudy with a good chance of rain or showers. Highs in upper 40s to near 50. Lows near 40. Lower Rio Grande Valley and Plains: Tonight, cloudy with a good chance of rain or showers. Lows in the 40s. Thursday and Thursday night, cloudy with a good chance of rain or showers. Highs in upper 40s to near 50. Lows in the 40s.

BORDER STATES

Oklahoma – Tonight, mostly clear with lows in teens to low 20s. Thursday, mostly sunny with highs from upper 40s to mid 50s. Thursday night, partly cloudy with lows from upper 20s to mid 30s.

New Mexico – Tonight, mostly fair north. Mostly cloudy with scattered snow and rain showers south. Colder. Lows zero to 20 mountains and northwest, mid teens to near 30 east and south. Thursday, variable clouds south, a few showers south central and southwest. Mostly fair north. Warmer northeast. Highs mid 30s to 40s mountains and northwest, mid 40s to mid 50s east and south. Thursday night, decreasing clouds south. Fair skies north. Lows 5 to 25 mountains and northwest, upper teens to near 30 east and south.

'Rise and Fall of Third Reich' author William Shirer dies at age 89

By ANNE THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) – William Shirer, a journalist who smuggled his diaries out of Hitler's Germany and wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* while blacklisted during the McCarthy era, has died. He was 89.

Shirer died at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, three weeks after being admitted there with heart problems. He had only recently finished reading the proofs for his last book, a biography of the final days of Leo Tolstoy to be published in the spring.

Shirer's career as a journalist took him across Europe in the 1920s and '30s, and as far afield as India and Afghanistan. He witnessed the rise of Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany and Mohandas K. Gandhi in British India.

From 1939 until December 1940, he reported for CBS from wartime Berlin, sometimes trying to foil German censors by using American slang to give information on the operations of the German Army. After the war, he reported on the formation of the United Nations and, back in Germany, the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

"It's sort of ironic that in my journalistic career that the two great men that I spent most of my life covering were Gandhi and Hitler," he once said. "Both of them geniuses, but Hitler an evil genius."

The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, published in 1960, was a huge best seller and won a National Book Award in 1961. It was based on extensive diaries and voluminous, confidential German archives captured by the Allies.

He was blacklisted during the McCarthy era for his support of Hollywood writers accused of leftist tendencies and for his early support of anti-fascists in Spain. He earned money by lecturing at colleges. Despite the hardships, he called the five years out of work "the best thing that happened to me" because he had the time to complete *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.

"I detest totalitarian dictatorships in principle and came to loathe this one the more I lived through it and watched its ugly assault upon the human spirit," he wrote in the book's foreword. "Nevertheless, I have tried to be severely objective, letting the facts speak for themselves."

Among his other books were *Berlin Diary: The Journal of a Foreign Correspondent, The Sinking of the Bismarck* and his memoirs *The Nightmare Years*, which recounted his days in Berlin and was made into a cable miniseries starring Sam Waterston.

Almost blind in his final days, Shirer spent every morning at his home in Lenox pounding on a manual typewriter, surrounded by piles of handwritten notes only he could read.

"I tried to get him to use my IBM but he was baffled. He said he couldn't write without the sound of the manual," said his daughter Inga Dean.

Born in Chicago, Shirer graduated from Coe College in Iowa in 1925, then borrowed $200 and crossed the Atlantic on a cattle boat.

He covered Europe for the *Chicago Tribune* and the Universal News Service, then became CBS' bureau chief in Vienna in 1937 with the help of friend Edward R. Murrow.

After war broke out in Europe, Shirer noted in his diary that Nazi censors were "on to me." He left in December 1940, the diaries secreted underneath piles of old radio scripts stamped by German censors.

Shirer later was a commentator for CBS and a columnist for the *New York Herald Tribune*. His first book, *Berlin Diary: The Journal of a Foreign Correspondent*, was published in 1941 and became a best seller.

He left CBS in 1947 after a dispute with Murrow and moved to the Mutual Broadcasting Network, working as a commentator until 1949.

In addition to Dean, survivors include his wife, Irina Lugovskaya; another daughter; and four grandchildren.

American businessman kidnapped in Philippines

By OLIVER TEVES
Associated Press Writer

DAVAO CITY, Philippines (AP) – Around-the-clock police guards were posted today outside the city's 20 mosques to prevent any more reprisals following the weekend bombing at a Roman Catholic cathedral that killed seven people.

Meanwhile, an American businessman apparently was kidnapped Tuesday night in Davao, but police were unsure if his disappearance was related to the city's religious troubles.

Scott Monroe Nelson, 55, of Houston, was taking an evening stroll with a Filipino woman when a car pulled up beside them, police said today. Nelson was forced into the car, while the woman was allowed to go free.

Nelson was a longtime resident of the Philippines, and police said the abduction could have been related to a personal grudge or his business dealings.

Also late Tuesday, two grenades exploded at the home of Abdul Karim Otto, Muslim mayor of the largely Christian town of Sultan Sa Barongis, about 100 miles west of Davao.

There were no injuries. Police said the attack might have resulted from tensions from the Davao bombings and the Dec. 13 killing of nine Christians by Muslim gunmen in the mayor's province.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa flew to Davao today from Manila, 600 miles to the north, to supervise the investigation into Sunday's fatal bombing at San Pedro Cathedral. Three people were being held for questioning, but police said no charges had been filed. The grenade attack also injured more than 140 people.

Another five people were injured Monday and Tuesday when grenades were fired against three mosques, apparently in retaliation for the cathedral bombing.

No arrests have been made in any of the attacks in this mixed Christian-Muslim city on Mindanao Island. The island is home to most of the country's 6 million-strong Muslim minority.

Regional Police Chief Teddy Carian said Muslim police were guarding the mosques to demonstrate the Christian-dominated government's resolve to protect both religious communities.

About 85 percent of the 65 million Filipinos are Catholic. Muslims comprise about 10 percent.

The government is negotiating with the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front to end a 20-year separatist rebellion to establish a Muslim state. Last month, the Front began peace talks with the government and signed a cease-fire agreement.

But religious tension has been increasing in Mindanao since a wave of bombings and killings that police blame on a Muslim splinter group, Abu Sayyaf.

In Manila, presidential spokesman Jesus Sison said the government would spare no effort to keep the violence from escalating to "a religious war."

Sen. Blas Ople, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, warned that the potential for violence in Mindanao should not be underestimated.

"A Christian backlash could turn Mindanao into a Lebanon," he told reporters.

Parents file lawsuit against state for early release of paroled killer

AUSTIN (AP) – The parents of an Austin woman whose disappearance two years ago was linked to convicted killer Kenneth McDuff have filed a lawsuit against the State of Texas alleging that McDuff's premature release led to their daughter's presumed death.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday by the parents of Colleen Reed and names several current and former parole officials, alleging that they released "highly dangerous killers such as Kenneth McDuff out into public without good reason."

The parole of McDuff and allegations that he then went on a statewide killing spree led to significant changes in state law governing paroles.

The allegations about McDuff and the practice of former parole board officials serving as consultants for criminals seeking their freedom came on top of previous complaints about the state's parole policies and crowded prison system.

The former head of the parole board has been indicted on a perjury charge as a result of the investigations and several bills have been filed in an attempt to slow the paroles of convicted killers and limit the influence of parole consultants.

The lawsuit filed by Allen and Pat Reed of Louisiana is believed to be the first filed against the state concerning McDuff's release.

Colleen Reed was 28 when she disappeared from a West Austin carwash two years ago today. Her body has not been found, but a self-described accomplice has told police that he and McDuff kidnapped, raped and tortured the woman before McDuff put her in the trunk of his car, promising to "use her up."

McDuff's capital murder trial in the disappearance of Reed is scheduled to begin Jan. 20 in Seguin, where it was moved because of extensive publicity. He also was sentenced to death in February for the abduction and murder of Melissa Northrup, a Waco convenience store clerk. Police have said McDuff is suspected of three other killings in Waco since his parole.

In 1966, McDuff was sentenced to die for killing a teen-age girl, one of three youths slain together near Fort Worth. His sentenced was commuted to life in prison after the Texas death penalty was declared unconstitutional in 1972.

McDuff was paroled in 1989, but was returned to prison for threatening to kill two men in Rosebud. He was released again in 1990.

The lawsuit names the state, the parole board, the three former parole board members who voted to release McDuff, the former head of the parole agency, McDuff's parole officer and a parole hearings officer who decided to release McDuff in 1990.

Two of the former parole board members who voted to free McDuff – Chris Mealy of Georgetown and Cora Mosley of Fort Worth – testified before a state Senate committee last year that they did not remember McDuff's case specifically.

But they said pressure to release 750 inmates every week, because of prison and jail crowding, contributed to all of their parole decisions.

Ms. Mosely also said that she might have voted to release McDuff without reviewing his file.

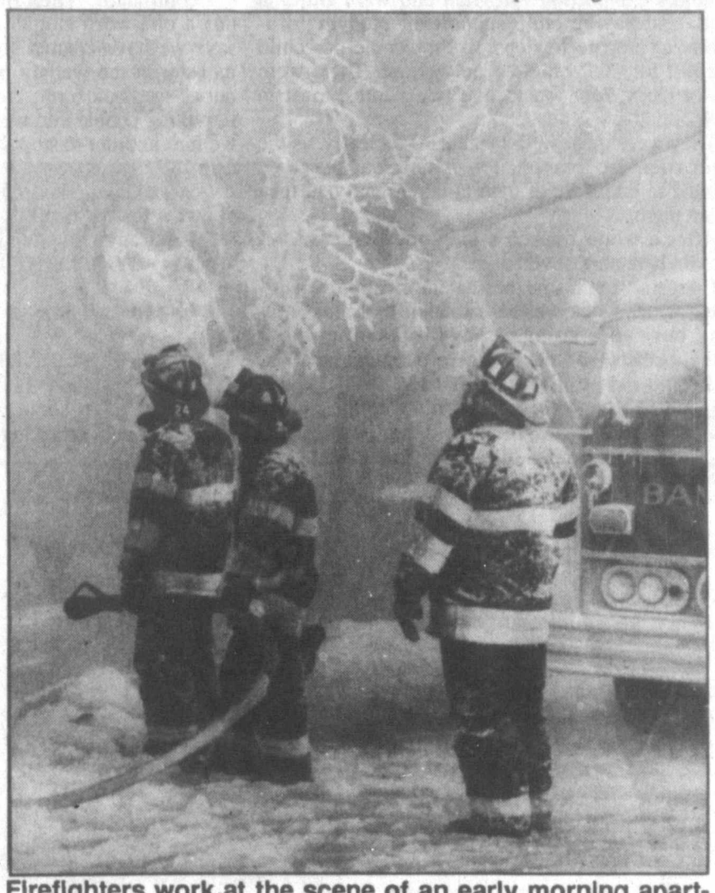
The third former board member to vote for the parole, James Granberry, was indicted in January on a charge that he lied about his work as a parole consultant in a federal trial in Austin. The indictment came after federal officials in Waco began investigating Granberry's role in McDuff's release. The charge is pending.

A spokesman for the parole division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice declined Tuesday to comment on the lawsuit, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported today.

Reed's parents could not be reached for comment, the newspaper reported.

Thomas Stutz, a Dallas lawyer who represents the parents, said McDuff was an example of violent criminals "slipping through the cracks because they're more concerned about overcrowding than protecting people."

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Firefighters work at the scene of an early morning apartment fire in Bangor, Maine, keeping water running through the hoses at all times to keep the equipment from freezing in the sub-zero weather. (AP photo)

Snow and cold freezes homeless

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – The snow and frigid air that have sent homeless people running for cover in much of the country meant cold feet for Mary Jo Copeland.

Copeland, who runs the Sharing & Caring Hands day shelter in Minneapolis, soaked more numb digits than she could count as the mercury fell to 15 below zero Tuesday.

"I just got a family in with six kids and none of them had socks on their feet. They were really cold," she said. "It's hard to be poor, especially when you're poor in the cold."

The nation's deep freeze continued today, with temperatures hovering around zero from the Midwest to the East and snowstorms threatening much of the area. Temperatures early today were 4 in Albany, 2 in Buffalo, 7 in Detroit, 3 in Cleveland, 3 in Portland, Maine, and 10 in Indianapolis.

At least eight weather-related deaths have been reported since the weekend as the wintry weather moved from the Ohio Valley to the East Coast.

Federal employees in Washington were sent home early because of snow, and National Airport shut down for a short time.

Three deaths in the Washington area included two homeless men, one found near a trash container and another in a car that had been his home, and a woman who died in a traffic accident in Bethesda, Md.

The other dead included two people in Indiana; a 64-year-old homeless man found frozen in an alley in Toledo, Ohio; and a woman in Baltimore. In New York City, a man was found frozen on a bench. Two homeless men also died in New York but the cause of death hadn't been determined.

In New York City, every available shelter bed – 5,234 for single men and 1,014 for single women – was taken Tuesday night, according to Mary Brosnahan, executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless.

Shelters also were crowded in New England, where temperatures dipped into the single digits this morning, and in New Jersey and Philadelphia, where authorities took some homeless people off the streets and put them in shelters.

Tony Williams said he would continue panhandling instead to raise $7 so he could stay in a Philadelphia boarding house. "I don't go to city-owned shelters," he said. "They treat you like animals. I am a human being."

Parliament approves reforms to open up Cuban economy

By JOHN RICE
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) – Cuban lawmakers legalized some private businesses and turned thousands of state farms into cooperatives as part of what President Fidel Castro called a temporary step backward from his socialist ideal.

Faced with a worsening economic crisis, lawmakers also suggested some benefits and subsidies might be reduced, prices raised and taxes imposed for the first time in three decades.

The economic reforms ratified by the parliament Tuesday are aimed at combating the Communist state's growing deficit and black market inflation.

Castro called the reforms a painful but necessary diversion from the country's ideals.

Cuba "has had to make concessions and take steps backward from the construction of a socialist society," Castro told 400 members of the National Assembly at what was a major policy forum to cap 1993.

He called the reforms temporary, but promised the state would not betray foreign investors and Cubans who take advantage of the new laws.

"We have to comply with our obligations and promises and if we say, 'Invest here, you have all the guarantees necessary,' they will have them above all," he said. "We never go back on our word."

Portions of the debate were reported by the goverment's Prensa Latina news agency, monitored in Mexico City, and others by state radio and television in Havana.

The National Assembly formalized government decrees issued last fall to legalize almost 140 private occupations and transform the state farms. Castro said 125,000 Cubans have already begun private businesses since they were authorized at mid-year.

The reforms are part of a campaign to pull Cuba from the economic morass caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union and east European Communist governments that were the island's patrons. Cuba's economy also has been hamstrung by the longtime U.S. economic embargo.

Cuba has tried to maintain socialist services despite a sharp drop in income, causing a 4.2 billion peso deficit this year, up from 1.4 billion in 1989. The peso officially is worth a dollar, but trades at 70 or more to the dollar on the black market.

Prensa Latina said the lawmakers agreed the government should confront the problems without altering Cuba's system of "social justice."

A few suggested higher rates for telephones, electricity and water, but Castro cautioned such changes could hurt millions of people.

He also said taxes alone would not cover the cost of Cuba's social services, making it essential to continue state ownership of as much of the economy as possible.

The government has already invited foreign investors, legalized possession of foreign currency, promoted tourism and invited vacation returns by exiles in efforts to confront the crisis.

The jobs made legal by the lawmakers include making soap at home – factory-made soap is hard to come by – and operating bicycle taxis to compensate for the severe gasoline shortage. Umbrella and jewelry repair is now legal, as is the making of funeral wreaths.

The head of labor and social security, Francisco Linares, said the legalization of private jobs – once taboo here – might help solve the unemployment problem caused by the economic crisis.

Castro said letting jobless workers take private jobs might let the state cut the subsidies it has paid to those idled by shortages of fuel and material.

While work for many has been cut back, the state has continued to pay 60 percent of the workers' salary.

The cooperatives operating the formerly state-run farms will sell all of their harvest to the state, which will tell them what main crops to grow and also set production goals.

But the farmers will split the profits among themselves and will have a greater share in management.

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Viewpoints

The Pampa News

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Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher, Publisher — David Bowser, Managing Editor

Opinion

The president who shot liberty down

Freedom advanced throughout the world during most of the years of the past decade. Alas, that remarkable progress received its greatest setback this year, according to the yearly report of Freedom House, a watchdog group based in New York.

Freedom House calculates the level of political rights and civil liberties in a country, and then rates each country as free, partly free or not free. According to the 1993 tally, the number of "not free" countries rose from 38 to 55 between 1992 and 1993. The number of "partly free" countries dropped off sharply, from 80 to 63. And the number of "free" countries slipped from 75 to 72.

Three countries dropped into "not free" status were former Soviet "republics" or client-states: Azerbaijan, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Other countries included Bahrain, Burundi, Eritrea, Guinea, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Oman, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The United States remains one of the freest countries in the world, of course. But Freedom House rightly warned of the rising tide of "political correctness" assaulting liberty, from high schools to universities, from coast to coast. In 1993, this new orthodoxy included "speech" codes imposed in many schools and the censorship of student newspapers.

It must be noted that the themes emerging from the White House in Washington, D.C., affect freedom not only in the United States, but worldwide. During the 1980s, Ronald Reagan traveled the world preaching his belief in freedom. He branded the Soviet slave-state an "Evil Empire." Standing before the Berlin Wall, he insisted to the Soviet dictator, "Mr. Gorbechev, tear down this wall!"

Reagan's message as heard. Even now, Eastern Europe's democratic leaders recount how Reagan's words heartened them as they sat in their jail cells, suffering for freedom.

By contrast, Bill Clinton projects an image of unconcern for freedom. He chants for "security," the same excuse potentates across the world use for limiting freedom. He has proposed socializing one-seventh of the U.S. economy, the health-care sector, giving the worst possible example to countries moving away from from socialist tyranny. He imposed the highest tax increase in history, when the former communist countries need to be told – and shown – that tax cuts bring economic growth.

The world looks to America as the exemplar of freedom. When the White House advances socialism at home, it is not surprising that freedom retreats abroad.

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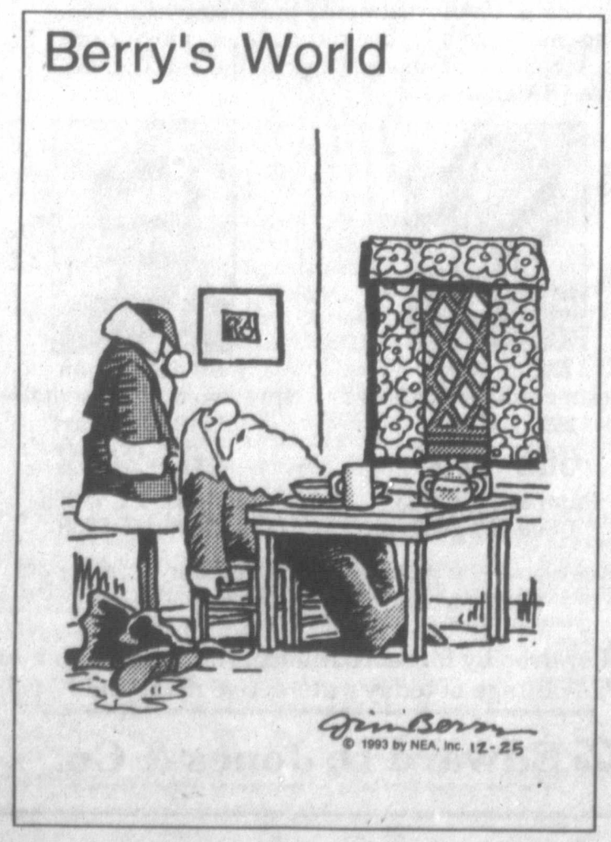
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Berry's World



Welfare reform window open



Ben Wattenberg

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – I knew the window for welfare reform was open. I had no sense of just how wide open it was.

Recently in this space I reported on a focus group of welfare mothers, who vigorously volunteered the information that many teenagers (not all, not even most) were bearing children in order to gain the package of current welfare benefits: cash, food stamps, medical care and so on. The women I talked to were outraged about it.

Let me now tell you of another focus group I conducted that same day. The participants were "welfare fathers." They vehemently resented the term "Deadbeat Dads." They were a part of the "Futures Connection" program and were either at work and paying child support, or studying diligently to prepare for jobs, so they could pay child support for their children on welfare. There were six of them, four blacks and two whites, most in their late 20s.

They were quite well-spoken. And clearly, as the discussion progressed, it was apparent that they wanted to take care of their children, and that they loved them.

After a while I asked a long question, which I present here almost verbatim:

I began: "Let's say there is an election. Candidate 'A' says this welfare situation is a real problem, but we're going to have to keep up those taxes, because we have to give people education, and some cash to live with. It's true, some of this help falls through the cracks; it's true the rate of out-of-wedlock births keeps going up; it's true the government screwed it up in welfare. But there are women and little children involved, and we have to keep paying for it. That's Candidate 'A.' "

I continued: "Then there is Candidate 'B.' He has a one-word slogan – he says, 'Enough.' He says we have created some kind of Frankenstein monster in the welfare program. It is encouraging out-of-wedlock birth, creating a comfort zone for it, pulling people into welfare. We have to cut back welfare in order to stop this. Enough. That's Candidate 'B.' "

I paused, and asked: "In that election who would you vote for, 'A' or 'B'?"

There was an eruption in the room:

MANY PEOPLE AT ONCE: " 'B,' 'B,' I vote 'B.' "

BW: "You would vote for the guy who says stop it?"

MANY PEOPLE AT ONCE: " 'Yeah.' 'Yeah.' 'Yeah.' "

MAN #1: "At some point you gotta do something. The buck stops here. ... I can't say I condone everything he suggested, but he had the right attitude."

BW: "Which is, enough, cut it off."

MAN #2: "Sooner or later you got to bite the bullet and start getting back to making the country what it was. ..."

MAN #3: "No, no, not necessarily cut it all off."

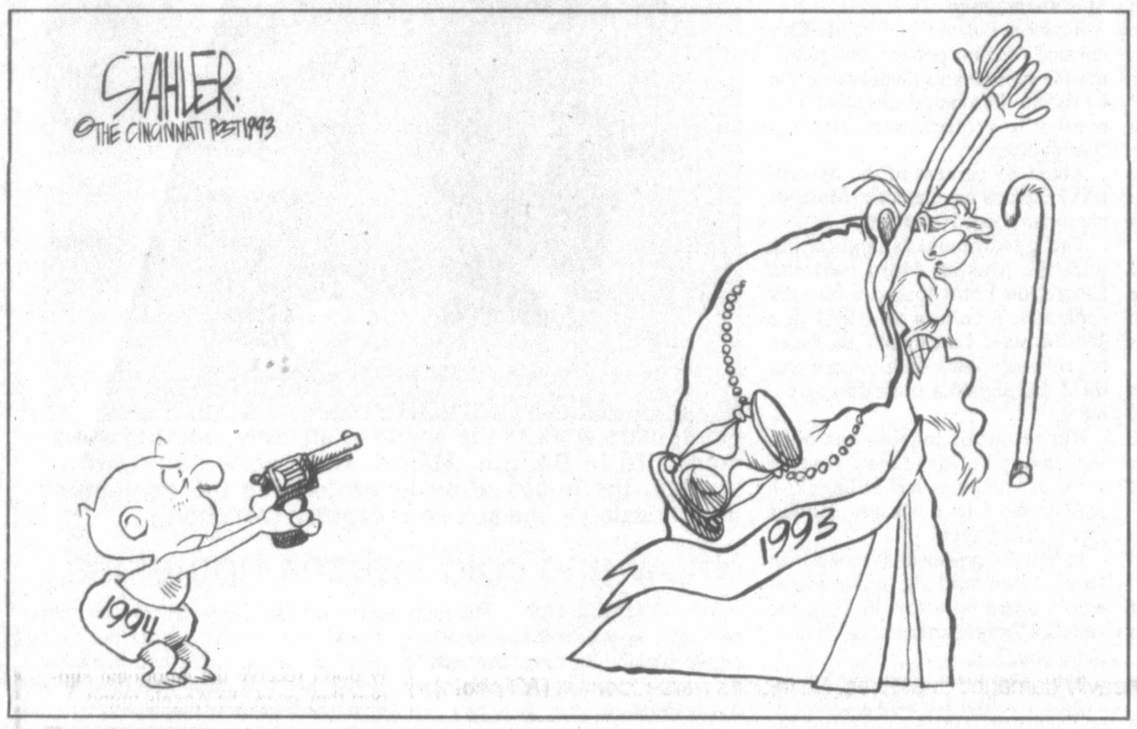
MAN #2: "Otherwise it gets so out of control that everybody suffers."

BW: "Loosely speaking, Democrats take the position of Candidate 'A.' Republicans say what Candidate 'B' says. ... People in your situation are not usually voting Republican."

MAN #3: (Who had served prison time for armed robbery, and is now employed.) "Well, you know, I've been listening to the show – Rush Limbaugh. So I figure I'm turning conservative at least. I don't know about being a Republican or not. But he's got a lot of good views. He's saying the same thing, you know. People ought to get up. ... There's no sympathy for people just sitting around doing nothing ... you know, free food for somebody who just wants to go around just living off someone else. ..."

All this mind you, from people whose loved children are being supported by the welfare system!

And so, I say, the window for serious welfare reform is wide open, big time open. Open wider than anything Clinton imagined when he campaigned on "two years and out." Open wider by far than when he formed his now-deliberating task force. Tinkering at the edges, which is what all other previous welfare reform has done, will not satiate the current voter mood. Not even close.



Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 1993. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota. Some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them. About 30 of the soldiers were slain.

On this date:

In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

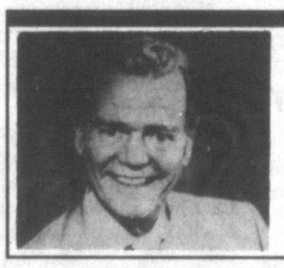
In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

A bouquet for a bureaucrat



Paul Harvey

The Honorable Hazel O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Good morning, Secretary O'Leary ...

I have watched you tackle constructively what may be the most complex challenge in government, and in the midst of that firestorm, you are still forked-end-down. You have earned a salute.

We have never met. This letter was not prompted. The observations of your performance to date are my own.

With the caveat that you may change your style or I may change my mind, here goes:

When senators at your confirmation hearing, posturing for the TV cameras, sought to display their brilliance with convoluted or technical questions, repeatedly, you said, "I don't know, but I'll find out and report back to you."

You left them speechless and us smiling.

Your first days as secretary, you shredded outdated Cold-War secrecy and political paranoia by removing the glass doors from your office suite, by getting rid of the superfluous uniformed guards. Suddenly anybody could walk in and state his or her business, and you were one of us.

And Secretary O'Leary – I know about your Acronym Jar:

During staff meetings, in the middle of the conference table, sits a flower vase with a hand-sewn gingham cover in which a slot has been cut. Anyone who lets one of our countless bureaucratic acronyms (FERC, FEMP, SSC, alphabet soup ad nauseam) owes two bits per acronym, which goes into the jar. The proceeds, recently over $100, go to the department's child care facility.

Who will ever forget the day you encountered that sign in the bowels of your bureaucracy which warned: "THIS AREA MONITORED BY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV."

You yanked the sign from the wall, saying, "This is no Pentagon," and demanding, "Get rid of it!"

We had never seen a "really Irish" secretary before.

When you reopened those long-sealed fortress-like doors so that department employees would be closer to parking lots and Metro stops, that was nice.

When you froze DOE contractor salaries for a projected five-year savings of $1.5 billion of our money, that was even nicer.

You demanded your department practice what it requires of others in energy efficiency, use of renewable resources, reduced reliance on foreign oil.

You even dared challenge the Pentagon to a priority fight – and won.

You established a liaison with Russia and secured compliance on energy efficiency, renewable energy, fossil fuels, nuclear safety.

Then you did the same in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

You sought and got compliance of our own dirty cities in curbing pollution.

You have given us, the media, easier access to information six previous secretaries considered "secret."

Thank you.

If the American textile industry survives world competition, it will be because you, Madame Secretary, encouraged their use of 21st century technology.

You've never forgotten your frustration as an executive of the utility industry "dealing with Washington."

For a new generation of utility executives, you've made government a "partner" in limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

And as a result, you now have 61 of our nation's largest utilities appreciatively eating out of your hand.

You are quite a lady, Mrs. O'Leary. Lead on!

Outrageous Personage entries due



Joseph Spear

Last call for OPs.

I refer to the Outrageous Personage of the Year contest, of course – *the* competition to follow if you are in need of emotional catharsis and your time is limited. Just submit the names of the characters you think were the most absurd, asinine, goofy, inane, preposterous or ridiculous to strut across the public stage during the past year. The Spear Foundation, proud sponsor of the event for five years now, will announce the winner in January. One reader suggested we ought to organize a "National Primal Scream Day" for the occasion. I like that.

Here are the rules:

1. Nominees should be selected for a specific outrageous act, not simply because you dislike them. For example, we cannot accept Bill Clinton nominations (heaven knows, we get enough of them) on the grounds that he is "trying to infiltrate our government with socialism."

2. Foreign nationals are not eligible. We are overrun with domestic OPs, thank you. No need to look abroad.

3. No group nominations, please. Lawyers and "liberal media establishment jerks" won't do.

3. Nominees should be of some prominence; it's no fun if you've never heard of them. Your favorite categories seem to be politicians, performers and preachers, but livelihoods are irrelevant. If they quack like OPs, send 'em in.

4. It is Joe's contest and Joe makes the rules. This upset a Bloomington Ind., reader who claimed I was "above the rules" and therefore "the contest is pointless." He then went on to nominate three people, the first of whom was me – which is against the rules. As much of an honor as it would be, ethical considerations compel me to disqualify myself from my own game.

All right, all you Rush Limbaugh dittoheads, President Clinton has finally been nominated in a legally acceptable fashion. I am proposing him myself for the outrageous way he tried to minimize the meaning of his meeting with Salman Rushdie, the British author who was given a death sentence by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Leaders the world over have publicly defended Rushdie's right to write what he wants, but no American president said a positive word until last month when Clinton met the writer, shook his hand and uttered a few words of support.

Then some Iranian nutcase called Clinton "the most hated man before all the Muslims of the world" for his defense of free expression and our leader hastily backed off. The meeting wasn't in the White House; it was in a corridor in an office next door. And it lasted "just a couple of minutes." I was expecting him to say he retired to the water closet to wash his hands after the handshake but he thankfully did not, probably because it would sound too much like the "didn't inhale" defense.

This is pathetic. Bill Clinton for OP of the Year, I say.

A few more recent nominations:

• Former Secretary of State Al Haig. Now a "business consultant," he visited China with a corporate client and said: "I think the time has come to take a different tack here. And Tiananmen is a long way behind us." Upwards of a thousand pro-democracy demonstrators murdered in the streets and Big Al says it's no big deal. Big Al is a Big Dork.

• Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. He got on a Senate elevator with Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., the Senate's only black member, and immediately started to sing "Dixie." According to Moseley-Braun, "He saw me standing there, and he started to sing, 'I wish I was in the land of cotton ...' " We do, too.

• Zsa Zsa Gabor, an OP runner-up in 1989. To *US* magazine, she had this to say of Ivana Trump: "I think she dresses much too flashy. I also think her hair is ridiculous, and I think her behavior with Donald was very stupid. All she cares about is money, money, money. I hate that." No comment.

Send your OP nominations to me at the Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Park Ave., New York, NY 10166.

Judge tells prosecutors to amend indictments against Sen. Hutchison

By SCOTT ROTHSCHILD
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) – Defenders of U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison say a judge's ruling against most of her ethics indictments shows that the charges are unfair.

But prosecutors said the actions by visiting Judge John Onion will not hinder their case.

During a pre-trial hearing Tuesday, Onion accepted Mrs. Hutchison's motion to quash four charges, saying they were too vague. He let stand the most severe indictment of felony official misconduct, and will allow prosecutors to amend the other indictments.

He said he would consider the amended indictments Jan. 7 and then rule on Hutchison's motion to move the trial to another city.

"Judge Onion's ruling is further confirmation of what we've said all along; once Sen. Hutchison gets a fair hearing in a fair and impartial setting, it becomes clear the charges against her are ridiculously vague and just not credible," said Texas GOP chairman Fred Meyer.

Steve McCleery, first assistant district attorney, described Onion's rulings as routine and not connected to the merits of the evidence.

"The judge granted some of their motions; he denied some of them. None of this was unexpected," he said.

In earlier pre-trial motions, Onion rejected efforts by Hutchison to dismiss the charges on other grounds, including arguments that the indictments were politically motivated.

Meyer said McCleery's assertion that the judge's decision "is somehow routine or expected is laughable."

Hutchison was indicted Dec. 8 on charges that she used her former office of state treasurer for political and personal purposes, and then destroyed records as part of a cover-up.

Hutchison, a Republican, has denied any wrongdoing and says the allegations against her are part of a Democratic plot to hurt her 1994 re-election bid.

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat whose office is in charge of the prosecution, has said politics is not involved in the case.

Hutchison defeated appointed Democratic Sen. Bob Krueger in a June 5 special election to become the first woman senator in Texas history. She had been elected treasurer in 1990.

A Travis County grand jury in September indicted Hutchison and two aides, but the charges were dismissed when her attorneys discovered that one of the grand jurors was ineligible to serve because of a pending theft charge.

In December, a second grand jury re-indicted Hutchison and the aides, Mike Barron and David Criss. Under the indictments, Mrs. Hutchison faced a maximum of 51 years in prison.

On Tuesday, Onion told prosecutors to rewrite three felony charges – tampering with physical evidence, tampering with governmental records and official misconduct – and one misdemeanor charge of official misconduct.

The three felony charges carry a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison. The misdemeanor charge has a maximum penalty of one year.

He let stand another felony official misconduct indictment that DeGuerin described as the centerpiece of the prosecution's case.

That indictment charges Hutchison with misapplying the use of workers and state equipment when she was state treasurer. It is a second degree felony punishable by a maximum 20 years in prison.

Another attorney for Hutchison, Lewis Dickson, argued that the allegations in the indictments were so vague attorneys couldn't plan a defense.

"It's groping around in the darkness for light without more specificity," Dickson said.

Onion agreed with most of Dickson's arguments, telling prosecutors that Hutchison was entitled to know in more detail what the allegations against her involved.

Tuesday's court action spilled into the political campaign.

Democratic Senate hopeful Jim Mattox released a poll that he said showed he could defeat Hutchison in the November 1994 election.

He said a survey of 700 likely voters in Texas that was taken Dec. 7 to Dec. 11 for the Democratic Senate Committee showed that he trailed Hutchison 41 percent to 39 percent.

"She is very, very vulnerable and I can easily beat her if I work hard enough and the Democratic Party works hard enough to be able to present the issues concerning her performance in office," Mattox said.

David Beckwith, a spokesman for Hutchison, disputed the poll numbers.

"Anybody who believes Jim Mattox's interpretation of an unpublished poll, deserves to be duped," he said.

Downtown fire



Firefighters from Paris, Texas, battle a blaze in downtown Hugo, Okla., Tuesday night. Fire damaged a third of a block of downtown Hugo and destroyed at least one building dating from statehood, fire officials say. The fire was reported about 6 p.m. Tuesday and was contained by about 8 p.m., after fire departments from Paris and a number of other communities were called in to help fight the blaze. Hugo fire dispatcher Brian Pulliam said up to six businesses were heavily damaged or lost. No dollar estimate was set on the damage yet and firefighters did not know what started the fire, Pulliam said. The Bellmont Hotel, built around the turn of the century, was one of the structures destroyed. The Choctaw County Historical Society had been refurbishing the hotel to run as a bed and breakfast. Buildings housing a secondhand store and offices were among the other heavily damaged structures. No injuries were reported. (AP photo)

Study: Fatherless children more likely to have problems

AUSTIN (AP) – Two University of Texas sociologists have produced a book that discusses the increased emotional and behavioral problems of children from fatherless families as opposed to children raised in homes with two parents.

"Evidence clearly demonstrates that both single mothers and their children are at high risk of emotional and behavioral problems as a result of the conflict surrounding family disruption, unassisted parenthood, inadequate adult supervision and poverty," write Ronald and Jacqueline Angel.

The findings are contained in the Angels' book, *Painful Inheritance: Health and the New Generation of Fatherless Families*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Ronald Angel said the book is the culmination of about six years of research and writing.

"Being a single parent is not necessarily detrimental to anyone's health," he said. But single parenthood combined with low income, low education and few job opportunities "has dangerous health consequences," Angel said.

The most seriously disadvantaged families are those headed by teenage parents, he said.

Because the mothers are struggling with the demands of single parenthood, their children frequently don't receive the emotional support they need, the Angels found.

Judge asked to forbid use of 'cult' in trial

FORT WORTH (AP) – The judge who will preside over a Jan. 10 murder trial of surviving members of the Branch Davidians has been asked to bar prosecutors and witnesses from using the words "cult" in the jury's presence.

Attorney Mike DeGeurin of Houston filed the motion on behalf of Paul Gordon Fatta, one of 11 followers of David Koresh who were charged with murder and conspiracy to murder in the Feb. 28 deaths of four agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Six Branch Davidians are believed to have also perished in the agents' assault that day on the compound about 10 miles east of Waco.

Koresh and more than 80 Branch Davidians died more than seven weeks later, on April 19, when fire ravaged their compound as federal agents were assaulting it with tear gas.

According to court documents, DeGeurin filed the motion on Dec. 21 with U.S. District Judge Walter Smith Jr. of Waco, who will preside over the trial, scheduled for next month in San Antonio.

Fatta said the word "cult" has an unfair "negative and dangerous" connotation that might influence a jury against him and other defendants.

DeGeurin was quoted by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* as saying the government should "not be allowed to use derogatory terms to describe the defendants or the faith it is alleged they shared."

Smith, who has issued a gag order in the case, has not ruled on the motion. Under federal court rules, the prosecutors' time for a response to DeGeurin's request ends the day the trial begins.

Smith has set aside a half hour at the beginning of each day in court to rule on motions, so his ruling on the cult question may not come until the first day of testimony.

Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Ray Jahn already has voluntarily discontinued using the term "cult," DeGeurin said.

Fatta and 10 other Branch Davidians will be tried on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder federal officers, along with various charges alleging firearms violations.

Books: A rich diet of food for thought
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Food

New cookbook maps Florida's culinary crossroads

By The Associated Press

Food writer Steven Raichlen calls it "Miami Spice," where the foods of the Caribbean, Cuba and Latin America meet in the tropical heat of Florida.

"South Florida is the crossroads of the Caribbean and Latin America," Raichlen writes in the introduction of his cookbook, filled with 200 flavor-packed, wake-up-your-palate recipes (Workman Publishing, $22.95; hardcover; $12.95 softcover).

"The Sunshine State is pioneering foods that the rest of the country will eat in the 21st century," Raichlen says. "Hispanic root vegetables, exotic tropical fruits, underutilized seafoods, seasonings from the Caribbean Basin: these are everyday fare in Florida. More and more of these foods are turning up in mainstream supermarkets across the U.S."

In the following recipe for black bean salsa, the Southwest meets the Sunshine State in a colorful salad made with black beans, peppers and cooked corn kernels. Serve with tortilla chips or crisp-fried green plantain chips.

Mango, papaya and pineapple lend a tropical accent to sauteed chicken in the recipe for chicken Tropicana.

Black Bean Salsa

2 cups canned black beans, rinsed and drained
2 to 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3 to 4 tablespoons fresh lime juice, or to taste
1/2 cup cooked corn kernels
1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and finely diced
1 poblano chili, or 1/2 green bell pepper, cored, seeded and finely diced
1/2 red bell pepper, cored, seeded and finely diced
1/2 cup finely diced red onion
1/2 Scotch bonnet chili or 1 to 2 jalapeno chilies, seeded and finely chopped
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro or mint leaves
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl; toss well. Correct the seasonings, adding salt or lime juice to taste. The salsa should be highly seasoned. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Chicken Tropicana

1 chicken, about 3 1/2 to 4 pounds, cut into 8 even-size pieces
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1/4 cup finely chopped shallots
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tablespoon finely chopped candied ginger or fresh ginger
2 cups canned, unsweetened coconut milk
1/4 cup orange marmalade, or to taste
1 cup diced fresh papaya
1 cup diced fresh mango
1 cup diced fresh pineapple
1/2 cup cashews, lightly toasted
1/4 cup shredded coconut, toasted

Wash the chicken and blot dry with paper towels. Season with salt and pepper.

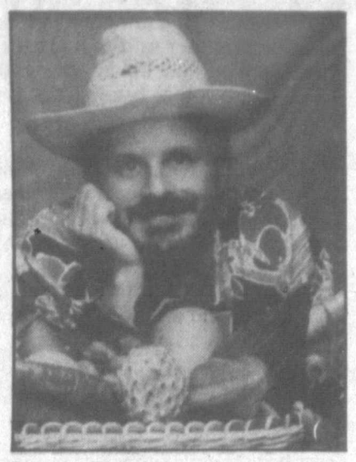
Heat the oil in a large saute pan. Brown the chicken on all sides, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a platter; pour off all the fat.

Melt the butter in the pan. Saute the shallots, garlic and ginger until soft but not brown, about 2 minutes. Return the chicken to the pan; stir in the coconut milk, marmalade and salt and pepper.

Simmer the chicken, uncovered, until almost cooked, 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the fresh fruits and the cashews, and cook the chicken through, about 5 minutes more. Correct the seasonings, adding salt and pepper to taste. If the sauce needs sweetness, add a little more orange marmalade.

Transfer the chicken to a bowl or platter. Spoon the sauce and fruit over it. Sprinkle the toasted coconut on top; serve at once. Makes 4 servings.

Cook's Notes: To toast the cashews, brown them in a heavy, dry frying pan over low heat. Shake the pan as the nuts roast to cook them evenly on all sides. To toast the coconut, spread the coconut on a baking sheet, place it in a preheated 350-degree F oven, and brown, stirring frequently, for 5 to 8 minutes.



Steven Raichlen

Whether new or old, the pies of Texas are upon you

BY CATHY BARBER
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS (AP) — The best "Pies of Texas" may not be deep dish, but the definitely have deep roots.

Several recipes submitted for The Dallas Morning News Food section write-in arrived with pedigrees tracing them back a generation or more.

Cookbooks and magazines from the '50s,'60s and '70s proved another rich source.

One cook's submission came from her mother's college home economics teacher. Another said her pie is "a hand-me-down from slaves." (The '90s twist: Dumplings in the filling are made with refrigerated biscuits.)

Nancy Gordon of Dallas says her great-grandmother created Cran-Apple Pecan Pie at the turn of the century in an effort to please all six of her children.

"My great-grandmother had gone west by covered wagon and stagecoach from Philadelphia," says Ms. Gordon, who works for a catering company. "She collected all sorts of interesting recipes along the way."

Elizabeth Carrell's Pumpkin Chiffon Pie is young by comparison. The homemaker got it from a neighbor in 1956.

A dash of sherry elevates this fluffy pie beyond the ordinary.

Florence T. Young, a homemaker, created her Pecan Pie Bars, starting with classic lemon squares in an old cookbook.

"I love those lemon bars, you know, and I'm always experimenting. I'm surprised I haven't killed half the family," she says.

She added chopped pecans and a sprinkling of cinnamon to make a fall dessert that serves a crowd.

"I just thought, for this time of year it's great."

Ms. Young also relies on old family recipes.

"My mother started cooking for Christmas in October," she said, recalling her childhood. "She would use a carload of sugar and 50 pounds of pecans."

Now, Ms. Young uses a lot of her mother's recipes.

But collecting recipes from friends and families isn't always easy.

Ms. Gordon tells the story of her great-grandmother's famous St. Louis chocolate cake.

"Anyone who wanted the recipe, she gladly gave them the recipe," Ms. Gordon says.

And when the cake didn't turn out, she gladly made one for them.

Years after her great-grandmotehr died, Ms. Gordon compared recipes with her sister. Working from their copies and another, they pieced together the original— and discovered why the cake didn't work.

Their great-grandmother had circulated different versions of the recipe, leaving out a different ingredient on each.

PUMPKIN NOG PIE

2 eggs
1 (1-pound, 2-ounce) can pumpkin pie filling
1 cup eggnog
Pastry for a 9-inch pie
Topping (recipe follows)

Preheat oven to 400 F. Combine eggs, pie filling and eggnog. Mix well. Pour into shell. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour, or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Serve with topping. Makes 8 servings.

Topping: Mix 1 envelope whipped topping mix according to directions, using 1/2 cup eggnog and 1 teaspoon vanilla.

(Ann LeClair, Flower Mound, Texas, from "The Kingsville Chamber of Commerce Cookbook.")

SWEET POTATO PIE

Pie crust (recipe follows)
1 1/2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons margarine
2 teaspoons vanilla
Topping (recipe follows)

Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare pie crust, set aside.

Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, eggs, milk, margarine and vanilla. Pour into pie crust and cover with topping. Bake for 25 minutes. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Pie crust: Crush 3 cups of Almond Delight cereal to make 1 1/2 cups. In a medium mixing bowl, combine one-four cup packed brown sugar and one-fourth cup softened margarine. Add cereal and mix well. Press cereal mixture firmly into bottom and up sides of ungreased 9-inch fluted tart pan or deep-dish pie plate.

Topping: Mix 1/2 cup brown sugar, 2 tablespoons margarine, 1/4 cup flour and 1/2 cup chopped pecans by hand.

(Bonnie C. Kelly, Dallas)

PUMPKIN CHIFFON PIE

3 eggs, separated
1 cup sugar, divided use
1 1/4 cups mashed or canned pumpkin
1/2 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 envelope gelatin, or 2 1/2 teaspoons gelatin
1/4 cup cold water
1/4 cup sherry
Baked crust for 9-inch pie

To slightly beaten egg yolks add 1/2 cup sugar, pumpkin, milk, salt and spices. Cook in top of double boiler, stirring, until thick.

Soften gelatin in cold water for 5 minutes. Add to hot pumpkin mixture, stirring to dissolve. Add sherry slowly, cool.

Beat egg whites until stiff, slowly adding in 1/2 cup sugar. Fold into pumpkin mixture. Turned into baked pie shell. Refrigerate. Makes 8 servings.

(Elizabeth Carrell, Dallas)

PECAN PIE BARS

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 cup confectioners' sugar (divided use)
2 1/4 cups flour (divided use)
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1 cup chopped pecans
1 tablespoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 F. Blend softened butter with 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar and 2 cups flour. Press into bottom of buttered 9x13-inch pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, beat eggs, sugar, 1/4 cup flour, lemon rind and juice and pecans. Pour over first layer; continue baking for 25 minutes. Sift 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar and cinnamon over pie immediately after removing from the oven. When cool, cut into squares. Makes 3 dozen.

(Florence T. Young, Dallas)

GRATED APPLE PIE

1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
dash of salt
4 cups coarsely grated peeled apples
1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
Pastry for a 9-inch pie
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat over to 400 F. Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt in large bowl; add apples and toss gently. Stir in egg and butter. Spoon mixture into pastry shell. (For firmer crust, brush first with egg white.) Sprinkle with pecans. Bake for 10 minutes; reduce heat to 350 F. and bake for 50 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

(Carolyn Ward, Dallas, from "Southern Living Recipes.")

Re-discover America through food

By The Associated Press

Linda and Fred Griffith went in search of growers and purveyors of good and good-for-you foods from coast to coast. The result is "The New American Farm Cookbook: More Than 200 recipes Featuring Today's Naturally and Organically Grown Foods" (Viking Studio Books, $30), with names, addresses and telephone numbers of food purveyors nationwide. With illustrations by Stanka Kordic.

Garden Relish

2 medium tomatoes, chopped
1 cucumber, peeled and chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 hot chili pepper, seeded and chopped
For the dressing:
1 cup cider vinegar
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon celery seed

Combine tomatoes, cucumber, onion, bell pepper and hot pepper in a large mixing bowl. Place dressing ingredients in a medium bowl with 1/2 cup water and whisk well.

Pour dressing over vegetables; mix gently but thoroughly. Chill for several hours before serving. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Recipe from: Linda and Fred Griffith, authors of "The New American Farm Cookbook."



(AP Photo)

Light, airy crepes filled with fresh berries and dusted with confectioners' sugar, each contain about 110 calories.

Rice crepes, a delicious treat

By The Associated Press

For a low-fat, low-calorie dessert, serve rice crepes, made with egg substitute, evaporated skim milk and corn oil margarine. The recipe is from "The Pyramid Plan," a recipe booklet that incorporates the nutritional guidelines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the American Heart Association (published by Riviana Foods).

Rice Crepes

8-ounce carton egg substitute
2-3rds cup evaporated skim milk
1 tablespoon tub, corn oil margarine, melted
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup cooked rice, without butter or salt
Vegetable cooking spray
2 1/2 cups fresh fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, blueberries or other favorite fruit
Low-sugar fruit spread (optional)
Nonfat sour cream (optional)
1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar (for garnish)

Combine egg substitute, milk and margarine in a small bowl. Stir in flour and sugar until smooth and well-blended. Stir in rice; let stand 5 minutes.

Heat an 8-inch nonstick skillet or crepe pan; coat with cooking spray. Spoon 1/4 cup batter into pan. Lift pan off heat; quickly tilt pan in rotating motion so that the bottom of the pan is completely covered with batter.

Place pan back on heat and continue cooking until surface is dry, about 45 seconds. Turn crepe over and cook 15 to 20 seconds. Remove from pan and set aside. Continue in the same manner with remaining crepe batter. Place waxed paper between crepes. Spread each crepe with your favorite filling: strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, fruit spread or sour cream. Roll up and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar to garnish. Makes 10 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 110 cal., 1 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 1 mg chol., 86 mg sodium.

S & F BEVERAGE OF TEXAS INC.

NEW YEAR'S SAVINGS

ITEMS NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL HOMELAND STORES

PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1994
Sales in Retail Consumer Quantities Only.

COORS
Light, Gold, Gold Light or Dry
12-Pack 12-oz. Cans $6.29
SAVE $1.60

EDEN ROC WINE
SPARKLING Extra Dry or Brut
SAVE $4.18 on Two
2 750-ml Bottles $6

BALLATORE SPUMANTE
SPARKLING WINE
SAVE $4.58 on Two
2 750-ml Bottles $10

TOTTS CHAMPAGNE
Brut or Extra Dry
SAVE $3.98 on Two
2 750-ml Bottles $10

FRANZIA WINE TAPS
Chevin Blanc, White Grenache, Blush, Chablis, Rhine or Vin Rose
SAVE $2.30
5-Liter Box $8.99

HOMELAND®

Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: My husband and i have been married for nearly 40 years. We are the same age, 68, and we have grandchildren who think "Popsie" hung the moon. He has been very good to me -- except for the times he's been involved with other women.

Last year, I saw him kissing our next-door neighbor, who is a widow nearly our age. My husband told me he was just giving her a birthday kiss. (This was October and her birthday is in July).

I suspected there was something between them when he went to her house to borrow something from her late husband's tool chest, and come out zipping up his pants. I had just gotten over forgiving him for getting involved with a 30-year-old woman he met in a shop at the mall when he was shopping my Christmas gift.

Hell will freeze over before I leave him and everything I have helped make.

I have never refused him, no matter how tired I am. If there was something I could put in his coffee to settle him down, I'd do it in a minute. He has lots of good qualities, but loyalty isn't one of them. I don't know whether I love him, or he is a 40-year-old habit. We were childhood sweethearts.

I don't expect you to answer this, but it's done me a lot of good getting all this off my chest. Sign me...

OLD FAITHFUL

DEAR OLD FAITHFUL: Don't apologize; that's what I'm here for. As Hamlet said, sometimes 'tis better to bear those ills we have than to fly to others we know not of.

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 years old and four months pregnant. My boyfriend and I have gotten along fine until this past week.

I am totally against abortion and I don't think I could live with the thought that someone else was raising my child. My father and I don't talk anymore and he hates the idea that I am his daughter and pregnant.

I talk to a lot of people at school and my friends help a lot, too. I hate not having the support of my father. Is there any advice that you can give me?

DESPERATE AND SCARED IN HAMILTON, OHIO

DEAR DESPERATE AND SCARED: Your father is disappointed and probably angry that you and your boyfriend did not act responsibility in preventing the pregnancy. And because many young women cut short their educations to raise these babies as single mothers, it is likely that he feels his dreams for your future have come to nothing. You do need to talk to your father and explain to him that his support is crucial during this time.

Although you and your boyfriend are not getting along right now, he is required by law to contribute to the support of his child. If he has not already discussed this with you and your parents, you and your parents should consider discussing first with his parents -- and later possibly with an attorney -- how this must be arranged. Good luck.

Curfew hailed

SUN CITY, Ariz. (AP) — Residents say a new curfew starting soon in this retirement community and neighboring Sun City West should help protect the elderly by keeping the young off the streets.

About 70,000 people live in the two age-restricted communities, where homeowners must be at least 55 years old, and no one under 18 is allowed permanent residence.

The curfew set earlier this month by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors starts in January. It will bar anyone younger than 18 from public places between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The deadline will be extended to 1 a.m. for teen-agers who are working, on an errand or with a parent or guardian. A youth alone at that hour would need a note from their parent, guardian or employer. Exceptions will also be made for young people attending movies or concerts in the curfew area that get out late.

Toy test turns up top tot-pleasers

By GREG HASSELL
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON (AP) — When Duracell wanted to discover the best new toy for 1993, it gave 700 kids a crack at 24 new toys.

And crack some of the toys they did.

"Our kids broke the Picnic Panic game," said Mark Symms, program director at the Texas Medical Center YMCA in Houston. "After a few days, our picnic basket wouldn't pop the ants out anymore."

About 30 Houston kids from the Houston YMCA were selected to take part in the Sixth Annual Duracell Kids' Choice National Toy Survey. They, like their kid counterparts in 29 other cities, picked Loopin' Louie to be the best new toy of 1993.

"Loopin' Louie was the best game, because it was the most fun," 10-year-old Beth Sease said.

Louie is a barnstorming pilot who swerves around a playing board, knocking chickens off barn tops. The object for the four players is to protect their chickens from Louie's plane.

In the two months since the Houston kids started testing new toys, Loopin' Louie remains their favorite. In fact, the only real problem is the fights caused when some kids aren't allowed to play.

"They still play with it every day, but they'll fight over it when it comes time to pick four players," Symms said. "And sometimes they get upset if Louie knocks all their chickens down. Other than that, it's a great game."

According to the Houston survey, the best new toys of 1993 besides Loopin' Louie are:

— Radio Control Racer, a toy car controlled by a remote with a mini-steering wheel.

— Zoom Ball, a ball attached to long strings with handles on each end.

— One player holds the handles on one end of the strings, and the other player holds the handles on the other end. The ball speeds toward a player until he uses the handles to pull the strings apart and sends the ball zooming in the opposite direction.

— Snardvark, a board game in which the object is to race to the end of the Snardvark's tongue before he eats the game pieces.

— Two-sided Magna Doodle, a magnetic drawing board that allows kids to draw on both sides at once.

— Crayola Designer Lite Desk, which allows kids to design things such as clothing and cars by drawing on transparencies placed on a lighted desk.

The ranking from the national survey was identical, except the two-sided Magna Doodle did not charm other kids as much as it did little Houstonians.

"We believe children are the true toy experts," said Bunny Webb, Duracell spokeswoman. "So the top kid-tested toys on our list are best bets for parents who are looking for ideas about the kind of toys and games their kids will enjoy playing for a long time."

Nine out of the 24 toys tested require batteries. The top toy, Loopin' Louie, does require a battery.

The survey did not include any licensed toys like Talking Barney or the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, two of the hottest-selling toys this year. Duracell eliminated licensed toys like Barney because kids are tempted to respond to his personality and his show, not the actual quality of the toy.

"In my 20 years in the toy business, I have never seen so much licensed hype as I have this year," said Ruth Roufberg, an independent toy consultant to the Duracell survey. "In tougher economic times, licensing is a quick and easy way for toy manufacturers to increase sales without creating an original concept or spending many advertising dollars."

Christmas is the make-or-break time of year for toy makers. Nearly two-thirds of all toy sales occur in the last three months of the year. That means U.S. consumers shell out a total of $10 billion for toys during the months of October, November and December.

Toy sales increased 8 percent last year, according to the Toy Manufacturers of America. Toy sales have increased every year since 1963. They have proved resilient in times of war, recession, stagflation and cultural disaster such as the age of disco.

Many toy analysts and manufacturers predict toy sales will increase again in 1993.

"Consumers always find a way to buy in the fourth quarter, and with the general feeling regarding the economy, sales should increase over '92," said Georgiann Kennedy, product marketing manager for Discovery Toys. "But I do not believe we will see a significant increase."

The average American family spends $400 each Christmas, according to the National Retail Federation. A good chunk of that goes for toys.

With that in mind, the Duracell survey organizers said they were pleased the kids picked relatively inexpensive toys this year.

"You didn't have to spend a lot of money to get a good toy this year," said Ishtar Schwager, an educational psychologist who helped organize the survey.

Crisis center gets new copier for Christmas



Doug Locke, at left, looked a lot like Santa to the staff of Tralee Crisis Center. He donated the copier which he and Janet Watts, director of the center, are using to make copies for staff use. (Pampa News photo by Cheryl Berzanskis)

Club news

Altrusa International Inc.

Altrusa International Inc. of Pampa met Nov. 22 in the Starlight Room of Coronado Inn.

Judy Warner, president, called the meeting to order. Eight special guests were present: Kari Phillips, Pam Dunham, Cindy Hinds, Mary Denman, Bonnie Holmes, Kerrick Horton, Nancy Hahn and Pamela Bickle.

Martha Boyd announced she had sign-up sheets for the annual Nursing Home Shopping Spree on Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. Warner invited members to attend the annual Board of Directors reception on Sunday, Dec. 5, in the home of Donna Turner. A perfect attendance award was presented to Judy Rutledge. The drawing for the blue topaz ring was held, with Patsy Schmito being the winner.

The program was the annual auction with Casino night as the theme. Carolyn Chaney and Brenda Tucker served as the pit bosses. Judy Martin, Mayda King, Donna Turner, Pat Johnson, Ruby Royse and Lib Jones were the runners for the evening. Georgia Johnson assisted Joyce Williams with the collections.

Auction items consisted of Christmas wreaths and other decorations, handmade items, homemade goodies (brandied cranberries and pumpkin cheesecake, to mention a couple) and lots more. All proceeds go to finance Altrusa's service projects for the year. Greeters were Arlene Gibson and Judy Martin.

Next meeting was scheduled for Dec. 13 in the Starlight Room of Coronado Inn.

State programs help needy elderly afford costly, crucial prescription drugs

By ROBERT W. TROTT
Associated Press Writer

For many older people, getting the drugs their doctor ordered comes close to food and shelter as a necessity. When they can't afford those drugs, it can mean a life-or-death dilemma. In 10 states, though, the needy elderly get help.

It's an issue of wide concern. About one-third of the $51 billion spent each year on prescription drugs in this country comes from the pockets of older people.

Medicare does not cover prescription drugs ordered outside a hospital. And while the Clinton administration's plan for national health care addresses this issue — proposing a $12 monthly premium for drugs — that may be many years away, if ever.

"The choice folks face these days is, 'Do we spend this money on the mortgage, do we spend it on heat, do we spend it on food, or do we spend it on drugs?'" said Tom Otwell, a spokesman for the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington.

Dan Durham, an AARP lobbyist, said a nationwide survey by the organization last year found 10 percent of people in this country over the age of 45 reporting they cut back on food, heating fuel or other basic expenses to pay for prescription drugs.

"Older Americans rely more on prescription drugs to maintain their health than younger Americans," Durham said. "At the same time, they have the least amount of insurance coverage to pay for prescriptions."

The AARP survey, conducted by telephone to 1,500 people over age 45, also found that 55 percent of people ages 65-74 had insurance coverage for prescribed medications and the proportion fell to 40 percent among people 74 and older.

In Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, meanwhile, the low-income elderly get a break on their drug bills.

Dating to the 1970s and '80s, most of these state programs set a flat price for any prescription, or provide partial reimbursement, with the government paying the rest.

> "Do we spend money on the mortgage, do we spend it on heat, do we spend it on food, or do we spend it on drugs?"

New Jersey was first. In 1977 it set up its Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program. Now costing $168 million a year, the program is paid for mainly from casino revenues to help some 228,000 needy and disabled seniors buy prescription drugs.

The individual pays $5 for each prescription; the state pays the rest. That's a boon in a state where the average prescription costs $35.75, said Ed Rogan, spokesman for New Jersey's Department of Human Services.

"It's always been very popular," Rogan said of the program. "The population is graying. There are a lot of retirees."

In 1990, Vermont began reimbursing 80 percent of drug prescription costs for people over age 65, if the individual's income was no more than $11,900 or the couple's was $16,100 or less.

Pennsylvania's Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly is the largest such program in the country, with a budget of $225 million and more than 332,000 participants. Begun in 1984, the program picks up the prescription tab after $6, unless the consumer insists on a particular brand.

"These are people who wouldn't get the medication they need if it were not for PACE," said Kate Megargee, spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

In Delaware, a public-private partnership between the state and a clinic created with an endowment from publisher and philanthropist Alfred I. du Pont, reimburses its 18,600 elderly participants 10 percent on their drug prescriptions.

And New York has the highest income threshold for eligibility: $15,000 for a single person, $20,000 for a couple. There participants pay $3 to $23 for each prescription, pegged to the drug's cost.

Getting these programs can be frustrating for those pressing for them. In Massachusetts, officials are committed to devising a program but have yet to produce one. Meanwhile, people are anxiously trying to make their drug bills and other costs meet.

"This whole issue of the cost of drugs is one of the most frustrating and angering to older consumers," said Al Norman, director of the Massachusetts advocacy organization, Mass Home Care. "They are really ripped about the cost."

PRE-INVENTORY
CLEARANCE
If You Buy It We Won't Have To Count It!!!
THURS., DEC. 30th, 9:30-5:30 P.M.
& FRI. DEC. 31st, 9:30-1:00 P.M.
ENTIRE STOCK* - SAVE
50% Off
*Excludes Hosiery And Intimate Day Wear
ALL SALES FINAL
Bette's Plus
708 N. Hobart
Pampa
34th & Coulter
Amarillo

The Pampa News

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

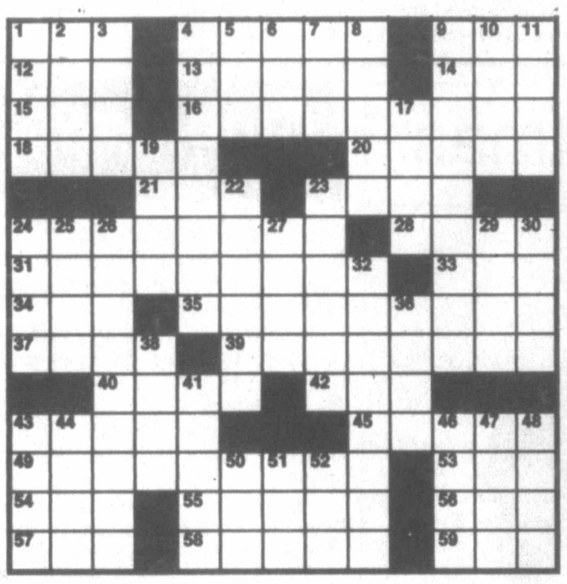
1 — code
4 Dreary
9 Lincoln's nickname
12 Japanese sash
13 Weird
14 — Angeles
15 Mouth part
16 Story-telling
18 Fred Astaire's sister
20 Mediterranean island
21 Birds — — feather
23 Part of leg
24 Most long-limbed and slender
28 Film director — Sennett
31 Optical fatigue
33 — — fault (overmuch)
34 — Hammarskjold
35 Sleepy
37 Indian Ocean ship
39 Resent
40 Domesticate
42 RR depot
43 Milk-processing plant
45 Chest with shelves
49 Turn to gas
53 — de France
54 Illuminated
55 Actress — Laurie
56 At the price of
57 Dutch town
58 Consumed
59 Naval addr.

DOWN

1 Author Emile —
2 In the same place (abbr.)
3 Plumbing fixture
4 Advantages
5 Meadow
6 Go wrong
7 Ventilate
8 Actor Stacy —
9 Estranged
10 Heavy footwear
11 Anglo-Saxon slave
17 Decorate
19 Pieces of cut timber
22 Type of germ
23 Pricks painfully
24 — Foxx
25 Indian nurse
26 Try to reach agreement
27 Identical
29 Viet — guerrillas
30 Kiss Me —
32 Opposite of southern
36 Feast in Hawaii
38 Twist out of shape
41 Nearsighted person
43 Eliminate, in printing
44 Enthusiastic
46 Minor quarrel
47 Hoofbeat sound
48 Courageous person
50 Inlet
51 Likely
52 Golf mound

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	O	N		P	I	N	A		P	I	U	S
O	M	A		E	S	A	U		A	R	N	E
Y	A	P		A	S	I	F		C	O	D	E
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E	R	N	E		A	N	O	A		E	T	C
S	E	A	M		P	E	N	D		S	E	A



WALNUT COVE — By Mark Cullum



ARLO & JANIS — By Jimmy Johnson



EEK & MEEK — By Howie Schneider



B.C. — By Johnny Hart



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're presently in a very favorable cycle where your desires and expectations have good chances of being fulfilled. It's imperative you believe in yourself and your abilities. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) In competitive developments today, the odds are slanted in your favor. However, initially neither you nor onlookers might believe this to be true.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Your powers of observation are exceptionally astute today and useful knowledge can be acquired by watching a role model handle a situation similar to one you'll be handling later.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your dealings with male friends today could be of greater substance than involvements you'll have with the ladies. Keep this in mind when selecting affiliations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The proof for which you've been hoping regarding the loyalty and support of an associate could become evident today. It should make you feel good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today you could be extremely effective in managing critical matters for others. Your sincere efforts to protect their position will prove beneficial for you as well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Persons who are in positions of power and influence sense a kinship with you today that is stronger than usual. One might do something significant for you without being asked.

OLEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Usually its unwise to have too many irons in the fire at one time, but today could be an exception. The more you have going afor you, the greater your chances for success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Wherever you go today your presence could have an impact, not because you're forceful or assertive, but because your enthusiastic manner will have an uplifting effect on all you encounter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not be indifferent today with situations that are presently running rather smoothly and producing good results. These can be substantially improve upon if you have the will to do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You have a rare gift today your peers might find enviable. It's your ability to evaluate and utilize information. They'll hear the same thing, but might not know what to do with it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You might find yourself in an arrangement today where you'll feel something important has slipped from your control. This assumption is erroneous. The opposite will be true.

MARVIN — By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE — By Brad Anderson

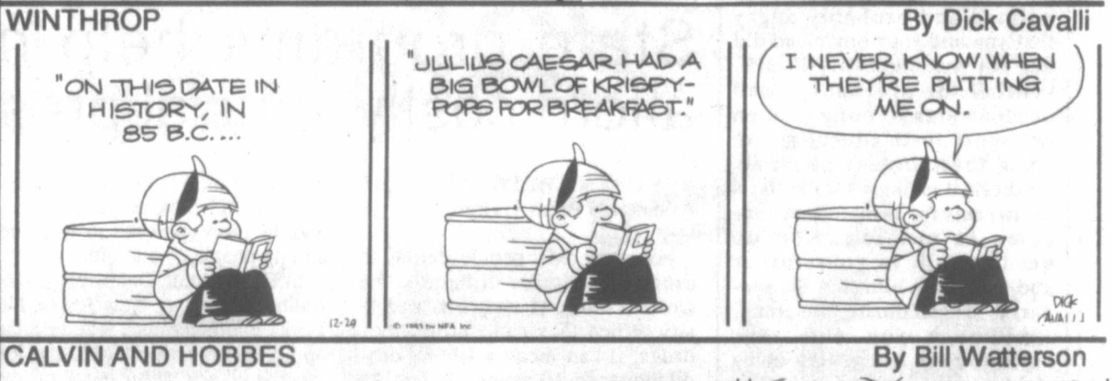
"When he wags his tail, there's actually a wind-chill factor in the house."

KIT N' CARLYLE — By Larry Wright

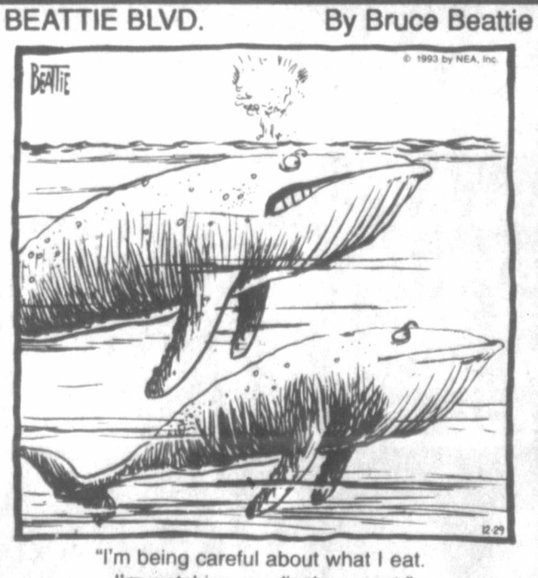
ALLEY OOP — By Dave Graue



WINTHROP — By Dick Cavalli



BEATTIE BLVD. — By Bruce Beattie



"I'm being careful about what I eat. I'm watching my displacement."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS — By Bil Keane



"Billy says I hafta cover my ears 'cause that's HIS radio and HIS music."

CALVIN AND HOBBES — By Bill Watterson



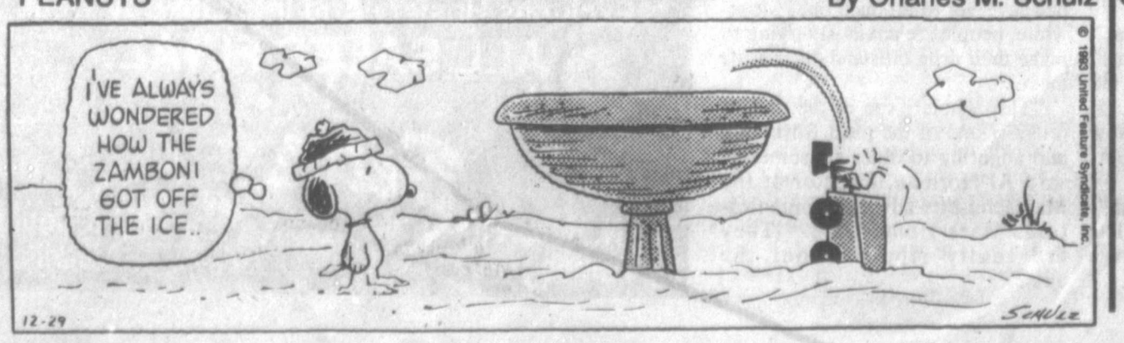
THE BORN LOSER — By Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST — By Bob Thaves



PEANUTS — By Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



Notebook

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — President Clinton cheered No. 1 Arkansas to victory after flying through nasty weather to attend a game that started without him.

"I loved it," Clinton said in the winning locker room, when greeted by coach Nolan Richardson and players after the Razorbacks defeated Texas Southern 129-63.

During the game, the president received a round of applause when introduced to the crowd. He sat near center court and in a skybox. Clinton got to the game nearly 45 minutes after it began — and with his homestate team up by nearly 30 points. The president sported a University of Arkansas basketball cap.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jeff Brohm hit Reggie Ferguson with a 25-yard touchdown pass with 12:05 left, helping No. 25 Louisville over Michigan State 18-7 in the Liberty Bowl.

The Cardinals added a safety and another TD for their first victory over a Big Ten school. Louisville (9-3) entered the game with an 0-5-1 mark against Big Ten teams. Brohm finished 19-of-29 for 197 yards.

FOOTBALL

WASHINGTON (AP) — An arbitrator is expected to rule by Thursday on a grievance to force the Washington Redskins to suspend players who don't pay their $5,000 annual union dues before Friday's season finale with Minnesota.

Arbitrator Herbert Fishgold, a former lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board, listened to nearly six hours of testimony, then took the case under advisement.

The players association filed the grievance after the Redskins, citing Virginia's right-to-work law, allowed last Friday's deadline for paying dues to pass without suspending non-paying players.

Thirty-five Redskins have refused to pay dues, upset over a contract signed between the union and NFL owners last spring establishing a limited form of free agency with salary caps.

Tight end Terry Orr filed a suit in Loudon County Circuit Court near Redskins' headquarters seeking a restraining order against the team and union from suspending players.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Williams, who could have become a free agent following the 1994 season, agreed to the eighth-highest average salary in the major leagues, a $30.75 million, five-year contract with San Francisco.

Williams hit .294 last season, with 38 homers and 110 RBIs.

The Yankees said left-hander Brien Taylor, top pick in the 1991 draft, will miss the entire 1994 season following reconstructive surgery on his pitching shoulder. Taylor was hurt in a fight Dec. 18.

Dr. Frank Jobe, Dodgers' team physician, operated at Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, Calif., and repaired two parts of Taylor's shoulder, a torn capsule and torn labrum, which cover the muscle.

The White Sox signed outfielder Darrin Jackson, released by the Mets, to a $750,000, one-year contract.

Outfielder Jesse Barfield and Houston completed agreement on terms of a minor-league contract. Barfield, who hit just .215 for the Tokyo Giants last season in Japan, gets a guaranteed $100,000 signing bonus and the chance for a $250,000 major-league contract if he makes the team in spring training.

Pitcher Greg Harris and Colorado agreed on a one-year contract, and catcher Chris Hoiles and Baltimore agreed on a $2 million, one-year deal, nearly six times his 1993 salary.

BASKETBALL

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Jerry Reynolds, his team holding the NBA's second-worst record and shaken by the car crash that nearly killed rookie Bobby Hurley, resigned as Sacramento Kings general manager.

Reynolds, 49, had two coaching stints with the team. He will remain with the club until a new general manager is hired. During the 2 1/2 seasons he coached, the Kings went 56-114.

The Kings are now 6-19 and have lost 14 of 16 games.

General managing partner Jim Thomas said Del Harris, a former NBA coach hired this year as a consultant, is a candidate for general manager.

HOCKEY

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins general manager Craig Patrick was arrested on drunken driving charges early Tuesday.

Police said Patrick was traveling at 63 mph in a 35 mph zone on Pittsburgh's North Side. Patrick's blood-alcohol level measured 0.196 percent. The legal limit in Pennsylvania is 0.10 percent.

Patrick, 46, gave off a strong odor of alcohol and was incoherent after being stopped. He refused a field sobriety test, and was taken to a police station and charged with drunken driving and speeding.

He has been general manager of the Penguins since 1989 and was the team's temporary coach his first year.

HORSE RACING

MANORVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — More than two dozen thoroughbreds valued at $2 million perished in a fire that leveled their two-story barn on eastern Long Island.

Some of the 29 horses that died raced at local tracks, including Aqueduct and Belmont, and at New Jersey tracks at Monmouth Park and the Meadowlands.

Stable worker Rick Hazelton and Maude Frank, who owns Manor Horse Farm, were driven back by heat after managing to save six horses, including My Memoirs, the runner-up in the 1992 Belmont Stakes.

Twenty-three of the dead were 3-year-olds and older, six were 2-and-under.

Cowboys dominate Pro Bowl roster

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even the Dallas Cowboys recognize that the record 11 players they placed on the NFC Pro Bowl team is as much a factor of what they did last year as this year.

"You get a lot of Pro Bowl selections the year after you have a big season like we did in winning the Super Bowl," coach Jimmy Johnson said after the selections were announced Tuesday.

"I'm pleased to see we have three players make it on defense. Last year we didn't have any and we had the best defense in the league."

The 11 Cowboys are the most for any NFC team and one short of the league record. There were a dozen selected from the 1973 Miami Dolphins, who fit Johnson's description perfectly — it was the team that won the Super Bowl the season following the 17-0 team that won in 1972.

Only two other teams had as many as seven players selected in the first year that fans have participated: San Francisco and Buffalo. The 49ers got three of the six players who were named to the team in tiebreakers by the fan vote — balloting by players, fans and coaches each counted one third.

The Pro Bowl includes perhaps the oldest group of quarterbacks ever named — 37-year-old Joe Montana of Kansas City and 38-year-old Warren Moon of Houston are the AFC backups and 38-year Phil Simms of the New York Giants is a backup for the NFC.

The starting quarterbacks are Troy Aikman of Dallas in the NFC and John Elway of Denver for the AFC. San Francisco's Steve Young joins Aikman and Simms as NFC quarterbacks.

"I was surprised I finished ahead of Steve," Aikman said.

In addition to having the fans join coaches and players in voting, there were several other changes in the format for this year's team.

Defenses were switched from 3-4 to 4-3, meaning an extra defensive lineman was selected and one less inside linebacker.

A fullback also was selected to go with three running backs, adding the Cowboys' Daryl Johnston to teammate Emmitt Smith, Detroit's Barry Sanders and Los Angeles Rams rookie Jerome Bettis in the NFC. The AFC fullback is Keith Byars of Miami, joining Buffalo's Thurman Thomas, Kansas City's Marcus Allen and Pittsburgh's Barry Foster.

Aikman was the top vote-getter among the fans, who made NFC players their top five choices. He got 216,782 votes to 205,106 for Young, 190,073 for Emmitt Smith, 184,104 for Jerry Rice and 174,254 for Barry Sanders.

Rice and Atlanta cornerback Deion Sanders were the only players to receive first-place votes on every player and coach ballot and also to finish first in fan voting at their position. Twenty players on each squad were consensus selections.

Fan voting, however, was used whenever there was a tied vote, and six players made the teams that way — all high-profile players or players from high-profile teams.

They were tight ends Keith Jackson of Miami and Brent Jones of San Francisco, offensive linemen Jumbo Elliott of the Giants and Jesse Sapolu and Guy McIntyre of the 49ers, and linebacker Pat Swilling of Detriot.

In addition to Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Johnston, the 11 Cowboys included wide receiver Michael Irvin, offensive tackle Erik Williams, guard Nate Newton, center Mark Stepnoski, tight end Jay Novacek, defensive tackle Russell Maryland, linebacker Ken Norton and center Thomas Everett.

Stepnoski is injured and won't play. He was replaced on the roster by the Giants' Bart Oates, who shares center on his own team with Brian Williams.

The seven Buffalo players are Thomas, wide receiver Andre Reed, offensive tackle Howard Ballard, defensive end Bruce Smith, linebacker Cornelius Bennett, cornerback Nate Odomes and special teams player Steve Tasker.

Curiously missing is linebacker Darryl Talley, whom most of the Bills consider along with Odomes as their top defensive player this year.

"I'm very surprised," said Reed, who ranks 13th among AFC receivers with 803 yards. His 48 catches equals his career low, set in his rookie season.

"I was injured two games and I really didn't have the numbers. I didn't have the catches that I've had previous years."



Coy Laury had 19 points and 9 rebounds in Pampa's first-round win over Fort Worth Brewer in the Fort Worth West Side Lions Club Tournament. (Pampa News photo)

Harvesters blast Brewer in opening round of Fort Worth Lions Tournament

FORT WORTH – Coy Laury scored 19 points and pulled down 9 rebounds as Pampa rolled to a 66-41 win over Fort Worth Brewer in the opening round of the Lions Club West Side Tournament Tuesday night.

Laury, a 6-1 sophomore, hit 9 of 16 field goal attempts as the Harvesters boosted their record to 9-6 for the season.

The Harvesters never trailed, taking an early 10-0 lead.

"We were pretty sluggish after taking five days off and it took us awhile to get started," said Pampa assistant coach John Darnell. "We started hitting some layups and just wore them down. We outscored Brewer, 27-18, in the fourth quarter."

Pampa hadn't played a game since Dec. 18, taking time off for Christmas.

The Harvesters are going for their third consecutive Lions Club Tournament title. They've reached the tournament finals the past four years.

Duane Nickelberry chipped in 13 points for the Harvesters, followed by Rayford Young and Hank Gindorf, 8 points each; Seivern Wallace 6, Robert Bremerman 5, Justin Collingsworth 4 and Jason Jones 3.

Aubrey Huff had 17 points to lead Brewer in scoring. Teammate Aaron Emmons added 10 points.

Brewer's record drops to 3-12.

Pampa takes on Burkburnett at 7:45 p.m. tonight.

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DUNCANVILLE – Cleburne downed Pampa, 61-26, Tuesday in the first round of the 43rd annual Southwest AAU Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Kim Lummus scored 15 points and Amy Yates added 13 to lead the Cleburne scorers.

Elisha Calloway was the leading scorer for Pampa with 15 points. Serenity King had 6 points, followed by Jennifer Jones and Misty Scribner, 2 each, and Jayme Davis, 1.

The Lady Harvesters suited up only seven players because of illness.

Pampa goes against Irving at 7 p.m. tonight.

Cleburne, a Class 5A school, is ranked No. 16 in the state by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

Area High School Results

Canadian Invitational
first round
BOYS

Spearman	12 30 56 72
Miami	8 24 33 42

S - Varnon 24, Lasater 9; M - A. Neighbors 13, Hurst 10.

White Deer	14 19 31 53
Canadian	11 24 42 64

WD - Whitley 16, Herring 14; C - Bivins 23, K. Flowers 20.

GIRLS

Spearman	7 18 30 48
Miami	0 3 12 23

S - Townsend 25; M - Gill 6, Barton 6, Bowers 6.

White Deer	8 18 25 39
Canadian	6 30 36 49

WD - Tacket 14, Wheeler 7; C - Vanhooser 15, Sparks 10.

North Plains Tournament
at Claude High School
BOYS
second round

Wheeler	24 37 54 70
Claude	9 24 43 57

W - Wiggins 24, Ledbetter 15; C - Smith 17, Mullins 15.

GIRLS
semifinals

Panhandle	11 30 47 60
Wheeler	8 23 35 53

P - Brinkley 21, Humphrey 16; W - Rose 20, Nelson 13.

Brohm leads Louisville past Michigan State

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jeff Brohm is a quick healer.

The Louisville senior, who broke his right index finger in five places on Thanksgiving Day, was 19-of-29 for 197 yards and threw the go-ahead touchdown Tuesday night in leading the 25th-ranked Cardinals over Michigan State 18-7 in the Liberty Bowl.

"Obviously it hurt," Brohm said. "I told myself before we came into the game, win or lose, I was going to make no excuses about it."

Brohm broke the index finger on his passing hand in Louisville's 28-0 season-ending victory over Tulsa when he was pushed into a cement wall. Doctors repaired the finger with a steel plate and pins, and he didn't start throwing again until last week.

"When I first did it, it was obviously scary. They just told me it was going to be a matter of time before it healed. They said I'd be throwing with some pain," Brohm said.

Louisville coach Howard Schnellenberger, who didn't name a starter until shortly before kickoff, liked Brohm's performance in 30-degree temperatures with a wind chill hovering around 16.

"Jeff Brohm showed a great deal of courage and maturity by making this gallant effort to rehab and be ready for this game," Schnellenberger said. "The injury happened on the 25th of November and on the 28th day of December, he was playing a major-league football game."

Michigan State (6-6) led 7-3 for three quarters until Brohm rallied the Cardinals.

He directed a 14-play drive in the third quarter that failed when David Akers' 23-yard field goal attempt missed wide left. But Louisville's defense returned the ball to Brohm seven plays later, and the 6-foot-1 senior completed four of five passes, capping a 59-yard drive with a 25-yard TD throw to Reggie Ferguson for a 10-7 lead with 12:05 to go.

"He surprised me," Michigan State coach George Perles said. "He hurt us as much running as he did passing. We felt with his injury, he might not run as much. It was a credit to him that he did. It shows what kind of courage and toughness he has."

The Cardinals added a safety and another TD in clinching their first victory over a Big Ten school. Louisville (9-3) entered the game with an 0-5-1 mark against Big Ten teams.

"Any time you get a new notch on your belt — a win over a Big Ten school for the first time — is another one of those steps up the elusive ladder," Schnellenberger said.

Liberty Bowl

Joe Johnson, who had one sack, put the Cardinals up 12-7 when he tackled Craig Thomas in the end zone for a safety with 8:53 remaining. Ralph Dawkins, who rushed 14 times for 88 yards and caught eight passes for 68, capped the scoring with an 11-yard run with 4:57 remaining.

Any faint hopes the Spartans had ended when Louisville took over on downs at its 36 with 3:30 left.

"We lost because we didn't play as hard as they did," Perles said. "It's as simple as that."

The victory capped the Cardinals' rebound from 2-9 and 5-6 seasons after beating Alabama in the 1991 Fiesta Bowl.

The bowl appearance was the first for Michigan State following consecutive losing seasons.

Michigan State dominated the first half behind the passing of Jim Miller, who was 9-of-15 for 108 yards before intermission but only 6-of-13 for 85 yards in the second half. He hit his first four passes on the opening drive as he moved the Spartans 79 yards in 11 plays. Duane Goulborne's 1-yard run made it 7-0.

Brohm responded by directing a scoring drive on the Cardinals' first possession. Dawkins was stopped for a 2-yard loss on third-and-2, and Louisville settled for a 31-yard field goal by Akers with 7:12 left in the period.

The weather held attendance to 21,097, after 34,216 tickets were sold.

Lady Raiders hold off Seton Hall

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — Despite a few sparks out of Seton Hall, No. 7 Texas Tech held on for the duration in beating the Pirates.

Connie Robinson scored a game-high 21 points for the Lady Raiders in leading her team to a 78-65 victory over Seton Hall Tuesday night.

"We really wanted to try to attack them on the blocks early," said Tech head coach Marsha Sharp. "It would be to our advantage to not have some of those kids (Seton Hall frontcourt) on the floor. Their strengths were Jodi Brooks shooting from the perimeter and everything else outside."

With a 21-0 run, the Lady Raiders (8-1) took an early 39-14 lead with 1:14 remaining in the first half, led by nine points from Robinson. Texas Tech held Seton Hall scoreless for a span of over eight minutes, as the Pirates shot just 22.6 percent from the field.

Seton Hall (7-2) had its only lead of the game early on, fighting back from a quick 6-0 deficit to get a 9-8 lead on a driving layup by Kia Walker at 14:19.

Earlier win against Nebraska boosted Seminoles program

MIAMI (AP) — Florida State coach Bobby Bowden says the school's most important win came at Nebraska 13 years ago. That 18-14 victory at Lincoln, Neb., started the Seminoles toward respectability.

"We had no national reputation," said Bowden, who is preparing his top-ranked Seminoles to meet No. 2 Nebraska in Saturday's Orange Bowl for the national title. "It's the biggest because of who we played and where we played, and who we were at the time."

Florida State was coming off its only loss of the 1980 regular season — a 10-9 setback at Miami — when it traveled to Lincoln for the first of four visits in the decade and rallied from a 14-3 deficit to win.

"We put a lot of people in business," said Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "After they beat us the first time, it helped their program a lot."

Winning at Notre Dame, Ohio State, Michigan, Clemson, Florida and LSU helped cement Bowden's reputation as "King of the Road," but it all started on that October day in Nebraska.

Bowden and Nebraska coach Tom Osborne meet for the eighth time Saturday, and one will likely come away with his first national title.

The two veteran coaches are friends, but Osborne says, "I see him a lot more than I'd like to at bowl games."

The Seminoles split their four games at Nebraska, but have swept the Huskers in three bowl games in the past six years, including last year's 27-14 Orange Bowl victory, to build a 5-2 advantage in the series, which resumes in the regular season on a home-and-home basis later in the decade.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

By The Associated Press

All Times EST

Friday, Dec. 17
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Utah State 42, Ball State 33

Friday, Dec. 24
John Hancock Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Oklahoma 41, Texas Tech 10

Saturday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Gray 17, Blue 10
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Colorado 41, Fresno State 30

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Michigan State 18, Louisville 7

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Copper Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Wyoming (8-3) vs. Kansas State (8-2-1), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 30
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Brigham Young (6-5) vs. Ohio State (9-1-1), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Freedom Bowl
At Anaheim, Calif.
Southern Cal (7-5) vs. Utah (7-5), 9 p.m. (Raycom)

Friday, Dec. 31
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Indiana (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Clemson (8-3) vs. Kentucky (6-5), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Alabama (8-3-1) vs. North Carolina (10-2), 7 p.m. (TBS)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Iowa (6-5) vs. California (8-4), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 1
Hall of Fame Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Michigan (7-4) vs. North Carolina State (7-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Penn State (9-2) vs. Tennessee (9-1-1), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Miami (9-2) vs. Arizona (9-2), 1 p.m. (NBC)
Carquest Bowl
At Miami
Boston College (8-3) vs. Virginia (7-4), 1:30 p.m. (CBS)
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Texas A&M (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (10-1), 4:30 p.m. (NBC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
UCLA (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-1-1), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Heritage Bowl
At Atlanta
Southern U. (9-1) vs. South Carolina State (8-3), 4:30 p.m.
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Nebraska (11-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 8 p.m. (NBC)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Florida (10-2) vs. West Virginia (11-0), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 15
East-West Shrine Classic
At Stanford, Calif.
East vs. West, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 22
Senior Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Hula Bowl
At Honolulu
College All-Stars vs. Hawaii All-Stars, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

By The Associated Press

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	17	7	.708	—
Orlando	15	11	.577	3
Miami	12	12	.500	5
New Jersey	11	15	.423	7
Boston	11	16	.407	7 1/2
Philadelphia	9	16	.360	8 1/2
Washington	8	18	.308	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	18	7	.720	—
Chicago	17	8	.680	1
Charlotte	15	12	.556	4
Cleveland	12	14	.462	6 1/2
Indiana	10	15	.400	8
Detroit	8	18	.308	10 1/2
Milwaukee	7	20	.259	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	23	4	.852	—
Utah	19	8	.704	4
San Antonio	17	11	.607	6 1/2
Denver	13	13	.500	9 1/2
Minnesota	8	19	.296	15
Dallas	2	24	.077	20 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	21	3	.875	—
Phoenix	20	5	.800	1 1/2
Portland	16	11	.593	6 1/2
Golden State	14	11	.560	7 1/2
LA Clippers	11	14	.440	10 1/2
LA Lakers	9	18	.333	13 1/2
Sacramento	6	19	.240	15 1/2

Monday's Games
Orlando 122, Sacramento 110
Charlotte 109, Detroit 94
Washington 96, Milwaukee 87
Utah 97, Minnesota 93
Phoenix 118, Boston 102
LA Clippers 96, Philadelphia 86
Tuesday's Games
Late Game Not Included
New Jersey 97, New York 95
San Antonio 84, Miami 76
Atlanta 119, Detroit 101
Cleveland 127, Charlotte 115, OT
Denver 97, Dallas 85
Seattle 112, Houston 97
Philadelphia at Golden State, (n)
Wednesday's Games
Sacramento at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Utah, 9 p.m.
Seattle at LA Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
LA Clippers at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at LA Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Iowa preparing for defensive heat in Alamo Bowl

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Iowa is preparing for heat in the Alamo Bowl. California's defensive heat, that is.

Cal plays a gambling, blitzing defense that's built upon getting to the quarterback before he can throw. It can wreak havoc in an offense, creating sacks and bad passes and turnovers.

But blitzing is a two-way street. If the offense picks it up, the defense can get burned, and that's what Iowa will be hoping for in Friday night's game at the Alamodome.

"I love their defense," Iowa wide receiver Harold Jasper said. "That's just a chance for us to get a big play. We just have to put everything together."

Easy for Jasper to say because he's not the one being blitzed. Quarterback Paul Burmeister is the guy who has to stand up to the rush, but he, too, seems unfazed — probably because he's used to having defenders in his face.

Iowa's young offensive line allowed 38 sacks this season. Burmeister was the sackee on most of them.

"Every team we've played has done it, but not to the extent Cal does," Burmeister said of blitzing tactics. "It puts more pressure on the quarterback to recognize what's going on. It's a tougher preparation than a normal game."

In that regard, Burmeister is glad the Hawkeyes have had a month to get ready for the game.

"I think if it was an early season game where we only had a week to prepare, we might be in for some problems," said Burmeister, who got enough protection to throw for 2,082 yards and 10 touchdowns. "But since we've had more time to prepare, I think we've had time to work on everything they've shown."

And like Jasper, Burmeister knows he can make the blitz work to Iowa's advantage if his protection holds. Because linebackers and sometimes defensive backs are the blitzers, those left in pass defense must cover the receivers man-to-man. That's where the big-play potential comes in.

"You're taking a chance because no matter how good a DB is, if a receiver's got a lot of time one-on-one and has a lot of field to work with, most good receivers are going to get open," Burmeister said.

"So they put a lot of stock at getting to the quarterback. It's a risk you take when you bring that many people."

With risk comes excitement.

"It makes for an entertaining game," said Donnie Patterson, Iowa's offensive coordinator. "I think you'll see a lot of big plays on both sides if they elect to play that way."

Cal actually had fewer sacks than Iowa's defense, getting 30 to the Hawkeyes' 36. But the Bears backed off on the pressure when some key players got hurt during a four-game losing streak at midseason.

The injuries forced defensive coordinator Artie Gigantino to use too many inexperienced players during that stretch and the Bears gave up some big plays as a result. In consecutive losses to Washington State, Southern Cal and Arizona State, the Bears were outscored 117-21.

"I didn't want to put kids in a situation where they were in a negative opportunity to make plays," Gigantino said. "We probably got away from it a little too much."

Gigantino is being coy about his plans for Iowa.

"People have blitzed them once in a while, but to say a team has blitzed them 40 times in a game, no, no one has," he said. "So I don't know what their reaction would be to that and I'm not sure if we're going to blitz at all."

Don't believe him.

Tulsa star sparkles against Oklahoma State, Arkansas

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press Writer

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Immediately after a 73-61 victory over Tulsa, Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton sought out Gary Collier to congratulate him on his performance.

Three nights later, after Collier scored 30 points and had 14 rebounds in Tulsa's 93-91 overtime loss to No. 1 Arkansas, coach Nolan Richardson did the same thing.

"His performance was perhaps the best ever in this arena," said Richardson, who coached Tulsa for five years before going to Arkansas. "He put on a tremendous exhibition of basketball."

The question is, how does he do it?

At 6-foot-4, Collier doesn't have the size to bang around inside with the likes of 7-foot Bryant Reeves or Arkansas' 6-7 Corliss Williamson. He doesn't have the greatest athletic skills, or the sweetest outside shot.

None of that seems to matter.

"He's just a student of the game," coach Tubby Smith said. "He studies his opponents and he understands his limitations. It may look like he's not a good athlete, but Gary can get above the rim and he's extremely strong for his size."

Smith thought Collier's style looked familiar, but he didn't make the match until he realized Collier grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, watching Mark Aguire and Adrian Dantley, who at the time played for the Dallas Mavericks. Collier played for Fort Worth Dunbar.

"I try to pattern my game after theirs a little bit," said Collier, who leads Tulsa with 22.3 points and 7.5 rebounds a game. "I don't have all the athletic ability in the world, but I do what I can. They weren't the most athletic players out there, but they made the most out of what they had."

Tulsa takes on Texas Tech (3-4) tonight in the first round of the All-College tournament in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma (5-2) plays Eastern Kentucky (4-4) in the earlier game.

Oklahoma is coming off an 87-75 loss at Texas. Eastern Kentucky's losses this year have come to Kentucky, Indiana, UNLV and Louisville.

Despite two close games against ranked teams, this week looms large for the Hurricane, which is nearing the end of a solid non-conference schedule before heading into Missouri Valley Conference play.

Smith has warned his team not to be satisfied with playing teams close.

"We had two big games where the coverage was great and fans patted you on the back," Smith said. "I want them to know they can't be too low when you lose or too high when they win. We didn't win, so we can't allow people to say we played a great game."

Collier doesn't expect a letdown, and he said last week's close calls will only be an incentive to work harder.

"I think other teams will know we're pretty good because of the Arkansas game," he said. "We know they'll come out playing harder. They won't lie down."

The Hurricane could get a boost if Shea Seals returns to the lineup.

Seals, a true freshman who made 13-of-17 3-pointers and averaged 25.3 points in three games before undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery, practiced Monday and Smith said he could play some against Texas Tech.

"Sleepy" Floyd wakes up Spurs

MIAMI (AP) — It was a little odd that it took a player named "Sleepy" to awake the San Antonio Spurs.

Eric "Sleepy" Floyd turned out to be the difference in a lethargic game as he scored 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Spurs to an 84-76 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

"I was trying to focus on getting to the basket," said Floyd, whose five final-period field goals came on four layups and a six-foot running jumper. "It was really important for me to stay aggressive where I can be an asset to the team."

The 76 points matched the second-lowest point total allowed by the Spurs this season, surpassed only by San Antonio's 86-74 win in Denver on Nov. 16.

"The main thing was the defense," San Antonio coach John Lucas said. "It was a hard-earned, ugly, defensive type game."

Despite sitting out a practice earlier in the day with the flu, David Robinson led San Antonio with 20 points and 16 rebounds.

Robinson has been the Spurs' leader or co-leader in scoring in each of their last 16 games.

Although he missed 15 of 24 field goal tries, Steve Smith had 21 points to pace the Heat, who posted a season-low point total and the fourth lowest in team history.

"We had some pretty good shots, particularly early in the game, but we just couldn't score," said Heat coach Kevin Loughery, whose team has now held its last seven opponents under 100 points.

San Antonio hit just 11 of 35 shots in the second and third quarters before Floyd's emergence, after connecting on nine of 17 in the first quarter.

"Sleepy Floyd really stepped up in the fourth quarter," Lucas said. "He attacked the basket."

Floyd scored nine points as the Spurs opened the fourth quarter with an 11-4 run to take a 66-60 lead.

The Heat closed the margin to four points on six occasions thereafter, but San Antonio responded with a basket or a pair of free throws each time.

Miami was hurt by poor 3-point shooting, hitting just one of 17 long-range efforts and missing all 10 second-half attempts.

Miami center Rony Seikaly missed the game with the flu.

San Antonio's victory stopped Miami's winning streak at five games, leaving the Heat one short of a franchise record.

San Antonio led 20-12 at the end of the first quarter, the first time in 12 periods that Miami has been outscored.

The 12 points equaled the Heat's season-low point production for a quarter and the franchise record for fewest points in a first quarter.

Things didn't get much better in the second for the Heat, who trailed 35-29 at halftime.

The 29 points was a season-low for a half and tied the team record for fewest points in a first half. The Heat hit just 12 of 42 field goal attempts.

Miami was able to keep it close because San Antonio had 13 first-half turnovers and hit just four of 14 (equaling a Heat record for fewest field goals allowed in a quarter) from the floor in the second quarter, and finished with 15 points.

The Spurs started the game without the NBA's leading rebounder, Dennis Rodman, who did not warm up and was not on the bench when the contest began.

Rodman, who emerged from the locker room and replaced Willie Anderson with 7:51 left in the first quarter, finished with 15 rebounds in 38 minutes.

Trash talking: An NBA art form

By DWAIN PRICE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH (AP) — Talk might be cheap, but trash talking is a valued and plentiful commodity in the NBA.

Today's players have turned trash talking into an art form designed to both amuse and aggravate an opponent with the underlying intent of throwing him off his game.

While trash talking is frowned upon by critics who see its popularity rise at a time when sportsmanship is declining, many trash talkers are proud of their legacy. Ken Norman, who played six years for the Los Angeles Clippers before signing a free-agent contract this past off-season with the Milwaukee Bucks, said: "The Clippers aren't the best trash talkers without me."

Don Beck, a sports psychologist with the National Values Center in Denton, traces trash talking back to prehistoric days.

Its purpose, he says, is to belittle and intimidate with the perpetrator engaging in a verbal sparring match with whomever is within shouting distance.

"In the more primitive days it took on a form of throwing spears or axes at each other," Beck said. "I'm sure Thor and the Norsemen had a version of trash talking."

The common perception is that trash talking is a black thing born and bred in the ghettos. However, Beck said, it crosses all racial barriers.

Miami Heat guard Brian Shaw, a former teammate of ex-Celtics great Larry Bird, said Larry Legend was the National Basketball Association's trash-talking king.

"Bird would tell guys what he was getting ready to do and ask them if they were they ready," Shaw said, laughing at the memories. "He would say, 'OK, I'm going to make this one off the backboard; are you ready?' Then, he would shoot it off the backboard and make it and say, 'Oh, I thought you said you were ready.'

"Sometimes, right in the middle of a game, Bird would go to the other team's coach and say, 'Can you put somebody in that can check me? He can't check me.' He was one that could back it up."

Heat forward Glen Rice said, "When Bird started lighting you up and talking trash, that's hard on you. It's like driving a stake through your heart."

Bird isn't the only recently retired legend who made the unofficial trash-talking All-Star team.

Bulls guard B. J. Armstrong said former Bulls great Michael Jordan could trash talk with the best of them.

"Michael would be out there telling you, 'I'm driving to the basket, and there's nothing you can do,' " Armstrong said. "You were at his mercy."

Armstrong felt Jordan's wrath in practice. Jordan belittled Armstrong's ability to the point that Armstrong admitted he lost confidence in his game.

Heat guard Steve Smith said Jordan could intimidate without even saying anything.

"He just gave you a stare," Smith said. "It was more of a trash look."

Not everyone in the NBA is enamored with the constant jawing.

Dallas Mavericks general manager Norm Sonju said trash talking has no place in sports, particularly in basketball. The excess talking, he said, could escalate and lead to violence.

"In football, the fans are pretty well far back from the field, and in hockey, they're behind dasher boards," Sonju said. "In other words, it's not easy for the fans to get near the players in those sports.

"But in basketball the fans are within a few feet of the players, and, at times, the players actually fall on top of the fans. The last thing you want is a 250-pound guy trash talking and all of a sudden somebody loses his temper and gets into a fight when there are children and young people that could get injured."

Beck said trash talking should not be mistaken for taunting, which often leads to disputes. There is a fine line between the two, and all parties involved know when those boundaries have been crossed.

"When Miami played Texas in the (1991) Cotton Bowl, I thought Miami crossed the boundaries," Beck said. "Taunting can lead to violence.

"Taunting is more emotional. Trash talking can just be a string of verbiage — kind of throwaway lines."

NBA players say that some of the league's best talkers are Chuck Person (Minnesota), Charles Barkley (Phoenix), Dennis Rodman (San Antonio), Xavier McDaniel (Boston), Derrick Coleman (New Jersey), Reggie Miller (Indiana), Rice and Smith of Miami, Norman, and, said Clippers forward Danny Manning, "the Clippers."

Manning said the Clippers talk trash just to be talking.

"Our whole team talks trash," he said. "As long as you're backing it up it doesn't matter — and that's the bottom line."

Players insist that trash talking should be nothing more than fun and games, though it often gets much more personal than that.

"If a guy is out there talking and they're having fun and it's not getting too personal — like talking about your family, girlfriend or wife — then that's all right," Dallas Mavericks guard Derek Harper said. "That's just a part of basketball."

Sometimes trash talking can backfire, however. In a recent game at Reunion Arena, Rice and Mavericks guard Jim Jackson got into a verbal scrimmage, with Rice the winner.

"Jimmy Jackson told me that I couldn't check him, and I told him it was the other way around — you can't check me," Rice said. "I told him, 'I'm the one making all the shots; you're the one missing all the shots.'"

That night, Rice hit 12 of 24 shots and finished with a game-high 29 points, while Jackson was 4 of 13 and scored 13 points.

"I love when a guy talks trash to me," Rice said. "It gets me pumped up. The best thing to do is not talk trash to me."

Becton's obstacles

By RON LESKO
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Lee Becton isn't big, he isn't fast and he isn't very exciting. For the first few years of his life, he wasn't even healthy.

The skinny, loping Notre Dame tailback is just the most consistent runner in the school's history. He picked and darted his way to a Notre Dame-record six 100-yard games in a row this season, and is only the fifth Fighting Irish back to gain 1,000 yards.

"You would never think that I would do this. I didn't ever think that I could," Becton said as No. 4 Notre Dame prepared for Saturday's Cotton Bowl meeting with No. 7 Texas A&M.

"But there was a lot of people who helped me out. I feel like anyone could have run behind this offensive line and done the same thing I did."

Becton, a junior, has been lucky to run behind one of the nation's best lines, and he also has been overshadowed by the dynamic backfield tandem of Jerome Bettis and Reggie Brooks.

Bettis and Brooks combined for 2,168 rushing yards in 1992, and both have had outstanding rookie seasons in the NFL.

At 6-foot and 190 pounds, Becton lacks the power of Bettis, a punishing fullback. He appears considerably slower than the shifty Brooks, running the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds, an average time for a college running back.

Becton also was nagged by a hamstring injury throughout the season, missing all of one game and part of another. But he is a patient runner who uses his blocking well, and he never fumbled this season.

He also makes the most out of his one move — a sharp change of direction — which makes him difficult to tackle in the open field.

"I LOVE blocking for Lee," said tackle Aaron Taylor, winner of this year's Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman. "Lee runs harder than probably any back that I've had, or as well as any other back. There's something special."

Becton came to Notre Dame from Ernul, N.C., a tiny town of about 500 people 30 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

"It pretty much consists of one road and my family," Becton said.

Although he was a star at West Craven High School, running for more than 5,000 yards and 87 touchdowns, he had to overcome several health problems as a child.

He had arthritis in all his joints, a heart murmur and allergies to insect bites when he was young.

He remembers little of the afflictions, which mostly were gone by the time he started playing organized football at age 10. The heart murmur still is faintly detectable, and Becton believes his joints may have been effected by the arthritis.

But since his first carry — a 60-yard touchdown run in a pee-wee game — it was clear he would excel on the football field. However, Notre Dame was the only college he visited that didn't have Carolina in its name. Many people believed Becton would be overmatched against the nation's best athletes.

"Everyone was pulling for me, but you could tell in the back of their minds they were like, 'I don't know. Maybe you should stay around home, go to a state school or something,' " Becton said.

He quickly proved he belonged at a premier program, lettering as a freshman and averaging 5.5 yards a carry as Brooks' top backup in 1992. Becton averaged 6.4 yards a carry this year, and was a finalist for the Doak Walker Award, given to the player perceived as the nation's best running back.

Texas A&M defensive coordinator Bob Davie believes Becton has been unfairly labeled as an overachiever because he followed the electrifying Brooks.

"I wonder where he gets that rap of not being that talented," Davie said. "He's not physically the same as Brooks, but I'll tell you what, the kid's an excellent player."

CLASSIFIED INDEX THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison 669-2525

1 Card of Thanks
2 Museums
3 Personal
4 Not Responsible
5 Special Notices
7 Auctioneer
10 Lost and Found
11 Financial
12 Loans
13 Business Opportunities
14 Business Services
14a Air Conditioning
14b Appliance Repair
14c Auto-Body Repair
14d Carpentry
14e Carpet Service
14f Decorators - Interior
14g Electric Contracting
14h General Services
14i General Repair
14j Gun Smithing
14k Hauling - Moving
14l Insulation
14m Lawnmower Service
14n Painting
14o Paperhanging
14p Pest Control
14q Ditching
14r Plowing, Yard Work
14s Plumbing and Heating
14t Radio and Television
14u Roofing
14v Sewing
14w Spraying
14x Tax Service
14y Upholstery
15 Instruction
16 Cosmetics
17 Coins
18 Beauty Shops
19 Situations
21 Help Wanted
30 Sewing Machines
35 Vacuum Cleaners
48 Trees, Shrubbery, Plants
49 Pools and Hot Tubs
50 Building Supplies
53 Machinery and Tools
54 Farm Machinery
55 Landscaping
57 Good Things To Eat
58 Sporting Goods
59 Guns
60 Household Goods
67 Bicycles
68 Antiques
69 Miscellaneous
69a Garage Sales
70 Musical Instruments
71 Movies
75 Feeds and Seeds
76 Farm Animals
77 Livestock
80 Pets and Supplies
84 Office Store Equipment
89 Wanted To Buy
90 wanted to Rent
94 Will Share
95 Furnished Apartments
96 Unfurnished Apartments
97 Furnished Houses
98 Unfurnished Houses
99 Storage Buildings
100 Rent, Sale, Trade
101 Real Estate Wanted
102 Business Rental Property
103 Homes For Sale
104 Lots
105 Acreage
106 Commercial Property
110 Out Of Town Property
111 Out of Town Rentals
112 Farms and Ranches
113 To Be Moved
114 Recreational Vehicles
115 Trailer Parks
116 Mobile Homes
117 Grasslands
118 Trailers
120 Autos For Sale
121 Trucks For Sale
122 Motorcycles
124 Tires and Accessories
125 Parts and Accessories
126 Boats and Accessories
127 Scrap Metal
128 Aircraft

2 Museums

WHITE Deer Land Museum: Pampa, Tuesday thru Sunday 1:00-4 p.m. Special tours by appointment.

ALANREED-McLean Area Historical Museum: McLean. Regular museum hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Sunday 1-4.

DEVIL'S Rope Museum, McLean, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m.

HUTCHINSON County Museum: Borger. Regular hours 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays except Tuesday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

LAKE Meredith Aquarium and Wildlife Museum: Fritch, hours Tuesday and Sunday 2-5 p.m., 10 a.m. Wednesday thru Saturday, closed Monday.

MUSEUM Of The Plains: Perryton. Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Weekends during Summer months, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m..

OLD Mobeetie Jail Museum. Monday- Saturday 10-5. Sunday 1-5. Closed Wednesday.

PANHANDLE Plains Historical Museum: Canyon. Regular museum hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, weekends 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

PIONEER West Museum: Shamrock. Regular museum hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, Saturday and Sunday.

RIVER Valley Pioneer Museum at Canadian, Tx. Tuesday-Friday 10-4 p.m. Sunday 2-4 p.m. Closed Saturday and Monday.

ROBERTS County Museum: Miami, Regular hours, Tuesday-Friday 10-5 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. Closed Saturday and Monday. Closed Holidays.

SQUARE House Museum Panhandle. Regular Museum hours 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 1-5:30 p.m. Sundays.

3 Personal

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665-9702

SHAKLEE: Vitamins, diet, skincare, household, job opportunity. Donna Turner, 665-6065.

WANT to lose weight? I lost 40 pounds and 27 inches in 4 months. Lee Ann Stark, 669-9660.

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

FOR rides to Lodge 1381 meetings call 669-2460, 665-5004, 669-3948.

PAMPA Lodge 966, 420 W. Kingsmill, Business meeting 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Crime Stoppers needs YOU

How can you help stop crime in Pampa? By calling 669-2222 if you know a crime has been committed.

Include the following information:

1. What happened
2. When
3. By whom
4. Evidence
5. Time you will call back

You can take a bite out of crime and claim rewards.

14b Appliance Repair

RENT TO RENT
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We have Rental Furniture and Appliances to suit your needs. Call for estimate. Open for business in our warehouse.
Johnson Home Furnishings
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14d Carpentry

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Contractor & Builder
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DEAVER Construction: Building, remodeling and insurance repairs. 21 years experience. Ray Deaver, 665-0447.

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CALDER Painting: Interior/exterior, mud, tape, acoustic, 30 years experience in Pampa. 665-4840, 669-2215.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, new cabinets, ceramic tile, acoustical ceilings, paneling, painting, patios. 18 years local experience. Jerry Reagan, Karl Parks 669-2648.

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Professional house leveling. Free estimates 1-800-299-9563.

14e Carpet Service

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341. Free estimates.

CARPET installation-repairs, restretch and new . 669-0141, no answer leave message.

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14f Decorators-Interior

SARA'S Draperies. Blinds, verticles, bedspreads, custom draperies. 665-0021, 665-0919, 800-569-5662.

14h General Services

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. 669-7769.

Commercial Mowing
Chuck Morgan
669-0511

ASPHALT Repair. Ron's Construction, 669-3172.

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FENCING of all types. Joe Johnson, 35 years experience. For free estimates 665-3368.

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14i General Repair

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14m Lawnmower Service

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14n Painting

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14q Ditching

RON'S Construction. Loader, Dirt Work, Fill Dirt and Fill Sand. 669-3172.

14r Plowing, Yard Work

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GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



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14s Plumbing & Heating

Builders Plumbing Supply
535 S. Cuyler 665-3711

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Wayne's Tv Service
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14y Upholstery

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Refinishing Repairs Upholstery
665-8684

14z Siding

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19 Situations

TOP O' Texas Maid Service. Bonded. Jeanie Samples, 883-5331.

21 Help Wanted

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DYER'S Barbeque now taking applications for kitchen help. Apply in person. Hwy. 60 west.

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21 Help Wanted

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30 Sewing Machines

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50 Building Supplies

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White House Lumber Co.
101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household Goods

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801 W. Francis 665-3361

62 Medical Equipment

HEALTHSTAR Medical, Oxygen, Beds, Wheelchairs, rental and Sales. Medicare provider 24 hour service. Free delivery. 1541 N. Hobart, 669-0000.

69 Miscellaneous

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Jerry Ledford 848-2222

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89 Wanted To Buy

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102 Business Rental Prop.

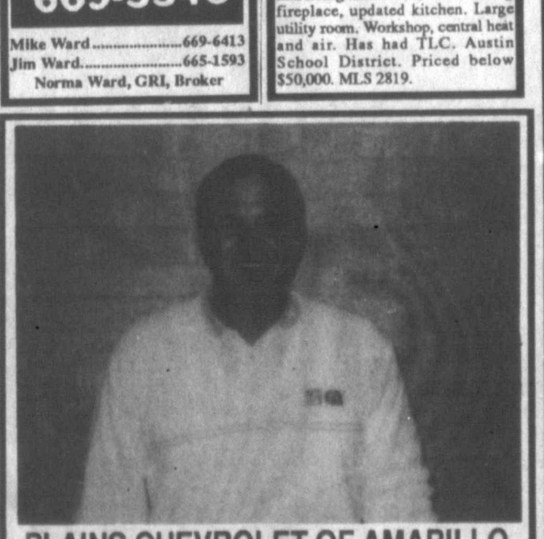
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104 Lots

CHOICE residential lots, northeast, Austin district. Call 665-8578, 665-2832 or 665-0079.

FRASHIER Acres East-1 or more acres. Paved street, utilities. Balch Real Estate, 665-8075.

106 Commercial Property

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114 Recreational Vehicles

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115 Trailer Parks

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125 Parts & Accessories

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126 Boats & Accessories

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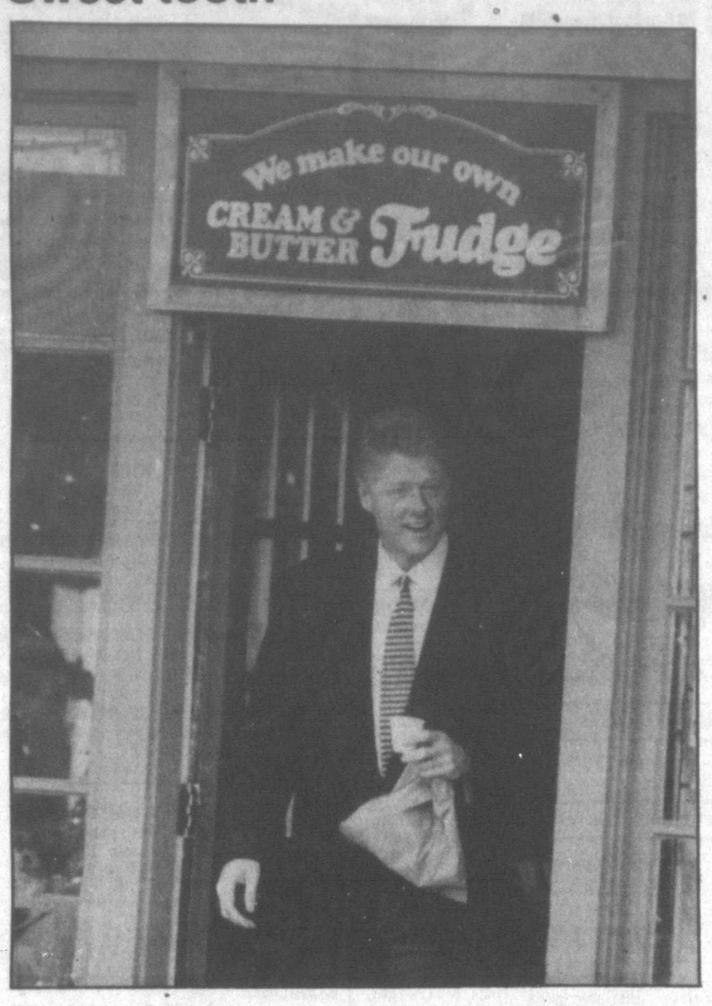
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Sweet tooth



President Clinton comes out of a candy store carrying a bag of goodies during a stop Tuesday in Little Rock, Ark. Clinton visited his dentist just before making the trek to the candy store next door. The president is in Arkansas for a short vacation before going to Hilton Head, S.C. (AP photo)

Many tariffs on Mexican-American commerce vanish Jan. 1

By JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) – Barriers to more than half of the United States' trade with Mexico vanish on Jan. 1. Mexicans are likely to feel it more, and more quickly, than Americans.

Under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement, tariffs will disappear on about half of American exports to Mexico and 75 percent of U.S. imports from Mexico.

By the year 2004, less than 1 percent of the trade between the countries will be subject to tariffs.

With an economy just a twentieth as big as the U.S. economy, Mexico will be much more affected.

"Most (American products) you would find in Wal-Mart, for example, will come into Mexico duty-free," said Carlos Poza, an economics officer at the U.S. Embassy.

But on both sides of the border, the impact should be gradual rather than immediate.

"There will still be inventories on which those duties have been paid," Poza said. That will keep prices from dropping until store stocks run down and are refilled with duty-free goods.

American computers, helicopters, X-ray equipment, telecommunications gear and many agricultural goods are among the estimated 4,500 items to be stripped of tariffs immediately.

Tariffs on American automobiles will be cut in half to 10 percent Jan. 1 and are to vanish in five years. American automakers sold about 5,000 cars in Mexico in 1993 and hope to sell at least 10 times that many next year.

Tariffs on most American industrial equipment coming to Mexico will be gone within five years.

About half of Mexico's imports to the United States already enter duty-free. Those most likely to challenge American products, including glassware, orange juice, peanuts and some other agricultural products, will have to wait 15 years for duty-free access to American markets.

The agreement is just part of a process that has already liberalized Mexico's economy, bringing in a flood of imports and forcing many Mexican companies to shape up or shut down.

But both countries negotiated protection for key industries that could be hurt by competition, delaying tariff reductions for as much as 15 years.

NAFTA likely will accelerate changes in the way Mexico does business, introducing concepts that are a novelty here – like sales for shoppers.

"Stores are coming in that draw attention by giving special offers," Poza said. "That hasn't been done been here, where the problem has been keeping the shelves stocked."

Traditionally, Mexican stores worked on a high margin of profit and a relatively low volume of sales. Most U.S. franchises work the other way around.

The end result should be lower prices for Mexican consumers.

Economists here say small- and medium-sized distributors and retailers could be hurt in Mexico. In the United States, damage may fall on low-technology and labor-intensive businesses, as well as growers of some farm products such as tomatoes, onions and melons in the United States.

Gerardo Vilma y Vilma, owner of a small Mexico City auto parts store, fears the free-trade squeeze.

"The big ones (stores) are going to sell a lot very cheaply, and I don't know where that will leave us," he said.

American corn growers, on the other hand, are vastly more productive than their Mexican counterparts and should see a huge market open to them when those tariffs are removed late in the 15-year phase-in period.

Tower Records, Blockbuster Video, 7-11 stores and a glut of fast-food franchises are popping up everywhere in Mexico's major cities and American banks and insurance companies are ready to move in.

When Wal-Mart opened in the northern city of Monterrey recently, crowds were so big the managers had to close it down for a short time to get some shoppers out so more could fit inside.

High tariff walls began to come down only when Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1986. Before that, legal imports were the option of the privileged handful. Smuggling was a major industry.

If the three countries agree, tariff removals can be hastened. There is a "snap-back" provision that allows pre-NAFTA tariffs to be reinstated on Mexican imports if they unduly threaten American businesses or workers.

More Christmas shoppers reached for plastic money this year

NEW YORK (AP) – Major credit card companies reported an especially strong year-end surge in plastic spending, a trend economists say bodes well for the economic recovery.

Economists said the sharp rise in usage during the crucial holiday shopping period indicates growing consumer confidence. People are also taking out more loans for cars and other purchases.

"It's quite a welcome development for the economy," economist Sandra Shaber said.

Visa reported a 32 percent jump in retail spending on cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas over the same period last year. MasterCard said charges were up nearly 24 percent.

Both companies said the number of cards issued to Americans has increased from last year, but not enough to explain the sharp surge in the dollar volume of purchases.

MasterCard, for instance, said that individuals on average reached for plastic 10.3 percent more often during the first half of the year.

Dean Witter, Discover & Co., which issues the Discover credit card, would not provide figures but said that usage is way up this holiday shopping period from last year's record levels.

The trend illustrates a growing consumer willingness to pile on debt after the two years of reluctant spending that followed the 1980s.

Consumer installment debt totaled $776.7 billion in October, the latest month for which Federal Reserve Bank figures were available – up about 5 percent from the 1992 total and up nearly 7 percent from 1991.

During those two years, consumers were busy paying off debt accumulated during the 1980s.

"Consumers had been paring their debt, so they felt better about spending this year," said Albert Coscia, a spokesman at San Francisco-based Visa USA.

Consumer debt is still far below its peak of the last decade. The debt-to-income ratio – a comparison of consumer debt to disposable income – is 16.2 percent. It was about 19 percent before the recession that began in 1990, Shaber said.

The increase in credit-card use also reflects the aggressive marketing tactics of card companies vying for customers. Many are offering such incentives as discounts off the price of purchases for people who charge the most.

In addition, Shaber said that shoppers tended to buy pricier gifts such as computers and home appliances this holiday season, and people generally don't carry enough cash to pay for such big-ticket items.

Environmentalists urge Congress to protect more endangered species

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) – Environmentalists marked the 20th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act on Tuesday by calling on Congress to give the law more teeth to stem the looming extinction of 800 plants and animals.

The act has saved the bald eagle and dozens of other species on the brink of extinction, but it needs more funding and enforcement provisions, the environmentalists said.

"It has missed opportunities because of weaknesses," said Ed Clark of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, holding a bald eagle recovering from an injury after it came into contact with an electric power line.

The Endangered Species Act was enacted two decades ago to protect the nation's dwindling plant and animal species and preserve their habitat. The law expired last year, but Congress extended it until the House and Senate consider its reauthorization this spring.

It promises to be one of the Clinton administration's biggest fights.

The law is reviled by landowners who say it takes away their property rights and steals jobs, claims that made headlines recently as the government tried to stem logging in the Pacific Northwest habitat of the endangered spotted owl.

On the other side are environmentalists who say the law stops development in fewer than 1 percent of controversial cases because the government and developers typically find some compromise.

They say strengthening the act would protect entire habitats before the situation becomes an emergency where the government races to save just one species.

"The problems become so controversial when we try to repair tremendous screw-ups, and inevitably somebody has to pay the atonement," Clark said. "The ESA is our opportunity to prevent this management by catharsis."

Environmentalists back pending legislation by Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., that would extend the act's protection to species that may become endangered and would give private landowners incentives to help preserve species. Studds has attracted 105 co-sponsors, and the bill's counterpart in the Senate has 21.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-La., is seeking to make it harder to list plants and animals as endangered species, to require the government to develop preservation plans with the least human impact and to compensate landowners when endangered species require protective action on private property. He has signed up 93 co-sponsors. Ten members sponsor a similar Senate bill.

"It will be very close," said Karyn Strickler of the Endangered Species Coalition, a lobbying arm for dozens of environmental groups.

Environmentalists say the Studds legislation is good but not enough.

They urged Congress to strengthen the law by:

— Increasing funding. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gets $300 million a year from excise taxes to support conservation of sport game and fish such as the white-tailed deer and trout. Yet the 800 listed endangered species get only $60 million a year, said Michael Bean of the Environmental Defense Fund.

— Increasing penalties for violations. Now fines seldom exceed $500 and violations are deemed misdemeanors. "One might cause the extinction of a species literally, and only serve a year in jail," said John Fitzgerald of Defenders of Wildlife.

— Ordering that recovery plans for species be drafted within 18 months of the identification of a problem.

— Reversing a decision by the Reagan-Bush administrations that U.S. projects overseas that would impact endangered species abroad are not subject to the law.

Researchers ready to dig into battle

SAN ANTONIO (AP) – When the New Year's revelry dies down, the fun begins for a group of archaeologists trying to unearth historic treasures from the Battle of the Alamo.

The National Underwater and Marine Agency, a non-profit group that searches for artifacts, is commencing its sixth annual exploration of the San Antonio River bottom Sunday when the downtown stream undergoes yearly maintenance draining.

"Of all the great cities in the world, only San Antonio has this opportunity of excavating a normally wet site," said NUMA President Wayne Gronquist of Austin.

New this year will be a dig at a well on a road in front of the Alamo. NUMA volunteers, working with the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio, will start the well excavation Jan. 10, once the San Antonio River is again full of water.

In both digs, the non-profit archaeology group hopes to unearth cannons dating to the 1836 Alamo battle between Texas independence fighters and Santa Anna's Mexican Army.

But researchers said they are anxious to find any historically significant artifacts, some of which may be thousands of years old.

"We would love to be able to shed light on the Alamo cannon mystery," Gronquist said. "But I do not want anyone to think this is simply a cannon hunt."

NUMA researchers, led by chairman Clive Cussler, contend that Alamo cannons likely can be found in the river bed and in the Alamo well.

In the river bottom, the searchers have detected a "very hot target" through five magnetometer surveys revealing a metallic object.

Last year river diggers couldn't overcome a silt buildup to get to the target, but next week they plan to use technology known as induction dredging to alleviate the problem.

Researchers say the Alamo well and its contents can be dated to a several-month period surrounding the 1836 battle. That raises investigators' hopes about any artillery found there.

"It will be a very significant find because they most certainly will be from the Alamo battle," Gronquist said.

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