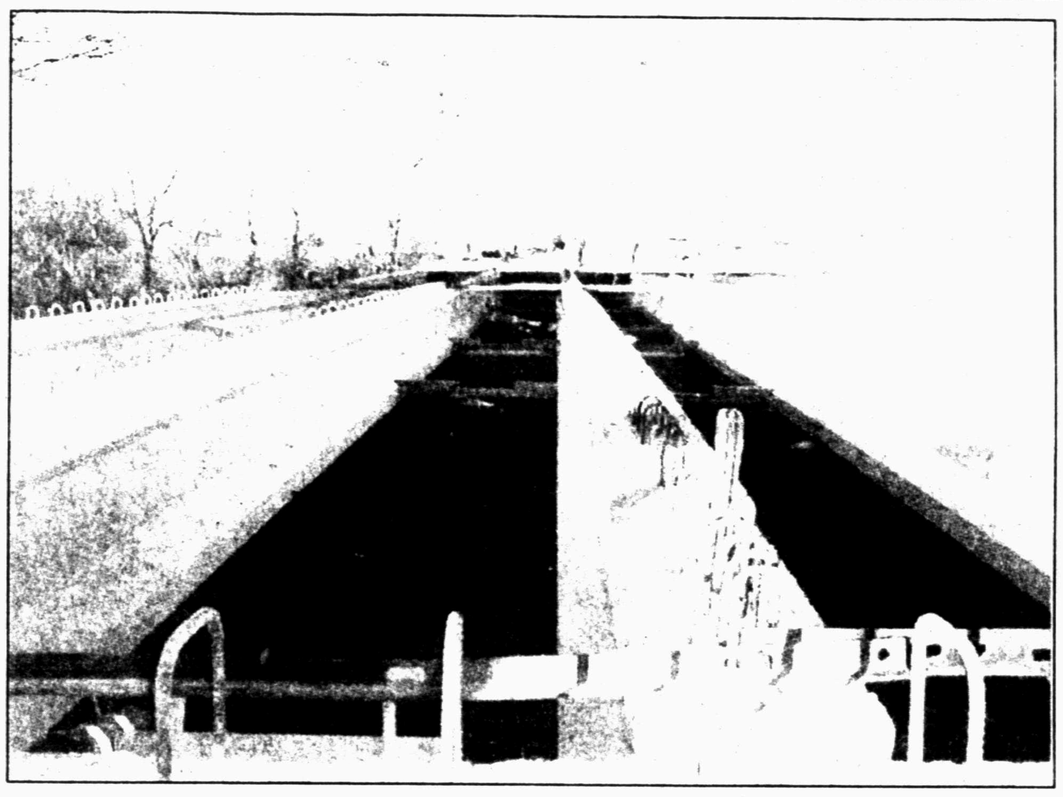
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WT-Int. Crude - $28.03
WTIC Posted - $25.00
Natural Gas - $8.189

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Jan. 4, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 212
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Leslie English



THE WORK GOES ON — Sunny skies Wednesday and this morning allowed crews to return to work on the 37th Street bridge project. Joe Dan Jones, with the Texas Department of Transportation, declined to speculate on an opening date for the road, saying it is "all up to the weather." (SDN Staff Photo)

Federal Reserve drops interest rate half point

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve gave the ailing economy the bracing tonic of an interest rate cut, aiming to head off a far more serious sickness, recession. Analysts expect more of the same may be needed to keep the economy healthy.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues, in an emergency conference call Wednesday to the interest rate-setting committee, prescribed a half-percentage point reduction to a key interest rate, the biggest cut in more than eight years. That pushed down the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, to 6 percent.

The half-point rate cut triggered similar reductions in some commercial banks' prime lending rates, from a nine-year high of 9.5 percent to 9 percent. The prime rate is the benchmark for millions of personal and business loans.

"The economy was suffering and the momentum was snowballing on the downside," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist for PNC Financial Services Group. "The medicine is being administered, so as we go through 2001 the economy's health should improve and we'll see stronger economic news in the spring and summer." Economists said the rate cut would take months to work its way through the economy and energize growth.

Analysts predicted Wednesday's action would be followed by further reductions as the Fed acts to ensure the current economic slowdown doesn't deteriorate into a recession.

Some believed an additional rate cut, probably of a quarter-point, could come at the Fed's regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 30-31, with another rate reduction at the March meeting.

The decision for the Fed to act Wednesday without waiting for its next regular interest-rate meeting, and the size of the cut at one-half point instead of a quarter-point, underscored the seriousness with which Greenspan and his colleagues viewed the threats facing the economy, analysts said.

"The Fed won't permit the U.S. economy to go down the tubes and will do whatever it takes to keep growth moving ahead," said Merrill Lynch's chief economist Bruce Steinberg.

The rate cut is designed to lower borrowing costs, thus spurring business and consumer investment, which eventually should bolster economic growth.

The surprise rate reduction came against the backdrop of stock market volatility, lower consumer confidence and a report Tuesday showing that manufacturing activity fell in December to its lowest point since 1991, providing more evidence of a seriously weakening economy.

Wall Street investors were buoyed by the Fed's move, sending stocks soaring Wednesday and giving the Nasdaq its biggest one-day gain ever.

President-elect Bush also voiced approval.

Irving policeman shot 11 times

DALLAS (AP) — The tense search for seven escaped prison inmates continued today as an autopsy report showed that a North Texas police officer they are accused of killing suffered 11 gunshot wounds.

Irving Officer Aubrey Hawkins was shot six times in the head after he responded to a Christmas Eve robbery at an Oshman's Super Sports USA store, according to the report released Wednesday.

He was shot once in the back, and four of the medium-caliber bullets struck his left arm. A bulletproof vest protected his chest from two other shots.

The shots were fired from different directions, but the report doesn't identify whether investigators think more than one gunman fired or which of the escapees are suspected. Hawkins also was run over by a vehicle, the autopsy showed.

Meanwhile, federal weapons charges were filed against the seven, who broke out of prison more than three weeks ago and warned in a note, "You haven't heard the last of us yet."

The charges brought by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in San Antonio signaled a broadening federal role in the manhunt. FBI agents in the Dallas area planned to file separate federal charges of unlawful flight to avoid federal prosecution, possibly as early as Thursday.

The unlawful-flight charges would "make it a nationwide manhunt rather than a state and local manhunt," said Dallas-based FBI Special Agent Lori Bailey.

Officials said the search spread across the Southwest before concentrating in the Dallas area. All seven men are believed to be together.

Police have increased their firepower, and the escapees were believed to be using stolen police scanners to stay a step ahead of their pursuers.

The convicts — two convicted killers, two armed robbers, a child abuser, a serial rapist and a burglar — broke out of the Texas prison system's Connally Unit at Kenedy on Dec. 13 and are being sought on capital murder arrest warrants in Hawkins' slaying.

"While we're prayerful and hopeful, we're not optimistic," Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Larry Todd said Wednesday. "This is an extremely dangerous scenario."

He said the fugitives are believed to be receiving food, shelter and other assistance.

Judge has artery blockage repaired

County Judge Ricky Fritz had a stint placed in his right coronary artery Wednesday due to 95 percent blockage.

The procedure was performed in Lubbock's Covenant Hospital after the judge had a heart attack during Tuesday's commissioners' court meeting.

Fritz continued with the meeting until its conclusion and then Precinct 4 Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey drove him to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Snyder EMS later transferred him to Lubbock, as the weather would not allow helicopters to land here Tuesday evening.

Julie, Fritz's wife, said this morning that he is expected to remain in the Lubbock hospital for at least two more days.

"They just want to observe him for a couple of days. He is resting comfortably and doing well," she said.

It is not known when the doctors will allow the judge to return to work.

"They haven't told us anything about that yet," said his wife.

The next meeting of the commissioners' court is scheduled for Jan. 15.

During past court sessions when the county judge had been absent, the commissioners have voted among themselves for a presiding officer.

Ratliff names state Senate committees

AUSTIN (AP) — In one of his first official duties as acting lieutenant governor, Republican Bill Ratliff on Wednesday named a leading Democrat to take his place as the chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

Some Hispanic Democrats in the Senate, however, lashed out at Ratliff for not naming any Hispanics to the committee that will oversee the redrawing of voting lines. Redistricting is expected to be one of the main focuses of the legislative session that begins Jan. 9.

After the complaints were lodged, Ratliff said he would consider changing the composition of the committee, which will be headed by Republican Sen. Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio.

In appointing Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, to become chair of the finance committee, Ratliff took away from Republicans one of the most powerful posts in the Senate. The GOP holds a 16-15 majority in the chamber.

Also appointed to the committee was Sen. Tom Haywood of Wichita Falls. Haywood, a Republican, represents Scurry County in the senate.

The finance committee helps guide the allocation of state dollars by crafting the state budget.

"I think Sen. Ellis has earned his spurs," said Ratliff, who praised Ellis for "balancing all of the emotional needs" of the senators when he presided over last week's historic election of an acting lieutenant governor.

Ratliff replaced Rick Perry, who became governor when President-elect Bush resigned. Ratliff will keep his vote as a legislator as well as control the flow of legislation while presiding over the Senate.

Ratliff, who served as the finance chairman for two terms, said he likely would remain involved in the finance committee by periodically looking over Ellis' shoulder.



BACK TO WORK — Snyder ISD mechanic Darren Brooks makes repairs to a "yellow dog" at the school district's bus barn. Students headed back to class Wednesday for the second semester of classes, which concludes with graduation May 18. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Progress has more to do with direction than with speed."

A guy in the coffee shop says all the holiday company has finally gone home – thank goodness.

He says he and the missus always look forward to the horde of grandkids, but the best Christmas gift is not them coming – but all of them going back home.

"It's the first time I've been able to snooze in my lounge chair in weeks," he exclaimed.

Another guy told the story about how one couple made sure everybody was home for the holidays.

It seems an elderly man in Phoenix called his son in New York and announced, "Son, I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are splitting. Forty-five years of misery is enough."

The father continued, "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister in Chicago and tell her."

Frantic, the son called his big sister who exploded on the phone. "Like thunder they are," she exclaimed. "I'll take care of this."

The daughter called Phoenix immediately and was screaming into the phone. "You two are not getting a divorce. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Don't do a thing, do you here me? Don't do a thing."

The husband turned to his wife and said, "Okay, they're coming for Thanksgiving. Now what do we tell them to get 'em here for Christmas?"

If you want to be politically correct, then consider the following:

—Man does not have a beer gut, it's a liquid grain storage facility.

—A quiet person is a conversational minimalist.

—He is not stupid, but rather suffers from minimal cranial development.

—Man does not get lost, but discovers alternative destinations.

—A person is not balding, but has follicle regression.

—It's no longer a cradle robber, but someone who prefers generationally differential relationships.

—Not short, but anatomically compact.

—Not unsophisticated, but socially malformed.

—No longer a falling-down drunk, but someone who becomes accidentally horizontal.

ASK US

Q—In the past, Snyder ISD students have been out of school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Will the district observe the holiday this year?

A—No. The next scheduled day off for students is Friday, Feb. 23, a teacher workday.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 57 degrees; low, 19; 7 a.m. Thursday, 29; no precipitation; total for 2001, .03 of an inch..

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low lower 30s, W wind 5-15 mph. Friday, mostly sunny, high 55-60, N wind 10-20 mph.

Tosha McGlouthin
Sunny

Sunset: 5:56 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:44 a.m.

Of 3 days in 2001, the sun has shone 1 day in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.

—Doug Larson

JAN 04 2001

1

Investigators look into cause of fire that killed eleven

OAK ORCHARD, Del. (AP) — The house fire that killed 11 family members, including seven children, remained under investigation as authorities tried to determine what ignited the blaze and sent thick smoke billowing from the home's eaves.

Firefighters nailed boards over the soot-streaked windows after investigators went through the house. State police and fire officials said they found no evidence of foul play, but refused to rule out arson until they complete their investigation.

The home was across from a corn field in a tight-knit community where neighbors would often help the struggling family by donating food.

"The kids always had it rough," said Jocelyn Harmon, a neighbor and a substitute teacher who taught two of the children at a nearby elementary school. "It's just a small, very close-knit area where everybody helps everybody."

One of the victims managed to call 911 before succumbing early Wednesday. The fire was extinguished quickly, but the house's interior was heavily damaged by fire and smoke.

"This is about the worst I've ever seen in Delaware, or ever heard of," said the Rev. David Paul, chief chaplain of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and a firefighter for 43 years. "I think it's the worst in the state's history."

The fire came more than two months after a blaze killed a family of five in a beach house in a nearby city.

A day before the fire, the Sussex County Council voted to require all new homes to have hard-wired smoke detectors in every bedroom and to require detectors with battery backups on every floor. Investigators would not say whether the home that caught fire Wednesday had smoke detectors.

William Wright, standing stunned across the road from the home, said the victims included his daughter, 28-year-old Jacquelin, her five children, ranging from an infant to a 9-year-old, Jacquelin's mother, Eltama Shelton; and grandmother Evelyn Shelton.

Also killed were Jody Wright, 31, Eltama Shelton's daughter, and her two children, family members said.

Quintin Odums, whose children Jeremy, 9, Latosha, 6, and Lac, 5, were killed in the fire, was told of the tragedy when he reported for work Wednesday at a poultry processing plant.

DotComGuy shares lessons of 2000

DALLAS (AP) — There was no Humvee waiting to whisk DotComGuy away from his Dallas townhouse. There was no private jet, and no hulking SUV.

There was only a small motorized scooter, which he mounted and rode to freedom.

With as much pomp and circumstance as his stay began, this week he bid goodbye to Web viewers as his year of self-confinement came to an end with the turning of calendars to 2001.

Nearly two dozen cameras that broadcast his life to the world at www.DotComGuy.com stopped rolling.

Corporate sponsors had hoped DotComGuy's stunt — and his dependence on the Internet — would encourage others to use cyberspace for transactions normally reserved for the storefront.

He moved into the then-empty house on Jan. 1, 2000.

Similar experiments had been undertaken before — the TV program "Good Morning America" housed two New Yorkers in an "e-cave" for a week in 1998 with a refrigerator, a $500 daily stipend, and Web access — but DotComGuy lived off the Internet longer than anyone else so far.

Looking back at a year spent playing video games, chatting with online fans, and fitness training for what was ultimately a sedentary life, DotComGuy — who legally changed his name to reflect his online personality — waxed philosophic.

"Maybe to the detriment of the enjoyment (of the fans) I was very guarded about myself throughout the year partly because — and no one believes me on this — I didn't want this whole phenomenon to be about me," he said.

But toward the end, it was.

He discussed his hair loss and even managed to insert himself into presidential politics.

"I finally did make the endorsement based solely on the Internet issue and I didn't actually go for the inventor of the Internet. I liked one statement I read on Bush's site. I went over this for weeks. 'Can I find a way to put aside any viewpoints I have and just look at this issue.'

"Literally, the day before the election it just popped out at me, a statement on Bush's site. I had read that page and saw this statement that said, 'It is business that has created the new economy, not the government.'"

While his self-imposed confinement kept him from voting, it didn't keep him from hooking up.

The former computer systems manager intends to wed Crystalyn Anne Holubeck, whom he met in a chat room on DotComGuy's Web site. No date has been set.

In the end, it was a year filled with lessons, he said.

He couldn't see a dentist, but he found a Web site owned by the U.S. military missile facility NORAD that tracked the movements of Santa Claus from the North Pole, he said.

"Talking about Santa Claus (on the Web) — that is a bigger mistake than talking about religion or politics," he said. "I am glad I didn't talk about the Easter Bunny. I am glad I didn't lose a tooth and have to talk about the Tooth Fairy not existing. I think it would have been a long year if I had done that."

Through it all DotComGuy managed to resist offers for opening day Chicago Cubs tickets in the company of a few models, if he broke his year-long commitment. He also blew off deals from local steak houses for a free filet mignon dinners.

But DotComGuy, who never ventured past his tiny backyard for the year, may soon become DotComWho?

He's the first one to admit it.

"I'll go into my former Clark Kent role and go off into oblivion," he said with a chuckle.

Widow sworn in as new governor

WASHINGTON (AP) — She had hoped to watch her husband be sworn in as a U.S. senator, but Jean Carnahan took the oath of office herself on Wednesday, saying she is ready to make things happen.

"I thought about how much my husband would have loved to have done this. It was a dream of his. He worked so hard," Carnahan told reporters. "But life goes on, and we deal with it the way it is."

Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan died in a plane crash while campaigning against Republican Sen. John Ashcroft. His death came three weeks before the election, too late to change the ballot, and he won, 50 percent to 48 percent.

Carnahan, who was appointed to replace him, raised her right hand and took the oath, then signed the Senate register, which puts her on the government payroll.

At a news conference afterward, Carnahan strode to the podium with a smile and made a brief statement about the bittersweet moment she once expected to watch from the spectators' gallery.

The moment was historic, she said, not only because Harry S. Truman once held her seat but also because she is the first woman U.S. senator from Missouri.

Happy 18th Birthday
Leslie English
Love,
Mom, Dad & Brad

Berry's World



"HOW MANY BOWL GAMES DID YOU SAY YOU WATCHED OVER THE HOLIDAYS?"

events

LOTTO TEXAS™
TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 2-7-24-30-33-54.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $40 million.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

7-7-3

Date Book

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001

Today is the fourth day of 2001 and the 15th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1915, Moses Alexander became governor of Idaho. He was the first practicing Jew to become a governor in the United States.

On this day in 1962, the first fully automatic subway train went into service in New York City.

On this day in 1969, George Jones and Dolly Parton joined the Grand Ol' Opry.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Jacob Grimm (1785-1863), folklorist; Louis Braille (1809-1852), inventor; Jane Wyman (1914-), actress, is 87; Don Shula (1930-), football coach, is 71; Floyd Patterson (1935-), boxer, is 66; Dyan Cannon (1937-), actress, is 64; Michael Stipe (1960-), singer, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1887, in San Francisco, Thomas Stevens completed the first bicycle trip around the world.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Success is not forever, and failure isn't fatal." — Don Shula

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Jan. 2) and full moon (Jan. 9).

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Coming to the Snyder Daily News
Sunday, January 21, 2001



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Lifestyles



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By Phillip A

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The first mail
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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY — Mr. and Mrs. J.E. McCright of Snyder will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 7. Jim and Allene have farmed and lived west of Snyder for many years and have seen farming progress from the one-row, horse-drawn plow to the highly technical multi-row equipment of today. McCright served in the European Theater in World War II for three years of his four-year tenure. Married in 1951, they have been members of the Central Baptist Church of Hermleigh since 1952. (Contributed Photo)

Children should learn healthy eating habits early in their life



CHILDREN CAN HELP — Parents can make vegetables a treat for children by letting them help prepare fun recipes like Broccoli and Cheese Biscuits.

Did your children eat their vegetables today? That question is taking on more and more importance as researchers discover how a child's eating habits can impact his or her adulthood.

Nearly everyone agrees that vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet, but only one in five adults eat the recommended servings per day. These statistics are the same for children. Studies show that children who eat a healthy, balanced diet develop less health problems as adults.

Getting children to eat vegetables may be a challenge, but it is possible to encourage kids to develop healthy eating habits. A few helpful tips can lead youngsters down the pathway toward a healthy lifestyle — they may even start to ask for second helpings of their veggies!

Emphasize vigorous playtime with your children. Active children are often hungry enough to try a variety of foods they might not otherwise eat. Take this opportunity to introduce them to new foods. Making a game of choosing new foods for dinner is also a great way to help introduce vegetables into your children's diets. Even take them to the store to help pick out healthy foods, such as Birds Eye Frozen Vegetables.

Making vegetables look good to eat is one key to getting children to eat them. No one wants to eat a pile of mushy peas, but bright, colorful and crisp vegetables, such as Birds Eye Baby Peas or Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots Blend, can make things a lot more appealing. Also, there's nothing wrong with adding a little cheese or other flavoring to make kids look forward to their vegetables.

Another good way to get children interested in eating vegetables is to invite them to help you prepare them. Fun recipes are a great way to get the ball rolling. Involve kids in cooking meals so they become familiar with the kitchen and understand the value of healthy eating. Here's an easy recipe from Birds Eye that kids should enjoy preparing and eating.

BROCCOLI AND CHEESE BISCUITS

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cooking Time: 7-9 minutes

2 cups Bisquick Baking Mix
⅓ cup milk
1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli, cooked according to package directions and drained (pat dry with paper towel)
4 ounces mild shredded cheddar cheese

In large bowl, combine baking mix, milk, broccoli and cheese; stir until soft dough forms. Turn onto lightly floured surface and knead about 10 times. Roll dough to ½-inch thickness; cut with 2 ½-inch cutter; place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake in preheated 450 F oven 7-9 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 12 biscuits.

For more great-tasting kids' recipes, visit www.birdseye.com.

Parents can make vegetables a treat for children by letting them help prepare fun recipes like Broccoli

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North 01-04-01	
	♠ A K J 10	
	♥ 7 5 4	
	♦ 8 3	
	♣ A 9 5 2	
West		**East**
♠ 8 3		♠ 9 7 6 4 2
♥ 9 6		♥ Q J 10 8 2
♦ Q J 10 7 6		♦ 9 5 4
♣ Q 10 8 7		♣ —
	South	
	♠ Q 5	
	♥ A K 3	
	♦ A K 2	
	♣ K J 6 4 3	

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	6 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ Q

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001

A safe chance for one more trick

By Phillip Alder

For the more advanced class in Auckland, I compared declarer-play in pair and team events. In pairs, if the odds are in your favor, usually you should go for an overtrick even if it risks your contract. However, in teams (or Chicago or rubber-bridge) your aim is to make the contract. Never risk one down for the sake of an overtrick.

While in Auckland, I stayed with Mary Ellen and Michael Ware. He made an interesting point on this deal. How would you try to make six no-trump in (a) a team event, and (b) in a pair tournament? West leads the diamond queen.

With eight tricks on the side (four spades, two hearts and two diamonds), you need four club tricks. So, at teams and rubber-bridge, you should take the 100 percent safety-play: At trick two, cash the club king. (You could start with low to dummy's nine, but that gives up some chances for a no-cost overtrick.) Whatever the split, you will lose at most one club trick and make the slam.

At pairs, though, you have a reasonable shot at all 13 tricks. A priori, West will have all four clubs only 4.78 percent of the time. And assuming he has long diamonds, the odds are even lower. So, as every pair rates to be in six no-trump, you should go for five club tricks. My plan had been to begin with a club to dummy's ace. Then here you must catch West in an endplay to get out for one down. However, as Michael Ware pointed out, beginning with the club king is reasonable. It guarantees the contract and still gives you a chance of an overtrick.

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Cousins exchanged same greeting card 99 times in 50 years

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Ruth Rose and Elizabeth Reynolds are all about recycling come birthday time.

The cousins, who grew up together in Omaha, have exchanged the same greeting card 99 times in 50 years.

Rose first picked the card for Reynolds' 37th birthday on April 30, 1950. This week, Reynolds returned it again to Rose, now living in Sun Lakes, Ariz., for her 87th birthday.

The first mailing cost a nickel. But the yearly notes and poems — plus a half-century's inflation — have pushed the postage to $1.65.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Al-Anon Brown Bag Open Meeting, Snyder Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

Weight Watchers meeting; Trinity United Methodist Church; for more information call Nathalie at 573-1868 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information 573-9458, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Overeaters Anonymous, Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; more information call 574-1254, 573-8322 or 573-3733; 6:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

AA Beginner's Meeting-Open; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Spiritual Solutions for Living Problems Book Study; Snyder Park Club; 6 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, for information call 573-8018, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

Rolling Plains Ratite Assn.; The Shack; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Births

Karani Michelle Zimmerman was born Dec. 21, 2000 in Baylor Medical Center in Garland to Gary and Kelly Zimmerman of Wylie.

Maternal grandparents are Robert Clydine Hinkle of Snyder, and Wayne and Marilyn Pace of Midland. Paternal grandparents are Mel and Mary Zimmerman of Allen.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan. 3 – Robert Mcguire, David Smith, Leticia Aguilar, Rosa Garza, Johathan Mayes and Debra Welsh.

DISMISSALS: Jaclyn Deleon, Ysidro Estrada, Brianna Martinez, Miguel Martinez, C.J. Thornton of Rotan, Tovar boy, Jose Lara, Catalina Maldonado, Angelica Maldonado and Antonio Maldonado, all of Austin, Ida Pinkerton, Laticia Rojo of Austin.

CENSUS: 49 (Med./Surg.-19, Long-term Care-24, OB-3 and Nursery-3)

Woman wills $21 million to 3 gro

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A woman from a prominent family has willed $21 million to three institutions that never had any contact with her.

Florence Foerderer, who died Nov. 12, 1999 at the age of 73, gave $7 million each to the Philadelphia Zoo, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and Gallaudet University, a school for the deaf in Washington, D.C. The zoo's gift is the largest in its history.

Foerderer was the heiress to a fortune made by her grandfather, Robert H. Foerderer, a Philadelphia industrialist.

"It's one of these fabulous Philadelphia stories, where families that have been part of the Philadelphia scene for so many years continue to be this amazingly generous," Don Haskin, a zoo official, told the Philadelphia Inquirer for Thursday editions.

Foerderer was born and raised in the city's Germantown section, later working as a social worker in Virginia and living in a log cabin in Pennsylvania where she raised goats and roosters. Interested in animal habitats, she started assembling land for a nature sanctuary.

No one involved knows exactly why Foerderer left behind the gifts. Family members said she was devoted to animals, loved children, and vehemently opposed discrimination against the handicapped.

Temperature balmy for Fairbanks

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — The average temperature here last month was 0.3 degrees — downright balmy by Fairbanks standards.

But it apparently wasn't cold enough for some people, including gasoline attendants, snow plowers and firewood sellers who say the warmer weather has hurt business.

"I hate to admit it, but we wish it was colder," said Todd Krier, who owns and operates Totem Chevron. "Everybody is praying for cold weather."

Krier said gas sales jump 1,000 gallons a day at his station when the mercury dips past 20 below and people leave car engines running.

While last month wasn't the warmest December on record for Fairbanks, it was 6 degrees warmer than normal, according to the National Weather Service.

Northland Wood, which sells split spruce for kindling, isn't expecting a banner season either.

"When it gets cold the firewood goes out like crazy," said sales manager Jason Knoles.

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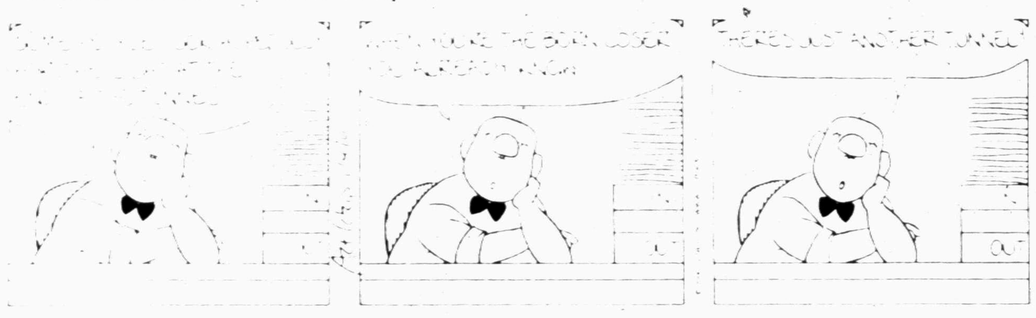
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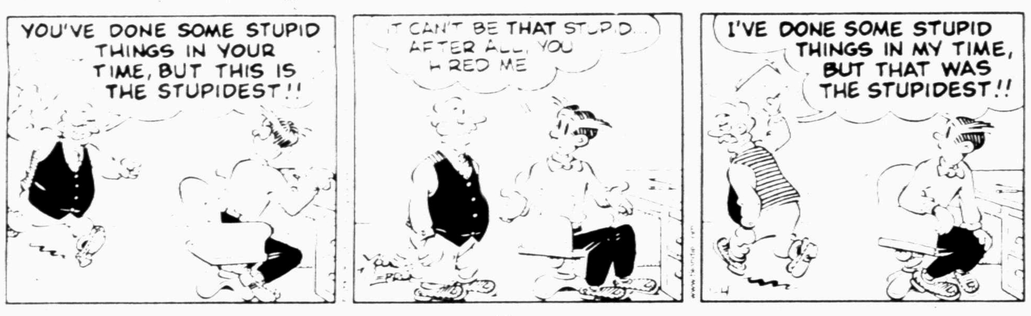
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



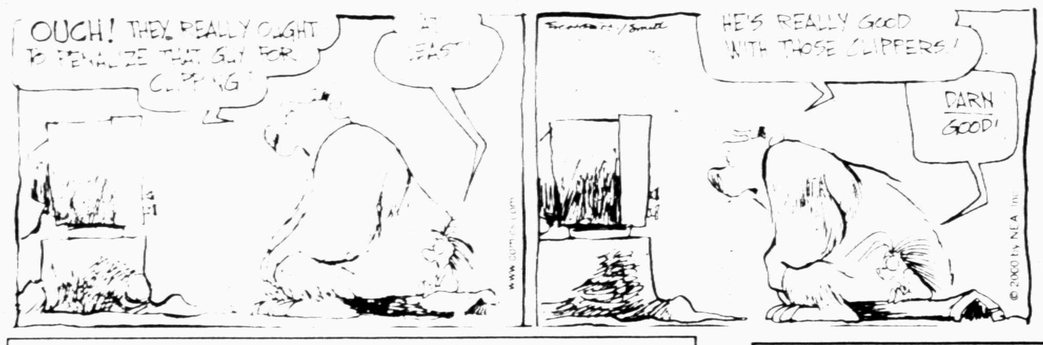
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Lasswell



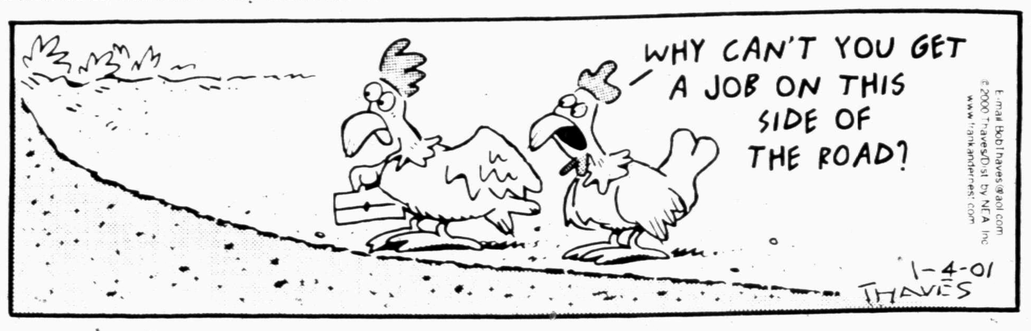
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



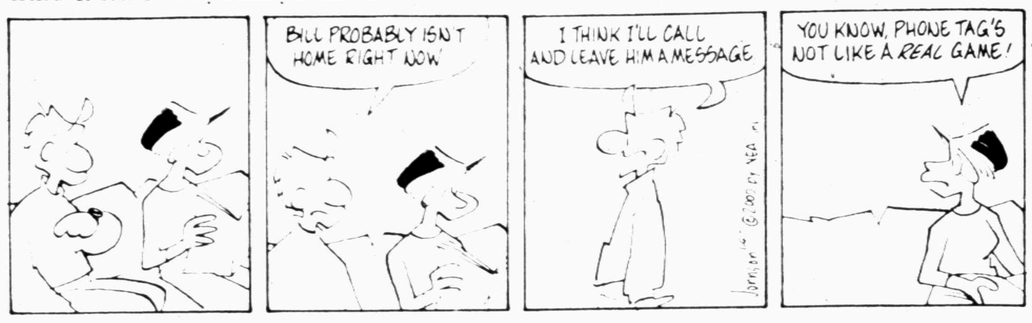
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY TM by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Big lizard
7 Ice houses
13 Gloomy
14 Sewing instrument
15 The East
16 "Love Me —" (Elvis' song)
17 — Angeles
18 Damage
20 Cry
21 Soft polishing cloth
25 Thinning agent
28 "Para" finish
32 Arrow poison
33 Mistake
34 Water nymph
35 Grieves loudly
36 — nous
37 Uniform ornament
39 London's place
41 Diagnostic test (abbr.)
44 Eskimo knife
45 Language suffix
48 Become electrically charged
51 Uses a broom
54 Mall units
55 Flap on a cap
56 Past and future
57 Like formal weddings

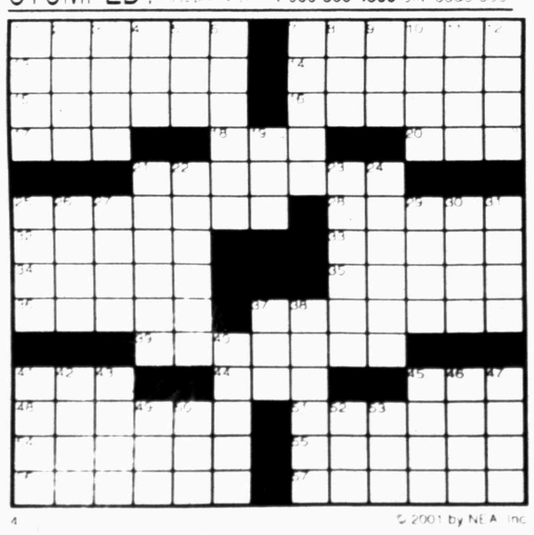
DOWN

1 Matinee man
2 Copter's kin
3 Info agcy.
4 Soul (Fr.)
5 A Bobbsey twin
6 "Nashville" director, Robert —
7 Preface
8 "Gosh!"
9 Bernstein, for short
10 Racetrack term
11 Vegetable spread
12 Slav
19 Qty.
21 Arrow poison
22 Skater Eric —
23 "There — Cometh"
24 Winding sheet
25 Sand mound
26 Oil exporter
27 Cafe au —
29 — Mountains of Europe
30 Voice inflection
31 Formerly, formerly
37 Cloth measure
38 Hesitated
40 Estimate
41 Spray
42 Learn by — (memorize)
43 — — the ground floor
45 Morays
46 Health resorts
47 Notice
49 Tax agcy.
50 Last letter
52 Kids' card game
53 Before (poet.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	S	A	Z	S	A			U	M	I	A	K
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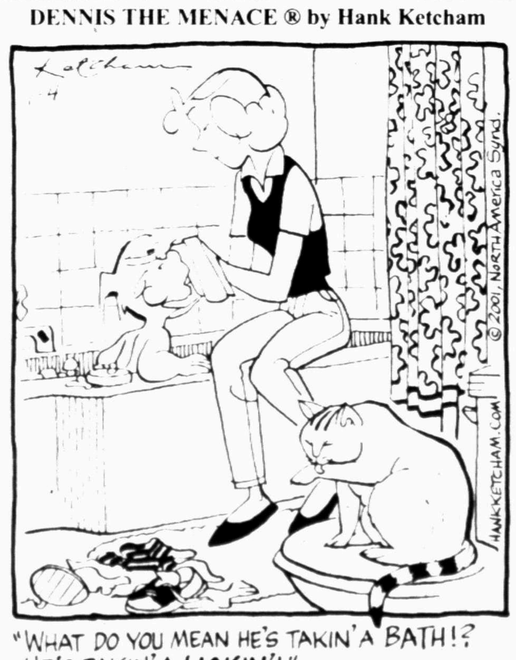
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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



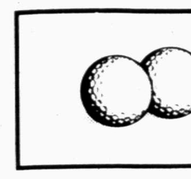
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S TAKIN' A BATH!? HE'S TAKIN' A LICKIN'!"



"You can't be putting on weight already! You only quit smoking 20 minutes ago."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





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MIAMI (AP) —
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SPORTS

Sooners secure title, respect

MIAMI (AP) — Torrance Marshall and top-ranked Oklahoma made their statement real early.

"I tried to intimidate from the coin toss," the Sooners linebacker said. "I told Chris Weinke that he stole my boy's trophy."

By the end of the Orange Bowl, as Heisman runner-up Josh Heupel stood in the end zone and led the school band in the fight song, all the hardware belonged to Oklahoma.

Marshall earned the MVP award for leading a defense that denied No. 3 Florida State a share of its second straight national title, and the Sooners seized the top prize with a 13-2 win Wednesday night.

Oklahoma (13-0), 10 1/2-point underdogs against the Seminoles (11-2), also made the issue of a split title a moot point. They were a unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press media poll and were automatically crowned in the coaches' poll under the Bowl Championship Series format.

"Our players recognize that the history of Oklahoma is winning championships," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "We already had six, now we have seven."

Oklahoma won its first title since 1985, smothering a team that led the nation in total offense and averaged 42 points per game.

The Seminoles wound up at No. 5 — the first time since the 1987 season they finished out of the top four spots.

"When I look at it now, I think it should have been Miami and Oklahoma," Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden said. "We didn't look like we belonged here."

Miami (11-1), which beat Florida a day earlier in the Sugar Bowl, had hoped a win by the Seminoles would give it the AP title.

Instead, Hurricanes coach Butch Davis watched the Sooners win the lowest-scoring Orange Bowl since Penn State beat Missouri 10-3 in 1970.

"Give Oklahoma credit," said Davis, whose team finished No. 2. "To finish 13-0 against a strong schedule and to perform the way they did this evening is highly commendable."

Only a bad snap over punter Jeff Ferguson's head in the final minute, which resulted in a safety, prevented Oklahoma from handing the Seminoles their first shutout since 1988, a 31-0 loss in the season opener.

"I think we had confidence right from the get-go, right when we found out who we were going to play," co-defensive coordinator Brent Venables said. "We just did a variety of things."

As expected, the Seminoles came out throwing. And when Heisman winner Weinke hit Atrews Bell for a 35-yard completion on the first play of the game, Florida State fans started shouting, and the Seminoles' band began blaring the school's famous war chant.

It would be the last time all night they would be so loud.

By the time Ontei Jones picked off Weinke's pass in the end zone with 16 seconds left, it was all over and the Sooners' band had struck up several choruses of "Oklahoma."

Marshall wound up as the Orange Bowl MVP after making six tackles and coming up with an interception.

Weinke finished 25-for-51 and threw two interceptions. Star running back Travis Minor was reduced to 20 yards on 13 carries.

The Seminoles were minus their top receiver, All-American Snoop Minnis, who was academically ineligible — he could only watch on the sidelines as his team sputtered.

"I was frustrated, Chris was frustrated. They did a good job frustrating all of us," FSU offensive coordinator Mark Richt said.

Last month, Richt took the job as head coach at Georgia. He stayed on with the Seminoles through this game and admitted his attention was diverted.

"I'm sure that's going to be said," he said. "I did the best I could. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody. It's an awful lot to try to get accomplished for one person. I'm sorry that we just didn't finish on a strong note."

Heupel outplayed Weinke in the matchup of seniors, completing 25 of 39 passes for 214 yards and keeping the Seminoles off balance all evening.

Tim Duncan kicked two field goals and Quentin Griffin scored the clinching touchdown on a 10-yard run up the middle with 8:30 to play.

The Seminoles' best chance to score came midway through the second quarter. But as has often happened in their past, the kicking game failed.

WTC riders compete at Odessa event

ODESSA — A pair of Western Texas College cowboys have found success on their own this week at the Sandhills Rodeo.

Sophomores Rawley McFarland and Wes Dinwiddie are keeping their skills honed, prior to the collegiate rodeo season.

McFarland registered a score of 77 Wednesday night to grab the top spot overall in the saddle bronc competition, while Dinwiddie's ride of 79 was sixth best in the bull riding.

The rodeo continues tonight and Friday, with the finals slated for Saturday.

Snyder cagers face key district contests

The Snyder Lady Tigers have amassed 14 victories and garnered the No. 7 ranking through the first two months of the season. Tonight, the Lady Tigers will see how they match up with the best in the state.

Snyder travels to Plainview for a pair of district showdowns, starting with the Lady Tigers' 6 p.m. tilt with the No. 1 ranked Lady Bulldogs. The Snyder boys will battle the Bulldogs at 7:30.

The Lady Tigers enter the contest tied with Plainview atop the district standings at 3-0, but SHS coach Sam Tipton believes tonight's game won't make or break the Lady Tigers' district season.

"This isn't a do or die game for us," said Tipton. "There are still 10 district games left after tonight. What we want to do is play our best, and see how we match up with the No. 1 team in the state. One thing's for sure, we're going to give our best effort, and whatever happens will happen."

One key for Snyder will be to survive Plainview's initial onslaught. In two of their district blowouts, the Lady Bulldogs led by nearly 30 points at halftime, thanks to their defense that thrives on forcing turnovers.

"The first quarter is going to be key. That's when Plainview destroys a lot of its opponents," Tipton stated. "They get in the passing lanes and force turnovers that result in easy transition buckets. If we can take care of the ball, and force them into a half-court game, then we have a chance to still be in it in the fourth quarter."

Like the Lady Tigers, the Snyder boys will also battle for the district's top spot tonight.

The Tigers are 1-0 in district play, after burying Big Spring in their district opener three weeks ago. Plainview is also 1-0.

Following tonight's action, both Snyder squads will be back on the floor Friday night when they host Frenship.

BC players arrested after upset

BOSTON (AP) — Two Boston College basketball players face charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon following a barroom brawl just hours after the Eagles upset No. 10 Connecticut in basketball.

Andrew Bryant, 18, a freshman from Dallas, and Kenny Harley, a 22-year-old senior from New York, were charged in the incident early Thursday morning at a popular Boston College hangout.

Bryant is a 6-foot-7 forward. Harley is a 6-foot-5 guard.

Mariellen Burns, a Boston police spokeswoman, said a woman told police the fight began over a dispute about a bar stool she was saving for her boyfriend.

"An altercation ensued which apparently involved beer bottles," Burns said.

The players are charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, a beer bottle.

Stephen O'Connor, 22, and Michael O'Connor, 23, two brothers from Medfield, were also charged with assault and battery and being disorderly. The two brothers were treated for cuts.

Burns said witnesses told police the argument began when the girlfriend of Michael O'Connor, who is a BC student, tried to save a bar stool for him.

A Boston College player then allegedly pushed the woman on the head. Burns said she didn't know which player had pushed the woman.

"Michael O'Connor got into an argument with this person. He was pushed to the ground and kicked. His brother, Stephen, saw what was happening and attempted to assist him," she said.

The incident was reported at about 1:15 a.m.

Burns said as many as five individuals were involved who were identified by witnesses as members of the team, but she said she didn't know if more people would be charged.

"There may be, but at this point, there's just no way to know," she said.

She also said it wasn't clear who started the fight: "We don't know. That's up to the court to sort out."

Stephen O'Connor was released on bail; Michael O'Connor remained in the hospital Thursday morning with multiple stitches in his head. The two players were being held in lieu of bail.

Arraignments were scheduled for Thursday morning in Brighton District Court.

District 4-4A Basketball

BOYS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Estacado	2	0	11	9
Lake View	2	0	10	10
Snyder	1	0	11	6
Plainview	1	0	10	9
Frenship	1	1	11	10
Big Spring	0	2	5	14
Andrews	0	2	13	7
Levelland	0	2	14	7

GIRLS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Plainview	3	0	18	1
Snyder	3	0	14	4
Big Spring	3	1	13	4
Frenship	2	2	15	7
Andrews	2	2	13	7
Levelland	1	3	15	4
Estacado	1	3	11	7
Lake View	0	4	8	12

Tonight's game: Snyder at Plainview
Friday's games: Frenship at Snyder; Lake View at Levelland; Plainview at Estacado; Big Spring at Andrews.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	22	8	.733	—
New York	20	12	.625	3
Miami	18	13	.545	5 1/2
Orlando	14	17	.452	9
Boston	12	20	.375	11
New Jersey	10	21	.323	12 1/2
Washington	7	25	.219	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	20	13	.606	—
Milwaukee	18	13	.581	1
Cleveland	16	14	.533	2
Toronto	15	16	.484	4
Detroit	14	18	.438	5
Indiana	14	19	.424	6
Atlanta	11	21	.344	8
Chicago	5	26	.161	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	11	.645	—
Utah	20	12	.625	1/2
Dallas	20	13	.606	1
Minnesota	18	15	.545	3
Denver	17	15	.531	3 1/2
Houston	15	16	.484	5
Vancouver	9	22	.290	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	21	8	.724	—
L.A. Lakers	23	10	.697	—
Portland	23	10	.697	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	2 1/2
Seattle	17	15	.531	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	22	.333	12
Golden State	10	21	.323	12

Wednesday's Games

Philadelphia 98, Atlanta 80
New York 100, Boston 91
Milwaukee 88, Cleveland 83
Detroit 107, Dallas 104
Phoenix 96, L.A. Clippers 85
Portland 102, Indiana 86
Vancouver 99, Charlotte 89
Denver 111, Golden State 100
L.A. Lakers 82, Utah 71

Thursday's Games

New Jersey at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Seattle at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY
Basketball

Snyder girls at Plainview, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30

Snyder boys at Plainview, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30

Loraine at Hermleigh, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Snyder freshman boys at Sweetwater tourney

Lamesa at Snyder 7th and 8th grade boys

FRIDAY
Basketball

Frenship at Snyder girls, varsity at 6 p.m., JV at 7:30

Frenship at Snyder boys, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30

Sands at Ira, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Hermleigh at Blackwell, girls at 6:30, boys at 8 p.m.

Snyder freshman boys at Sweetwater tourney

College Bowl Glance

All Times EST

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payout: $750,000
Southern Mississippi 28, TCU 21

Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: $800,000
UNLV 31, Arkansas 14

Sunday, Dec. 24
Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Georgia 37, Virginia 14

Monday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Gray 40, Blue 37
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Boston College 31, Arizona State 17

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: $750,000
Marshall 25, Cincinnati 14
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
At Houston
Payout: $750,000
East Carolina 40, Texas Tech 27

Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Boise State 38, Texas-El Paso 23
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $750,000
West Virginia 49, Mississippi 38
Micronpc.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $750,000
North Carolina State 38, Minnesota 30
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
Payout: $750,000
Iowa State 37, Pittsburgh 29

Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: $1.25 million
Colorado State 22, Louisville 17
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1 million
Wisconsin 21, UCLA 20
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $1.8 million
LSU 28, Georgia Tech 14
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: $1.9 million
Oregon 35, Texas 30

Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: $1.2 million
Nebraska 66, Northwestern 17

Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: $1.2 million
Air Force 37, Fresno State 34
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: $1.1 million
Mississippi State 43, Texas A&M 41, OT

Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $2 million
South Carolina 24, Ohio State 7
Cotton Bowl
Payout: $2.5 million
At Dallas
Kansas State 35, Tennessee 21
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $1.4 million
Virginia Tech 41, Clemson 20
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4 million
Michigan 31, Auburn 28
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $13.5 million
Washington 34, Purdue 24
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: $13.5 million
Oregon State 41, Notre Dame 9

Tuesday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $13.5 million
Miami 37, Florida 20

Wednesday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $11-13 million
Oklahoma 13, Florida State 2

Sports Briefs

Redskins hire Schottenheimer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marty Schottenheimer was hired as coach of the Washington Redskins, returning to the NFL with a team that proved to be an expensive bust this season.

Schottenheimer, who took both of his previous teams to the NFL playoffs, received a four-year, $10 million contract from the Redskins, who finished the season 8-8 and missed the playoffs despite the largest player payroll in NFL history.

He also will be the team's director of football operations.

Schottenheimer coached the Chiefs from 1989-98, compiling a 101-58-1 record.

The 57-year-old Schottenheimer coached the Browns from 1984-88, going 46-31.

Astros signs Bottenfield

HOUSTON (AP) — Former All-Star Kent Bottenfield, a free agent who pitched for Anaheim and Philadelphia last season, agreed to a one-year contract with the Houston Astros.

In 29 starts last season for Anaheim and Philadelphia, the 32-year-old right-hander was 8-10 with a 5.40 ERA in 171.2 innings.

Florida tries to keep spring training

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Three central Florida cities worried they might loose spring training teams have received $17.5 million from the state to help renovate old ballparks or build new ones.

Clearwater will use a $7 million grant to help pay for a $22 million stadium for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Dunedin is to get $6 million to help fund a $12 million renovation of Dunedin Stadium at Grant Field and practice fields at the Englebert Complex. The Toronto Blue Jays have trained in Dunedin since 1977.

Lakeland will get $4.5 million to do a complete makeover on Joker Marchant Stadium, the Detroit Tigers spring facility since 1934.

Hill undergoes surgery

BALTIMORE (AP) — Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill underwent bone-graft surgery on his left ankle, with the team and doctors predicting a full recovery.

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Russia denies deploying nuke weapons

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian military on Thursday denied reports that it moved short-range nuclear weapons onto one of its military bases on the Baltic Sea, and Russian analysts said such a deployment would be senseless.

The alleged transfer of tactical nuclear weapons, first reported Wednesday in The Washington Times, "doesn't correspond with reality," said Anatoly Lobsky, a spokesman for the Baltic Fleet. "The Baltic Sea has been declared a nuclear-free zone, and the Baltic Fleet unfailingly fulfills its commitments."

Two senior Clinton administration officials with access to intelligence reports on the subject told The Associated Press Wednesday on condition of anonymity that there have been recent indications of movement of Russian nuclear weapons to a naval base in the Kaliningrad enclave. Kaliningrad is sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania and provides Russia with access to the Baltic Sea.

They said some weapons may have been there a year or longer.

The bombs were designed for a new type of short-range missiles with a firing radius of about 44 miles, according to the Washington Times report — enough to hit targets in Lithuania, one of the three former Soviet republics in the Baltics that aspire to membership in the NATO alliance.

They could also strike targets in Poland, which joined NATO in 1999 in the face of fierce Russian opposition.

Polish Defense Minister Bronislaw Komorowski on Thursday called for international inspectors to verify that Moscow had not deployed nuclear weapons.

"Poland needs to monitor the situation in Kaliningrad on a day-to-day basis and it is doing that," Komorowski said on Poland's Channel One public television.

Some U.S. officials believe the deployment of such weapons would be a tactic for increasing pressure on NATO to withdraw all tactical, or short-range, missiles and other nuclear weapons from Europe. Russia has long argued for their removal, but NATO continues to maintain some nuclear bombs for aircraft based in Europe.

The Washington Times report cited unnamed U.S. arms control officials as speculating that the deployment was Russia's way of testing the resolve of President-elect George Bush.

Russian military analysts questioned the logic of such a deployment, particularly the choice to station ground-based nuclear weapons at a naval base.

"If they did bring tactical nuclear weapons for training or some other purpose to Kaliningrad, they would most likely be naval, like torpedo warheads," said independent defense analyst Pavel Felgenhauer.

"There's no need to bring air force or missile weapons to the enclave," he said, because their potential targets could just as easily be hit with missiles based on Russia's mainland. Kaliningrad is about 250 miles west of the rest of Russia.

Yuri Gladkevich, an analyst at the independent Military News Agency, said Russia would have nothing to gain politically from such a deployment. Ditching nonbinding arms agreements from the early 1990's, which were intended to limit tactical nuclear weapons deployment in Europe, would only invite the ire of European countries and the United States.

He contended that the news reports were based on misinformation, an intelligence leak intended to influence policy for the incoming Bush administration or to demonstrate to America's European allies that Russia remained a threat.

Rep. Shuster will retire end of January

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rep. Bud Shuster, a 14-term congressman rebuked by the House ethics committee in the fall for allegedly accepting improper gifts and favoring a lobbyist, said Thursday he will retire at the end of January.

Shuster, R-Pa., cited recent "health scares" and the realization he had "reached the pinnacle of my congressional career" with recently passed transportation legislation. He said he would leave office Jan. 31.

"In recent months, both my wife, Patty, and I have been in hospitals with different health scares. While we remain optimistic, these experiences have caused me to re-evaluate my priorities and responsibilities," Shuster, 68, said in a statement. He did not elaborate on his health problems.

Shuster has represented the heavily Republican 9th District in south-central Pennsylvania since 1973 and was re-elected in November without opposition.

The announcement came the day after Shuster and other members of Congress were sworn in for the 2001-2003 term. He said he wouldn't wait until the end of his term to retire because he doesn't want to become a lame duck.

"By retiring at the end of this month, effective January 31st, the governor can call a special election to quickly elect my successor for the new Congress," Shuster said in the statement.

In December, Shuster finished his sixth and last year as chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

When Shuster departs the House, it will have a breakdown of 220 Republicans to 211 Democrats, plus two independents evenly divided between the parties and two vacancies.

In September, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct criticized Shuster for "serious official misconduct" but spared him further penalty.

The committee found Shuster engaged in a "pattern and practice" of allowing his former top aide Ann M. Eppard — who lobbies for companies with business before the transportation panel — to appear before him in his official capacity in the year after her resignation from his staff. This "created the appearance that his official decisions might have been improperly affected," the committee report said.

Shuster said he negotiated an agreement with the ethics committee just to end the investigation and admitted no wrongdoing.

Eppard was fined $5,000 in 1998 after pleading guilty to a federal misdemeanor charge of receiving improper compensation. She had been accused of illegally receiving money and gifts to intercede with Shuster and government agencies on behalf of companies threatened by the Big Dig, Boston's massive federal highway project.

The other vacancy in the new Congress is the California seat held by Rep. Julian Dixon, who died Dec. 8, just a month after he was elected to a 12th term. A special election is expected to be held in that heavily Democratic district in April or June.

Shuster's chief of staff, Darrell Wilson, said Shuster was more concerned about his wife's health than his own.

Hollingsworth leaves estate to charity

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — John D. Hollingsworth Jr., who ran his textile industry business in intense privacy before his death, decided to use his estate of as much as $400 million in a very public way.

Hollingsworth left nearly all of it to Furman University and the Greenville YMCA and to Upstate charities to be determined by the board of his nonprofit foundation created nearly 20 years ago.

The exact amount of the estate is unknown. Paulette Murphy, the president of Hollingsworth's land development company, said the 6,000 acres in prime areas of Greenville and 36,000 acres of timberland near the South Carolina coast could be worth as much as $400 million.

Only eight donations met or topped $100 million last year, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

Hollingsworth, 83, died Saturday morning after going to the emergency room following a fall from his bed the day before. He spent his life building John D. Hollingsworth on Wheels Inc., a privately held manufacturer of metallic carding machines that separate textile fibers. His grandfather founded the company in 1894.

Despite his wealth, Hollingsworth lived in a trailer behind his flagship plant.

"He's always been a very private person in the past. All his donations were anonymous. He did not seek any glory. He just wanted to return to the community what he thought the community allowed him to accumulate," said Andy Rasor, the company's vice president for administration.

The company was No. 208 on the Forbes 500 list of private companies in 1994, with a net worth of $500 million. It has fallen off the financial magazine's rankings in recent years.

The will provides nothing for Hollingsworth's only child, Mary Jane Crolley. Hollingsworth accused his daughter and ex-wife of stealing money from the company, but would not testify against them at trial and both were acquitted, The Greenville News reported. Crolley's children will each get a $250,000 trust fund for their college education.

The will directs the Hollingsworth Foundation to give 45 percent of the profits from the business and Hollingsworth's landholdings to Furman. An additional 45 percent will go to charities picked annually by the foundation board and the remaining 10 percent will go to the Greenville YMCA.

Furman officials have known of Hollingsworth's plans for about 20 years. The bequest could surpass the school's previous record gift of $25 million in 1993 by Homozel Mickel Daniel, President David Shi said.

Hollingsworth went to Furman for a year in the late 1930s before dropping out to run the family business. Although he never got his degree, he supported the school ever since.

The amount received by the Greenville YMCA could easily dwarf the agency's $8.6 million annual budget, said President Gary Schlansker. Hollingsworth was "a very generous supporter" of the YMCA before he died and many of his employees participated in activities at the Golden Strip branch, Schlansker said.

Rasor, one of the estate's three executors, said there were no plans to sell John D. Hollingsworth on Wheels. The company employ about 450 people in Greenville and an additional 1,500 workers worldwide.

Teen virginity pledgers delay sex, according to researchers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just saying no to sex works, at least for a while. A study found that teen-agers who publicly pledged to remain virgins until marriage delayed having sex about 18 months longer than other teens.

Among those who formally promised to avoid unmarried sex, about 50 percent remained virgins until about age 20, said Peter S. Bearman, a Columbia University sociologist and co-author of a study in the American Journal of Sociology.

Among nonpledgers, he said, 50 percent were no longer virgins by age 17.

"The average delay among pledgers is 18 months," Bearman said in an interview Wednesday. "That is significant. And that is a pure pledge effect."

Bearman and his co-author, Hannah Brueckner, a sociologist at Yale University, analyzed the effect of virginity pledges on the behavior of teen-agers enrolled in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a federally funded survey of children in the seventh through 12th grades.

Data from the study suggested that by 1995 a church-led, voluntary effort had prompted about 2.5 million teen-age boys and girls to make spoken or written pledges to refrain from sex until marriage.

In their study, Bearman and Brueckner analyzed data from interviews of 20,000 teen-age virgins in 1994 and 1995. A follow-up survey in 1997 included 14,000 of those in the original study.

Bearman acknowledged that some of the characteristics that would lead kids to make the abstinence pledge would have led them to avoid early sex anyway. But even when the researchers made statistical allowance for these factors, "there was an additional delay added by the pledge," he said.

"The more religious kids pledge, as do kids who are more oriented toward school," said Bearman. "Those are protective effects that would delay their entry into sex anyway. But the pledge effect is in addition to that."

The virginity pledges seemed to have the greatest effect on those who took the oath at age 16 to 17, while there was little effect found for those pledging at 18 or older. The effect of pledging earlier, at age 14 or 15, depended on the students' social environments, the study found.

Ironically, Bearman said the more popular taking the pledge becomes in a school, the less effective it becomes. The maximum effect, he said, comes when about 30 percent of students in a school pledge. As the total reaches 40 and 50 percent, the pledge effect is eroded.

In effect, he said, as soon as the virginity pledge becomes too common "and something that everybody does," the persuasive, social impact is lost.

For the whole study group, Bearman cited a "significant" difference between the percentage of pledgers and nonpledgers who remained virgin through their teen years.

For instance:

Among 15 year-olds, 82 percent of the nonpledgers were virgins, compared to 90 percent of the pledgers. At 16, 68 percent of nonpledgers had abstained, while 79 percent of the pledgers were still virgin.

At age 17, half the nonpledgers had initiated sex, while 65 percent of the pledgers were still virgin. At 18, 32 percent of nonpledgers were virgins, compared to 54 percent of the pledgers.

Man receives 17-year prison sentence

LOS FRESNOS (AP) — A San Benito man has received a 17-year prison term for an accident in which his car veered into a driveway and pinned a woman against another vehicle. She lost both legs.

Manuel Ponce, 23, of San Benito pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and failure to stop and render aid. In exchange, prosecutors pledged that he would get no more than 25 years in prison.

Ponce was sentenced Dec. 28 in Brownsville.

He lost control of his car July 17 during a police chase in Los Fresnos, crossing a center line and crashing into cars where Sandra Guerrero, 29, of Monterrey, Mexico, stood with her husband and uncle.

She pushed her husband out of the way, but was sandwiched between the out-of-control car and the ones parked in her driveway, officials said. The uncle, Julian Guerrero, suffered a punctured lung in the accident.

One of Sandra Guerrero's legs was severed on impact. The other had to be amputated.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s		41 81	40 69	41 56— 06
AT&T Corp		20 69	20 00	20 56 + 44
Albertsons		25 69	24 50	24 50— 44
Alltel		65 63	63 69	65 63 + 31
AmerOnline		42 00	38 53	42 00 + 4 50
AmElPw		43 06	41 06	41 06— 2 69
AndarkPtr		65 67	62 66	63 75— 85
ATMOS Egy		25 00	24 00	24 00— 1 00
Aviall		5 00	4 88	5 00
BP Amoco		48 00	47 19	47 56— 31
BakerHughes		40 50	38 69	38 88— 2 19
Bank of Amer		51 69	49 38	50 81 + 88
BellSouth		44 13	42 88	43 69 + 69
Beth Steel		1 94	1 81	1 88
BurlNuSFe		30 00	29 38	29 88 + 1 06
Caterpillar		49 06	46 50	49 06 + 2 56
Chevron		82 00	80 06	80 56— 2 06
Citigroup s		57 38	54 94	56 75 + 1 81
Coastal		82 50	73 75	75 25— 7 06
CocaCola		58 88	57 69	58 13— 1 13
ColgatePal		60 50	57 56	57 95— 2 16
ComclMetals		23 13	22 56	23 00— 13
Cooper In		46 38	45 75	46 31 + 38
DaimlrChry		44 19	43 01	44 06— 09
DatlSemicn s		27 75	26 63	27 75 + 56
DeltaAir		51 13	50 06	51 81 + 19
Dillards Inc		14 50	13 63	14 44 + 50
DowChem s		36 19	35 00	36 19 + 1 00
DuPont		49 56	47 88	49 25 + 1 31
EastmanChem		50 13	48 94	50 13 + 88
Eskodak		42 19	40 44	42 19 + 1 69
EDS Corp		59 19	56 50	58 94 + 31
Enteray		40 00	36 50	37 44 — 2 56
ExxonMobil		85 75	84 00	84 25— 1 00
Flowers		15 63	15 31	15 38— 13
GenDynam		92 44	86 25	88 81 + 4 13
GenElec s		48 50	47 13	47 88 + 06
GenMls		42 88	42 00	42 19 — 1 06
GenMotrs		56 25	54 13	55 63 + 81
GaPacGP		31 50	30 44	31 50 + 63
GlobalMar		25 75	25 31	25 44 — 1 56
Goodrich		36 38	35 81	35 88— 06
GoodYear s		25 44	23 80	25 01 + 1 24
GtAtlPac		6 63	6 44	6 44— 25
Halliburtn		36 13	34 81	35 44— 88
Hanson ADS		36 25	35 25	36 25 + 1 25
HarteHanks		23 38	22 88	23 31 + 13
HomeDepot		51 13	49 75	49 75— 1 69
Honeywellntl		48 56	47 38	47 44 — 19
IBM		99 00	94 38	96 + 3 44
IntlPaper		42 06	40 44	42 00 + 94
Johnsonjn		68 13	65 13	65 69 — 3 06
Kmart		6 06	5 88	6 06 + 63
Kroger Co		24 69	22 94	24 22 + 1 81
Litton		79 38	78 81	79 31 + 44
Lowes Cos		52 94	51 13	51 81— 1 19
Lubys		5 94	5 75	5 94 + 19
LucentTech		15 81	14 63	14 88— 81
MayDeptStr		37 19	36 00	36 50 + 25
Medtronic		56 50	55 13	55 19— 3 50
Motorola s		23 25	22 63	23 00— 1 13
NCR Corp		48 31	47 31	48 25 + 38
Navistar		28 75	27 75	28 44 + 75
Penney JC		12 25	11 38	12 13 + 13
PepBoys		4 63	4 00	4 50 + 44
PepsiCo		46 50	44 50	44 75— 1 75
Pharmacia		58 69	54 00	54 75— 2 25
PhelpDodge		53 94	52 50	52 56 + 38
PhilipPet		55 50	52 50	52 50— 1 88
PilgrmPrd B		3 44	3 31	3 38
Polaroid		4 25	4 00	4 06 + 06
Praxair		47 94	44 94	45 13 + 56
ProctGamb		74 63	72 94	73 13 + 1 44
PubS NwMx		25 44	24 00	24 13 + 19
RadioShack		43 75	41 38	41 63 + 13
ReliantEngy		43 63	41 44	41 75 + 25
RoyalDut		62 19	61 44	61 56 + 06
SBC Comm		52 19	49 81	51 44 + 44
SaraLee		22 25	21 69	21 75 + 44
Scripps EW		62 75	61 75	62 31 + 44
SearsRoeb		37 94	36 81	37 44 + 50
Sherwin W		25 44	24 94	25 00 — 25
SouthernCo		30 94	29 94	29 94 — 1 00
SwstAirl		18 75	18 06	18 44 + 25
SprintFON		25 44	24 25	24 38 + 56
SprintPCS s		24 94	23 44	23 56 + 56
Sunocoinc		37 94	36 81	37 06 + 13
TXU Corp		47 38	46 31	46 38 + 06
TempleInland		57 94	56 44	56 56 + 38
Texaco		64 75	63 38	63 50 + 38
Textrnd		36 94	35 94	36 06 + 06
Texasinstrs		32 94	31 44	32 06 + 44
Textron		54 94	53 44	53 56 + 38
TimeWarner		72 94	69 81	70 + 44
TrinityInds		28 94	27 94	28 06 + 06
TritonEngy		34 94	33 44	33 56 + 06
TylerTech		41 94	39 94	39 94 + 06
USX Marathn		28 94	27 94	28 06 + 06
USX USS		17 94	17 06	17 13 + 06
UnCarbide		53 56	51 94	52 + 06
UnionPacif		62 19	59 56	59 75 + 25
UnitedTech		76 25	75 19	75 31 + 06
Unocal		36 94	35 44	35 44 + 06
Venator Grp		15 56	14 44	14 81 + 44
VerizonComm		55 56	54 38	55 25 + 13
WalMart		56 13	55 31	55 44 + 06
WellsFargo		53 31	52 63	52 81 + 81
WstnGasRs		31 56	30 69	30 94 + 25
WinnDixie		18 25	17 75	17 75— 25
Xerox Cp		5 94	5 69	5 75 + 06

JAN 04 2001

Houses of worship eye security issue

NEW YORK (AP) — The recent bloodshed at a church in the Caribbean and a New York archbishop's frightening encounter in St. Patrick's Cathedral illustrate a difficult balancing act for religious leaders: how to keep places of worship accessible — but still safe.

An organization that insures 45,000 churches nationwide advocates several safety techniques, including training ushers to be ready in the case of violence.

"A lot of churches do have off-duty plainclothes police officers positioned around to act as a security team," said Jeff Hanna, executive director of the GuideOne Center for Risk Management in Des Moines, Iowa. "It can be done without being obtrusive."

Timothy Byrne, a 38-year-old unemployed architect with a history of mental illness, was arrested New Year's Day after he tried to handcuff himself to Archbishop Edward Egan while awaiting communion at St. Patrick's. Byrne claimed the Roman Catholic church's representation of Christ is a fraud, saying Jesus was a "green-eyed woman," and that he needed to make a citizen's arrest of the archbishop.

The same weekend, two men attacked worshippers in a cathedral on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, setting them ablaze and killing an Irish nun.

The attempted attack in St. Patrick's was quashed using some of the techniques advocated by Hanna and others. Byrne was grabbed by a police officer assigned to the cathedral, an off-duty officer who was attending Mass, and two ushers.

Incidents like the one at St. Patrick's are rare, but the severity of claims related to vandalism and break-ins are on the rise, Hanna said.

The United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism, which represents 800 synagogues in North America, distributes a booklet on security techniques.

"Congregants and worshippers have to be participants in protecting their institutions, which as I understand it is exactly what happened at the cathedral," said Rabbi Jerome Epstein, the group's executive vice president.

For St. Patrick's parishioners, the incident brought back the memory of a 1988 attack in which a deranged man ran naked through the cathedral and fatally bludgeoned a 77-year-old usher. The man was shot dead at the scene.

Joseph Zwilling, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, wouldn't discuss specific security measures at the landmark cathedral, but said church leaders struggle to maintain a balance.

"The churches are houses of worship designed to be open to people seeking spiritual fulfillment," Zwilling said.

Violence has occurred in other churches in recent years. In 1999, seven congregants were killed and seven others wounded in a Baptist church in Fort Worth, Texas, by a man who spewed anti-Baptist rhetoric during a teen prayer rally. And in 1996, church workers in Colorado Springs, Colo., were threatened by a man with psychiatric problems. He was later shot and killed by police in a bathroom in the church.

On the Net:
GuideOne Center for Risk Management: http://www.guideonecenter.com

Hillary sworn in as New York senator

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pledging to continue the Democratic battles championed by her husband's administration, Hillary Rodham Clinton struck out on a political career of her own, becoming the only first lady to transform herself into a U.S. senator.

With President Clinton and daughter Chelsea watching from the packed spectator seats of the Senate gallery, Clinton was sworn in as New York's junior senator Wednesday. Clinton raised her right hand and took the oath on a Bible she brought with her from the White House.

The president smiled proudly, clasping Chelsea's hand and frequently leaning in to whisper with her.

"We were holding hands trying to keep from laughing out loud and embarrassing Senator Clinton," the president said at a reception later in the day for supporters.

Saying that for 30 years he had been guilt-ridden that his wife's decision to come to Arkansas and marry him had cost her a career in politics, Clinton thanked New Yorkers for "solving a problem for me."

Sporting a tiny "Hillary" pin on his lapel, the president described his mood as "ecstatic."

While the president tried to yield the spotlight to his wife, he was greeted at a reception Wednesday night at Washington's Mayflower Hotel with chants of "four more years."

A beaming first lady called the day "an extraordinary experience."

Saying the country is better off today than it was when her husband first took office in 1992, Clinton said she would work to continue Democratic policies that had worked over the last eight years in the face of shifting leadership.

"We're going into a period of change, a new administration with new ideas that will have to be tested in the crucible of our political system particularly in the House of Representatives and the Senate," she said.

Her oath was administered Wednesday by Vice President Al Gore, who serves as president of the Senate. Afterward Gore signed the card he had read the oath from and gave it to New York's new senator.

After she signed her name in the Senate register — which puts her on the government payroll — Clinton was greeted on the floor by 98-year-old Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., the Senate's senior member.

"Can I hug you?" Thurmond asked loudly, enveloping a startled-looking Clinton in a bear hug and kissing her on the cheek. She received a pat on the back from Senate Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, who often has clashed with the Clintons.

No first lady had ever run for elected office before, and she had never lived or worked in New York.

Her first Republican opponent, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, dropped out of the race in mid-May after being diagnosed with prostate cancer and acknowledging marital troubles.

Following a sometimes nasty campaign, she defeated her second opponent, Long Island Rep. Rick Lazio, performing surprisingly well in traditionally Republican areas upstate and drawing the third-highest vote total ever in a New York U.S. Senate race.

While she is trying to portray herself as just another freshman lawmaker, Clinton is easily the most famous new face in the chamber. She will continue to have Secret Service protection, as do other former first ladies.

The Clintons were headed to Syracuse, N.Y., Thursday to attend the funeral of Jack McAuliffe, father of Clinton friend and Democratic fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe. In the afternoon she will switch gears and act as first lady at a White House event highlighting women's and children's health.

On the Net:
Hillary Clinton's Web site: http://www.senate.gov/(tilde)clinton

Nasty Confederate flag fight looms in Georgia

ATLANTA (AP) — Gov. Roy Barnes knows the Confederate battle emblem can stir up passions that some voters will remember on Election Day. That's exactly why he wants to avoid a fight over changing Georgia's flag.

But the uncivil war over Confederate symbols may be coming to Georgia whether the governor wants it or not.

Civil rights leaders have set their sights on Georgia this year, threatening boycotts if the Confederate battle emblem isn't removed from the state's flag. Many are the same activists who successfully fought last year to remove the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina's Statehouse.

Some Georgia Republicans — most of whom want to keep the flag — welcome the fight in their state. They think the debate will split Democrats along racial lines and hurt Barnes, a Democrat who is up for re-election in 2002. Many Democrats — including some blacks — are hoping to keep the issue under wraps.

But activists are already shouting.

"For the last 20 years, people have tried to avoid it, but this is the year they're going to have to deal with it," said state Rep. Tyrone Brooks, a black Democrat.

Barnes' predecessor, Zell Miller, was nearly voted out of office after he unsuccessfully tried to change the flag. Having learned that lesson, Barnes plans to stay quiet during the renewed flag fight.

"We need to talk among ourselves and see what our differences are, to see if there's common ground," Barnes said. "And a governor needs to be quiet to allow us to do that."

The Confederate symbol was added to the Georgia flag in 1956. Southern heritage groups say it was a tribute to Confederate soldiers, but most historians believe it was an act of defiance against the desegregation of schools.

Much of the South continues to struggle over the future of Confederate symbols. This year, the Legislature in Mississippi — the only other state that uses the Confederate emblem on its state flag — will consider a proposal to change the flag.

The debate also continues to simmer in South Carolina.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Planning helps students get good letter of recommendation

DEAR ABBY: I must differ with something you stated in a recent column. For high school teachers and some counselors, being asked to write a letter of recommendation is not always a compliment. There are many students (and parents!) who think that teachers OWE them a letter. Around college application time, teachers are flooded with requests. The result is that teachers write generic letters that often have little bearing on the true abilities of the students, simply because of the volume of letters requested.

Students are not always thoughtful in making their requests, so please allow me to offer a few suggestions that will guarantee worthwhile teacher recommendations:

(1) Teachers are very busy. Don't leave your request for the last minute and expect it to be accommodated.

(2) Provide the teacher with all of the relevant information about your high school career, such as student activities, work experience, future plans for study and career, and why you're applying to a particular school.

(3) Provide a stamped, addressed envelope if the recommendation is to be mailed.

(4) Write a thank-you note to the teacher for taking valuable personal time to help you. This is good practice for job applications later on.

(5) Parents, this is your child's job, not yours. However, if a teacher has played a significant role in your child's life, a handwritten note from you is more precious than any "teacher-themed" trinket gift, and appropriate at any time of the year.

Most teachers want to see their students succeed. A little planning and good manners make all the difference. — **A POPULAR TEACHER, MINNEAPOLIS**

DEAR POPULAR TEACHER: Your suggestions are excellent. I hope that students will take note of them and do some advance planning before asking their teachers for letters of recommendation. That way everyone will be a winner.

**

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife and I divorced several years ago. After a three-year court fight, I was awarded custody of our two daughters. In spite of this, my ex and I are on friendly terms. I have remarried and have a stepchild. My ex had a baby by a man who is now locked up for two years in a drug rehab facility. She has just informed me that she's planning on moving in with another man and wanted me to know he is a registered sex offender. I looked it up on the Internet and learned he committed aggravated assault on a 10-year-old child.

Abby, I am concerned about sending my girls over to stay with their mother on weekends. I want to trust her judgment, but not at the risk of jeopardizing my children. I went to my mom for advice. All she could say was, "I know you will do the right thing."

I don't know what to do. I want my ex to be happy. Maybe this is the soul mate she's been looking for, but I can't help being concerned about my children's safety. What should I do? — **A DAD IN A DILEMMA**

DEAR DAD: Your ex-wife told you about her boyfriend's criminal record to give you the opportunity to call the shots — so do it. Since her taste in men is so poor, you must safeguard your daughters' welfare. Tell her for the children's safety, they will not be staying at her house.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 5, 2001

In the year ahead, your greatest successes are likely to come from two established interests. There could be a link between these endeavors that will work to your advantage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Restrict your risk taking to a minimum today by involving yourself only with tried-and-true friends, especially if the activity planned is quite speculative. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A serious matter you've been purposely avoiding may demand attention today. However, it will prove to be a good thing, as a positive resolution will result.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Make sure there is lots of discussion first as to what you expect in return from your input into an ambitious project you do for another. Without it, you may not be properly compensated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) With the proper financial motivation, your chances for success today can be enhanced considerably. It's amazing what one can do with a fat carrot dangled in his or her face.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can best help yourself today by digging into facts and figures needed to take on a troublesome project. With good preparation, there's no reason why you can't handle it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Help could be on the way today from a close friend of yours who knows you need some support. Don't be too proud to accept the aid.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Give an old hope of yours that's been stuck in neutral a second look today. Significant progress can be made when you view things from a fresh perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Long-overdue acknowledgment and even a possible reward from something on which you've worked hard and long could now be forthcoming. It'll restore your faith in people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A new market for some special knowledge you've acquired over the years may be presented to you today by another who appreciates the value of your vast experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Starting today you're going to be feeling a lot better about a joint endeavor in which you're involved when you discover your counterpart has enhanced the venture as much as you have.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) To your credit you'll come through as promised today and honor a commitment you made, even though it might now be extremely difficult for you to do. It won't go unnoticed nor unappreciated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This will be one of your better days for making solid progress in fulfilling an ambitious objective you've undertaken. If you get an early start, you may even be able to complete it.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Tentative deal on Senate panel OK'd

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only minutes after the closely divided 107th Congress convened, House Democrats were accusing Republicans of violating the spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation pledged by party leaders.

In the Senate, split 50-50 for the first time, party leaders reached tentative agreement on allowing equal numbers of GOP and Democratic members on committees. Democrats seemed happy with the idea and Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi was trying to sell the plan to his colleagues.

The House GOP leadership faced the formidable task Thursday of choosing among Republicans vying for a dozen committee chairmanships, including the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over taxes, and the Budget Committee, which sets spending priorities.

In addition, GOP sources said the leaders had contacted the incoming Bush administration to discuss a possible job for New Jersey Rep. Marge Roukema, signaling that the veteran lawmaker probably would be passed over when chairmanships were assigned.

Several Republican officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one possibility that had been broached was to appoint her the U.S. treasurer.

John Feehery, a spokesman for Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., declined to comment on the issue. There was no immediate response from Bush's transition office, and Roukema could not be reached for comment.

Roukema, a 20-year veteran of the House, is the senior Republican on the Banking Committee, and under the seniority system would be in line to chair the panel.

But the leadership signaled earlier in the week it had other ideas when it announced it was taking jurisdiction over the issues of securities and insurance away from the Commerce Committee and incorporating them into a newly constituted banking panel. Several sources predicted the leaders would pick Rep. Mike Oxley, R-Ohio, as chairman of the banking panel rather than Roukema.

Oxley is a senior member of the Commerce Committee but currently does not hold a seat on Banking.

U.S. retailers report low holiday sales

NEW YORK (AP) — In what may have been the lousiest holiday season in a decade, the nation's retailers reported sales figures that were even worse than expected, the result of a souring economy and bad winter weather.

"The Grinch stole Christmas," said Kurt Barnard, publisher of the Barnard Retail Trend Report, based in Upper Montclair, N.J. "I haven't seen anything like this in nine or 10 years. We are seeing a consumer badly strapped for spending money, and under the influence of pessimism."

A slew of companies, including Gap, Intimate Brands, Limited, AnnTaylor and Tiffany, warned Thursday that fourth-quarter earnings would fall below estimates. The heavy markdowns needed to bring in customers ate up many stores' profits.

Sears announced the closings of 89 underperforming stores.

Even Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer and usually one of the industry's best performers, reported disappointing December results. It said sales at stores open at least a year, known as same-store sales, rose a meager 0.3 percent from a year earlier. Wal-Mart had expected a gain of 3 percent to 5 percent.

Barnard said the only shoppers who seemed to be spending freely were teen-agers. They headed for chains like Hot Topics, American Eagle and Gadzooks, all of which reported strong sales for the month.

Jeffrey Feiner, managing director at Lehman Brothers who maintains an index of 22 major retailers, said holiday same-store sales fell 0.1 percent.

"The effects of a lousy Christmas are going to continue through the first quarter," said Michael Niemera, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

Impeachment trial continuing in Philippines; witness testifies

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A witness in the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada testified Thursday that a presidential aide ordered her to start two shell companies that prosecutors say Estrada used to hide bribe money.

The witness, attorney Jazmin Banal, said Edward Serapio told her to sign documents founding the companies and then turn them over to an unknown owner. In addition to being a presidential aide, Serapio is a senior partner in the law firm where Banal works.

Prosecutors said further testimony will trace an intricate paper trail to prove Estrada used the companies as a base to invest bribes from illegal gambling lords.

Estrada has been on trial since last month on charges of bribery, graft, betrayal of public trust and violation of the constitution. A conviction on any charge by two-thirds of the 22-member Senate would force him from office. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Tension surrounding the trial was aggravated further by five powerful bomb attacks in metropolitan Manila that killed 22 people and injured more than 120 on Saturday. Police on Thursday detained 17 men from a mostly Muslim neighborhood in connection with the synchronized attacks.

Police have strongly suggested that Muslim separatist guerrillas carried out the bombings, though the Philippines' two major Muslim rebel groups have denied involvement.

Thursday's brief testimony in the Senate's impeachment trial was interrupted twice. Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago ordered three members of the audience thrown out after she claimed they were making "provocative gestures" at her.

Later, another senator discovered a camera microphone pointed toward the senators' seats despite rules allowing only a central microphone. Senators said the device may have recorded their private conversations.

The session followed a four-hour grilling Wednesday of a governor who said he helped Estrada pocket millions of dollars in bribes.

During cross examination, defense lawyers assailed Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, a former drinking buddy of Estrada, as a corrupt politician trying to pin his own illegal acts on the president.

Obituaries

Bill Jordan

1912-2001

John W. "Bill" Jordan, a Scurry County resident since 1933, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Jordan, 88, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Hermleigh Church of Christ. Burial will follow in the Hermleigh Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home. Wayne Horton will officiate.



Bill Jordan

Born May 30, 1912 in Thurber, Tex., he married Irene Caffey on Dec. 1, 1933 in Hermleigh. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp in World War II. A farmer, Mr. Jordan was a member of the Hermleigh Church of Christ, Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star.

He was preceded in death by four sisters and six brothers.

Survivors include his wife, Irene Jordan of Hermleigh; a son and daughter-in-law, Gerald and Frances Jordan of Bridgeport; a sister, Libby Senter of Houston; a grandson, John Jordan of Bridgeport; a granddaughter, Jodie Castanedo of Madison, Wis.; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Chavez sees no glass ceiling for women

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush's choice to be labor secretary, Linda Chavez, doesn't believe women face a "glass ceiling" in the workplace that keeps them in lower-paying jobs, a review of her writings shows.

She also has suggested that the rising number of sexual harassment lawsuits has made America "a nation of crybabies." And she once criticized the Americans With Disabilities Act as "special treatment in the name of accommodating the disabled."

Democrats and union leaders who oppose her selection are rifling through her prolific writing to seize material they hope will rally support against her nomination as the Senate prepares for her confirmation.

But the Bush team hopes Chavez and her conservative views will appeal directly to workers, who don't always agree with the political positions taken by their unions and which spent millions to oppose Bush's election.

"Coming from a working class family that taught her the values of hard work, fair play and educational attainment, Ms. Chavez embodies the values of working Americans," Bush spokesman Tucker Eskew said Wednesday.

"She has worked for a labor union, she understands the issues that matter to working Americans," he said.

Her father, who did not finish high school but was an avid reader, painted houses while her mother spent long hours working in restaurants and department stores.

Chavez worked for one of the nation's largest teacher's unions before rising to become a top official for the Civil Rights Commission during the Reagan administration.

She gained national attention for her views against affirmative action and made an unsuccessful bid for Congress. In recent years, she has been a prolific conservative columnist and television commentator.

She also founded the Center for Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank that researches race, ethnicity and assimilation issues and which has supported English-only education.

A review of her columns shows Chavez has supported increased immigration as a way of filling jobs and fueling the economy but has strongly opposed affirmative action. She also has declared it "may be good business" for companies to discriminate against workers who refuse overtime.

Felony shoplifting report sent to DA

• ***Felony shoplifting***

A 40-year-old female has been identified, but not arrested, for a state jail felony offense of shoplifting.

Officers were called to Wal-Mart at 8:52 a.m. Wednesday in reference to the woman attempting to steal clothing items from the store.

Sgt. Terry Luecke of the Snyder Police Department said the case has been forwarded to the district attorney's office for consideration.

The 40-year-old woman has four previous misdemeanor convictions, which enhances the most recent incident to a state jail felony.

Those convictions include two in 1988, one in 1995 and one in 1998.

• ***Theft***

Ronnie Lewis contacted police at 2:16 p.m. Wednesday to report the theft of a VCR and tapes from 2700 Avenue Y.

• ***Vandalism***

Ronnie Rogers with Jascon Inc., notified officers of criminal mischief to a vehicle at the 37th Street road construction site at 10:46 a.m. Wednesday. A report was taken in reference to the headlights, windshield and mirrors being damaged on a 1981 GMC truck.

• ***Assault***

At 3:20 p.m. Wednesday, officers filed a report for assault/family violence.

• ***Gas drive-off***

A clerk with Town & Country on East Coliseum reported a gas drive-off in the amount of $18.50 at 5:32 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Dogs stolen***

A report for Class A theft was filed at 9:25 p.m. in reference to a female pit bull dog and her four puppies being stolen from Susan and Tony Crosby at 3005 Avenue T.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the March vocational nursing class at WTC is set for 9 a.m. Friday. Testing in the extended application process is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. next Thursday, 9 a.m. Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. Feb. 9. To schedule an appointment, call 573-8511, ext. 315.

Scurry County retired teachers

Scurry County Retired Teachers will meet at noon Monday at The Shack. The program will be on long-term care insurance.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Jesus' Teaching on Civil Government," followed by "The Apostle's Teaching."

Lions Club meeting

Snyder Lions Club will resume its regular noon weekly meetings Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

1981 class reunion

The SHS class of 1981 reunion committee is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion scheduled June 29-30. Submit names, addresses and e-mail addresses at shsclass81@hotmail.com, or by calling Beth Bowen (573-2670), or Charlotte Clifton (573-2430).

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center Swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

American Cancer Society

The Scurry County Unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. next Thursday.

Volunteer training

Gateway Family Services (formerly Noah Project-West) will offer a Volunteer Training class from 6-9 p.m. next Thursday at Gateway Family Services. RSVP at 573-1822.

Country and gospel music program

The next country and gospel music program at the Scurry County Senior Citizen Center will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. For additional information, call 573-3906.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado SWCD will take orders for windbreak trees until Jan. 31. Evergreens are $2 and hardwoods are $1 for 12 to 18 inches tall. Come by 5309 Big Spring Hwy or call 573-6317.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Clinton's drive for peace rejuvented

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's drive for an Israeli-Palestinian accord gained new life Wednesday with word from Yasser Arafat that he was willing to negotiate with Israel based on his interpretation of Clinton's formula for a settlement.

Israel responded by agreeing to send negotiator Gilead Sher to Washington to confer Thursday with U.S. mediators Dennis Ross and Aaron Miller on whether a basis exists for new talks with the Palestinians.

In the meantime, Israel intends to measure whether Arafat's promise to Clinton to curb attacks is being implemented.

"We're not going to resume negotiations, we're not going to have a summit, unless we are confident of success," P.J. Crowley, a White House spokesman, said after Clinton's second telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Another senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinians also would send an official in the next few days to talk to the American mediators.

With only 17 days left to pursue his goal, Clinton took to the telephone to try to bridge differences between Arafat and Barak. "They both have reservations, and we're going to work with both parties to try to reconcile their interpretation of it," White House spokesman Jake Siewert said.

At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher said the development was "definitely a step forward" and "we still have grounds to work on this."

In Stockholm, Sweden, visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said an agreement remains unlikely before Clinton turns over the presidency to George W. Bush.

"It may be an act of providential miracle that can produce a full deal between us and the Palestinians in the remaining days (of Clinton's presidency)," Ben-Ami said at a news conference.

The fresh impetus surfaced after two White House meetings Tuesday in which Arafat promised again to try to curb the violence that has plagued the region.

JAN 04 2001

Dr. Gott



By Peter Gott, M.D.

Could husband have diabetes?

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm at my wits' end. My overweight husband is 56. About two months ago, he began having tingling and numbness of his legs, associated with sweating and nausea. He does not sleep well because, at night, his legs feel perturbed. He needs to move them constantly, even to the point that he must get out of bed and walk around to relieve the sensation. He drinks a large amount of regular coffee a day (up to 10 cups) and adds 2 teaspoonfuls of sugar to each cup. His father and brother have diabetes, and I am concerned. Our family doctor has checked one blood sugar level and has found nothing on exam. He is stumped. Can you help?

DEAR READER: Perhaps. At least I'll open up some possibilities for you and your husband to consider.

From your extensive description, which I have abstracted because of space constrictions, it's clear that your husband is consuming way too much coffee. This amount of caffeine is over-stimulating him and, perhaps, affecting the nerves in his legs, not to mention his sleeping pattern. Therefore, as a first step, I'd encourage him to limit his coffee intake: two to three cups a day maximum.

Secondly, his leg sensations certainly suggest some nerve malfunction, which, given the family history of diabetes and his proclivity for sweets, could reflect diabetes — even though he has had one normal blood sugar test. In my opinion, your husband needs a glucose tolerance test or a two-hour postprandial blood sugar. Both these analyses will check his sugar level after a glucose challenge. If the tests are normal, diabetes is not present; if, on the other hand they are abnormal, your husband and his doctor will need to work on therapy for a diabetic condition.

Also, it would be important to check your husband's blood sugar during his attacks of sweating and nausea. (Incidentally, I'd like to know his blood pressure readings at those times, too, because he might be experiencing symptoms of blood pressure instability.)

Finally, the legs. Restless legs syndrome is an under-recognized, under-diagnosed disorder that affects literally tens of thousands of Americans. The uncontrollable sensations can markedly affect sleeping and lifestyle. The affliction, of unknown cause, is treatable. Bring this to his doctor's attention and, meanwhile, contact the Restless Legs Foundation at 819 2nd Street, SW, Rochester, MN 55902-2985, phone (877) 463-6757, or fax (507) 287-6312 to learn more about this disorder.

At this point, your husband and his doctor have further work to do. Let me know the outcome.

DEAR DR. GOTT: This may sound bizarre, but while working with learning-disabled children, I've noticed that many of their mothers have small breasts. Is there a connection? Why are some women small-busted?

DEAR READER: Breast size is genetically governed. I am not aware of a consistent relation between small breasts in women and physical/mental handicaps in their offspring. Although it's true that some handicaps are hereditary or congenital, the affected genes are different from those involved with breast growth.

Women have small breasts because they were born that way — in the same fashion some men are born with a genetic tendency toward small penises. That's OK. It's perfectly normal for people to vary in size, shape and physical attributes.

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Military precision to mark inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP) — With military precision, members of the Army Herald Trumpets will spend Inauguration Day going from ball to ball, staying at least one step ahead of George W. Bush.

The trumpeters are to herald the arrival of the new president, and it is up to the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee to ensure that a welcoming committee of musicians is in place when Bush arrives at each stop.

After the president is announced, the group will scramble off to another ball to await his arrival there. Traditionally, the new president and the new first lady attend each of the inaugural balls; so far this year nine have been scheduled.

Tracking the president and the musicians who will salute him is one task of AFIC's joint operations center, occupying a large room of a nondescript federal office building badly in need of renovations.

Ten large television sets cover one wall perpendicular to three large maps of the nation's capital.

Rows of long tables, aligned like a college lecture center, fill up the room. Names on the back of the chairs indicate who will occupy those seats come Inauguration Day: FBI, Transit Police, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police.

From the televisions to the phones to be answered by federal and local law enforcement representatives to its own spotters in key locations, AFIC hopes to know everything that is going on, and be able to react to the unexpected.

If the ceremony is running late, or a parade participant fails to meet the schedule, AFIC wants to know about it. Likewise if there are problems handling a crowd expected to reach 250,000 people, or unexpected developments such as a protest that gets out of hand or a sudden snowstorm.

"If you have that many people doing that many things, the potential for something to go off track is certainly there," said Marine Corps Maj. Gary Zegley, chief of the Joint Operations Center.

The Texas Cavaliers, which sponsors San Antonio's annual River Parade during Fiesta, will represent the Alamo City in the Jan. 20 Inaugural Parade.

"George Bush is the reason we'll be freezin'," said Roy Barrera Jr., a member of the group and chairman of the Bexar County Republican Party.

He said about 120 Cavaliers will travel to Washington at their own expense for the parade.

Roger C. Hill Jr., Cavaliers commander, said the last time the group traveled to Washington for an inaugural parade was in 1953, when Dwight D. Eisenhower became president.

The parade will also include high school bands from Crawford, where Bush has a ranch, and Midland, where Bush was reared. Marching bands from the University of Texas, Texas A&M and Southern Methodist University also will participate.

The Texas Lone Star Review, the Kilgore Rangerettes and the Lake Highlands High School Wildcat Wranglers also will represent the state in the national parade along with several equestrian groups.

AFIC's main role is to run the inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, though there will be a military presence in other activities.

Overall, some 5,500 military personnel are expected to participate in the inauguration celebration. They include musicians, a color guard, and the representatives who will assemble in the Pentagon parking lots before dawn to welcome the parade participants as they arrive in Washington, and then herd them into buses for the trip to the National Mall, where they will gather before setting off toward the White House.

Twelve members of the Armed Forces now work in the operations center, though the number will double come Jan. 20.

"What people see on TV is the little bitty tip of the iceberg," said Army Maj. Tom Carnell, assistant chief of operations. "We're the big giant underneath part."

The members of the operations center have prepared for the inauguration by reviewing plenty of scenarios in which something does not go as planned. For Zegley, it is something he learned to expect as a leader of combat troops overseas.

"You get into a situation and you have an idea of how things are going to turn out," Zegley said. "But nothing is ever the way you thought it was. When the helicopter touches down, everything changes.

"We're a big believer in Murphy's law."

On the Net:
Armed Forces Inaugural Committee: http://www.afic.army.mil/

State regulators poised to lift rate freeze for utility firms

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A proposed electric-rate hike aimed at bailing out two California utilities is facing heavy criticism, with consumers angry about picking up the tab and Wall Street skeptical that the move will accomplish its goal.

The state Public Utilities Commission on Thursday was expected to approve hikes of 9 percent for homes, and between 7 percent and 15 percent for businesses. The increases would affect about 10 million customers.

The proposed 90-day increases, unveiled Wednesday, are about one-third the amount sought by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co. The utilities say they face financial ruin within weeks if they can't get more cash to buy the energy that's distributed to their customers.

The utilities have been struggling because they have been unable to recoup the money spent on wholesale electricity. They buy power for roughly 30 cents a kilowatt hour and, because of a rate freeze, they can only charge customers about a fifth that amount.

The result is that PG&E and SoCal Edison, which serve more than three-fourths of California's population, have lost more than $9 billion since June. Wall Street has threatened to downgrade the two investor-owned utilities to junk-bond status unless they find an assured cash source.

The state's deregulated electricity grid, stressed for months by high demand, scant reserves and tight imports, has been pushed to the brink of widespread blackouts. The need for electricity has sent wholesale power prices dramatically upward.

David Bodek of Standard and Poor's, a New York credit-ratings service, says that the proposed increase still leaves the utilities unable to cover the high wholesale prices. He said the move "would suggest that the commission is not committed to preserving the utilities' financial viability nor the utilities' financial integrity."

Bob Glynn Jr., head of PG&E Corp., the utility's parent company, was equally pessimistic.

"I've got a fourth-grade grandson that can do the math on this. If you're buying at 27 cents and selling at 7, you're going to run out of money," Glynn said.

PG&E had requested an immediate 26 percent rate hike and SoCal Edison had asked for 30 percent, but Gov. Gray Davis reportedly drew the line at 10 percent in private negotiations. Still, taxpayer groups were not happy with Davis' concessions.

"This is day one of the ratepayer revolt in California," said Harvey Rosenfield of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, which favors a ballot initiative in 2002 to reregulate the electrical industry.

Rosenfield's associate, Douglas Heller, argued that the rate hike "will be the first in a series of rate increases."

The utilities said the proposed rate increase would do little to reduce their debt, but they said it would send a strong signal to Wall Street about their financial stability.

The utilities must maintain a good credit rating to borrow money to buy power.

Woman and two children killed at hotel

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A woman and two children were shot to death in an Albuquerque hotel room Wednesday, prompting a room-to-room search by police. A suspect was later arrested 80 miles away.

Police Chief Jerry Galvin said the 23-year-old suspect had checked into the hotel with the victims between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Police said they were not sure of the man's relationship to the victims, nor was it clear whether the woman and children — two boys under age 6 — were related. All were from the Albuquerque area.

Several guests called police about hearing gunshots on the top floor of the 411-room Marriott Hotel in one of the city's busiest areas.

As police searched room-to-room, hotel functions were canceled and some guests were told to stay in their rooms. Others were taken to the lobby and questioned by police for about an hour and then allowed to leave.

Ben Bregman of Kauai, Hawaii, said he was staying on the floor where the three were killed.

"In Kauai, we get one murder every five years," Bregman said. "I'm out here 10 minutes and there's three."

The suspect was a passenger in a limousine that was stopped by state police near a casino north of Santa Fe. Galvin said he was found following a tip.

Stolen police files turn up in trash bin

BALTIMORE (AP) — The trail of evidence from a Christmas Eve burglary at a top-secret police office has led to a trash bin behind a doughnut shop.

Two bags full of confidential police documents and other items were found in a container behind a Dunkin' Donuts store by a man looking for discarded materials to build a scooter platform for his son.

Jim Isbell, 38, said he found police personnel folders and files, a city police officer's Rolodex, surveillance photos, mug shots, video tapes with names and addresses, and files marked "confidential — city police Internal Affairs section." Isbell discovered the items on Dec. 24, he told the Baltimore Sun for Thursday editions.

Isbell said he called 911 after finding the materials, and four county officers responded. They took him to an FBI office where he was questioned.

"When they called the detective whose Rolodex it was, they got real hush-hush about everything," Isbell said. "I got the impression that they didn't get everything back that they were looking for."

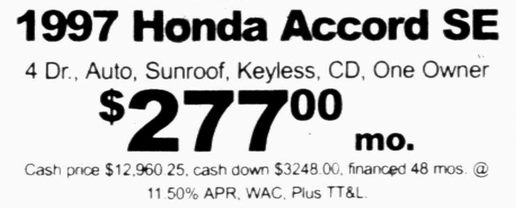
Police would not comment about Isbell's discovery, and officials have refused to disclose how the break-in was discovered.

No arrests have been made, but police confirmed they are investigating the crime as an internal matter.

PRICE MELTDOWN



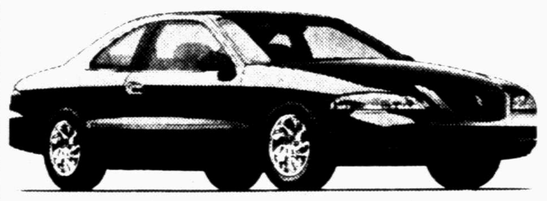
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1996 Ford Explorer XLT
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Cash price $11,912.53, cash down $2983.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.75% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



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Cash price $8540.57, cash down $2292.00, financed 48 mos. @ 11.75% APR, WAC, Plus TT&L.



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