SOUTHWEST MICRO PUBLISHING
2627 E. YANDELL
EL PASO, TX 79903

Jan. 2, 1992
Vol. 42 No. 209
Snyder, Texas 79549
10 Pages, 50¢

West Texas Intermediate Crude
$18.65

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THURSDAY

Snyder Daily News

Ask Us

Q—If Dallas should beat Detroit on Sunday and Atlanta beats Washington on Saturday, would the NFC championship be played in Dallas?

A—Yes. Because of their records, the 13-5 Cowboys would host the 12-6 Falcons. Likewise, if Houston defeats Denver and Kansas City tops Buffalo, Houston would host the AFC because the Oilers, 13-5, would have a better record than the 12-6 Chiefs.

In Brief

Soviet prices

MOSCOW (AP) — Wary shoppers in Russia and Ukraine took their first painful steps into a market economy today, finding higher prices with the end of subsidies and price controls but still seeing the same old empty shelves.

"They have said there would appear a lot of goods as soon as the prices were deregulated, but where are they?" asked Galina Kornilova, an office worker who was searching for milk but found only boiled sausages.

The cost of everything from meat to movies went up in Russia and Ukraine today and will rise in Belarus on Friday. Even the cost of basic goods such as bread, milk and baby food — although still government-regulated — will rise.

Cuomo leads

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Mario Cuomo, who kept Democrats on tenterhooks for weeks before saying he would not seek the party's presidential nomination, still is the most popular contender with New Hampshire voters, a poll says.

With New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary less than two months away on Feb. 18, the poll found that the New York governor was preferred by 37 percent of respondents — far more support than any of the six major declared Democratic candidates.

Local

Model trains

Snyder Model Train Club will meet at 7 o'clock today in the Snyder Savings & Loan community room.

Visitors are welcome.

52 vote

By noon today, 52 persons had cast absentee ballots in the City of Snyder's half-cent sales tax election.

Three-eighths of the tax has been earmarked for economic development and one-eighth for ad valorem tax relief.

The election is set for Jan. 18.

Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Wednesday, 53 degrees; low, 28 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Thursday, 28 degrees; no precipitation.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, fair. Low in the lower 30s. Light wind. Friday, mostly sunny. High in the upper 60s. Southwest wind 5-15 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 5:52 p.m. Sunrise Friday, 7:43 a.m. Of 1 day in 1992, the sun has shone 1 day in Snyder.

Tremor shakes Snyder, West Texas

Scurry County residents getting ready for the day's activities were gently joustled by an earthquake this morning.

No reports of damage or injury have been attributed to the quake, which shook a vast area of West Texas and eastern New Mexico at 5:48 a.m.

Snyder Police Department and KSNY Radio reported several callers inquiring about the tremor.

John Minsch, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center in Boulder, Colo., said the quake was centered in West Texas near the Texas-New Mexico border. He estimated the epicenter about 30 miles southeast of Hobbs, N.M. which places it near Frankel City in Andrews County.

Frankel City is the location of a large oil field where water flooding activities have been underway for about two years and Co2 injection is just underway.

The quake measured 4.7 on the Richter Scale. A quake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage, according to the National Earthquake Center. However, no damage has been reported.

The tremor was felt from the Lubbock area northward into the Texas Panhandle and westward into the Roswell, New Mexico area.

Patsy Clark, a secretary in the district attorney's office in Andrews, said the tremor woke her up.

"It scared me to death," Mrs. Clark said. "I felt the bed shaking and I thought, 'this is weird, I have never felt anything like this.' At first I thought the wind was shaking the house, but when I looked out the window my pine tree was real still. I was glad to hear about (the earthquake) on the radio because I thought I had lost my mind there for awhile."

"I thought, 'God, it's an explosion,'" said Wes Naron of KVOP, a Plainview radio station. Naron said the station's roof creaked during the tremor.

A Texas Department of Public Safety officer at Lubbock said the tremor caused a computer table in their office to move.

John Brooks, editor of the Hereford Brand, said a Norman Rockwell plate on a mantle above his television fell off and broke.

Police in the New Mexico cities of Hobbs, Lovington and Carlsbad also reported receiving calls from people who felt the quake.

A spokeswoman for Westinghouse Corp., the prime contractor of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, said it was too early to tell whether the earthquake caused damage to underground salt caverns at the WIPP site.

FIRST IN '92 — Jonathan Mayes, son of David and Penni Mayes of Snyder, was the first baby born in Scurry County in 1992. Jonathan was born at 4:44 a.m. Wednesday at Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. (SDN Staff Photo)

It was just another West Texas 'quake'

Experts say that earthquake tremors are fairly common in West Texas, but most are not very noticeable.

Those that have been felt, have fortunately been more noted for their contributions to conversation than any problems they've caused.

For at least one local resident, earthquakes have been helpful in keeping track of key dates. Joyce Smith, who works in the composition department at the Snyder Daily News, was born on Aug. 6, 1931 — the date of one of the most notable earthquakes in West Texas. Today, as local residents awoke to another tremor, she noted that it is her 39th wedding anniversary.

The 1931 earthquake was apparently one of the strongest to hit West Texas. The epicenter was located between Van Horn and Marfa, about 200 miles southwest of the epicenter of this morning's quake.

As reported in the Scurry County Times, a weekly newspaper, the 5:45 a.m. quake caused some minor damage, particulary in southwest Texas. Tremors were felt as far east as Cisco. No Richter Scale magnitude has ever been assigned to the quake, according to earthquake center officials.

One of the more notable earthquakes felt by Scurry County residents occurred on June 16, 1978. According to the National Earthquake Information Center, the epicenter was about 20 miles north of Snyder and measured between 4.75 and 5.0 on the Richter Scale.

Some flourescent lights were shaken out of their brackets at the Fuller Gasoline Plant 22 miles

(see QUAKE, page 8)

Man held on charge of robbery

A 23-year-old Mexican national has been charged with burglary in connection with the New Year's Day break-in of Circle In Grocery on the Lamesa Hwy.

Roberto Gonzalez Lopez, of Mexico, is being held on $5,000 bond in Scurry County Jail. Sheriff's deputies are seeking a second suspect in the burglary.

According to reports, entry to the business was gained by someone breaking out a front window with a rock. Among the items taken were 35 cartons of cigarettes, 53 pairs of sunglasses and work gloves.

The sheriff's office was notified of the burglary at 8 a.m. Wednesday. The break-in is believed to have occurred sometime earlier that morning.

Deputies arrested Lopez at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Ponderosa Motel. Most of the missing items were recovered.

More thunderstorms forecast for flood-ravaged Southeast

LIBERTY, Texas (AP) — As much as two inches of rain could fall in an area of Southeast Texas already saturated by record flooding, the National Weather Service said today.

The NWS issued a flash flood watch early today for an area of Southeast Texas along and east of a line from College Station to Palacios. The watch includes flooded areas along both the Trinity and Brazos river.

A weak cold front in Central Texas was expected to move slowly eastward, producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Southeast Texas, forecasters warned. The additional rainfall could produce additional flooding of low water crossings and poorly drained areas, they said.

Residents of the area continued to battle the flooding triggered by the heavy rainfall across areas of North Texas in late December.

The Trinity River has flooded at least 125 homes in the Liberty area just east of Houston. And in Fort Bend County southwest of the city, an estimated 200 homes have been flooded by the Brazos River.

The Brazos finally crested at Richmond in Fort Bend County and had dropped from 49.65 feet at

(see RAIN, page 8)

Republican, Pct. 3...

Floyd files for commissioner

Scurry County native Eddie Don Floyd today announced his candidacy for county commissioner, Precinct 3, subject to the March 10 Republican primary.

Floyd, 60, is the only candidate on the GOP ticket for Precinct 3 commissioner. He is seeking the post held by Democratic incumbent C.D. Gray Jr. who had previously announced for re-election.

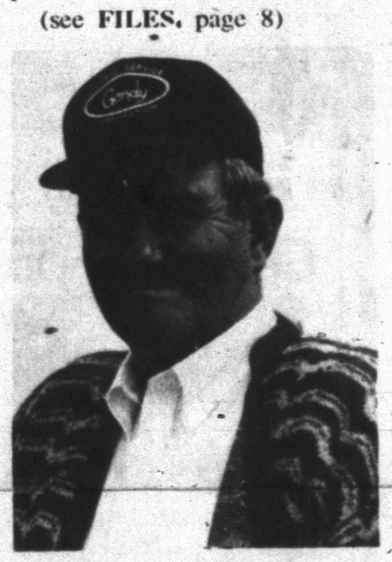
Floyd was born in Scurry County and has been a resident of precinct 3 for 18 years. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1952-54 and has been self-employed most of his adult life. Presently, he is owner and operator of Snyder Farm Equipment, located on U.S. 84, and he is a livestock farmer.

His wife, Martha, recently retired from teaching with the Snyder Independent School District. They have two married daughters, Jennifer Calley of Ira and Angela Kahn of Lubbock.

Today was originally set as the deadline for candidates to file for a ballot spot in either primary election, but court litigation concerning legislative redistricting has delayed the filing deadline until Jan. 10. Democratic and Republican party officials, however, were urging potential candidates to go ahead and filed in the event the courts eliminate the extended filing period.

Most of the contested races appear to be headed for the Novem-

(see FILES, page 8)



EDDIE DON FLOYD

KGB official says POWs in Vietnam long after war ended

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet agents questioned three American prisoners of war in Vietnam in 1978 — five years after Vietnam claimed to have returned all living POWs, a former KGB official said today. He said a dozen or so Americans were kept in Vietnam long after the war ended.

Retired Maj. Gen. Oleg Kalugin, who headed Soviet counterintelligence during that time, said he was in charge of the project, although he did not conduct the interviews himself and has never been in Vietnam.

"There were at least three of them, as far as I remember," Kalugin said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I would not remember their names. I recall simply that one was a naval officer, the other was from the CIA and the third I think was an Air Force pilot."

He said the three "were the remnants — several, a dozen or so — who stayed in Vietnam long after the war was over. Why the Vietnamese kept them, I don't know."

In November, a high-ranking North Vietnamese defector, former army Col. Bui Tin, told the U.S. Congress that Soviet agents interrogated American POWs, but only during the war. He said he did not believe that any American POWs remained in Vietnam after 1973.

The SDN Column

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A poor plan is better than no plan at all."

Paul Zeck, president of Snyder-based Y-Z Industries, has returned from a two-week business trip to Nigeria. He returned with a copy of an English-language newspaper, The Guardian.

One article that caught Zeck's attention carried the headline, "Making delicacies affordable this Xmas."

The article addressed two social problems. One was the lack of money to spend for Christmas, and the second was husbands who didn't want to hang around the house. "Many people make plans that need so much money...In this era of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), cash, even if available, may not give you the desired results. What to do? Apply common sense. Be spendthrift."

In order to stem the tide of spousal truancy this Christmas, the article suggested that housewives treat their hubbies to a delicacy at home. It added that few men can resist the allure of good cooking.

"Most men are known to literally run away from their homes as early at 7 p.m. to joints in search of delicacies such as pepper soups, including the popular Isi-Ewu (goat head).

"If he is into snacks, give him something like carrot prevance.

"This consists of a big cup of roasted peanuts, a boiled egg yoke, a pinch of corriande or mustard powder, several slices of carrots and a tin of sardines.

"Pound the peanuts into crunchy paste, mash egg yolk. Put egg and peanut paste into blender, add sardines in oil and blend into smooth, thick paste.

"For a better deal, refrigerate for a few minutes then serve in deep dish with strips of carrot or peeled cucumber."

Believe we'll stick with a cheesburger.

City sets workshop

Snyder City Council will discuss a request from the chamber of commerce for hotel/motel tax funds during a noon Friday workshop session at Snyder Country Club.

The session is being held to brief council members on agenda items for the regular meeting, scheduled for Tuesday evening.

Other items facing the council

(see WORKSHOP, page 8)

Doctors' group says...

Medicare changes could hurt elderly

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Medicare rules designed to steer more doctors toward general medicine could instead cause practitioners to drop Medicare patients, a doctors' group says.

The changes, effective with the new year, create a nationwide fee schedule that increases payments for family physicians and reduces payments to surgeons and other medical specialists.

The schedule replaces a payment system in which fees, based on each doctor's "usual and customary fee," varied widely across the country.

Bush administration officials say the new system will be more fair and rational and will help correct long-standing price distortions that rewarded specialized services at the expense of office visits and consulations. Urban areas also tended to benefit at the expense of rural areas under the old rules.

But others say the new system will have to be watched closely between now and 1996, when it is phased in fully, to make sure it stays on track.

The new system "is on trial," said Jack Guildroy, a member of the Physician Payment Review Commission, which advises Congress on Medicare physician reimbursement issues. "The prognosis looks good but the jury is still out.

...

"The main focus ... between now and 1996 should be on monitoring the situation to see what happens with certain populations, rural and minority, the low income," said Guildroy, who also sits on the board of directors of the American Association of Retired Persons.

But the American Medical Association already is predicting some of the effects of the new system.

"The level of values for some of the procedures coordinated with geographic adjustments means that physicians in some parts of the country will be paid less for Medicare patients than for Medicaid, and everybody agrees that Medicaid payments are woefully inadequate to compensate for overhead let alone their personal time," said James Todd, AMA executive vice president.

"Our feeling is it will have a significant effect on access to care for senior citizens," Todd said. "It's going to be increasingly difficult for physician practices with a large Medicare load to continue to carry that load."

Another new year's change will further limit the amount physicians can charge Medicare patients beyond what Medicare will pay. Balance-billing by nonparticipating doctors will be limited to no more than 120 percent of the fee schedule in 1992 and to 115 percent the following year. In 1991, the limit was as high as 140 percent for certain costs.

These limits, Todd said, will result in increased demand for care.

The fee schedule will be adjusted for geographic differences and updated annually for inflation. It affects nearly 500,000 physicians and 250,000 other medical professionals.

Zale is forced into bankruptcy court

DALLAS (AP) — Officials of Zale Corp. today faced a legal challenge by creditors who want to force the nation's largest jewelry retailer into bankruptcy reorganization.

David Glatstein, president of Barre & Co., a Dallas investment company and one of the petitioners in the Chapter 11 filing, said Zale now has two choices.

The company can ask the judge to throw out the petition, claiming the group isn't representative of the company's creditors. Or, the company can consent to the filing, and the case would move forward, Glatstein said Wednesday.

"We had warned everybody, if the company didn't make its payments, that we were going to do this," he said.

The filing came Wednesday, just two days after Zale said it was closing 400 of its 2,000 stores and freezing all debt payments. Among the debts of the Irving-based company is a $52 million interest payment owed to bondholders since Dec. 2.

Creditors can file to force debtors into bankruptcy, where reorganization can be structured by the court.

Monday, in enumerating the steps to the company's reorganization, Zale chairman Irving R. Gerstein expressed confidence that the retailer would be able to complete its financial restructuring on a "cooperative basis" with its creditors.

An out-of-court agreement is in "everyone's best interest because it maximizes the value of the franchise and produces the speediest and most cost-effective results," Gerstein said.

Gerstein repeated that hope late Wednesday, saying Zale's management has been working since Monday to set up meetings with bondholders.

But Glatstein said Zale has too many bondholders for the company to deal with out of court. He added that the filing is not "adversarial in nature."

Year-end homicide totals up for 1991

DALLAS (AP) — Law officers agree that the Texas murder rate has been bolstered by drug abuse.

"Drugs are the number one factor, and everybody's got a gun," said Houston homicide Sgt. David Priest.

Houston had a record 671 homicides, 54 more people killed than in 1990. Fort Worth had its second bloodiest year on record, and Austin recorded its highest number of homicides since 1984.

Fort Worth ended the year with 195 homicides, 65 more than in 1990 and close to the city's 1986 record of 200 homicides. In Austin, 53 people were killed, up from 49 homicides in 1990.

Dallas had 501 homicides, also a record, and officials expected to solve only about two-thirds of the cases.

"Drugs and guns those are the two main factors. And alcohol, and tempers, and bad judgment," said Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick, a 19-year veteran of the homicide department.

Of the state's major cities, only San Antonio reported a small decrease in homicides, and police don't expect Texas murders to slow down anytime soon.

San Antonio police recorded 211 homicides, down from 218 cases in 1990.

"I think we were the only major Texas city where it went down, that's kind of sad, but it really wasn't that significant. The significance was that the other cities went up," said San Antonio Police Sgt. Robert Garcia.

"I'd like to see it (homicides) drop drastically, but I expect the trend to stay the same, with no drastic changes," he said.

Extra deaths bring on the need for extra detectives and increased overtime. Dallas started out the year with 22 homicide detectives, but added 11 more by year's end, Kirkpatrick said.

Veteran detectives were handling up to 20 cases each, he said. In Fort Worth, nine detectives average about 20 cases each, said homicide supervisor Paul Kratz.

In Dallas, the numbers keep getting worse.

In 1990, the city had 444 homicides, up from 356 in 1989. Homicide No. 501 of 1991 came about 15 minutes before the New Year began.

"A man interrupted someone trying to steal his car and shot the suspect," Kirkpatrick said.

Unfortunately, many of the homicides statewide won't be solved, police say.

Dallas detectives say they solve about 66 percent. Of Austin's 53 homicides, nine remain unsolved.

"Well, we're able to stay on top of it. It is a difficult job but it's not one that's impossible. Sometimes it requires a few extra hours," Kirkpatrick said.

THE WORLD ALMANAC DATE BOOK

Jan. 2, 1992

Today is the 2nd day of 1992 and the 12th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1788, Georgia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676), American colonial leader; Isaac Asimov (1920-), science/science-fiction writer, is 72; Renata Tebaldi (1922-), Italian lyric soprano, is 70; Roger Miller (1936-), singer-songwriter, is 56; Jim Bakker (1940-), evangelist, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1982, San Diego defeated Miami, 41-38, in overtime in one of the most memorable games of the AFC playoffs. The explosive Chargers jumped out to a 24-0 lead, only to have the Dolphins come back to tie the score.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster." — Isaac Asimov, on being a prolific author.

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1961, heavy fog blanketed much of northern Idaho from Grangeville to the Canadian border. Deposits of rime ice, up to 8 inches in diameter, on power and phone lines caused widespread outages.

SOURCE: THE WEATHER CHANNEL®
1992 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Dec. 27) and new moon (Jan. 4).

TODAY'S BARB
BY PHIL PASTORET

Expense accounts are fairy tales written by grown-ups for other grown-ups who, the writers hope, still believe in fairy tales.

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Dr. Gott — Peter Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a 20-year history of lumbar muscle strain with persistent pain. I've had X-rays, myelograms, acupuncture and a four-week in-patient program of chronic pain management, all to no avail. My primary-care physician now speculates I have fibromyalgia. What can you tell me about this, and what modalities have been used to relieve patients with this affliction?

DEAR READER: The elusive causes of chronic back strain can lead to much frustration for patients, as well as for their doctors. Once the usual causes (such as arthritis or a herniated disc) have been ruled out, patients are often left hanging: normal tests and continuing back pain.

You seem to have run the gamut of medical testing and treatment, only to be left with a diagnosis, by exclusion, of fibromyalgia. This poorly understood syndrome of muscle spasm, achiness and "trigger" points appears to be related to stress and anxiety in many patients — sort of a colossal, misplaced tension headache. Fibromyalgia is not harmful to health but it can, as you've discovered, severely upset a normal life.

Traditional therapy, under the supervision of an orthopedic surgeon, includes stretching exercises, heat, massage, aspirin and anti-depressant drugs (such as Elavil) at bedtime to promote sleep and help treat the depression frequently experienced by fibromyalgia patients.

If these methods have not helped you, I suggest you see a chiropractor. I know my colleagues will jump all over me for saying this but chiropractors are good at treating chronic back problems, and I believe this is an appropriate alternative for you. Let me know what happens.

To provide more information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Managing Chronic Pain." Other readers who would like a copy should send $1.25 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 91369, Cleveland, OH 44101-3369. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 4-year-old granddaughter has been diagnosed with dermatomyositis, and I'm very concerned about the treatment that includes cortisone. I've been told she's not contagious, yet how did she get this condition?

DEAR READER: Dermatomyositis, one of many autoimmune diseases, is marked by inflammation and scarring in muscles and skin. The cause is unknown. The disorder is uncommon in children under 5.

Symptoms include muscle weakness, rash, malaise, sore joints and trouble swallowing — often preceded by an acute infection. The diagnosis is usually confirmed by a combination of blood tests, muscle biopsy and electromyography (a study of electrical charges in muscles).

Cortisone is the treatment of choice. In children, fortunately, cortisone usually leads to long remissions — even cures. However, the drug has many side effects (including diabetes and susceptibility to infection). It should be used only after careful deliberation.

From the information you supply, I believe your granddaughter is receiving appropriate therapy. Her outlook is quite favorable. As I indicated, no one knows why dermatomyositis strikes; it is, as you mentioned, not contagious. Ask her pediatrician about the prognosis.

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Dear Abby

Pet's Tragic Death Warns Us of Overlooked Danger

By Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: I am writing in the hope that my letter will serve as a warning to pet owners, as well as parents of young children, about a hazard of which my husband and I were unaware until our personal tragedy.

We had a collie mix, "Lady," who was in great health and very playful. She was very special to us. About a month ago, my husband came home from work to find Lady dead on our kitchen floor! I had left an empty breakfast cereal box in a paper sack near the back door, intending to take it outside to the garbage the next morning.

While I slept, Lady found the cereal box, stuck her nose in it, and suffocated from the plastic liner bag, which was sucked up around her nose!

Neither of us realized the potential danger of the cereal box. We thought the linings were still made of wax paper-type material and glued tightly to the inside of the box. Apparently we were mistaken. The bag was made of a plastic material and not attached to the box at all.

Abby, this could pose a serious threat to other pets or young children. We kept our cereal boxes on a low, unlocked shelf. We have since moved them out of reach, and I would urge others to do the same, and to keep empty cereal boxes and any plastic away from the reach of young children and pets.

Our loss was devastating, and we still feel the pain. My husband and I would greatly appreciate it if you would print this letter to warn others of this household hazard.

IRENE AND CLIFF SMITH,
LARAMIE, WYO.

DEAR MR. AND MRS. SMITH: My condolences on the loss of your beloved pet. It may comfort you to know that Lady did not die in vain; her misfortune gives me the opportunity to alert others to the potential hazard of discarded cereal boxes.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I am one of those people who thought your frequent advice to get counseling was a cop-out, but now that I am in recovery for bulimia, I hold a new respect for counseling.

I thought I was going in for some medical miracle that would cure me. Instead, I received intense group therapy. If someone had told me that my disease had psychological roots, I never would have sought help. I was one of those people who thought counseling was admitting to being a failure.

God works in mysterious ways. Bulimia — an abnormal, constant craving for food — isn't always what gets people into treatment, but it was my cue. My life is not perfect because I sought counseling, but I have a new outlook. I am getting out of my abusive marriage and seeking support groups.

Abby, I wish everyone could get counseling when they need it, without the stigma so many people attach to it.

IN RECOVERY IN VIRGINIA

DEAR IN RECOVERY: Hooray for you. And thanks for those kind words in defense of my frequent advice to get counseling. And lest anyone think that getting counseling is easy — it's not; it requires a good hard look

* * *

Most teen-agers do not know the facts about drugs, AIDS, and how to prevent unwanted pregnancy. It's all in Abby's updated, expanded booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054. (Postage is included.)

Astrograph
By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Jan. 2, 1992

More opportunities than usual are likely in the year ahead, but you must be extremely careful not to treat them indifferently nor take them for granted. This trend has limitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Usually, your assessments are based on the practical aspects of a proposal, but this might not be the case today. Don't let your optimism paint you a distorted, rosy picture. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Through the actions of an extravagant friend today, you might be drawn into something that could prove to be expensive. Don't let others make decisions for you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Agreeing to something you're unsure about in order to appease a demanding associate could turn out to be a big mistake. It's important today to look out for your own interests.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may be inclined to think of a lot of reasons for why you should slack off today. None are apt to be valid, but you might manage to convince yourself that they are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try not to place too much emphasis on a benign Lady Luck today. There is a possibility she might not be available the moment you need her the most.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There is no guarantee today that your plans will work out exactly as you envision them. To be on the safe side, have alternatives ready, just in case your original ideas fizzle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A substantial amount of discipline will be required today — if you are to function as an effective producer. It's not time to throw in the towel just because something isn't accomplished with ease.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be an especially prudent shopper, because if you get into financial problems down the road, they may be traceable to today's extravagance and mismanagement of your resources.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Placing emphasis on your interests while ignoring those of your companions won't win you points in a popularity contest today. The concerns of all must be equally considered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you are selling or promoting something of consequence today, it's best not to embellish your sales pitch. There's a very good chance you'll be asked to verify your statements.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Trying to keep up with your rich friends is not only wasteful today, it's totally ridiculous. If you think this is a sound way to make a good impression, you're only kidding yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Luck and chance alone aren't likely to help you achieve an important objective today. You're going to have to do it the old fashioned way and earn it.

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Second Class postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas 79549.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $6.05 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $65.75, balance of Texas, and out of state $85.00.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Bill McClellan, Managing Editor
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The Addams Family
PG-13
2:10 - 4:10 - 7:10 - 9:10

Jaramillo's
will reopen
Fri., Jan. 3, 1992
Happy New Year

Woes plague holiday cruise

HOUSTON (AP) — A New Year's Eve cruise aboard a paddle wheel cruise ship turned ugly after the vessel became disabled and drifted from bank to bank in the San Jacinto River, a tugboat captain said.

James "Squeaky" Harryman, relief captain of the tugboat Caribou said that when he boarded the River Queen early Wednesday he found the captain and owner of the cruise ship locked inside the wheelhouse "where nobody could get to them."

Passengers said they had to hail their own tugboat, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Coast Guard is investigating the incident aboard the River Queen, which occurred about one mile down the San Jacinto River from Interstate 10.

Officials of River Queen Cruises, which operates the boat, could not be reached for comment Wednesday, the newspaper reported.

The Coast Guard was not notified until 1:20 a.m. that the River Queen was in trouble, according to Coast Guard records, when Western Towing alerted authorities.

The firm did not dispatch a tugboat, however, and a Western Towing employee said there was no time logged when his office was notified the ship was adrift.

As the boat drifted along the river, the revelers turned angry.

"There was nearly a mutiny," Jan Reb, who took the New Year's Eve cruise with 16 friends and family members, said. There were about 100 other passengers who paid $25 a couple for the cruise.

One man beat so hard on the wheelhouse window to get the captain's attention, a passenger said. The passengers were angered because the crew never explained the problem.

Sam Mitchiner, who drove 95 miles from Huntsville to take the cruise with his wife, said that by the time the passengers counted down to midnight, "there was people crying and stuff."

"I wasn't afraid. I knew we weren't going to sink," he said. "But there was heavy black smoke coming out of the engine room. We're still coughing it up today," he said Wednesday.

The cruise began at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. The vessel went to the San Jacinto Monument and returned to port at 11:30 p.m. to take on champagne, black-eyed peas and corn bread for the passengers.

Mitchiner said the boat was then to resume sailing for another hour to give the passengers time to ring in the new year and eat.

Coast Guard officials said it was about 2:40 a.m. before the tugboat brought the River Queen home.

Study: balloon therapy beats medicine for pain in chest

BOSTON (AP) — A new study provides the first solid evidence that angioplasty — inserting a tiny balloon to open up clogged heart arteries — works better than medicine in relieving chest pain.

The study in today's New England Journal of Medicine found that the widely used technique provides quicker and more complete relief.

However, the study does not resolve the question of whether drugs or angioplasty should be the first-line tool for relieving angina in people with uncomplicated heart disease.

Some doctors believe that people with chest pain should be routinely started on common heart drugs, such as beta blockers or calcium-channel blockers, and angioplasty or bypass surgery should be used only when this conservative approach fails.

Others maintain that for many people, immediate angioplasty makes sense because it can quickly provide complete relief from pain and eliminate the need to take medicines that may have unpleasant side effects.

Angioplasty costs about $5,000 to $7,000, compared with about $1,000 a year for treatment with medicine, and it carries a small risk of serious complications or death.

"If someone wants early relief and a greater likelihood of complete relief, then angioplasty is the preferable procedure," said Dr. Alfred F. Parisi of Brown University. "If someone says they can live with this or wants to try medicine, then medicine is a valid alternative."

Parisi was co-director of the study, conducted on 212 men at eight Veterans Affairs hospitals around the country. All had a single clogged heart artery, and they felt chest pain when they exerted themselves.

The doctors found that angioplasty relieved angina in 64 percent, while medicine alone worked well in 46 percent.

Of the 100 who got angioplasties, two required emergency coronary bypass operations because of complications during the procedure. One death occurred.

More than 200,000 Americans undergo angioplasty annually. During the procedure, doctors thread a balloon on the end of a tube into the clogged artery and inflate the balloon briefly. When it works, blood flow is restored. But in about a third of cases, the artery quickly clogs up again.

Dr. John Butterly, chief of medicine at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Mass., said cardiologists have long suspected that angioplasty improves quality of life over drug treatment alone.

"I can tell you as a 43-year-old, relatively active man, were I to have single vessel coronary disease, I would want an angioplasty, because I would have a reasonable chance of being fixed and not having symptoms," he said.

SPECIAL GUESTS — Jeanne Pruett, a country and western entertainer, and Ray Hernandez, a Tonkawa Indian, were guests at the November meeting of the Scurry County Genealogical Society. The group's next meeting will be Jan. 28. (Private Photo)

Special guests attend Geneological meeting

Ray Hernandez, "Chief Broken Eagle," a Tonkawa Indian, was guest speaker at the November meeting of the Scurry County Genealogical Society held at Golden Corral.

Mr. Hernandez spoke of his Indian heritage, explaining to the group the tribal ways of the Tonkawa Indians. He told stories, handed down from his grandmother and other family members.

Mr. Hernandez told how the Tonkawa Indians were without names, so they took Spanish names because they were with Spanish people more. The Tonkawas of long ago spoke the Spanish language because they did not have a language of their own. Mr. Hernandez encouraged everyone to search for their roots, and to learn of their heritage that they might pass on their legacy for generations to come.

Also, a surprise guest at the meeting was Jeanne Pruett, a well-known country and western music entertainer both in Nashville, Tenn. and Branson, Mo. She took time out from a busy scheduled to meet with the group and to thank them for using her cookbooks, "Feedin' Friends" I, II and III and cassettes as fundraisers for the society.

The books are $10 each and the cassettes cost $7. Either can be purchased by calling Joanne Sterling at 573-7039 or Jo Thrower at 573-2085 or going by M&M Electronics.

The next genealogy meeting will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Scurry County Library. Anyone intersted in finding their roots are invited to meet. Francis Pitner will conduct a tour of the genealogy department and explain the different types of research material available as well as what is new and available.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; MAWC; 9:30 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic; Dunn Community Center; 1-2 p.m.

Advanced Duplicate Bridge; Colorado City bridge room; 1:30 p.m.

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

Tumbleweed Toastmasters meeting; American State Bank conference room; 7 p.m.

Deep Creek Chapter of ABWA; The Shack; 6:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; VFW; 6:30-8 p.m.

Snyder Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Central Fire Station; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous (closed); in Winston Park; 8 p.m. For information, call 573-3308, 573-9924 or 573-5867.

FRIDAY

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

Snyder Jaycees; noon luncheon; Golden Corral.

Free blood pressure clinic; Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency waiting room; 1-2:30 p.m.

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park; For more information call 573-2101 or 573-3657 or 573-3956; 8 p.m.

Alateen; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; 8 p.m. For more information, call 573-5524 days, 573-2101 nights; 8 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous (closed); Park Club in Winston Park; For information, call 573-8626, 863-2348 or 573-9924. (Last Friday of the month is open birthday meeting); 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Alateen Step Study Group; Park Club at Winston Park; For information, call 573-8929 or 573-5164.

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626 or 573-2349; 10 a.m.

10 a.m. For more information, call 863-2348, 573-8110 or 573-6820.

Scurry County Museum; Western Texas College; open from 1-4 p.m.

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

Whooping crane population down; drop was expected

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Texas (AP) — For the first time in more than a decade, the whooping crane population here has dropped.

Park rangers counted a total of 132 endangered whoopers in the final 1991 tally. That compares with a record 146 cranes in 1990, said Ranger Beverly Fletcher.

The Aransas refuge — located between Rockport and Port Lavaca on the Gulf Coast — comprises almost 60,000 acres of oak woodlands, fresh and saltwater marshes and coastal grasslands.

Avian disease and a lower-than-expected yield in Canada contributed somewhat to the decline, Ms. Fletcher said. The cranes spend their winters in Texas.

"Of course, anytime you lose an endangered species, you are alarmed," she said Saturday. "But every 10 years there's a slight drop in the population. It's expected."

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

NORTH 1-2-92
♠ A 5
♥ A 8 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ K J 6 3 2

WEST
♠ Q J 10 9 4
♥ J 5
♦ K J 8 5 4
♣ 10

EAST
♠ 8 3 2
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ 10 9
♣ Q 9 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K 7 6
♥ K 7 4 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ A 8 5

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ Q

Tip me the black spot

By Phillip Alder

Shakespeare wrote, "Out, damned spot!" That is poor advice for a bridge player. Often the success of a contract will depend upon a critical spot-card. More often, though, it depends on the efficiency with which the player uses the spot-cards he has been dealt.

Cover the East-West cards and plan the play in three no-trump, West leading the spade queen. The tocsin has been rung; can you see the critical spot-card and the way to employ it to the full?

When the dummy was tabled, declarer counted seven top tricks. Even if he lost a club trick, he would still finish with nine. He ducked the opening lead, won the spade continuation, led a club to his ace and played a second club, West discarding a diamond. This was an unfortunate development, but not necessarily fatal. South ducked the club to East. Back came a spade, and declarer gave up another club trick. East switched to a diamond. Declarer had to finesse, but when West produced the king, the contract finished two down.

Unlucky, yes, but South overlooked the potential power of the club eight. He should win the first trick in hand, since he might require dummy's spade ace as an entry. Then declarer should lead a club to dummy's king.

If no critical spot appears, declarer plays for a 3-2 club split. And if East discards on the second round of clubs, declarer puts up the ace and leads back toward dummy's jack.

However, if the club nine or 10 drops from West at trick two, South continues with a low club from dummy, intending to cover East's card. This safety-play ensures four club tricks and the contract.

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Arkansas toddler shot dead while traveling to Texas

MINERAL WELLS, Texas (AP) — Parker County authorities today are investigating the death of a toddler shot as he rode with his unaware parents on a rural road.

Sheriff Ben Whiteman Jr. said a single bullet entered the driver's side back door of Robert and Carol Brown's car, killing their 16-month-old son, Billy Joe.

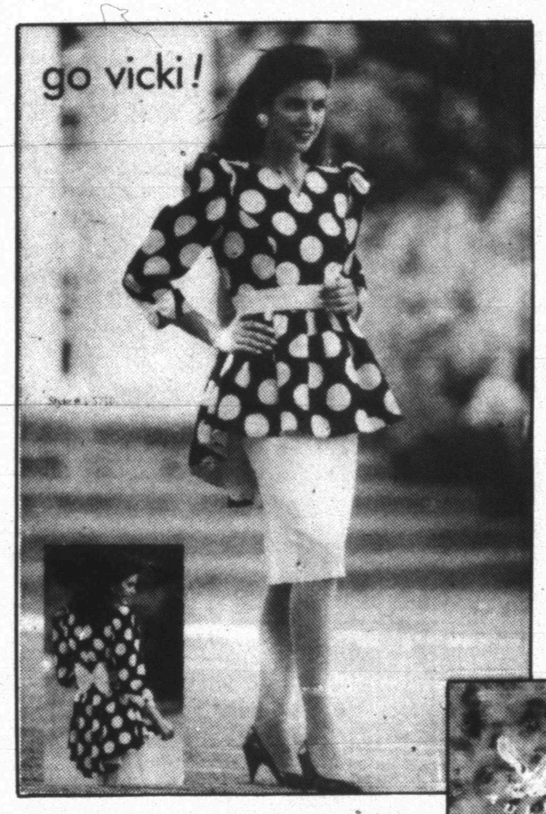
Authorities think the shot possibly came from a passing car whose driver refused to dim his lights.

The couple from Little Rock, Ark., reported they heard what sounded like firecrackers as they drove west on Farm Road 3028 near Millsap, on the Parker-Palo Pinto County line, Whiteman said. About 15 minutes later, he said, they noticed the child had been hit in the chest and arm.

"It certainly is an unusual crime," Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox said. "It usually doesn't happen on rural highway, we most likely would hear of something like that occurring on a crowded freeway in the city."

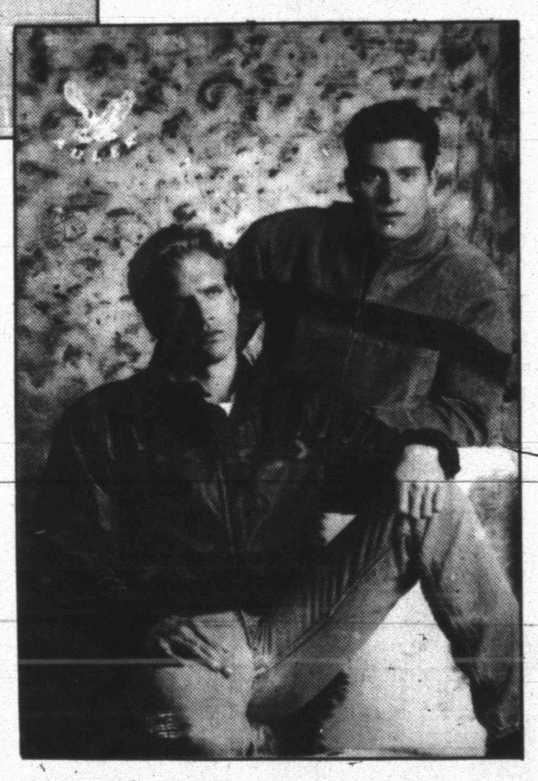
He was traveling with two siblings and his parents to visit his grandfather in Mineral Wells. He had been sleeping in the back seat.

TRAVIS FLOWERS
1906 37th
573-9379



All Ladies Dresses 30% Off

All Sales Final



All Men's & Ladies Coats 30% Off

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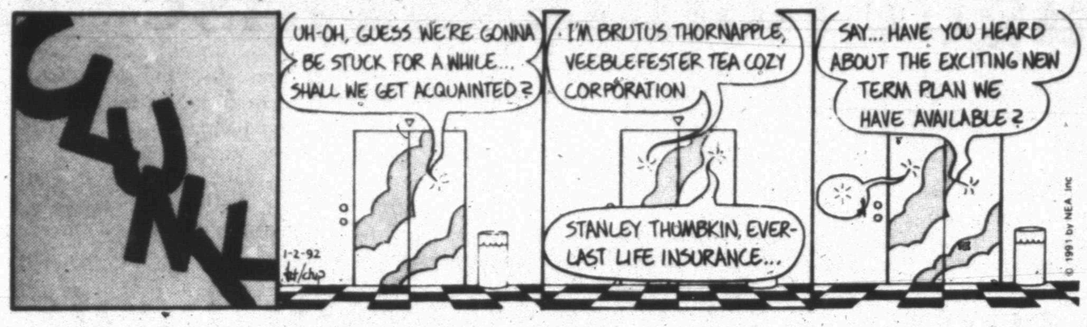
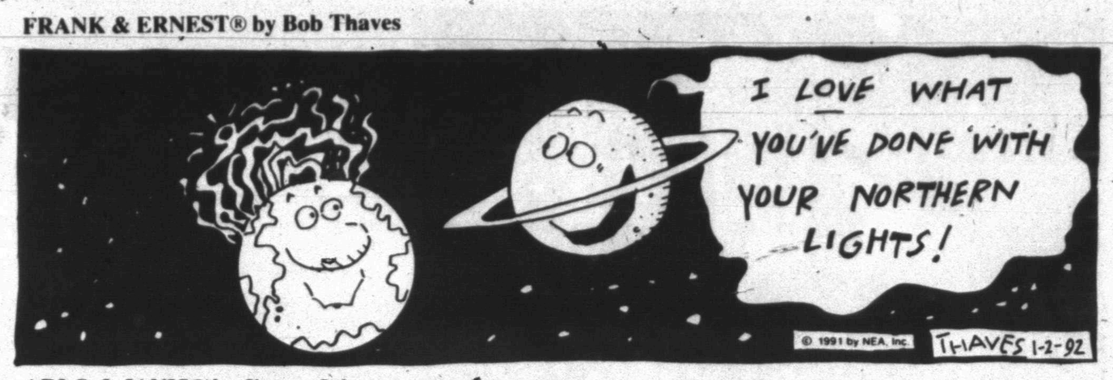
THE BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



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EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider

WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli

FLASH GORDON • By Dan Barry

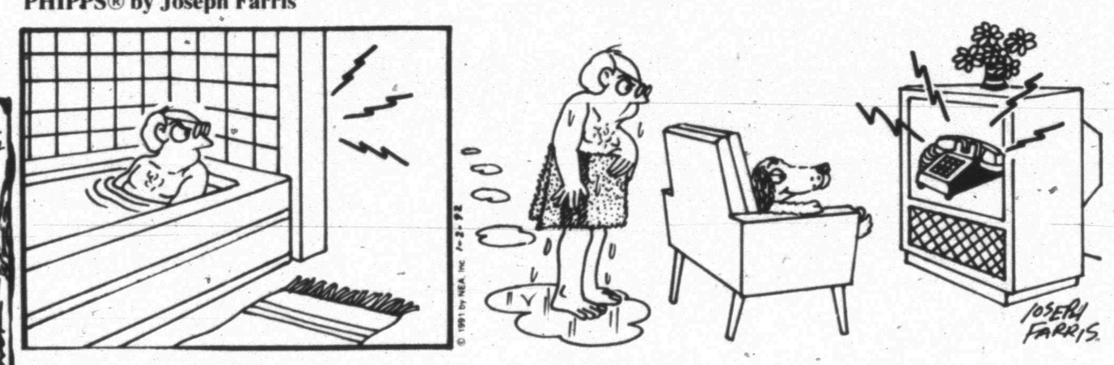
ROBOTMAN® by Jim Meddick

Barney Google and Snuffy Smith • By Fred Lasswell

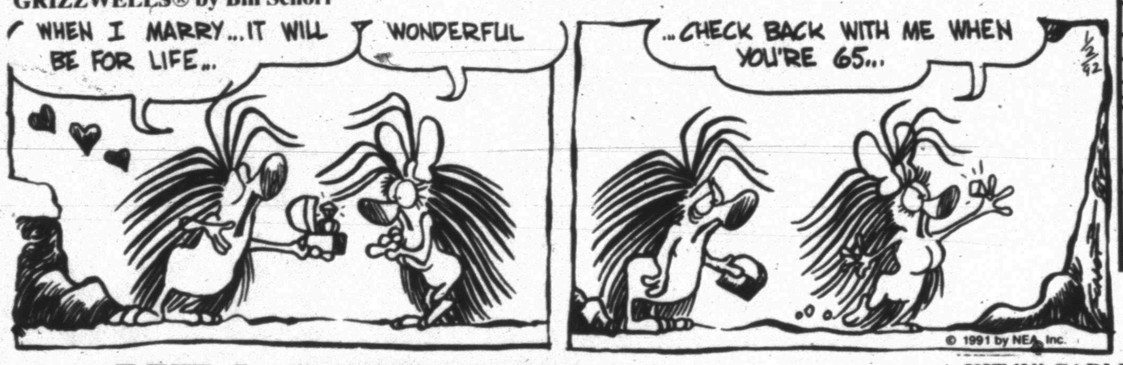
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

BLONDIE • by Dean Young and Stan Drake

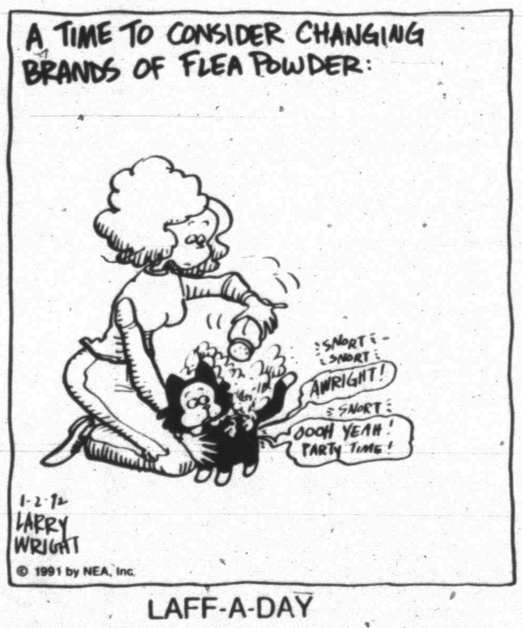
PHIPPS® by Joseph Farris



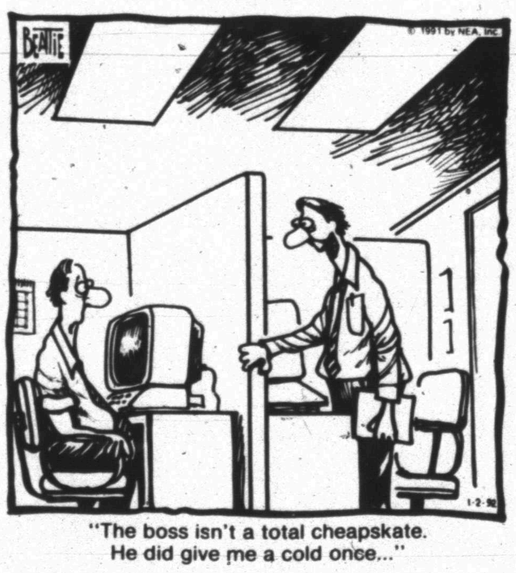
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright



SNAFU® by Bruce Beattie



"The boss isn't a total cheapskate. He did give me a cold once..."

NEA PUZZLES

ACROSS

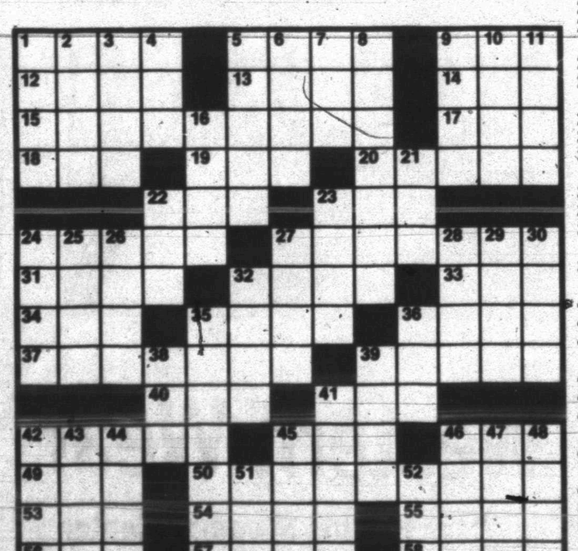
1 Jekyll's opposite
5 Syringe (sl.)
9 Soap ingredient
12 Distinctive air
13 Rara —
14 Organ for hearing
15 Grimiest
17 — — carte
18 Scottish cap
19 Bitter vetch
20 Drive
22 — Miserables
23 Voodoo cult deity
24 Hit ball to outfield
27 Type of horse
31 First-rate (2 wds.)
32 Table d' —
33 Grassy field
34 52, Roman
35 Embraces
36 Hurried
37 Tricky
39 Gives food to
40 Aircraftsman
41 Astronaut's ferry
42 Insect pests
45 Illuminated
46 Sign of the zodiac
49 Unit of illumination
50 Christian denomination
53 Yale student
54 Buckle
55 Own
56 Guido's high note
57 Fencing sword
58 Raw minerals

DOWN

1 Verb following "thou"
2 Arizona city
3 Rhythmic instrument
4 Consume
5 Bristles
6 — St. Laurent
7 Greek letters
8 Tiny opening
9 Jump
10 Harvard's rival
11 Relating to a time
16 Set up (golf ball)
21 Frenzied
22 Actor — Majors
23 — go!
24 Actor Peter —
25 Cut of meat
26 Freshwater porpoise
27 Artist Van —
28 Tennis player — Nastase
29 Necessity
30 Roams idly
32 Dry outer part
35 Hairy
36 Dress border
38 Victory symbol
39 Greek cheese
41 Flexible
42 Run away
43 Period of calm
44 Corn lily
45 Parasites
46 Story fabricator
47 Projecting part of house
48 Individuals
51 Short sleep
52 Greek letter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	I	R	C	L	E			C	I	R	R	U	S
I	T	A	L	I	C			A	V	I	A	T	E
R	I	T	U	A	L			C	E	N	T	E	R
E	S	S		N	A	S	H			E	S	E	
			G	A	I	T	E	R	S				
B	R	E	A			R	E	T	I	C	E	N	T
E	Y	A	S					M	O	P	E	Y	
T	A	S	K	S					R	E	E	K	
A	N	T	E	R	I	O	R		C	E	D	E	
			T	A	R	N	I	S	H				
J	E	W			O	A	S	T		O	D	A	
I	C	E	M	A	N			I	R	O	N	I	C
B	R	A	I	S	E			N	I	C	E	N	E
S	U	N	N	E	D			G	A	S	S	E	R



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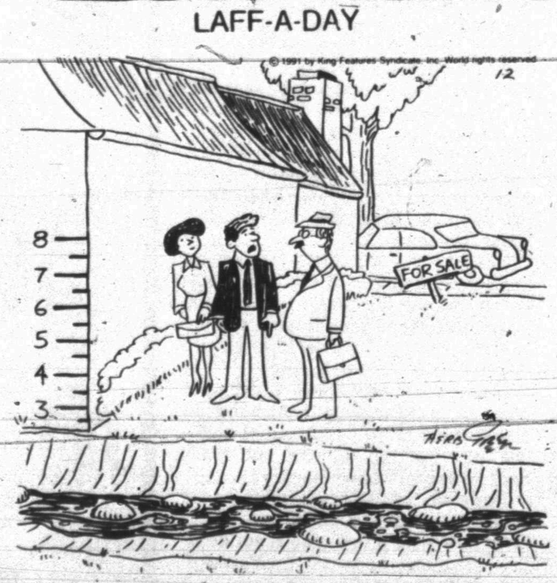
KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

LAFF-A-DAY



"Just one more thing. About this 'babbling brook'..."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"THEY'RE SOMETHING TO SNEEZE AT, JOEY."

WTC women to face Blinn at tournament

BRENHAM — Coach Kelly Chadwick's Western Texas College Lady Dusters will take on a little different look as they begin the 1992 portion of the current basketball season with an appearance at the Blinn College Classic here today through Saturday.

Three freshmen, one a starter, have decided not to return to WTC for the spring semester, and two others will be joining the team.

First year players Angela Littlejohn, a first string point guard from Canyon, Amarillo's Jennifer Martin and Angela Murray of Hawkins have quit the team for undisclosed personal reasons according to Chadwick.

Joining the squad are freshman Liz Greathouse, an all-district performer at Snyder High School, and 6-3 post Aundreia Garrett of Houston.

The new-look Lady Dusters, now with 11 players on the roster, will try to improve on their 5-9 season mark as they face tourney host Blinn at 8 p.m. today.

In other action here, Angelina takes on Howard at 6 p.m.

Friday sees the Dusters play Angelina at 6 p.m. followed by Saturday's 4 p.m. contest with San Jacinto to wind up the tourney.

The WTC women lost a 62-55 nip-and-tuck affair to defending national champion Odessa College in early December before breaking for a month for the holidays.

In that game, preseason all conference pick La Shunta Jackson bounced in 16 points for Western Texas.

Western Junior College Athletic Conference action will resume for the Dusters Thursday, Jan. 9, when they travel to Levelland to tangle with South Plains College.

Their next home date is set for Jan. 13 when New Mexico JC comes to Scurry County Coliseum.

Closest voting in history of poll...

Hurricanes win national title

by The Associated Press

Miami won its fourth national championship in nine seasons today, edging Washington by four points in the closest final vote in the 56-year history of The Associated Press poll.

The Hurricanes and the Huskies both finished 12-0 after impressive bowl victories on Wednesday, the first time since the 1973 season that two major teams have gone undefeated and untied.

Washington, which trailed Miami by 14 points going into the bowls, almost overcame the deficit after demolishing Michigan in the Rose Bowl 34-14. But Miami, which blanked Nebraska 22-0 in the Orange Bowl, barely held on to win the balloting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

"It's great for the program," Miami coach Dennis Erickson said. "This football team deserves to be No. 1."

The USA Today-CNN coaches poll will crown its champion later today. Miami and Washington were tied for first in that survey prior to the bowls.

The Hurricanes outpointed the Huskies 1,472-1,468 in the AP poll, including a narrow 32-28 advantage in first-place votes. It was such a close call that eight voters made Miami and Washington co-champs, giving each school half of a first-place vote.

Teams get 25 points for a first-place vote, 24 for second and so on, down to one point for 25th place.

Previously, the closest final margin was Alabama's 16-point win over Ohio State in 1961, when the national championship was determined before the bowls. Since the AP started its permanent postseason poll in 1968, the smallest final margin had been 20 points, when BYU edged Washington in 1984.

The Huskies came up just short again this year despite posting their first perfect record in 76 years.

"I'm not surprised because Miami was ahead in the last (writers) poll," Washington coach Don James said. "Hopefully, we'll do better in the coaches poll."

Miami, which also won national titles in 1983, 1987 and 1989, is only the fifth school to capture four or more AP championships. Notre Dame leads with eight, followed by Oklahoma with six, Alabama with five and Minnesota with four.

The Hurricanes also are the first team ever to finish in the Top 3 for six straight years.

Miami and Washington both made a strong case for No. 1 on New Year's Day. The Hurricanes handed Nebraska its first shutout since 1973 and Washington manhandled a Michigan team that had won eight straight games.

The Hurricanes and Huskies played two of the same opponents this year. Arizona lost to Washington 54-0 and was beaten by Miami 36-9. The other common foe was Nebraska, which lost to Washington 36-21 early in the season.

Penn State (11-2) finished third in the final poll after routing Tennessee 42-17 in the Fiesta Bowl. Rounding out the Top 10 were Florida State (11-2), Alabama (11-1), Michigan (10-2), Florida (10-2), California (10-2), East Carolina (11-1) and Iowa (10-1-1).

Syracuse was 11th, followed by Texas A&M, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Georgia, Clemson, UCLA, Colorado, Tulsa, Stanford, BYU, North Carolina State and Air Force.

Miami tops Nebraska in Orange Bowl game

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Hurricanes' big win over Nebraska allowed them to squeak past Washington.

After shutting out Nebraska 22-0 in the Orange Bowl on Wednesday night, the Hurricanes were crowned national champions today by The Associated Press for the second time in three years and the fourth time since 1983.

Miami received 32 first-place votes to 28 for second-place Washington for a four-point margin, the closest ever. Both teams finished 12-0.

When the Hurricanes took the field, Washington already had a 34-7 lead over Michigan in the Rose Bowl. The Huskies' 34-14 victory was announced over the Orange Bowl's public address system with 5:10 left in the first quarter and Miami leading 7-0.

"When we heard the score, it was like a foot race to win by more than they did," defensive end Eric Miller said.

"It motivated us," defensive end Rusty Medearis said. "We knew we couldn't win by five or six points. We knew we'd have to dominate, and we did."

Miami scored on its first three possessions for a 13-0 lead and held Nebraska without a first down until its seventh possession, with 6:11 remaining in the first half. The Cornhuskers, shut out for the first time in 221 games dating back to 1973, had no more of a chance than Michigan did against Washington.

"We heard the (Rose Bowl) score on the loudspeakers, but that didn't change anything," Miami quarterback Gino Torretta said. "Our defense was shutting them down before the announcement, and they kept shutting them down afterwards."

Nebraska, the nation's top rushing team, totaled just 82 yards on the ground. The Cornhuskers were averaging 353 yards rushing and 41 points per game.

"I don't know that I've ever been around a defensive performance like this," Miami coach Dennis Erickson said.

"It seemed like the holes were closing pretty fast," Nebraska fullback Lance Lewis said.

The Cornhuskers finished 9-2-1 and ranked 15th. They have lost five consecutive bowl games.

"We've played some awfully good football teams under difficult conditions," coach Tom Osborne said. "I can't say more than that."

This season, Nebraska's only defeats were to the nation's two top teams. The Huskers lost 36-21 at home to Washington in September — and Osborne said Miami is just as good as the Huskies.

"They're both great teams," he said. "They both have very good defenses. I think it's a coin toss."

The Orange Bowl game was not as close as the score. Miami was disrupted by 143 yards in penalties, including a holding infraction that negated a 70-yard touchdown run by Kevin Williams.

Torretta had at least three passes dropped, and twice the Hurricanes were inside Nebraska's 10-yard line but settled for 24-yard field goals by Carlos Huerta.

"We should have scored a lot more than 22 points," said Torretta, who completed 19 of 41 passes for 257 yards and one touchdown, with two interceptions.

Medearis, trying to look on the bright side, said a more lopsided result might have backfired on Miami.

"If we'd have scored one more touchdown, they'd say we were running up the score," said Medearis, who had four sacks.

Huerta, Miami's senior All-American, kicked a career-best 54-yard field goal in the third quarter. The Hurricanes also put together a 66-yard touchdown drive capped by Larry Jones' 1-yard run.

Jones, a freshman who was filling in for injured Stephen McGuire and suspended Martin Patton, ran for 144 yards in 30 carries and was named the game's most valuable player.

Bowl roundup...

Notre Dame rips Gators in Sugar Bowl

by The Associated Press

Even before it fell apart in the Sugar Bowl, the Florida Gators knew they weren't headed for a national championship.

With Washington routing Michigan 34-14 in the Rose Bowl, then Miami blanking Nebraska 22-0 in the Orange Bowl, the two teams ahead of Florida did not cooperate. So the SEC-champion Gators had lost their title aspirations by the time Jerome Bettis scored three touchdowns for a 39-28 victory by Notre Dame.

"This is probably the worst defeat I've had since I've been playing football," Florida quarterback Shane Matthews said. "I still think that we're a better team than they are, but we didn't show it, and they beat us."

Matthews threw for 370 yards, but the Gators got just two TDs. And their defense couldn't handle Bettis, who scored his TDs in a span of 2:44 late in the game.

"My job is to get it into the end zone," Matthews said. "We had to settle for field goals, and you can't win doing that."

Arden Czyzkewski set a Sugar Bowl record for most field goals in a game, going 5-for-5.

"We lost, and it's tough to deal with," Czyzkewski said. "If I'd missed five field goals in a game — and we won — I'd be satisfied. I had a career night, and we didn't win, so it's hard."

Willie Jackson also had a career night with eight catches for 148 yards and a touchdown.

"It's going to be hard to know you're going to be remembered for a game like this rather for winning 10 games in a season, something no other Florida team has ever done," he said.

In other games Wednesday, it was Florida St. 10, Texas A&M 2 in the Cotton Bowl; Penn St. 42, Tennessee 17 in the Fiesta Bowl; East Carolina 37, North Carolina State 34 in the Peach Bowl; California 37, Clemson 13 in the Citrus Bowl; and Syracuse 24, Ohio St. 17 in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

Cotton

Florida St. 10, Texas A&M 2

At Dallas, in one of the ugliest of postseason games, the teams produced a record-tying 13 turnovers. The Aggies lost eight of them and got their only points on a rainy day when Casey Weldon was sacked in the end zone by linebacker Quentin Coryatt for a safety.

But Weldon also scored his first touchdown since 1988 by faking a draw and running around right end untouched from the 4. He also was intercepted four times, but the Seminoles' defense, ranked 10th in the nation, recovered six fumbles.

"The defense and offensive line carried me today and I almost broke their backs," Weldon said. "But it was a great win. It won't make up for having that championship ring on our finger."

Florida State (11-2) missed two field goals, but Gerry Thomas hit a 27-yarder with 2:40 left.

Texas A&M (10-2) lost a fumble at the 1, had a pass intercepted and another dropped in the end zone, and had a field goal wiped out by a penalty.

Fiesta

Penn St. 42, Tennessee 17

At Tempe, Ariz., Penn State's 28-point outburst in a 3:59 stretch of the second half turned the game around. The Nittany Lions (11-2) didn't have to drive more than 35 yards for any of the four scores.

Tony Sacca threw four touchdown passes, while O.J. McDuffie's 39-yard punt return and linebacker Tyoka Jackson's sack and fumble recovery sparked the scoring spree against the Volunteers (9-3).

"Everybody was in disbelief on the sideline, with the crowd behind us, it was absolute mayhem," Sacca said. "If you were watching the game at home and had gone to the bathroom you would have missed the game."

Sacca threw TD passes of 3 yards to Chip LaBarca and 13 yards to Kyle Brady, Richie Anderson scored on a 2-yard dive, and Reggie Givens picked Andy Kelly's fumble out of the air and returned it 23 yards for a score.

Peach

E. Carolina 37, N.C. State 34

At Atlanta, East Carolina staged a thrilling comeback with three TDs in less than six minutes. Jeff Blake, who threw for 378 yards and four touchdowns, ran for a score and passed for two in the fourth quarter. His 22-yard pass to Luke Fisher with 1:32 to play won it. Fisher had 12 catches for 144 yards and All-America linebacker Robert Jones had 16 tackles, a blocked extra point, a fumble recovery and an interception.

The Pirates (11-1) ended their best season with an 11-game winning streak after an opening 38-31 loss to Illinois. The Wolfpack (9-3) had a chance to tie, but Damon Hartman's 49-yard field goal attempt went wide on the final play of the game.

Citrus

California 37, Clemson 13

At Orlando, Fla., a 17-point first quarter sent California on its way to the rout and its first 10-win season since 1949. Clemson had won its last five bowl games.

The Golden Bears (10-2) went 76 yards for a touchdown on their first drive and kept rolling as they won a New Year's Day game for the first time since 1938. Brian Treggs had a 72-yard punt return for a touchdown as part of his 108 yards in punt runbacks in the first period. Doug Brien kicked three field goals.

Huskies trim Michigan in New Year's contest

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Don James wasn't greedy.

The Washington Huskies' coach was willing, even hoping, to share the national championship with Miami. As it turned out, the Huskies just missed sharing The Associated Press national championship.

Miami, which beat Nebraska 22-0 in the Orange Bowl, edged Washington, a 34-14 winner over Michigan in the Rose Bowl, by four votes in the closest AP balloting ever.

Miami, ranked first ahead of Washington going into the New Year's Day games, got 32 first-place votes in the final balloting, with Washington getting 28. All 60 voters ranked the two teams either first or second.

The USA Today-CNN coaches' poll had Miami and Washington tied for first heading into their bowl games.

James had said earlier that he thought it would be appropriate if there was a split national title so both Washington and Miami could be No. 1.

"I think it would be a real tragedy if two teams go 12-0 and one of them is left out. I know I'd feel that way if it happened to us," James said Wednesday evening after both the Rose Bowl and Orange Bowl were finished.

The Huskies staked their claim by dominating Michigan (10-2), which fell two spots to No. 6 after losing to Washington.

Miami then made its point with the shutout of Nebraska, the first against the Cornerhuskers since 1973.

"I just hope we get equal respect," said James, whose Huskies did not try to run up the score against Michigan.

The Wolverines had won eight in a row going into the Rose Bowl.

Michigan coach Gary Moeller succinctly summed up the one-sided game: "Washington's defense keeps beating on you and their offense finally jumps in there and does its job."

The Huskies' defense shut down Michigan almost completely — snuffing the Wolverines' running game, relentlessly pressuring quarterback Elvis Grbac, and keeping the ball out of the hands of Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard.

Washington's offense, meanwhile, sputtered some in the first half, producing a touchdown and two field goals for a 13-7 lead. But, with their defense continuing to control the game, the Huskies' offense came to life in the second half.

The Huskies broke the game open with touchdowns on three of their first four possessions in the second half. Billy Joe Hobert's 5-yard pass to freshman Mark Bruener and a two-point conversion pass to tight end Aaron Pierce made it 21-7 with 5:27 left in the third quarter.

The Huskies then put the game away with two TD passes within 69 seconds early in the fourth period. The first was a 2-yard throw from Hobert to Pierce and the second a 38-yarder from Mark Brunell to Mario Bailey.

The Huskies held the Wolverines to 72 yards rushing and 133 yards passing, while rolling up 404 total yards.

Howard was virtually no factor. He had one catch, a 35-yarder that set up the Wolverines' first touchdown, and was smothered by Washington's special teams when he was fielding kicks, totaling 15 yards on three punt returns and 39 yards on three kickoff returns. He also ran the ball once, picking up 15 yards on a reverse, and did not score.

Ira tournament

Dog Pound Classic at Ira

Boys

Thursday, Jan. 2

Game 1 — Rochester vs. Westbrook at 5 p.m.
Game 2 — Loraine vs. Rotan A at 5 p.m.
Game 3 — Rotan B vs. Hermleigh at 8 p.m.
Game 4 — Southland vs. Ira at 8 p.m.

Girls

Thursday, Jan. 2

Game 1 — Rochester vs. Westbrook at 3:30 p.m.
Game 2 — Loraine vs. Rotan A at 3:30 p.m.
Game 3 — Rotan B vs. Hermleigh at 6:30 p.m.
Game 4 — Southland vs. Ira at 6:30 p.m.

NBA glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlantic Division				
New York	18	8	.692	—
Boston	19	10	.655	½
Miami	14	16	.467	6
Philadelphia	13	16	.448	6½
New Jersey	11	18	.379	8½
Washington	11	18	.379	8½
Orlando	6	23	.207	13½
Central Division				
Chicago	24	4	.857	—
Cleveland	19	9	.679	5
Detroit	15	15	.500	10
Milwaukee	14	14	.500	10
Atlanta	13	15	.464	11
Indiana	12	18	.400	13
Charlotte	8	23	.258	17½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	19	12	.613	—
Houston	16	13	.552	2
San Antonio	16	13	.552	2
Denver	12	16	.429	5½
Dallas	12	17	.414	6
Minnesota	4	23	.148	13
Pacific Division				
Golden State	19	8	.704	—
Phoenix	19	10	.655	1
Portland	19	10	.655	1
LA Lakers	17	12	.586	3
Seattle	15	13	.536	4½
LA Clippers	16	15	.516	5
Sacramento	8	20	.286	11½

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.
LA Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.
Indiana at LA Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Bowl results

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Peach Bowl
at Atlanta, Ga.
East Carolina 37, N.C. State 34
Hall of Fame Bowl
at Tampa, Fla.
Syracuse 24, Ohio State 17
Citrus Bowl
at Orlando, Fla.
California 37, Clemson 13
Cotton Bowl
at Dallas
Florida State 10, Texas A&M 2
Fiesta Bowl
at Tempe, Ariz.
Penn State 42, Tennessee 17
Rose Bowl
at Pasadena, Calif.
Washington 34, Michigan 14
Sugar Bowl
at New Orleans
Notre Dame 39, Florida 28
Orange Bowl
at Miami, Fla.
Miami 22, Nebraska 0

AP Top 25

by The Associated Press

The Top Twenty Five teams in the final 1991 Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Miami (32)	12-0-0	1,472	1
2. Washington (28)	12-0-0	1,468	2
3. Penn St.	11-2-0	1,342	6
4. Florida St.	11-2-0	1,310	5
5. Alabama	11-1-0	1,216	8
6. Michigan	10-2-0	1,151	4
7. Florida	10-2-0	1,119	3
8. California	10-2-0	1,039	14
9. East Carolina	11-1-0	1,024	12
10. Iowa	10-1-1	883	7
11. Syracuse	10-2-0	876	16
12. Texas A&M	10-2-0	870	9
13. Notre Dame	10-3-0	848	18
14. Tennessee	9-3-0	716	10
15. Nebraska	9-2-1	666	11
16. Oklahoma	9-3-0	629	20
17. Georgia	9-3-0	428	24
18. Clemson	9-2-1	410	13
19. UCLA	9-3-0	406	22
20. Colorado	8-3-1	383	15
21. Tulsa	10-2-0	348	23
22. Stanford	8-4-0	262	17
23. Brigham Young	8-3-2	182	—
24. N. Carolina St.	9-3-0	109	21
25. Air Force	10-3-0	87	—

Other receiving votes: Georgia Tech 70, Virginia 63; Indiana 48, Ohio St. 31, Bowling Green 27, Baylor 5, San Diego St. 5, Arkansas 4, Kansas St. 3.

Ira battles Southland in Dog Pound Classic

IRA — The Ira Dog Pound Classic begins with a full slate of boys' and girls' games today, including the 6:30 p.m. Ira-Southland matchup and the Ira boys taking on Southland at 8 p.m.

Both the new gym and the old gym will be used during the three-day tournament.

In other first-round boy's action Thursday, Loraine faces Rotan A and Rochester takes on Westbrook in 5 p.m. games, while Hermleigh battles Rotan B at 8 p.m.

In the girls' bracket, Rochester meets Westbrook and Loraine faces Rotan A, both at 5 p.m., and Rotan B plays Hermleigh's 6-5 Lady Cards at 6:30 p.m.

Elimination games begin in the girls' bracket at 3:30 p.m. Friday. Boy's second-round games start at 5 p.m.

The tourney's championship game is set for Saturday at 6:30 p.m. for the girls and 8 p.m. for the boys.

Host Ira brings a 10-3 mark into the boys' tourney. The Lady Bulldogs are winless in 14 games this season.

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020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGIF LADIES Auxilary: Pork and Chicken **TAMALES**; Pecan and Pumpkin **PIES**. Call 573-4131.

070 LOST & FOUND

LOST on Christmas Day near Intersection of 1611 and Hwy 84: 2 Bird Dogs. 1 Male, brown & white; 1 Female, lemon & white. $50 Reward. Call 573-4913.

LOST: Blue Greyish Cow. Lost in the Lloyd Mountain Vicinity. R brand on right hip. Heavy with calf. If seen please call 573-5736 or 573-2358.

MISSING from KSNY area since Christmas Eve: White female, short-haired cat with some Siamese markings. Straight line down center of nose separates black & white. Call 915-573-5112 (leave message). REWARD!

090 VEHICLES

1977 EL CAMINO PICKUP, runs good, good rubber, power, air, all electric. Priced to sell. See at 207 30th. 573-9773.

FOR SALE: 1983 Grand Prix, good condition, new tires, loaded. $2000 or best offer. Call 573-7277.

FOR SALE: 1985 Dodge Ram Maxi Van. Call 573-8406.

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1988 SUNBIRD; Welding Trailer with vise, tool box. 573-4372 after 5:00 p.m.

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BILL GREEN ELECTRIC: Residential, Commercial, Industrial. Trouble Calls. Licensed. Bonded. **CALL 573-2589.**

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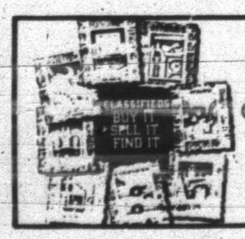

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Joining these groups won't make you a Sam Walton overnight, but they can give you access to things like demographic market data on your area, management education, affordable group health insurance that isn't available to many mom-and-pop firms, and friendly competitors willing to point out pitfalls before you tumble into them head first. Some put you face-to-face with potential customers.

Industry groups, particularly those that are in highly regulated fields, also look out for members' interests in Washington, Austin and at City Hall.

You don't have to be Exxon to need a lobbyist. Joe's Dry Cleaning is under just as much pressure from new environmental laws as big oil, and Joe is far more vulnerable than Exxon.

Deciding which groups to join is mainly a matter of the business that you're in, entrepreneurs and association executives say. Be selective.

"Pick out the association that's going to do you the most good," advises Tom Gorski, vice president of the American Society of Association Executives. "Attend a meeting. Don't just talk to the staff, talk to members."

Dr. Angelle Warneke, who set up her dental practice 16 months ago in southeast Houston, found the Greater Houston Dental Society provides most of the help she needs.

That group helps local dentists find office workers and hygienists, refers new patients to them, helps resolve disputes with insurance companies and patients, offers group health insurance to them and their employees and provides seminars on both business and dental topics.

People in other industries find they need multiple membership cards.

Don Dudley, president of 20-month-old Bay Control Services, has five in his wallet.

Bay Control, a subsidiary of Corpus Christi-based Bay Inc., is an instrument and construction subcontractor serving mainly the petrochemical industry.

Through various trade groups, including the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston and the Houston Business Roundtable, Dudley says he picks up tips from competitors on how to do certain jobs cheaper and better, learns about construction jobs that will be coming up for bid, gets training for his workers and gets chummy with the people who do the hiring.

"Ninety-five percent of it is networking, letting people know who you are and what you do," said Dudley. "A guy you want to work for has to have a warm feeling about you, or he won't do business with you."

Veteran entrepreneurs say trade organizations and suburban chambers of commerce are some of the best places for the wet-behind-the-ears to turn for help, because there are plenty of people willing to share their wisdom for free.

Howard Hurst, a retired manufacturers representative and volunteer for the Service Corps of Retired Executives in Houston, said the guy who runs the hardware store down the street from you isn't going to help you with your hardware retailing woes because he'd rather drive you off his turf, but the guy across town probably will.

They can tell you if your costs are higher than they should be, if you're stocking the right merchandise and where you can get quality services like graphics work and printing at a reasonable price.

But nibbling hors d'oeuvres and swapping business cards with people in other industries is just as important, Hurst said. That's where suburban chambers and other business clubs come in.

There you can meet potential customers as well as vendors, people who may be as cash-lean as you are and just as anxious to swap services with you until the cash register gets a little fuller.

"It's a lifesaver when you're new," Hurst said.

Networking with other business people during the coffee breaks "is more than worth the price of admission," Gorski said.

The price of admission is usually affordable, and most groups have a sliding scale, where the biggest businesses pay the most.

The BellaireSouthwest Houston Chamber of Commerce, for example, charges most of its members $200 a year, although some of the big companies with offices in that neighborhood pay as much as $5,500, chamber President Peggy Araiza said.

Most chambers offer more than coffee-break chatter. The BellaireSouthwest group, for example, recently opened a counseling service with a professional consultant who walks people through specific problems, Araiza said.

The service is free.

The chamber also offers frequent seminars on a variety of business subjects and problems, most for about $75 or less.

Houston has more than 40 chambers of commerce representing various neighborhoods, ethnic groups and nationalities.

Public relations executive Deborah Ward, who started Ward Creative Communications 18 months ago in the Northwest Crossing area, said she joined the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce because her business is there, her banker is there, and she likes to keep up with neighborhood concerns like crime.

Ward said she hasn't recruited other chamber members as new clients so far, but several members have steered her to friends who are potential clients.

Ward said she also is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Greater Houston Partnership.

Hurst, of the retired executives group, recommends that small businesses join both a local trade group chapter and a suburban chamber, but urges that they not commit themselves to weekly lunch meetings and time-consuming committee work if they're still struggling to get their business off the ground.

Taking off three hours every Wednesday for a business or civic club lunch meeting is probably not a very wise time investment.

Ward agrees. "When you have your own business, you live and breathe it. It's very hard to get away to do other things," she said.

"Stay focused on what you're doing and work 15 hours a day," Hurst advises in the beginning.

Hurst also advises "little fellas" to forgo joining some large national trade groups and giant downtown chambers whose member size and activities reach beyond the interests of their small businesses.

"A little fella doesn't have any business being in there," he said. "It costs a lot of money, and they expect you to do a lot of work."

Texan's decoys just 'ducky'

HOUSTON (AP) — Duck and goose hunters are forever looking for a better way to fool the birds they hunt. They come up with plenty of ingenious concepts,too, but most of their ideas are abandoned in the field alongside spent hulls and dashed hopes.

I've sat beneath empty blue sky more than once and envisioned the ultimate decoy. But I, like most other hunters, have never done anything about it. A few local shooters have.

On a late-70s winter morning in the coastal marsh east of Houston, Tom Farmer watched yet another flight of pintails roar past his duck decoys and dip into a nearby flock of snow geese. Sitting there, frustrated by the ducks' indifference to plastic replicas of themselves and their fascination with the white birds, he came upon a simple idea that has grown into a substantial business.

Farmer, 42, is a mechanical engineer by profession but a waterfowl hunter by obsession. He has trudged the deep, flooded grasses for years in pursuit of pintails, the Central Flyways' sleekest and wariest ducks and his personal favorite.

Instead of trying to carry more duck decoys across the soggy ground, Farmer opted to shoot for a means of accurately simulating the large flocks of geese that winter here.

Goose decoys were available then, but most models were brutally heavy and ridiculously expensive. Farmer knew it would take more of those decoys than he could afford or carry to draw high-flying pintails which were accustomed to settling over acres of geese.

Working in his family's metal manufacturing facility in Galveston, Farmer's Marine Copper Works, Farmer cut and fashioned thin aluminum sheeting, (the kinds once used in newspaper printing) into a light-weight, conical goose decoy. From the same sheeting, he cut silhouette heads.

Stacked and bagged, he could handle six or seven dozen of these new decoys.

"My friends really liked them," Farmer said. "They thought it was so slick they dared me to patent it. I don't usually back away from a dare, so I did."

Farmer now holds four decoy patents in the U.S. and one in Canada.

The original Farm Form goose decoy hit local sporting goods stores in the winter of '82-'83. It wasn't quite as realistic as the heavier, molded types, but it was extremely lightweight by comparison and looked worlds better than a plastic rag draped over a stick. Now it is used, with or without other decoys, in waterfowl spreads all over the country.

When asked about this year's sales, Farmer fired a blank.

"I don't even know," he said after a pause. "Maybe 1,000 dozen, maybe more. Decoys are sort of a hobby for me; the metal business keeps me busy all year."

Farmer's Marine was founded in 1920 by Tom's grandfather. Since then, it has become a primary worldwide supplier of exotic metal alloys to the petrochemical industry.

"We built the gun rails for Star Wars (nuclear missile defense program) and have been involved in lots of other interesting projects," Farmer said. "but our bread and butter is refinery repairs."

The Farm Form decoy business also has grown since its modest beginning. Most significantly, the original aluminum material has been replaced with lighter, more durable plastic. Now, one healthy man can carry as many as six dozen decoys and heads without being particularly overburdened, and the decoys will last many seasons.

"My concept was simple," he said. "I wanted to make a decoy that was back-packable in large numbers, one that would set up fast, and was affordable, durable and had realistic movement."

His latest refinement, the "Waddler" hits the target on all counts.

The decoy shape hasn't changed, but the heads have been drilled to accept a thin metal rod. When placed on their rods, the "Waddlers" wiggle and move like feeding geese, even in a light breeze. If the wind changes direction, the decoys follow.

Farm Form decors are available as snows, blues, specks and Canadas at local hunting stores and they run about $40 per dozen. Heads can be bought separately to spruce up a spread of plain rags.

"I've got something new planned for next year, too," Farmer said, "but I'm not ready to say what it is yet. I'll introduce it at the SHOT Show in New Orleans.

That's bad news for the geese. Whatever Tom Farmer pulls from his sack if hunting tricks in Louisiana, bet on one thing: It will look like a duck or a goose.

Gary Carswell and Paul Kohler grew up shooting geese on the Katy Prairie. I'm not sure how they met but the union led to the creation of another unique goose decoy.

Carswell was a railroad man for years. He spent his winter vacation days on the prairie, though, dressed in a white parka, lying prone in a rice field and calling to wild geese. Kohler learned waterfowl shooting from his father, one of the best goose hunter ever to load a shotgun. He worked for many winters as a corporate guide to customers and clients of the Bellows Construction Co. here.

The two became decoy-making partners only a couple of years ago, but their products were accepted almost instantly and now are available to goose hunters across the nation.

Construction spending dips in November

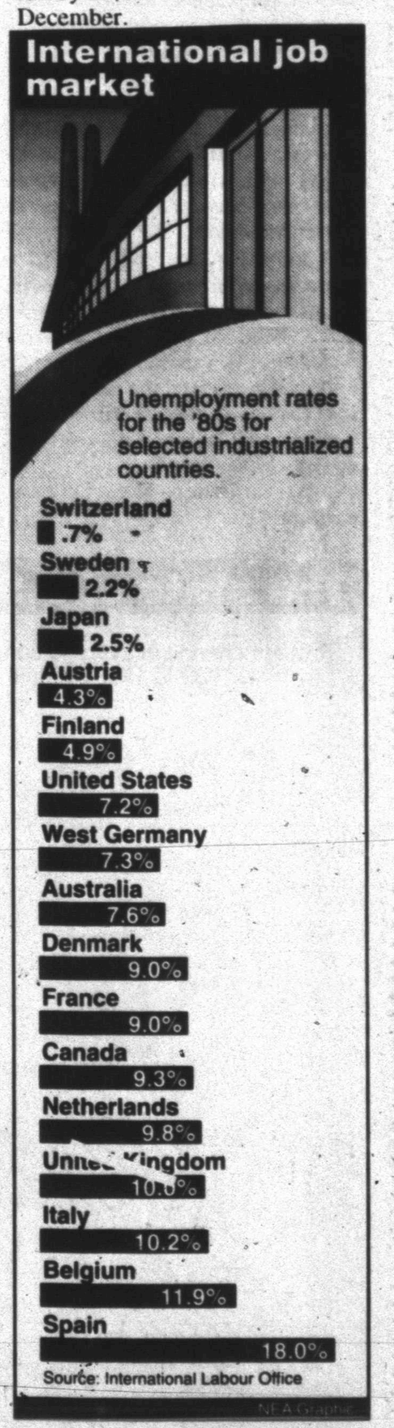
WASHINGTON (AP) — Construction spending, after posting four consecutive monthly increases, lost steam in November, dropping by 0.8 percent, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said that outlays for homes, offices and other private and government projects dropped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $406.3 billion in November, following a 0.6 percent October increase.

Before the November decline, construction spending had risen for four consecutive months, the longest string of increases in five years.

However, building activity, like much of the rest of the economy, faltered in November. Many economists believe that a weak recovery that began last spring has ended and the nation is back in recession.

In another report today, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell by 29,000 in the third week of December.



Spain's unemployment rate was nearly 20 percent during the '80s; at the other end of the spectrum, Switzerland's rate was less than 1 percent.

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3210 Ave A-3-2-2-55T.
3000 Denison-3-2-2CP, 69.5T.
3100 Hill-3-2-2CP, low 50's.
2512 Towle Pk Rd-3-2-2CP.
3802 Noble-2-1-1CP, mid 20's.
2807 Ave W-3-2-2, 49.5T.
Ira-3-3-2, 59.5T.
37th St.-Lg & Sm House, extra lot, 95T.
2802 Ave U-3-3-1, upper 40's.
Dble Wide-3-2, 160 Acres, 80T.
Country West-3-2-5A-76.5T.
Country-3-2-2, 50 Acres, 68T.
404 32nd-3-2-2, extra lot, 48T.
3405 Houston-3-2-1, upper 30's.
2212 43rd-3-1, upper 30's.
2314 41st-3-1-1, upper 30's.
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Country-3-3-10A-low 70's.
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Bank, S&L failures dip in '91, but rebound expected in '92

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flush with $95 billion from Congress, federal regulators likely will step up their attacks on failing banks in 1992 after a lull in 1991, analysts predict.

"They have plenty of money, a new law and ... stronger powers than ever," said Bert Ely, a financial institutions analysts in Alexandria, Va. "They don't have any excuses anymore not to act."

President Bush in December signed bills providing federal agencies with a $25 billion taxpayer appropriation to deal with failed S&Ls and $70 billion in new borrowing authority to handle failed banks.

According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., 127 banks failed outright or stayed open only with an infusion of government money in 1991, down from 169 in 1990. It was the lowest number since 1985, when there were 120 failures.

Meanwhile, 168 savings institutions were seized by regulators or merged with government assistance, down from 217 in 1990 and a four-year low, the Office of Thrift Supervision said.

But by another and more important measure — asset size of failed institutions — 1991 was somewhat worse than 1990.

Failed bank assets totaled $64 billion, quadruple the $16 billion total in 1990, as insolvency problems shifted from smaller banks in the Southwest to larger banks, particularly in recession-racked New England.

However, S&L failures showed improvement, with assets of the failed institutions declining from $134 billion to $91 billion.

Analysts nearly universally expect both the number of bank failures and their asset totals to head higher in 1992, the result of this year's economic slump and the infusion of cash into the regulatory agencies.

The FDIC is projecting 200 failures in 1992, with an asset total ranging from $86 billion to $116 billion, depending on whether the economy is able to emerge from its slump.

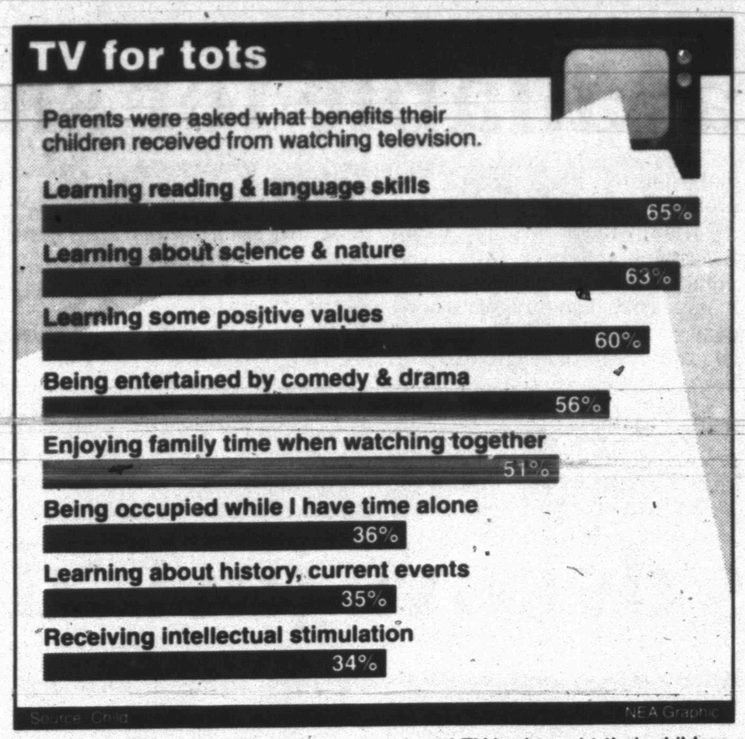
Meanwhile, thrift office director Timothy Ryan has declared the S&L cleanup to be in its "eighth inning." His agency is monitoring roughly 60 institutions it expects to declare failed and send to the Resolution Trust Corp. An additional 400 S&Ls are categorized as troubled but not necessarily doomed.

Regulators deny that they decide when to declare institutions failed based on the amount of money the federal agencies have to initiate the shutdowns. However, economists say statistics on institutions' condition suggest regulators were holding back in 1991.

"There are institutions we see operating that have eroded their capital and are not making money," said economist Martin Regalia of the National Council of Community Banks. "Why are they still there? The answer has to be money. It's a travesty."

During the last few months of 1991, the FDIC fund for banks was effectively insolvent.

The RTC, the S&L cleanup agency, had to operate with a stop-and-start pattern as Congress argued over whether to fund it. It began 1991 effectively broke, received $30 billion in March, but spent that by the end of October. The $25 billion provided in December is expected to last until April 1.



Nearly two-thirds of the parents surveyed said TV had taught their children about reading, language, science and nature. However, only one-third of those questioned said that kids received intellectual stimulation from TV.

Salvadoran guns to fall silent, but reconciliation uphill battle

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — As a peace accord brought hope for a speedy end to 12 ugly years of civil war, rebel radio laced its New Year's Day broadcasts with refrains of John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

A commercial station played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" at regular intervals to celebrate the New Year's agreement, its lyrics hailing "a new sun under which men will again become brothers."

But securing the peace in a conflict that has claimed the lives of 75,000 people — most of them civilians — in this small, impoverished country remains a rough road.

Details of the agreement are still to be hammered out. And some Salvadorans worry that new violence by intransigent militants could derail the process.

While the plan signed New Year's Eve at U.N. headquarters in New York sets a 9-month ceasefire that is to begin Feb. 1, more talks begin Sunday on a timetable for reform of President Alfredo Cristiani's rightist government and the integration of leftist rebels into society.

Most Salvadorans on Wednesday appeared eager to leave war and its spite behind, but others resorted to the language of bombs to underscore resistance to the new state of affairs.

Rain is forecast

Continued From Page 1

8 p.m. to 49.48 feet late this morning, said Ron Bolyard, administrative assistant to the county's emergency management coordinator.

A slight drizzle was falling, but Bolyard said it would not affect the river's drainage system. Floodwaters also were receding downriver in Thompsons, he said.

"After nine days, it's nice to see something come up positive," Bolyard said.

But in the southern part of the county at the Ramsey II prison facility near Rosharon, some of the 800 inmates were placing sandbags to hold back the water of Oyster Creek and officials were watching to see if an evacuation would become necessary.

"Presently, they're still dry and staying put," state prison spokesman David Nunnelee said this morning.

And Brazoria County officials were bracing for possible problems as the Brazos River swamped the coastal county.

Quake

Continued From Page 1

north of the city. Officials at the plant reported several aftershocks, ending at 9:27 a.m.

About 25 miles northeast of the epicenter of this morning's quake lives former Snyder resident Gene Dow, publisher of the Seminole Sentinel.

He and his wife, Joyce, were awakened by what they thought was a neighborhood noise. "I didn't feel shaking, but the noise did wake us up," he related.

Dow was living in Snyder at the time of the 1978 earthquake. It felt much stronger at that time, he added.

Dow said the only damage reported so far in his community was a resident who said a plate hanging on the wall was found broken on the floor.

The only local damage documented in Snyder due to the 1978 earthquake was to a mirror which fell in the district clerk's office. Some residents reported furniture moving and dwellings or buildings that shook.

The '78 quake was a topic for conversation for several days, however, and even prompted T-shirts which stated "I Survived The Great Snyder Earthquake," or variations along that theme.

Today's quake may not generate quite as much excitement. Charlie Freeman, who lives at 2202 42nd St., said he and his wife, Durell, were already awake and thought it was the wind blowing. However, they realized it was something else when they saw the closet door moving.

Just another West Texas earthquake.

Files

Continued From Page 1

ber general election. So far, the lone exception is for the Democratic nomination for Precinct 1 County Commissioner where Frank Garcia, Weldon Beck and Tommy Marricle are hoping to run against Republican Jerry Morgan who has announced for a four-year term. Morgan was appointed to the post last July following the resignation of Duaine Davis.

Earlier this week, two Republicans filed — one for sheriff and one for county tax assessor-collector. Steve Key, a Fluvanna rancher, is running against incumbent Keith Collier, a Democrat. Modean Riley Konvica, a teller at Snyder National Bank, is running for the tax collector's post, a post held by Democrat Rona Sikes.

Others who have filed for office include Democrat Ernie Armstrong who is seeking his third term as district attorney. Running for re-election for 132nd District Court judge is Republican Gene Dulaney. Democrat Bobby Goodwin, former Scurry County Judge, is running for the constable seat being vacated by Bill Love.

The only other local office up for re-election is that of county attorney held by Pete Greene. To date, no one has filed for that office.

State Sen. Steve Carriker and State Rep. David Counts both have indicated their intent to run for re-election as has U.S. Congressman Charles Stenholm. All three are Democrats. When new districts are finalized, Counts is expected to be paired against Republican Troy Fraser of Big Spring.

Workshop

Continued From Page 1

include consideration of the one-eighth cent sales tax to be used toward ad valorem tax relief; a request from Dennis Chisum for city sewer service at the Willow Park Inn; a request from David Rollins, of Tropical Paradise pet store, concerning the exotic animal ordinance; and a request by David Haywood to speak to the council.

Police Chief Lannie Lee will be present at Tuesday's meeting to update the council on the Snyder Independent Living Konnection, SILK, which is a senior citizen watch program.

The council will consider bids received for a water tank for the city water plant.

Markets
Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	701/4	687/8	687/8	—15/8
AlliedSignal	43	421/2	423/4	—11/8
ALLTEL Cp	393/8	387/8	391/4	+1/4
AmStor s	335/8	321/8	321/8	—13/4
Amer T&T	383/4	381/4	385/8	-1/2
Amerltech	64	631/8	635/8	+1/8
Amoco	491/2	49	493/8	+1/4
AndarkPtr	237/8	231/2	231/2	-1/2
Arkla	123/8	117/8	12	-1/2
ArmcoInc	51/4	51/8	51/8	-1/4
AtlRichfld	1073/4	1063/4	1071/4	+1/2
BakerHugh	195/8	193/8	193/8	+1/8
BancTexas	3/8	3/8	3/8	-1-32
BellAtl	481/4	477/8	481/4	
BellSouth	521/4	513/8	52	+1/4
Beth Steel	141/8	137/8	137/8	-1/8
Borden	333/8	327/8	331/4	+5/8
Caterpllr	441/2	435/8	433/4	-1/8
Centel	343/8	34	34	-1/2
CentSo West	54	537/8	54	
Chevron	693/8	69	691/4	+1/4
Chrysler	113/4	111/2	113/4	
Coastal	251/8	247/8	247/8	+1/4
CocaCola	797/8	781/4	785/8	—15/8
ColgateP s	481/2	471/8	475/8	—11/4
ComlMetl	213/4	207/8	207/8	-7/8
CyprusMn	223/4	221/4	223/8	-1/2
DallSemicn	77/8	75/8	75/8	-1/4
DeltaAirl	657/8	653/8	653/8	-3/4
DigitalEq	55	541/8	541/2	-3/4
Dillard	1231/2	1207/8	1213/4	—13/4
DowChem	531/2	531/8	533/8	-3/8
DresserInd	20	193/4	193/4	-3/8
duPont	465/8	46	461/4	-3/8
EstKodak	491/8	481/2	483/4	+1/2
EljerInd	65/8	63/8	65/8	+1/8
Enserch	133/4	131/2	131/2	-1/8
Exxon	605/8	601/8	601/8	-3/4
FtCtyBcp	5/8	9-16	5/8	+1-16
FlowerInd	161/8	153/4	161/8	-1/8
FordMotor	283/8	273/4	283/8	+1/4
GTE Cp	341/2	33	333/8	—11/4
GnDynam	537/8	535/8	535/8	-1/8
GenElct	763/8	755/8	761/8	-3/8
GnMill	733/8	721/8	721/8	—11/2
GenMotors	30	283/4	30	+11/8
GnMotrE s	627/8	603/4	617/8	—11/8
GaPacif	541/8	531/2	533/4	+1/8
GlobMar	23/8	21/4	21/4	
Goodrich	42	415/8	415/8	-3/8
Goodyear	523/4	52	523/8	—11/8
GtAtlPac	283/8	277/8	28	-3/8
Gulf StaUt	101/4	101/8	101/8	-1/8
Haliburtn	283/4	283/8	283/4	+1/4
Hanson	201/4	20	20	-3/8
HoustInd	443/8	441/8	441/4	
IBM	903/8	887/8	901/8	+11/8
IntlPaper	707/8	691/4	693/8	—13/8
JohnsJhn	1125/8	1107/8	1111/8	—33/8
K mart	471/2	47	471/8	-
Kroger	197/8	195/8	193/4	
vjLTV Cp	7/8	13-16	13-16	
Litton Ind	883/4	881/4	883/4	+7/8
vjLoneStar	31/2	33/8	31/2	
Lowes	335/8	323/4	327/8	—11/4
Lubys	143/4	143/8	143/4	+3/8
Maxus	73/8	71/8	71/4	
MayDSt	521/4	515/8	521/4	-1/4
Medtrn s	931/2	90	91	—3
Mobil	681/4	675/8	677/8	
Monsan	677/8	67	671/8	-3/4
Motorola	65	641/4	641/4	—1
Nationbk	405/8	401/8	401/2	-1/8
Navistar	23/4	25/8	25/8	
Nynex	803/4	801/8	805/8	-1/8
OryxEngy	261/4	251/2	253/4	+1/8
PacTelesis	441/4	433/4	441/4	-3/8
PanhECp	151/2	151/8	153/8	
PenneyJC	541/2	53	533/4	—11/4
PepBoys	18	173/8	171/2	-1/2
Phelps Dod	667/8	661/4	661/4	-3/4
PhilipPet	241/8	233/4	237/8	-1/8
Polaroid s	261/2	251/4	251/4	—13/8
Primerica	391/8	375/8	383/8	—1
ProctGamb	933/8	921/2	921/2	—13/8
PubS NwMx	95/8	93/8	95/8	-1/8
SFePC	131/4	125/8	13	—1
SaraL	57	55	551/2	—23/8
SearsRoeb	383/8	377/8	381/4	+3/8
Shrwin s	27	253/8	251/2	—11/4
SmthBchm	863/4	841/4	841/4	—2
Southern Co	341/4	333/4	34	-3/8
SwstAirl	335/8	321/2	325/8	—11/2
SwstBell	645/8	633/4	643/8	-1/4
SterlingChm	41/2	43/8	41/2	+1/8
SunCo	301/4	295/8	295/8	-7/8
TNP Ent	191/4	187/8	19	-1/4
Tandy	29	283/8	281/2	-3/8
TemplInl	503/4	501/4	501/4	—11/4
Tenneco	315/8	311/4	311/2	+1/8
Texaco	62	611/8	611/8	-1/8
TexasInst	305/8	30	301/8	-5/8
Tex Util	42	415/8	415/8	-1/8
Textron	391/8	381/8	383/8	—11/4
Tyler	3	27/8	27/8	
USWst	38	373/8	373/4	-1/8
USXMar n	243/8	231/2	231/2	—1
USX-USS n	271/2	271/8	271/8	-1/4
UnCarbde	203/4	201/8	205/8	+3/8
UnPac s	51	495/8	497/8	—17/8
UnitTech	53	513/4	517/8	—23/8
Unitel	237/8	221/4	223/8	—13/8
Unocal	231/4	225/8	227/8	-1/2
WalMt	587/8	571/2	573/4	—11/8
WestghEl	18	175/8	173/4	-1/4
Wolwth	273/8	263/4	267/8	+3/8
Xerox Cp	68	661/2	663/4	—13/4
ZenithE	71/2	73/8	71/2	+

Snyder man shot in Abilene

A Snyder man was treated and released from Hendrick Medical Center for a gunshot wound sustanied during an altercation in Abilene on New Year's Eve, according to a police report from that city.

Issac McKnight, 31, was shot in the back during a fight involving a large group shortly before midnight Tuesday in the 900 block of North Bowie, according to the report.

A suspect was apprehended at the scene although it is not known whether charges have been filed. Calls to Abilene Police Department were referred to a public relations officer who was out of the office for the morning.

Hospital Notes

ADMISSIONS: Zada Chapman, Snyder Oaks Nursing Center; Lucille Roa, Snyder Oaks Nursing Center; Mildred Taylor, Snyder Oaks Nursing Center; Penni Mayes, P.O. Box 545, Snyder; John Thomas, Rt. 2, Box 279-B, Snyder.

DISMISSALS: Barbara Farmer and baby girl, Daniel Collins, Rhonda Thomas, Cathy Reed, Amanda Smith.

Census: 46. Medical, 13; Long-term, 31; OB, 2; CCU,1.

Births

David and Penni Mayes are the parents of a boy, Jonathan, born at 4:44 a.m. Wednesday in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs., 2 ozs.

Shari and Jim Zoda of Dallas are the parents of a boy, named Zachary Layne Zoda, who was born at noon Jan. 1 in Dallas. He weighed 7 lbs., 15½ ozs.

Maternal grandparents and Carl and Nona Williams of Snyder, and paternal grandparents are Joe and Marilyn Zoda of Gainesville and formerly of Snyder.

Two assault reports filed

Snyder police took two reports of assault and made two unrelated arrests Wednesday and early today.

A woman came to the police department at 10:57 a.m. Wednesday to file charges against a male in reference to an altercation which had occurred earlier that morning in the 1100 block of 26th St. Class C assault charges were filed in the case.

In a similar but unrelated case, another woman came to the police department at 12:05 a.m. today to file Class C assault charges against a male. The charges were made in reference to an altercation at 7:17 p.m. Wednesday in the 800 block of 33rd. St.

Officers arrested a 24-year-old male at 4:14 p.m. Wednesday in the 2200 block of Ave. T on warrants for no seat belt and failure to appear. The subject was transported to the county jail where he paid the fines and was released.

At 12:40 a.m. today, officers arrested a 23-year-old male in the 1600 block of Ave. T for driving while license suspended and on Midland DPS warrants for speeding and expired driver's license.

Officers also took a report for Class B criminal mischief in reference to someone damaging the passenger side window of a 1988 Chevrolet Corsica at 109 Peach. In one other case, a report of a vicious animal was filed after one dog attacked another in the 3100 block of 39th St. Both dogs were transported to West Texas Animal Clinic.

Senior Center is planning open house

The Senior Citizens Center invites all county residents 55 years of age or older to an open house planned from 5-8:30 p.m. Monday.

During the open house, senior citizens will be participating in activities which take place in the center on a regular basis. These include, quilting, ceramics, textile painting, modified exercise classes, bingo and various other games and tournaments.

There will be live entertainment and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 573-4035. The Senior Center is located at 2603 Avenue M and visitors can park on the east or west sides of the building.

Obituaries

Dorothy Pierce

1923-1992

Dorothy Pierce, 68, died about 7 a.m. Thursday at Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Services will be conducted in Decatur by Coker Funeral Home.

A resident of Snyder since August, Mrs. Pierce lived at 2312 31st St. and is survived by her husband, Glen, of Snyder and a son, David, also of Snyder.

Hilton Ward

1919-1991

Services are set for 2 p.m. Saturday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel for Hilton Ward, 72, who died at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday at Cogdell Hospital after a sudden illness. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

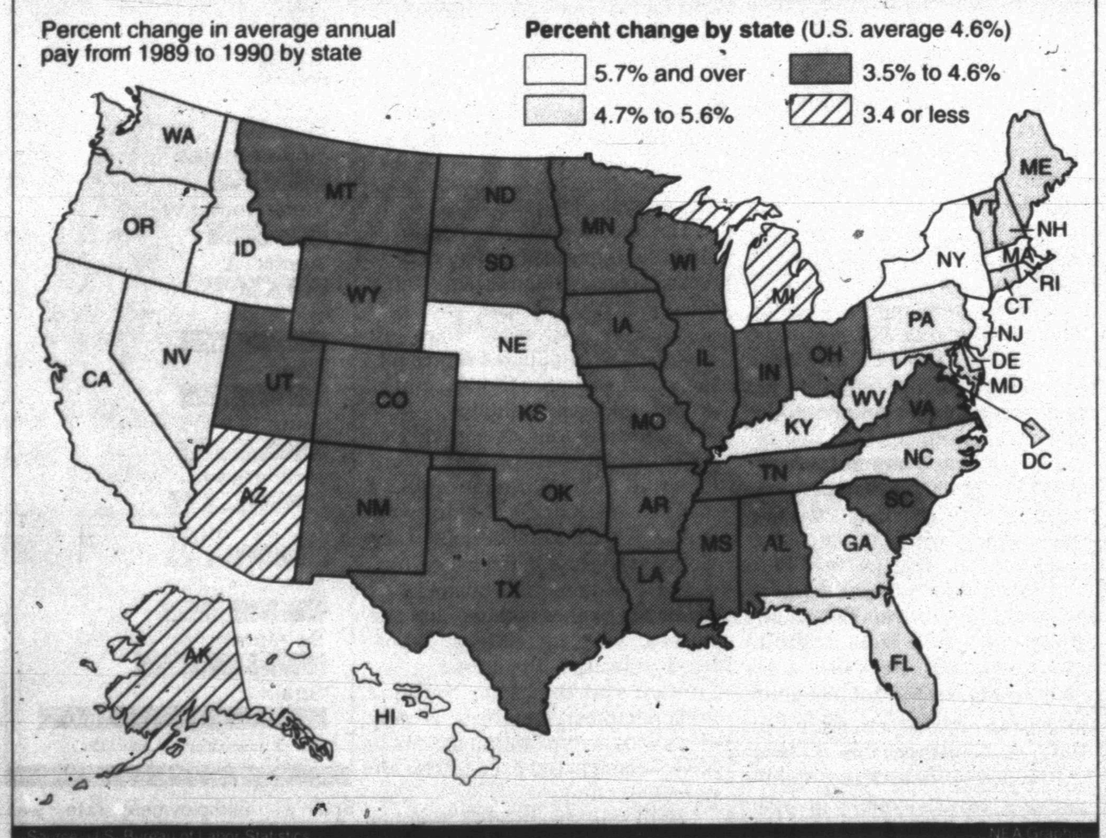
Born Sept. 10, 1919 in Cisco, Mr. Ward had worked as a truck driver for McCormick Marketing for 35 years, retiring in 1984.

Mr. Ward lived at 3700 Muriel. He was married to Marsha Ward and she survives.

Other survivors include three daughters, Brenda McKnight of Big Spring, Delores Hellums of Belton and Yolanda Anderson of Arlington; three sons, Hilton Ward Jr. of Dallas, Edward Earl Ward of Phoenix, Ariz., and Robert Wayne Ward of Abilene; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

A bond is a certificate issued by a corporation or government stating the amount of a loan, the interest to be paid, the time for repayment and the collateral pledged if payment cannot be made. Repayment generally is not due for a long period, usually seven years or more.

The state of U.S. wages



From 1989 to 1990, the average annual pay increase in America was 4.6 percent. People working in 24 states had average pay hikes of from 3.5 percent to 4.6 percent. Only those in Alaska, Arizona and Michigan had average pay increases of less than 3.4 percent.

Afghanistan is leading producer of opium

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan has become the world's leading producer of opium, providing an unexpected windfall for the warlords armed and financed by the West in their war against the communist-style government.

The United Nations estimates that Afghanistan produced 2,000 tons of opium in 1991, surpassing Burma as the world leader in cultivation.

Narcotics experts say the U.N. figure is too low because some of the major producing areas are inaccessible.

They predict a 50 percent increase in opium production next year unless a peace settlement is reached soon to end 13 years of fighting and install a government that can check the rapid spread of cultivation through Afghanistan and the already volatile region.

"The estimates that we're seeing now are very conservative," said Chris Conrad, head of the U.N.'s Drug Control Program in Afghanistan. "New (opium producing) areas are opening up every year."

New fields have blossomed across the border in the newly independent Central Asian republics, which are desperate for hard currency. Diplomats from the former Soviet states say poppy fields began to surface there during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Even though Soviet soldiers fought the Afghan guerrillas in the field, men from both sides often joined forces to smuggle out hashish, opium and heroin.

Neighboring Pakistan, where much of the opium is processed into heroin, then sent across Iran to Europe and the United States, is now called "the new Colombia."

Opium and hashish have always been part of the Afghan life.

The availability of the drugs made Afghanistan a popular stop on the so-called "hippie trail" from San Francisco to Nepal in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In Kabul's Christian cemetery, there are dozens of unmarked graves of youths who died of overdoses.

Most Afghans don't condone the use or export of drugs.

"Of course, this isn't right. But neither is poverty, hunger, war or destruction," said Mohammed Sarwar, whose brass shop also has for sale the chillums and hookahs (pots and water pipes) used to smoke marijuana and hashish.

Most of the poppies that produce the sticky opium resin are grown in southern Helmand, eastern Nangarhar and northeastern Badakshan provinces. The provinces are controlled by the mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors, who received billions of dollars in weapons and supplies to fight successive pro-communist governments that seized power in 1978.

Western diplomats in Afghanistan and Pakistan say the fundamentalist resistance parties are largely responsible for most of the opium production, but they say all groups have become players in the international drug trafficking market.

Leaders of the seven major parties based in Pakistan acknowledge some commanders are involved in trafficking. They insist they don't condone it but argue they're helpless to stop it.

The Kabul government, too, says it is helpless to stop the flow since the major producing areas are out of its control.

During the mujahedeen's decade-long fight against Soviet occupiers, the West turned a blind eye to the guerrillas' involvement with drugs. Some observers argued that Washington and Islamabad in fact compounded the problem by encouraging the mujahedeen to delve into the trade to pay for their war.

With the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers in February 1989 just a memory, the United States has been accused of merely paying lip service to try to tackle what could be an impossible task.

USDA: Japanese exaggerate concerns about rice imports

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department says Japanese farmers shouldn't be concerned that rice will flood into their country following any easing of import restrictions.

The department says the 10 million ton market for rice in Japan each year is primarily for medium-grain rice.

"Currently, medium grain rice production among all exporters of that type of rice — the United States, the European Community and Australia — is estimated at only about 3.3 million tons, the department said.

"Since most of these exports already have regular customers in other countries, relatively small amounts would be available for Japan, and much of this could only be achieved by cutbacks of sales to other destinations," USDA said.

The department added that Australia and EC nations already are at record or near-record levels, and prospects are limited for further expansion in the rice-exporting nations.

President Bush is stopping in Japan during his current visit to Australia and Asia with the aim of trying once again to persuade the Japanese government to open the nation's markets to U.S. exports.

Speaking with reporters on Tuesday, Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said he remained "hopeful that the president can make some progress" in opening Japan to some level of imported rice.

Madigan noted that in a letter to Japanese officials sent earlier this year he accused them of "insulting" U.S. rice producers by alleging they did not produce a high quality product.

Madigan was told that Sen. John Breaux, D-La., has complained that rice producers were not permitted to accompany Bush aboard Air Force One on his trip.

Federal help for farmers, ranchers can be confusing

WACO, Texas (AP) — Government help is now available for Texas farms and ranches still soggy from record flooding.

The first step suggested by federal officials is to call the Federal Emergency Management Administration at a toll-free number, 1-800-462-9029.

Farmers and ranchers are usually helped by three U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies when floods damage property or livestock: the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).

ASCS provides aid only when the president has declared an area a disaster, and its programs are limited to producers away from streams and rivers.

Bosque County rancher Billy Don Glass said he hopes federal assistance will help him replace fences destroyed by flood waters from Meridian Creek on his ranch near Cranfills Gap.

"Last time, we just put it back up ourselves and stood the expense," Glass said. "I hope there's some help this time. I'm hoping they'll come out and measure the fence footage, then give some help."

Bosque County ASCS director Odell Tuggle said some farmers and ranchers will get grants, others direct assistance from companies the agency pays, but "the majority of the damage we have will be ineligible."

"Ultimately our county committee has to determine if this land is bottom land adjacent to a stream. If it is, it's not eligible," Tuggle said. "That's not going to make people happy and it's not going to make my county committee popular, either, but we have to work within the federal regulations."

Gary Westmoreland, SCS assistant state conservationist, said the agency spent $5 million to $6 million to help farmers and ranchers when major floods struck the Trinity and Red River basins two years ago.

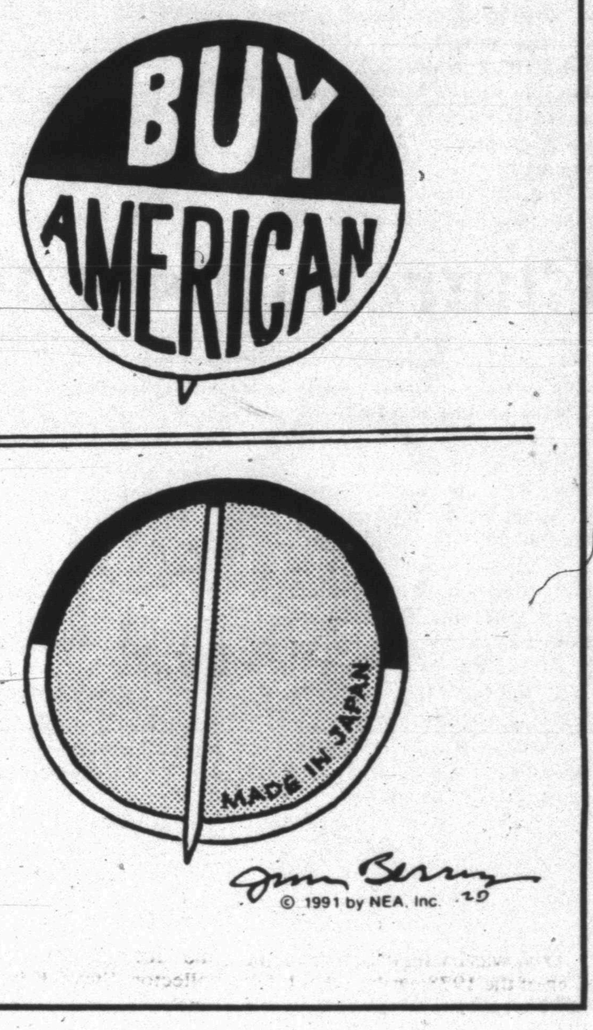
Farmers and ranchers hurt by the floods also can get loans at 4.5 percent from Farmers Home Administration — provided they can't get credit anywhere else.

Gilbert Barnett, FmHA county supervisor for the Hamilton-Bosque district office, said applications are being taken at the Hamilton office.

Barnett said loans are made for up to 80 percent of the loss, the amount needed to stay in business, or $500,000, whichever is less.

Early estimates put Bosque County damages at $13 million.

Berry's World



Basic lessons

What a teacher learns in a classroom

NOTE: In the following personal account, a member of Teach For America, which is a national teacher corps, describes her initial classroom experiences. Teach For America recruits, trains, places and supports college graduates who did not major in education, but have strong academic and extracurricular backgrounds. They commit a minimum of two years to work in urban or rural public schools with teacher shortages.

By Abigail Trillin

I am in a year-round school, and this month my third-graders are on vacation. So, I'm substituting in a newly opened one-two class.

These students are even more curious and questioning then my third-graders, and often the lessons develop out of their own questions in a way that is extremely satisfying.

Veronica brought in a butterfly that she had found in the playground, and we immediately dropped everything to learn about butterflies. Six-year-olds have very little self-consciousness, and in a minute I had them all on the rug acting out caterpillars.

When, at the end of the lesson, they drew the three stages of the life of a butterfly and numbered them 1, 2, 3, they understood the concept of sequencing far better than after a week of well-planned lessons on putting the scenes of the story of "Jorge el Curioso" in order.

They never stop surprising me and making me laugh.

• Last Monday, Victor, who is perhaps the most charming 6-year-old I have ever met, pointed out that it was Columbus Day. I was thrilled at the opportunity to bring a multicultural perspective into my class.

Plans of a lesson on American Indians, and the question of ownership of land and what it means to discover, formed in my head.

I started out in the traditional manner, explaining Columbus' journey to the New World and showing him bumping into America on our classroom globe.

They never stop surprising me and making me laugh.

"Now," I asked, "was America empty when he got there? Was he the first one there? Did anybody greet him?"

Victor jumped up. "I know, I know," he shouted.

"Yes, Victor?" I said, sure my multicultural lesson was well on its way.

"George Bush," he yelled proudly.

• Michael left my class this week. He was by far my most difficult student, and if I had been told on Monday that he was leaving, I would have been relieved. But Michael and I had a very successful week together.

He responded incredibly well to positive attention, and by the end of the week he had gone from disrupting the class every five minutes to doing really good work.

Michael is the kind of kid who makes teachers simply sigh when they hear his name and say, "Oh, he's a bad kid." It was clear to me that very few people had ever expected more than failure from him.

On Friday, I found out that he was changing schools. At the end of the day, he ran off without saying goodbye.

I guess in my mind I know that all my kids will leave my class at the end of the year, but it took Michael departing for it to really sink in.

I don't know what will happen to Michael. What I do know is that I'm now completely helpless to influence what happens.

Six-year-olds have so many more years of education ahead of them, and for most of those years, we won't be there.

Sometimes, I am thrilled that they have learned about butterflies, while other times, I am extremely frustrated that they will all disappear some day, like Michael did, to some place where I am powerless to help them.

ABIGAIL TRILLIN is a teacher at the Oak Street School in Inglewood, Calif.

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EDUCATING AMERICA

Apple corps

Teach for America, which began in 1989, is a national teacher corps. It recruits U.S. college graduates who commit to at least two years of work in urban or rural public school systems beset with teacher shortages.

TFA seeks individuals who did not major in education, but have strong academic and extracurricular backgrounds at over 150 colleges and universities.

The goal of Teach for America is to draw dynamic and determined teachers into elementary and secondary public education. It also aims to ease teacher shortages, effect systemic change and enhance the status and respectability of the teaching profession.

Corps members undergo an eight-week training program before taking charge of classrooms with full teaching responsibilities.

Thus far, Teach for America has recruited more than 1,250 members who are currently working in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, La., and Oakland, Calif.; in rural Georgia, North Carolina, and Arkansas; and in the southern Rio Grande River Valley.

Local TFA offices in each area provide support and ongoing training, and connect teachers with community resources.

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SNYDER DAILY NEWS
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Health care issues only invite political cures

By Walter R. Mears
AP Special correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — While the issue won't wait in 1992, the answer to the problem probably will, because there's little chance the government will be able to write a new national health insurance policy in an election year.

But with costs and concern rising, the health care crisis and rival ideas to deal with it are going to be fixtures in every campaign, White House to Congress to state house.

By President Bush's count, there already are 31 varying proposals before Congress. He'll be adding his own in the State of the Union message on Jan. 28.

"I do think the time has come for the administration to come forward with a comprehensive program," he said. "We will capitalize on and learn from some of those programs that are floating around up there."

Until Bush made that commitment, almost offhandedly, answering questions at the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs in Ontario, Calif., on Dec. 6, the White House had seemed willing to let the issue ride with a limited, holding-action proposal.

But the numbers are getting worse, the soaring cost of medical care is a drag on the faltering economy, and the question has climbed the roster of voter concerns.

National health insurance was one of the issues Sen. Harris Wofford pushed in Pennsylvania in winning his Democratic upset on Nov. 5.

The Commerce Department reports an 11 percent increase in U.S. spending on health care during 1991, to a total of $738 billion in 1991, and forecasts annual increases of 12 percent to 13 percent for the next five years.

That report says health spending will reach 14 percent of the gross national product next year.

An analysis by three organizations backing national health insurance says about 40 million Americans were uninsured during 1991.

A poll conducted in November by the Times Mirror Center showed 82 percent of Americans agree that the government should guarantee health insurance to everyone.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll conducted Dec. 11-15 reported 83 percent consider health care an important issue in deciding which presidential candidate to support.

That survey also found 44 percent support for a tax-financed national health care plan; 32 percent for a system in which employers would provide coverage or pay into a federal fund to cover it; and 20 percent for the current system of private insurance with government coverage only for the poor and the elderly.

It's clear the voters want something done. The question is what.

An administration advisory panel that studied the problem for two years couldn't agree on an overall plan, and instead proposed a limited set of child health, preventive care and cost control steps, along with state tests of varying proposals for comprehensive reform.

A majority of that panel agreed that "at this time, there is no one right choice.

"The national consensus so essential to the successful systemic reform the council believes necessary has clearly not developed," the advisory council reported.

Even its piecemeal proposals would cost more than $6 billion a year.

The solution that eluded experts with time and tranquillity to study the problem is not likely to be attained by candidates competing for votes in the clamor of a presidential campaign.

Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska said it's up to the voters to say what they want done; his proposal is universal health insurance financed by a payroll tax.

"That's one of the questions that has to be answered by the American people," Kerrey said as Democratic presidential candidates debated health care plans in Nashua, N.H., two weeks ago. "Do we want national health insurance or do we want managed competition or do we want some reform at the edge?"

Bush hasn't said what's to be in his plan, but he has said that new taxes are out, and so is the government health care program favored by some liberal Democrats who want to model the U.S. system on Canada's.

"When I hear people say what we ought to do is put the Canadian system into effect, I think they're wrong," Bush said. "I think we've got the best quality health care in the world and I don't want to see that diluted by going to socializing our medical treatment."

There's more likely to be common political ground in a plan that would keep private health insurance, while providing government coverage for the uninsured and requiring employers who don't cover their workers to help pay for it.

There's a lot more to it, of course, including cost control, minimum benefits, affordable coverage.

Complexities like those defy the shorthand of a political campaign, and invite one-liners, like Sen. Tom Harkin's in the Democratic debate:

"George Bush was born with a silver stethoscope around his neck," said Harkin. The Iowa senator also said it wasn't worth talking about health care reform while Bush is in office.

But Congress and the candidates are going to be talking about it all year.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Walter R. Mears, vice president and columnist for The Associated Press, has reported on Washington and national politics for more than 25 years.

AP analysis

Church raises money through bazaar

WACO — During a season of charity, the price of a can of beer in Abbott should inspire.

For several years the parishioners at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church had a bazaar to raise money for the church and its social concerns.

While the bazaar was great fun and raised some money, the evening would come down to an auction that was serious business.

At one bazaar the church set a goal that hadn't been met by the night's last item — a case of beer.

Most people go to charity auctions to get a bargain for a good cause. These people were in it for their church alone. The bidding was intense. Winning bid: $300 for that case of beer.

The auction-ending case of beer became a tradition. The next year it drew $500. The value grew exponentially with each year. Ultimately it went for $1,300 — or just shy of $50 per can. A group of 13 men had pitched in $100 apiece.

What? Is beer such a scarce commodity in Abbott? (Used to be, but it's been a while since Abbott was a "dry" community.) No. These parishioners were just dead serious about giving to their church.

Such generosity in a blue-collar agrarian town? Strike oil, Abbott?

National trends say this kind of charity is not unusual. A recently released study of religious giving showed that people with less give much more to their churches.

"The richest fifth of the population gives half as much as the lower fifth of the population," said researcher Stephen Hart, who used data from the National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago.

The generous people at Immaculate Heart are neither very poor nor very rich. They're just people committed to their church.

Hart's findings would seem to apply also to the way average people give to non-religious charities, especially small-town needs. Consider these examples:

— Bruceville-Eddy needed a new fire-ambulance station and built it with charitable fund-raisers alone. Bruceville-Eddy has only about 1,000 people. The new fire station cost about $40,000. Go ahead. Divide that down.

— Wills Point, a town of 3,332, had one of its own in pain. Amy Louise Harris, 18, had cystic fibrosis and needed a double lung transplant. The town raised more than $300,000 for her operation. But though Wills Point could raise the money, no one could find two healthy lungs. Amy died in November.

Then there are towns like Huckabay, 10 miles north of Stephenville. Huckabay needed a new fire truck but didn't have the money to get it done. The Volunteer Fire Department found a Navy surplus truck that looked suitable for conversion.

The fire chief, who also taught agricultural science at the area high school, suggested that his ag mechanics class do the work.

It took 650 hours of work, but the class presented the community with the truck it needed. Ultimately the materials cost the community $4,000. Had Huckabay bought the truck new, it would have cost $30,000.

Sometimes we allow ourselves to be caught up in the comings and goings of the moneyed gentry of this country. We beseech them for kindness and we praise them.

In an age of trickle-down economics, we're all made to feel indebted for the "haves," while the "have-nots" become economically (and politically) insignificant. They're just making do, just trying to get by.

But take a look around and see extraordinary acts of giving in humble locales. You wonder how people do it.

By the way, the people of Immaculate Heart no longer do the bazaar. Believe it or not, they've found something more lucrative. Now the parishioners organize three or four charity dinners a year.

Money isn't the only concern. Dinner is free to those without means. Watch out, parishioners. This is a dangerous political trend.

Vinton to sing

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Bobby Vinton is aching to get back on the charts.

"It's like putting the life back in your veins," he said while preparing for an appearance this week at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino. "You diminish without action."

Vinton had such hits in the '60s and '70s as "Roses Are Red," "Sealed With a Kiss" and "Blue Velvet."

His latest effort is a duet with George Burns, "I Know What It Is to Be Young, But You Don't Know What It Is to Be Old," due out in February.

Places in the News

UKRAINE

In voting its independence from the Soviet Union, Ukraine, as the former republic is now known, has become the fifth most populous nation in Europe (after Germany, Italy, Britain and France). The new nation has the potential to become an economic and, possibly, a military power.

At 233,000 square miles, Ukraine is about the same size as France.

The 52 million Ukrainians had represented about 18 percent of the total population of the old Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Although its land size was little more than two percent of the entire Soviet Union, the Ukraine had been its breadbasket, responsible for more than half the corn crop, and more than a quarter of all grains. It is also mineral rich, containing more than half the Soviet Union's iron ore and a quarter of its coal.

The land that is now known as Ukraine was ruled by Poland in the 1500s and into the 1600s. It then became autonomous under the Cossacks, who ruled into the 18th century. Russia then dominated the region. A Ukrainian republic first formed in 1917, and it became a part of the Soviet Union in 1922.

Western Ukraine was annexed from Poland in 1939; another part from Romania in 1940, a southeastern portion in 1945 and the Crimea in 1954.

Even though it was a part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has always had its own seat in the United Nations.

The new country has great potential, but it now faces massive problems. As with the remainder of the Soviet Union, its economy is in ruins.

While its agricultural capacity is a major benefit, Ukraine has been absolutely dependent upon the other Soviet republics for petroleum products, which have always been heavily state-subsidized. A change to an open market economy might bring increased prices for its crops, but oil and gasoline prices could also skyrocket in a free market.

Given the nation's potential — and its proximity to the rest of Europe — Ukraine hopes to become a magnet for new Western investment.

Politically, Ukraine was one of the more stable Soviet republics. But the country does face problems with westernmost areas that want to return to Poland; and with the Crimea in the far south, which is demanding its own independence.

Then there is the question of the military: More than 1.5 million Soviet soldiers, sailors and airmen are Ukrainians. Currently, more than 2,000 Soviet nuclear warheads are on Ukrainian soil.

Ukraine's legislature has voted to establish a 450,000-strong Ukrainian army, navy and air force and to remove all nuclear weapons. But the new nation cannot afford its own military yet, so it will have to reach some agreement with what remains of the Soviet Union.

American freedoms

What the First Amendment protects

NOTE: The following excerpt is from "The First Amendment Book" by Robert J. Wagman (Pharos Books). In the foreword to the newly published book, Burl Osborne, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, writes: "Here we are in the bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, trying still to establish that the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States means exactly, and only exactly, what it says. That is what this book is about."

By Robert J. Wagman

On Dec. 15, 1791, Virginia became the 11th state to ratify the Bill of Rights. So we are now celebrating the bicentennial of the document that distinguishes us from almost every other country in the world, including most of the other Western democracies.

Of the 10 amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights, the principal guarantee of everyday freedoms that we enjoy as Americans is contained in the First Amendment: freedom of religion, speech, assembly, petition and press.

It is no accident that the guarantee of conscience and expression was put first within the Bill of Rights. From the first moments of the Republic those freedoms have represented the heart of the American value system.

The positioning of the various guarantees within the First Amendment is also no accident, because we as a people have always placed right of conscience above all else, and then closely followed it with the right of free expression and a free press.

If a democracy is, by definition, the constant search for truth and liberty, then free speech must be an essential ingredient if a democracy is to thrive. The Founding Fathers — Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Franklin and the rest — recognized that freedom of belief and freedom of expression would be central if this new system of government was to survive and flourish. They set out to guarantee those freedoms by the First Amendment, and the last 200 years has proved how correct they were.

Any discussion of the First Amendment necessarily comes back, over and over, to one central point: Speech and expressive action that is supported by a majority of the population does not need protection. Such widely accepted expression is universally applauded, not suppressed. Likewise, the activities of majority religions are rarely challenged.

Thus, the First Amendment, by definition, exists to protect expression, religions, groups and beliefs that are not part of the mainstream. The First Amendment protects the unpopular.

As the Founding Fathers said, the First Amendment was designed to remove certain things from the sphere of politics so that we could not end up with repression by the majority — an ever-present danger in a democracy.

A popular misconception about the First Amendment, and especially about its guarantees of free speech and a free press, is that it really only protects the rights of the big media, of big corporations. Free speech is everyone's right, and freedom of the press is exercised in protecting every citizen's right to know what his government is doing.

Throughout history, the First Amendment has protected individuals who sought to remain safe in their own beliefs and often in their own religious faiths.

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

— Amendment I, Constitution of the United States (1791)

Perhaps the easiest way to see the value of the Bill of Rights, and especially of the First Amendment, is to look at the differences between the United States and another great democracy that does not have a written guarantee of individual liberties: Great Britain.

Britain has neither a written constitution nor a specific statement of individual rights. In Britain, it is said that personal freedom is guaranteed by moral and historical traditions. That might be true, but in actual fact personal freedom is limited to what Parliament says it is at any one time, and personal freedoms may be limited at any time by an act of Parliament.

Look how this operates in the area of press freedom: Britain's press is obviously free in the context of the state-controlled media that so frequently exists around the world. But the British media is still amazingly constrained in critical areas by laws that could not exist in the United States because of the First Amendment.

Our Constitution and our Bill of Rights absolutely prohibit government from infringing on our right to think and believe as we wish. On the other hand, the government has a significant right to limit our actions — such as driving through a busy intersection at whatever speed and whenever we want. Speech falls somewhere in between, and we have spent the last two centuries trying to find exactly where.

Due to the nature of the three-part government the Founding Fathers set up — executive, legislative and judiciary — the First Amendment and its protections have largely been defined by the Supreme Court in its decisions and interpretations. Therefore much of our examination of the development of what the First Amendment protections have become is an examination of the history of the First Amendment before the Supreme Court.

There have been many books written about the First Amendment and various aspects of it, but special attention should be accorded one work: "The Press as Guardian of the First Amendment" by the late John Lofton, historian, lawyer, constitutional scholar and editorial writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Summing up 200 years of First Amendment history, Lofton wrote:

"For all the vicissitudes that freedom of expression has suffered, an avowed commitment to the principle has survived. Whatever their lapses, Americans have recognized in their most clear-eyed moments that the protection of the First Amendment is essential to democratic self-government. Without a free and informed electorate, democracy cannot function; that kind of electorate cannot exist without freedom of expression...."

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