U.S. warplanes fire on Iraqi air defense site

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said U.S. warplanes patrolling the skies over northern Iraq were protecting themselves when they fired missiles and precision-guided bombs at an Iraqi anti-aircraft site today.

Iraq said U.S. planes fired first, but Clinton disputed that, saying it was a matter of self defense.

"Our pilots have the authority to protect themselves," Clinton said in brief remarks before addressing a White House event on the Year 2000 computer bug.

Clinton said the attack was in an area of northern Iraq which American and British air crews regularly patrol to prevent Iraqi airplanes from flying. "They were fired on by Iraq surface-to-air missiles," he said. "They took evasive action, returned fire on the missile sites and returned safely to their base in Turkey."

Of the American pilots, Clinton said: "They attacked because they were attacked, and they did the appropriate thing."

At the Pentagon, spokesman Col. Richard Bridges called the incident, which lasted half an hour, "an act of aggression" by Iraq and he described the U.S. response as "an act of self defense."

"The Iraqi action was what caused our reaction," Bridges said.

No U.S. aircraft or crew were harmed during the incident, which began at about 1 p.m. local time, or 4 a.m. Washington time, just north of Mosul, the Pentagon said.

Bridges said the administration was still assessing any Iraqi damage.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi military said the U.S. attack action against the air defense site killed four Iraqi soldiers and injured seven others. Iraqi air defenses fired back in response, forcing the warplanes to flee, the Information Ministry reported in a statement.

Clinton was briefed on the situation early this morning by Donald Kerrick, a deputy national security adviser, the White House said.

Four types of U.S. aircraft were involved in the incident — F-15E, F-15C and F-16CJ fighters jets and an EA6B prowler, a radar-jamming aircraft — according to the Pentagon. Such warplanes often fly in pairs while on patrol, but Bridges couldn't say exactly how many aircraft were involved in the attack against the Iraqi target.

The Iraqis fired surface-to-air missiles from an anti-aircraft site while the U.S. warplanes were flying as part of Operation Northern Watch, said Bridges. In response, the American jet fighters fired HARM missiles and precision-guided munitions. The Pentagon didn't say how many missiles or bombs were fired against the Iraqis.

"There was a hostile Iraqi action, an act of aggression, against U.S. aircraft flying as part of Operation Northern Watch," Bridges said. "The U.S. took appropriate action under their rules of engagement. It was an act of self defense."

British planes were not involved in the incident, according to a spokesman for the British defense ministry in London and the Pentagon. U.S. and British jets patrol the "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq that was set up in 1991 to protect Iraqi Kurds after they failed in an uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The last time the U.S. and Iraqi militaries exchanged fire in Operation Northern Watch was in September of 1996, according to the Pentagon.

The incident comes less than two weeks since American and British forces conducted four days of airstrikes against Iraqi targets to punish Saddam for not cooperating with U.N. weapons inspections.

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WT-Int. Crude -- $10.88

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Dec. 28, 1998
Vol. 50 No. 203
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Amy Meeker

Snyder-made product...

Could make world safer

From Local, Wire Reports

A new product being marketed by Snyder's YZ Industries can help prevent the kind of natural gas disaster that occurred Sunday in Colombia.

Last month YZ announced the launch of a revolutionary new product, the DTEX Odorant Detection System — a microprocessor-based odorant detection system that will streamline the testing cycle and give gas utility and transmission companies data never before available in the natural gas industry.

Until now, the industry relied on 25 to 45-year-old technology to survey distribution systems for the proper level of odorant in the natural gas.

In 1989, YZ designed and manufactured the industry's first integrated odorization system — a process to inject mercaptan into the natural gas to make it smell. The unique smell of mercaptan is what makes natural gas safe to use.

Each state in the U.S. requires natural gas to be odorized and regular tests conducted to ensure that odorization is dispersed throughout the distribution system. The regulations state that the odorant must be readily detectable by the human nose at one-fifth the lower explosive limit of natural gas.

Previously, analog-based competitive products had a technician smell the gas, interpret a sight glass or a numeric code, then cross reference that reading or code to a printed chart. Finally, the technician would write an odorant test report.

With the DTEX system, a microprocessor automates the process by calculating the reading and storing it in the on-board test location data base. When the technician returns to the office, the data can be downloaded into specialized software on a personal computer.

DTEX completely automates the process — eliminating handwritten reports, repetitive data entry and potential human error. It also provides an audit trail of historical test results. No other device in the industry accomplishes this.

All of this had its start in Snyder, in 1949, with six employees. Today, YZ is global. Last year, the company completed installation of an odorization system for the entire United Kingdom.

With manufacturing facilities located in Snyder, YZ's leadership in the natural gas industry will help eliminate a repeat of Sunday's tragedy in Colombia when 12 people were killed, 80 injured in a blast that set dozens of homes ablaze.

Authorities said the death toll could rise in Arroyo de Piedra, a village in Atlantico State, 410 miles north of the capital, Bogota.

The cause of the blast has not been determined, but officials said it appeared to have been accidental. There was no indication that leftist guerrillas who frequently sabotage oil pipelines were responsible.

Television images from the town showed several charred bodies laid out on a cement courtyard, partially covered with white and colored bedsheets. Bandaged, burned children stared from hospital beds.

Ruptured segments of the pipeline stuck out of a giant dirt crater left by the explosion of the underground pipeline in a humble neighborhood of wood and cinderblock homes.

"I'm in intense pain," survivor Nadim Cera told the Caracol television network, fighting back tears. The fruit vendor lost his mother, two sisters and a cousin in the explosion which also critically injured his father.

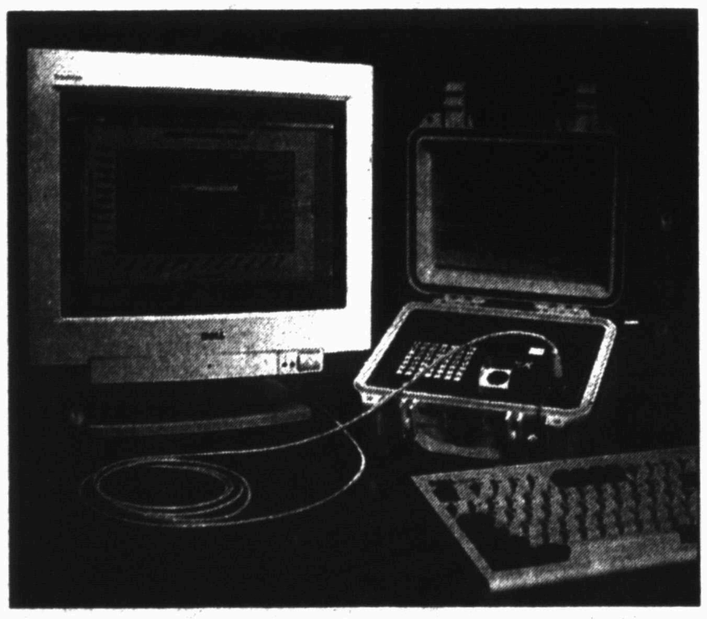
State health officials said nine people were killed immediately and three died later in nearby hospitals. Three of the dead and six of the wounded were children, they said.

At least 50 homes were destroyed, Gov. Rodolfo Espinosa told reporters during a visit to Arroyo de Piedra. Police said the gas was turned off immediately after the blast and the fire brought under control.

Sixty people remained hospitalized with serious burns and other injuries.

"Many of the patients are in critical condition at the moment," said Danorella Valderrama, the state health department's emergency and disaster coordinator.

At the University Hospital in Barranquilla, the state capital, 12 patients were in stable condition with third-degree burns over 80 percent of their bodies, said Diana Sarmento, a hospital admissions official.



NEW YZ PRODUCT — The DTEX Odorant Detection System, manufactured in Snyder, simplifies the odorant detection tests by automatically recording test results and downloads to a personal computer, eliminating report writing and human error. (YZ Photo)

NEW OFFICERS — Trent Driggers, vice president of Production Credit Association, will serve as 1999 president of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce. Driggers (left) is shown with the other chamber officers. From left are Elois Pruitt, vice president; Mark Cypert, president-elect; Paula McWilliams, treasurer; and Keith Hackfield, past-president. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Most fragile octuplet dies

HOUSTON (AP) — The fragile condition of their littlest octuplet was on the minds of Nkem Chukwu and Iyke Louis Udobi when they named her.

The baby's full name, Chijindu Chidera Louis, literally meant "God has my life" in her parents' Nigerian tongue. Nicknamed Odera, the week-old infant who weighed just 10.3 ounces at birth died early Sunday of heart and lung failure.

"We are very saddened by the passing of our beloved baby Odera," the parents said in a statement. "She is now safe with God in heaven and we remain most grateful to him for having blessed our lives with hers."

The first baby was born naturally Dec. 8, followed by the seven others delivered by Caesarian section 12 days later. They had been the world's only living octuplets.

Odera's condition deteriorated significantly Saturday when doctors moved her from a conventional ventilator to an oscillator to improve her blood oxygenation. Her oxygen levels remained poor and her heart began to fail.

Mrs. Chukwu, with her husband and mother, visited all eight babies for the first time Saturday night as Odera's condition worsened. Pediatrician Dr. Patti Savrick said the couple spent time beside each baby.

"They spent an especially long time at Baby Odera's bedside because they knew she was sicker and may not make it through the night," Savrick said.

Red Faver injured in freak accident

Even though it was Christmas Eve, Snyder's Red Faver wasn't doing anything out of the ordinary.

Faver has spent years in Snyder being a good citizen and helping fellow citizens.

This time it landed him in a Lubbock hospital — awaiting surgery this afternoon.

The mishap occurred about 12:34 p.m. Christmas Eve. Faver, a retired service station owner, stopped to help a stranded motorist on the IGA parking lot at 30th and College.

A 1988 pickup driven by Robert Burton had a dead battery. As he has done hundreds of times, Faver, 71, pulled out his jumper cables to jumpstart the vehicle.

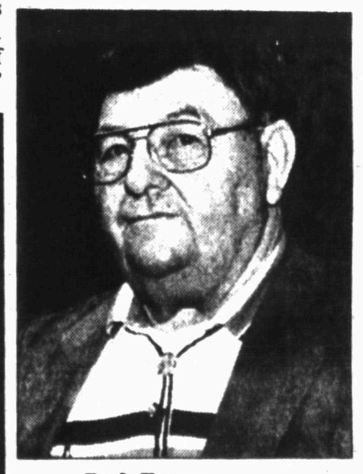
Faver said the vehicle was in gear when it kicked in. "I was lucky," Faver said this morning. "If I had been standing in front of the car, it would have killed me."

The front wheel did run over Faver's foot and knocked him down. The pickup ended up in the middle of 30th street.

"I've never had anything like that happen before. I've helped start hundreds. It was an accident, just one of those things," Faver added.

The right ankle was not broken, but the fall did cause a break below his right hip. This afternoon, a surgery team at University Medical Center in Lubbock will fix the break and Faver is scheduled for a hip replacement.

Faver, who had hip replacement surgery in 1984, was already considering another replacement. "It's going to happen sooner than I expected. Maybe it will help keep me from limping round."



Red Faver ...surgery today

ASK US

Q. - How many water line breaks did city crews have to respond to during the recent cold spell?

A. - According to city hall, there were 10 breaks — six main lines and four service lines.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 65 degrees; low, 24; high Sunday, 62; low, 27; 7 a.m. Monday, 27; no precipitation; total for 1998, 10.50 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, fair. Lows near 40. SW-W winds 10-20 mph; NW after midnight. Tuesday, highs, lower 70s. NW winds 5-10 mph; SW by afternoon. New Year's Day: Lows, 40-45. Highs, lower-mid 60s.

Tatum Norwood
Fair

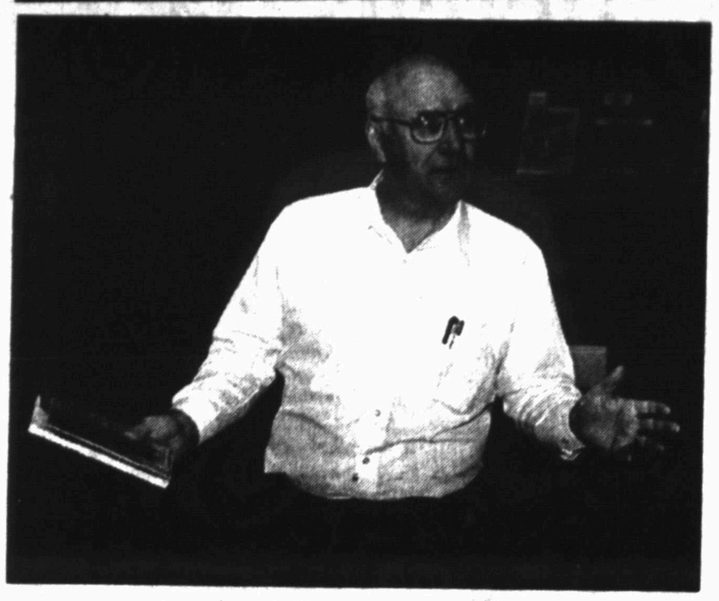
Sunset:
5:49 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:42 a.m.
Of 361 days in 1998, the sun has shone 355 days in Snyder.

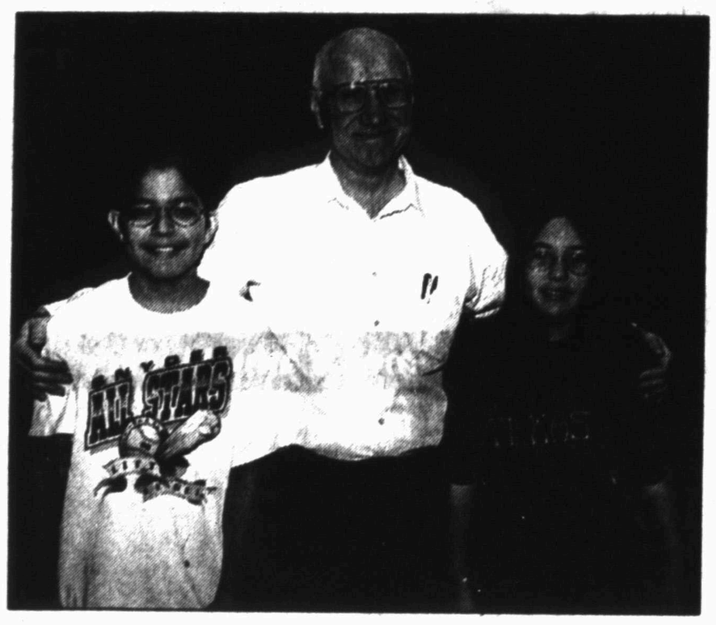
TODAY'S THOUGHT

"It took me a long time not to judge myself through someone else's eyes.

Sally Field

DEC 28 1998





AUTHOR VISITS — Herb Marlow, Texas author, visited Northeast and Stanfield schools recently. Marlow (top photo) spoke at Northeast first. He is shown (bottom photo) with Northeast students, Eric Martinez and Nita Swan. He spoke to Stanfield students later that same day. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Recent crimes get national attention

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Two teen-agers plead guilty to killing their newborn son. The husband of an heiress is implicated in a murder-for-hire scheme.

A politically connected lawyer from one of the state's most influential families is put on trial for the murder of the governor's scheduling secretary.

In tiny Delaware, 1998 has been the Year of the High-Profile Crime, with accusations, charges, pleadings and trials getting national attention.

"There's never been a year like this in my 15 years of practicing," said Wilmington defense lawyer John Malik. "Never have I seen such a continuous period of time with this many dramatic cases."

In March, Brian Peterson, who was then age 19, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of his newborn son and agreed to testify against his former sweetheart, University of Delaware freshman Amy Grossberg.

Peterson said Grossberg ordered him to get rid of the baby's body shortly after his birth in a Newark motel in 1996.

A month later, Ms. Grossberg also pleaded guilty to manslaughter, admitting she was reckless in not getting medical attention before the child's birth.

Peterson was sentenced to two years in a minimum security facility. Ms. Grossberg got 2½ years.

Then, there is the case of Thomas Capano, a wealthy attorney and former state prosecutor who went on trial this year for the death of Anne Marie Fahey, the scheduling secretary for Gov. Thomas Carper.

Capano acknowledged his three-year affair with Ms. Fahey, but maintained that he had taken her home after they dined at a Philadelphia restaurant in June 1996 and never saw her again.

That story changed in a Wilmington courtroom in October, when his lawyers admitted Capano had dumped Ms. Fahey's body at sea after she died in an accident — which last week he blamed on another mistress, Deborah MacIntyre.

Capano said a jealous Ms. MacIntyre found him and Ms. Fahey together and accidentally shot her. Capano says he tried to protect himself and Ms. MacIntyre by dumping Ms. Fahey's body at sea, in what he described as "the most cowardly, horrible thing I've done in my life."

Ms. MacIntyre denies even being at his house that night.

The case has sent a shudder through Delaware's tightknit legal and political communities.

Delaware, more accustomed to notoriety for its handling of the legal dealings of the many businesses incorporated in the state, also gained attention for two other criminal cases.

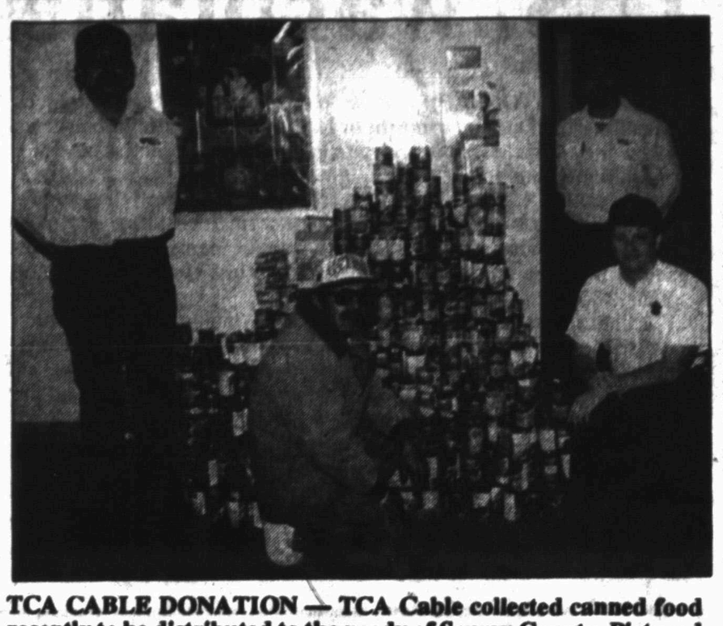
Last April, New Castle County police spent days looking for Debra Puglisi after her husband, Anthony Puglisi, was found dead in their home near Newark.

Then, she called police herself — saying she had been held hostage in Donald Flagg's home for four days after he killed her husband. When Flagg went to work at a local auto plant, she said she wriggled free of the ropes binding her and called 911.

Flagg has been indicted on charges of murder, kidnapping and sexual assault. His lawyers say they will rely on an insanity defense when his trial begins in April.

And, finally, there is the matter of Christopher Moseley, husband to an heir to the du Pont family fortune. He is being held in Neva-

See Crimes, Page 7



TCA CABLE DONATION — TCA Cable collected canned food recently to be distributed to the needy of Scurry County. Pictured standing from left are TCA employees Ralph Hernandez and Peter Pena. Kneeling are Frank Luna and Darren Jackson, Kiwanis Club members who picked up the food. (SDN Staff Photo)

CANNED FOOD DRIVE — Seniors collected the most food items and money during a canned food drive recently at Snyder High School. A total of 2,347 cans and $483.31 were collected with seniors collecting 1,197 cans and $287. The food will go to the needy of Scurry County and the money will purchase additional food items. Pictured clockwise from front, left are Stoni Riggan, Andy Parker, Kiwanis President Henry Valdez, senior class president Reid Johnson and Blake Bell. (SDN Staff Photo)

While mom in hospital for birth, six children killed in home blaze

DETROIT (AP) — Feameeka O'Steen was recovering in her hospital room two days after giving birth to her eighth child when images of a local house fire flashed across her television.

The 27-year-old recognized the home as her mother's and fainted. Six of her children who were trapped upstairs died in Sunday's blaze.

"She was flipping through the television," relative Terrence O'Steen told the Detroit Free Press. "After she realized that it was her mother's house, in her hospital bed she passed out."

Ms. O'Steen's mother, two sisters and one of her children — a 10-year-old girl — managed to escape after the fire started in a downstairs closet. One of the sisters was eight months pregnant and miscarried after jumping from a second-story window.

"Oh God, no! No! No!," neighbor Carolyn King screamed and fell to her knees as a medical examiner carried the first of six body bags from the house.

The fire, which trapped the children by destroying stairs leading to the second floor, appeared accidental, but the cause was still under investigation, said fire Lt. Katrina Butler.

Bobby Turner was driving by in his Detroit Newspapers delivery van when he saw the flames. He said he climbed up to a rear Plexiglas window and tried to break in, burning his hands in the process.

"I was banging on the window, saying 'Anybody in there? Anybody in there?'" Turner said. "I hit it and hit it and hit it."

Fire Chief Lee Moore identified the victims as Shameeka, 11; Shauniqua, 8; Anthony, 7; Taniquia, 6; Desiree, 5; and Ashaunta, 2.

The victims' 10-year-old sister, Shacoya, escaped injury. Maternal grandmother Hanna O'Steen, 47, and her daughters Makeba, 20, and Latoya, 15, were injured.

Latoya was in good condition at Henry Ford Hospital Sunday night, nursing supervisor Meredith Meyer said. A Detroit Receiving Hospital spokeswoman said Hanna O'Steen had been treated and released, and Makeba O'Steen, who lost her unborn child, was in serious condition after surgery.

Thirteen children have died this month in Detroit house fires. This year, 35 youths have died in city fires, compared to 16 in 1997.

"This is probably the worst December that I can remember," said Arson Chief Jon Bozich.

Firefighters got the first call at 6:51 a.m. EST, Moore said. "They pulled up and it was fully engulfed," he said.

Moore said the house had at least one working smoke detector, but he cautioned parents to tell their children what to do in the event of fire.

"You just don't take for granted that people know what to do," he said. "Maybe if they had an evacuation plan the others would have survived, too."

Ms. O'Steen and her new son, born Christmas Day, were supposed to be discharged Sunday, but were being kept at Henry Ford Hospital for observation.

Newberry Elementary School, which four of the children attended, was to open today to offer grief counseling for staff, students, family and friends of the victims. The school has also set up a fund to provide financial support, food and clothing for the family.

"This tragedy is devastating to the school and the community, and now is the time for us to wrap our arms around the family and provide them with the support they need, especially with financial help [illegible] ments," Principal Ronald Williams said in a statement.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Teen stuck in dreary job seeks out brighter lights

DEAR ABBY: I am 17, almost 18, out of high school, and working at an advertising agency. My aunt and someone I knew there got me the job.

When took the job, I thought it would be glamorous. Wrong. It's boring. I do the job well, but I don't enjoy working behind a desk seven-plus hours a day. I am very outgoing and want to work in the entertainment field.

Abby, I would like to go to college and study music, but my parents are so proud of me for having this job that I'm afraid it would break their hearts if I gave up this opportunity. I don't want to hurt them, but I don't want to be stuck here forever. How can I handle this without disappointing my family?

WANNA BE A STAR

DEAR WANNA BE: I'm sure your parents consider it a feather in your cap to be in advertising at your young age. However, as parents, they would not want you to waste away at a job you dislike. Be honest with them. Tell them you want to go to college and pursue a career in entertainment. They may caution you that the field is risky, but if you promise to also prepare in college for a secondary career in a more stable field, your parents will probably support your decision.

***

DEAR ABBY: We don't own a computer, but the Internet has had an effect on us. Our daughter lives 300 miles from us, and until our last visit, we always enjoyed the time we spent with her and her family. This time, however, they spent more time on the chat lines than they did with us. We were deeply hurt that the chat lines were more important than we were.

As we returned home, we discussed staying home in the future, rather than driving all that distance only to be put in front of a television set while they sat in front of their computer.

Unfortunately, many people ignore their guests in favor of Internet friends; they see nothing wrong with it.

We hope they recognize themselves in your column and take the message to heart.

STAYING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DEAR STAYING HOME: Don't count on it. The guilty rarely recognize themselves in my column and change their ways. I understand that some people get "hooked" on chat lines, but that's no excuse for ignoring guests.

If it's not inconvenient, consider inviting your daughter and her family to spend the holidays at *your* home occasionally, where no computer can interfere with the celebration or conversation.

***

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single parent, a father raising a 6-year-old boy. My father also lives in our home. My son gets a lot of attention from Dad and me, and he also has everything money can buy.

My friends have advised me to marry as soon as possible so that my son will have a mother. Should I rush into a marriage, or wait until I find someone very special? (I would rather wait.)

How will living in an all-male household affect my son?

WONDERING DAD

DEAR WONDERING: Although it's ideal for a child to have two parents in his life, the wrong mother is worse than no mother at all. Children are adaptable, so take your time and listen to your intuition.

Should you notice signs that your son is "missing" something, enlist the help of a female relative to provide some female influence. Or consult a child psychologist to advise you.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, 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. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

EDS gets second census contract

DALLAS (AP) — Electronic Data Systems has received a $100 million contract to help ensure the 2000 Census' accuracy with a state-of-the-art telephone assistance network.

At least 11 million incoming calls in six different languages are expected during a five-month period next year as census information is gathered.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census, which awarded the two-year contract to the Plano, Texas-based information technology and service company late this month, is trying to prepare for an accurate 2000 census.

The company and its partners, under a telephone questionnaire assistance program, will establish and operate about 30 toll-free call centers around the country to answer census questions.

Oil Patch News

Borden County

Texaco Exploration and Production will drill the No. 1322 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 7,700 feet, drill site is in Section 3, Block 33, T4S, T&P survey.

Texaco will drill the No. 1352-H Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 10,330-feet, location is in Section 4, Block 33, T4S, T&P survey.

Kent County

Sharp Image Energy has completed the No. 1 Fina, 18 miles west of Jayton. The well was finaled to produce 204 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 6,473-479 feet, and location is in Section 13, Block 1, H&GN survey.

Garza County

Cholla Petroleum has completed the No. 1 Connell in the Arlene field, nine miles east of Post. The well was finaled to produce 15 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 3,070-076 feet, and location is in Section 64, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Howard County

Vista Recourses has completed the No. 1-10 Chalk in the Howard-Glasscock field, four miles east of Forsan. The well was finaled to produce 57 barrels of oil from perforations from 2,166-514 feet. Location is in Section 125, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Westport Oil and Gas has completed the No. 235 Dora Roberts in the Howard-Glasscock field, two miles east of Forsan. The well was finaled to produce 35 barrels of oil. Perforations were from 2,360-715 feet, and location is in Section 156, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Vista Resources will drill the No. 1-8 Chalk in the Howard-Glasscock field, one mile west of Forsan. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, location is in Section 125, Block 29, W&NW survey.

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SUN LOAN WINNER — Mary Ann Gonzales (right) was the winner of a $100 gift certificate to Lawrence IGA awarded by Sun Loan Company. Pictured at left is Sun Loan manager Liz Castillo. (SDN Staff Photo)

Medical lobbying is intense

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anesthesiologists and nurses are spending millions of dollars fighting each other about who should put patients under before surgery.

It has become the most contentious issue in a set of proposed new rules for hospitals caring for Medicare and Medicaid patients. The battle shows how lobbying groups roll into action when their interests are threatened — and the disparities that can exist between them.

Both sides in the doctor-nurse battle have met with federal health officials, written letters and persuaded congressional supporters to intervene as they try to shape the Health Care Financing Administration's final rule.

They also have piled up lobbying expenses and boosted their political contributions, according to federal records.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists spent $1.2 million on lobbying in the first half of this year — more than five times the $222,316 that the doctors' group spent during the same period in 1997.

The nurse anesthetists' group increased its lobbying, too, on a smaller scale. The nurses spent $335,000 over six months, 16 percent more than the $290,000 they spent in the first half of 1997.

Over the last two years, the anesthesiologists have made more than $1 million in political action committee donations to lawmakers, and the nurses have given $650,504.

While the doctors have far outspent the nurses, "we have certainly been competitive," said David Hebert, chief lobbyist for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

The proposal at issue would allow states to decide whether nurse anesthetists should be allowed to work on their own, without being supervised by anesthesiologists.

OUTGOING DIRECTORS — Outgoing directors for the Snyder Chamber of Commerce include, from left, past president Keith Hackfeld, Jeffrey Martin, C.R. Perez and Rod Waller. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Justice Department: Violent crime at lowest point in years

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plunge in robberies helped drop violent crimes overall to their lowest levels since the government began surveying Americans about their experience as victims a quarter-century ago, the Justice Department says.

Rape and sexual assaults were the only categories not to show declines in 1997, said a study released Sunday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

A household survey reported nearly 35 million crimes against people and property in 1997. That was down from 37 million in 1996 and from 44 million in 1973, when the annual surveys began.

The nation's violent crime rate declined nearly 7 percent in 1997, the survey found, to an estimated 39 violent crimes per 1,000 U.S. residents over age 12.

The rate dropped from 42 per 1,000 in 1996. In 1973, the figure was 48.

The rate has been dropping since 1993, after roughly a decade of substantial increases.

In the current survey, a steep 17 percent decline in the robbery rate was largely responsible for the across-the-board drop in the violent crime rate. The rate of assaults decreased only slightly, and the rate of rapes and sexual assaults did not change from the previous year.

President Clinton claimed a measure of credit for the decline, saying in a statement that "these new figures again show that our strategy of more police, stricter gun laws and better crime prevention is working."

"Every 1 percent drop in crime means 90,000 fewer violent crime victims," Attorney General Janet Reno said.

The National Crime Victimization Survey charts a drop in violent crime of 21 percent the 1993 peak, when national crime rates were more heavily influenced by drug- and gang-driven crime.

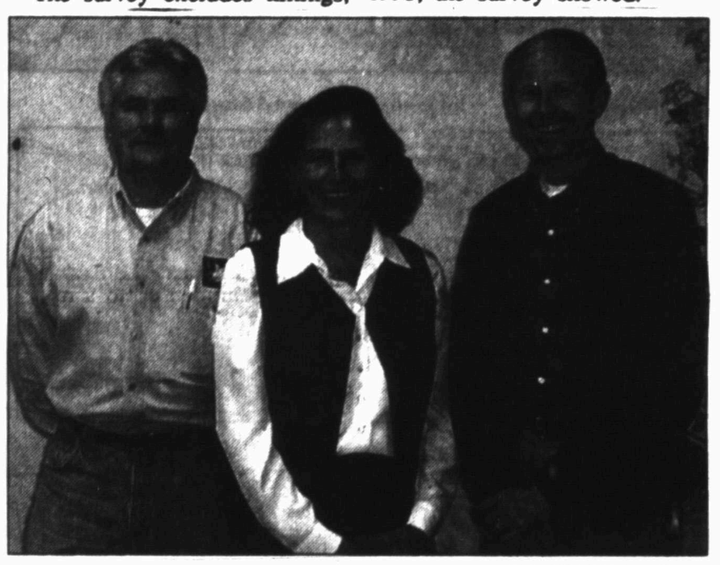
The survey also showed nonviolent crime rates declined by 7 percent from 1996 to 1997, and a 22 percent drop since 1993. Nonviolent crime rates are also at their lowest rates since 1973.

There were an estimated 248 attempted or completed property crimes per 1,000 U.S. households last year, compared to 266 per 1,000 during 1996. The figure was 319 in 1993 and 554 in 1973.

The survey involved about 80,000 people in 43,000 households. It covers robbery, rape, assaults and lesser property crime. The intent is to gauge how many people are crime victims, regardless of whether they report the incident to police.

The survey excludes killings, because it asks individuals about their own experiences, but FBI statistics show murders were down 8 percent in 1997. The 18,210 homicides recorded nationally marked a 28 percent drop from the number five years earlier.

Decreases in violent and nonviolent crime were generally spread across the population, although Americans age 50 and older have not experienced any drop in violent crime rates since 1993, the survey showed.



INCOMING DIRECTORS — Jack Whitworth with Lorber Industries; Dr. Missy Jones, SISD; and Mike Thornton, WTC (from left); are the new directors for the Snyder Chamber of Commerce who will serve two-year terms. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Just for Today NA, closed meeting; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just for Today NA, closed meeting; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA; closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

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

Just for Today NA; open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

Just for Today NA; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

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

New Horizons AA; closed meeting; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742.

Just for Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY

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

Just for Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

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

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	12-28-98
	♠ A	
	♥ 7 2	
	♦ Q J 8 5	
	♣ A Q 9 8 5 2	
West		East
♠ 10 8 6 4 3		♠ K 9 5
♥ K Q J 8 5 3		♥ A 10
♦ ---		♦ 7 6 3
♣ J 6		♣ K 10 7 4 3
	South	
	♠ Q J 7 2	
	♥ 9 6 4	
	♦ A K 10 9 4 2	
	♣ ---	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	2 ♥	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Dbl.
3 ♠	Pass	5 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

Victories in France

By Phillip Alder

This year's world championships were held in Lille, France. There were some technical problems with the running of the tournament, but that didn't stop the winners feeling elated. The Women's Pairs title was won by Jill Meyers, of Santa Monica, Calif., and Shawn Quinn, of Katy, Texas. Prior to the tournament, their regular partners cried off. So, although they had never partnered each other before, they teamed up and won not only this gold medal, but also bronze in the team event for the McConnell Cup.

They scored a near-top on this deal from the final session of the pairs. First, note Quinn's one-diamond bid as South. She has only 10 high-card points, but she has wonderful distribution, her honors in her long suits, and cards in the majors. These plus-values make the hand worth a one-level opening.

West made an eccentric weak jump overcall.

Meyers' three-heart cue-bid asked Quinn to bid three no-trump with a heart stopper. When Quinn couldn't, Meyers jumped to five diamonds.

Most players shy away from minor-suit games in a pair event. Why? Because if three no-trump is making, you have to win three more tricks to score better in a minor. And if you can do that, why not bid the slam? Yet when three no-trump is impossible, five of a minor comes into its own.

The defenders cashed two heart tricks, but a moment later, Quinn discarded one loser on dummy's club ace and ruffed her other three losers in the dummy. (The spade king's dropping on the third round was irrelevant.)

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Please join us in celebrating the 90th Birthday of
Laura Mae Williams
Wednesday, December 30, 1998
from 2-3:00 p.m.
The Garden Room, First Baptist Church
1701 27th Street,
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Your presence is the only gift desired.

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IT ONLY HAPPENS TWICE A YEAR...SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE
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We Will Be Closed Monday, Dec. 28 To Prepare For Sale
Tuesday, Dec. 29th Store Hours 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
All Fall and Winter Apparel and Accessories Reduced...
20%-30%-40%-50%-60% Off
CHOOSE FROM A TREMENDOUS VARIETY...
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Comic Page

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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

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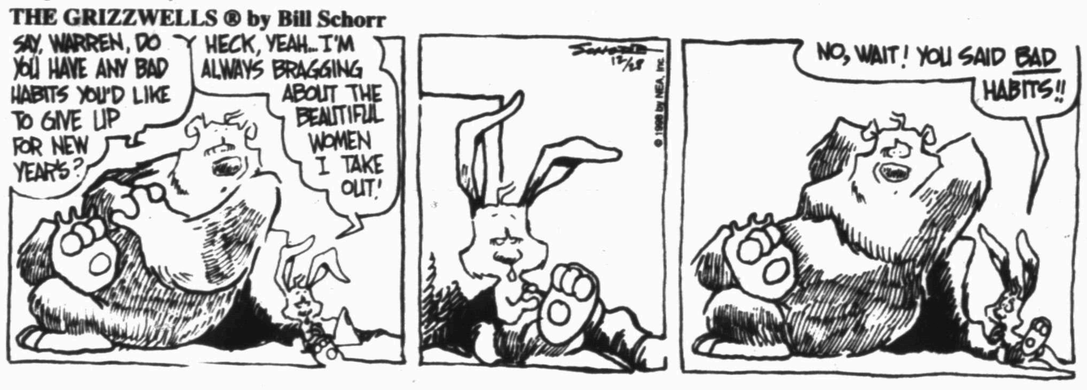

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Cursed
6 Stringy
10 Concealing
12 Candy maker
14 Epic poem
15 Small hole
16 — Lingus (airline)
17 Do the marathon
19 Exam
20 Lacking foot parts
23 Faint
26 Inquire
27 Roman 2,001
30 Door parts
32 Of medicine
34 Put into a secret language
35 Remington —
36 Very poor grade
37 Chat
39 Was over
40 Holds back
42 Italian capital
45 Beauty and — Beast
46 Map abbr.
49 Tooth covering
51 — studies
54 Termination
55 Stocking-cap ornament
56 Large rodents
57 Commemorative tablet

DOWN

1 New York City stadium
2 Dry (dishes)
3 Aroma
4 Tear
5 Chemical suffix
6 Cowboy Rogers
7 Playwright Clifford —
8 Heap
9 — St. Laurent
11 Pretty Woman star
12 Phil Collins' former band
13 ABA member
18 Gums
20 Takeout-order words
21 Nervous (2 wds.)
22 Used the rink
23 Storage building
24 Sauterne, e.g.
25 A single time only
27 TV horse (2 wds.)
28 Distance measure
29 Cooled
31 Washington city
33 Playing cards
38 Scrooge's word
40 Send in payment
41 Remainder
42 Like beets
43 Unusual person
44 Mother
46 Get up
47 Chinese monetary unit
48 Vogue competitor
50 Type of curve
52 Western hemisphere assn.
53 Iowa hrs.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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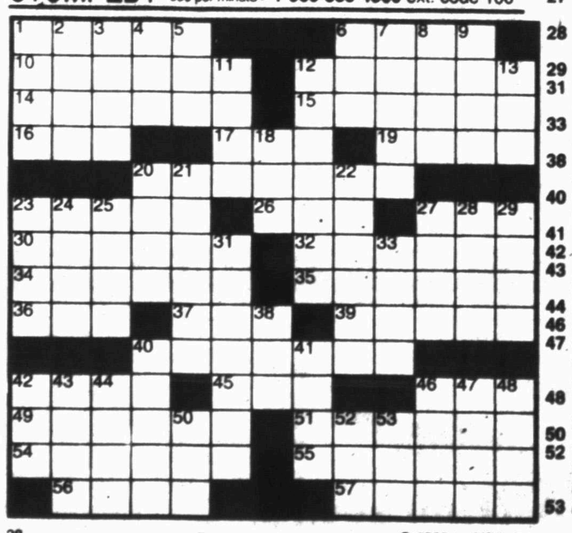

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"Normally I ignore things said to me in fun at the Christmas party, however ..."

"CAN I EXCHANGE SOMETHING SANTA BROUGHT?"

SPORTS

Cowboys complete sweep

Smith breaks TD record; Dallas gets date with Cards

IRVING (AP) — If nothing else, the Dallas Cowboys accomplished an unprecedented feat this year: sweeping the NFC East.

"Nobody else will ever be the first to do it," Dallas coach Chan Gailey said Sunday after the playoff-bound Cowboys beat the Washington Redskins 23-7 Sunday night, becoming the first NFC East team to go 8-0 against conference rivals.

"We wanted to do it, but it's not like that was the only thing on our minds," Gailey said. "We wanted to make sure we were healthy enough going into the playoffs."

Emmitt Smith ran for a pair of touchdowns, setting a NFL career record for rushing touchdowns, as Dallas (10-6) swept the Redskins for the first time since 1994. It was quite a turnaround from 1997, when Dallas went 6-10, costing coach Barry Switzer his job.

The closest an NFC East team had come to sweeping was the 1997 New York Giants, who went 7-0-1.

"This was something special for Chan to do it," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said "We didn't even come close to doing it in our Super Bowl winning years."

While Washington (6-10) saw its four-game winning streak snapped, Dallas goes on to a first-round game at home next Saturday against Arizona (9-7). The Cowboys beat the Cardinals 38-10 and 35-28 during the regular season, and Arizona has lost nine straight at Texas Stadium.

Smith broke the NFL record for career rushing touchdowns on a 1-yard run to cap a 65-yard drive in the second quarter. A 51-yard pass from Troy Aikman to Michael Irvin set up the score, the 124th rushing TD for Smith, breaking a tie with Marcus Allen.

"It meant a lot to me to get the record after nine hard years because there were a lot of people ahead of me," Smith said. "It was great to get it because of the way we played and winning the ballgame. It's something I definitely feel proud of."

Smith struck again on the Cowboys' next possession as he broke three tackles on a 26-yard touchdown run. Passes of 19 and 24 yards to Billy Davis helped out on the 88-yard drive.

"I just kept my balance and got some great blocking," Smith said.

"It's one of the greatest runs Emmitt has made since he's been here," fullback Daryl Johnston said. "This was a special day and a special game. It was a great accomplishment for us to sweep the NFC East considering all the great teams that have played in the division in the past."

Aikman, Irvin, and Smith all sat out the second half. Smith finished with 67 yards on 10 carries. Aikman completed 10 of 15 passes for 184 yards and Irvin caught two passes for 50. Smith finished the season with 1,332 yards rushing, his best season since 1995, when he had 1,773 yards.

"This was a game we definitely needed going into the playoffs," Aikman said. "I think everyone felt we needed to come out and get something going and we did. This team accomplished a lot more than anyone outside this organization thought possible. I think this team is ready to hit the playoffs."

Dallas got field goals of 34 and 23 yards from Richie Cunningham as the Cowboys took a 20-7 halftime lead. Cunningham also had a 26-yarder in the fourth quarter, which was set up by pass interference penalties of 32 and 33 yards on cornerback Tim Denton.

Washington got its only touchdown on a 6-yard pass from Trent Green to Leslie Shepherd, giving the Redskins a 7-3 lead in the first period. A 39-yard pass from Green to Shepherd positioned the Redskins for the score.

Redskins coach Norv Turner said the Cowboys looked like they did in November, before they opened December with three straight losses.

"The Cowboys were struggling offensively but they didn't struggle today," Turner said. "Aikman was sharp and they made plays."

The Redskins face an uncertain winter. The team is for sale and Turner's job status is uncertain.

"The last eight weeks we have scored touchdowns and not turned the ball over," Turner said. "Today we were the opposite. They did a nice job of blitzing and kept us from getting into a rhythm. I thought we could win the game but we didn't give ourselves a chance to win. The situation with us is unsettled and everything will settle out in the next month."

National Football League Playoff Glance

Wild Cards
Saturday, Jan. 2
Buffalo at Miami, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Arizona at Dallas, 4:05 p.m. (ABC)
Sunday, Jan. 3
New England at Jacksonville, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Green Bay at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Dallas, Green Bay or San Francisco at Atlanta, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Buffalo, Miami or New England at Denver, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 10
Buffalo, Jacksonville or Miami at New York Jets, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Arizona, Green Bay or San Francisco at Minnesota, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

At the Alamo Bowl...

Purdue faces tougher test this year

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — They're returning as defending champions, but the Purdue Boilermakers don't expect this Alamo Bowl to resemble the last one.

For one, Purdue beat Oklahoma State in 1997. On Tuesday, the unranked Boilermakers face heavily favored No. 4 Kansas State, which is playing for the first time since a devastating double-overtime loss to Texas A&M in the Big 12 title game.

Naturally, the implications are ominous.

"They will be out to prove a point," predicted Purdue quarterback Drew Brees. "They probably want to go out there and win by the biggest margin they can. ... They are definitely going to be ready to play us."

After the loss to Texas A&M, Kansas State (11-1) got snubbed by bigger bowls, and the disappointed Wildcats accepted an invitation to play Purdue in the Alamo Bowl, the fourth-choice bowl for the Big 12.

Kansas State is the highest-ranked team to play in the Alamo Bowl in its six-year history. Wildcats quarterback Michael Bishop insists his team is past its emotional reaction to bowl selection weekend.

"It's not in our minds right now," Bishop said. "You can't let the bad things keep you from getting out the next day and wanting things to be better."

Purdue (8-4) is appearing in a bowl game for only the second time this decade. Coach Joe Tiller, in his second season at Purdue, led the Boilermakers to a 33-20 defeat of Oklahoma State in last year's game.

Purdue offensive coordinator Jim Chaney said the Kansas State defense — ranked third in the nation in total defense — is the toughest the Boilermakers (8-4) have faced.

"From front to back, they're the best we've played. They are very physical on the play and they attack," Chaney said.

Keys for Purdue will be the passing accuracy of Brees and getting wide receiver Isaac Jones open.

"This game will be a status game for us, that we can complete with the elite teams in college football," said Jones, a senior who is fifth on Purdue's career receptions list with 143 and ninth in receiving yards with 1,665.

Brees, a sophomore from Austin Westlake, has caught the attention of Kansas State coaches and players, who are vowing not to take Purdue for granted.

"They do everything — they're a great passing team, they run the ball well. It's hard to stop them," said Kansas State linebacker Jeff Kelly.

Brees completed 336 of 516 passes (65 percent) for 3,753 yards this season with 36 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. He holds Big Ten season records for attempts, completions, yards and touchdowns.

"We're going to have to put a lot of pressure on the quarterback," added Wildcats defensive coordinator Mike Stoops. "We have to limit his opportunities. If he's on the field, he's strong."

Of course, so is Bishop, the Heisman Trophy runner-up who has been quietly preparing for the Alamo Bowl amid all the talk about Brees and his passing abilities.

Bishop, a senior from Willis, Texas, has never ended a college season with a loss and is 46-2 in his college career at Blinn (Texas) Junior College and Kansas State.

College Bowl Games
Saturday, Dec. 26
Insight.com Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Missouri 34, West Virginia 24

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Alabama (7-4) vs. Virginia Tech (8-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
MICRON PC Bowl
At Miami
North Carolina State (7-4) vs. Miami (8-3), 7:30 p.m. (TBS)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Kansas State (11-1) vs. Purdue (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

TCU cracks Top 25; UConn remains No. 1

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Connecticut and Duke held the top two spots in The Associated Press college basketball poll for the third straight week today, while Cincinnati moved up to No. 3, its highest ranking since being No. 1 two seasons ago.

The Huskies (9-0), who beat Fairfield by 35 points in their only game last week, were No. 1 for the fifth straight week, receiving 63 first-place votes and 1,763 points from the national media panel.

Duke (11-1) won one of the season's biggest matchups with a 71-60 victory over Kentucky last week and had six No. 1 votes and 1687 points, 52 more than the Bearcats (11-0).

Cincinnati, which had two No. 1 votes, moved up one place from last week after beating Houston by 37 points and Dayton by two. The Bearcats were No. 1 in the preseason poll and for the first two weeks of the 1996-97 season.

Maryland and Stanford each moved up one spot to fourth and fifth, while Arizona jumped two places to sixth.

Kentucky, which also lost to Louisville last week to drop two straight games for the first time since 1994, fell from third to seventh.

Indiana, which had been 10th, North Carolina, which fell two places after losing to Georgia Tech, and UCLA, which jumped two spots, were eighth through 10th.

Purdue, which lost to Providence on Sunday, dropped two spots to lead the second 10 and was followed by St. John's, Michigan State, Clemson, New Mexico, Minnesota, Auburn, Kansas, Wisconsin and Arkansas.

Iowa, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Texas Christian and Oklahoma State rounded out the Top 25.

Texas Christian (10-2) returned to the rankings at No. 24 and on a five-game winning streak. The Horned Frogs were ranked 25th in the preseason poll then fell out after losing their opener to Rhode Island.

Oklahoma (7-3) was ranked for the last two weeks, but the Sooners fell out from No. 23 after losing consecutive games to Mississippi and North Carolina State in the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic. The only game the Sooners won last week was a 2-0 forfeit over American University of Puerto Rico.

Kansas (8-3) lost to Saint Louis last week and dropped from No. 13 to 18th, the Jayhawks' lowest ranking since they were No. 18 on Feb. 5, 1991.

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 27, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1.Connecticut(63)	9-0	1,763	1
2.Duke(6)	11-1	1,687	2
3.Cincinnati(2)	11-0	1,635	4
4.Maryland	13-1	1,579	5
5.Stanford	9-2	1,460	6
6.Arizona	6-0	1,377	8
7.Kentucky	10-3	1,292	3
8.Indiana	12-2	1,223	10
9.NorthCarolina	12-2	1,124	7
10.UCLA	7-2	1,025	12
11.Purdue	12-2	988	9
12.St.John's	10-2	986	14
13.MichiganSt.	9-3	904	15
14.Clemson	11-1	831	16
15.NewMexico	8-1	695	11
16.Minnesota	8-1	666	17
17.Auburn	11-0	645	18
18.Kansas	8-3	561	13
19.Wisconsin	12-1	505	20
20.Arkansas	9-2	422	19
21.Iowa	9-1	376	21
22.Syracuse	8-3	254	22
23.Pittsburgh	8-4	200	24
24.TexasChristian	10-2	123	-
25.OklahomaSt.	7-3	115	25

Others receiving votes: Florida 93, Louisville 73, Temple 63, Tennessee 57, California 51, Coll. of Charleston 35, Toledo 32, Washington 30, Murray St. 26, Oklahoma 24, Penn St. 24, Mississippi St. 14, Southern Cal 13, Oregon 12, Georgia Tech 11, Creighton 9, Villanova 9, Xavier 8, Ohio St. 7, Providence 7, DePaul 5, N. Carolina St. 5, Seton Hall 5, SW Missouri St. 4, Tulsa 4, Colorado St. 3, Gonzaga 3, Miami 3, Miami, Ohio 3, N.C. Charlotte 2, Illinois St. 1, Navy 1, Saint Louis 1, Utah 1.

In preparation for Cotton Bowl...

UT coach worried about motivation

DALLAS (AP) — In his first season coaching Texas, Mack Brown has turned a 4-7 team into an 8-3 squad that boasts victories over Nebraska and Texas A&M. His star running back was named college football's best player and a redshirt freshman has emerged as the quarterback of the future.

"It's been fun," Brown said, "probably as much fun as I've ever had in coaching."

If there weren't another game to be played, Brown could to look back fondly and consider it a major success.

But there is another game — the Cotton Bowl, on New Year's Day, against a Mississippi State team that led No. 1 Tennessee in the fourth quarter of the Southeastern Conference championship.

Brown admits it will be quite a challenge to try inspiring his team to one more victory after almost a month away from action.

"The concern that we have had, and I know some of our fans have had, is that this team has already accomplished more than we ever thought we could," Brown said Sunday. "We've gotten a lot of thrills this year."

At his first news conference of the bowl week, Brown said he and his coaching staff are facing this dilemma: how many goals do you set?

"We're in the process right now with our team of resetting those goals and making sure that everybody understands that this game is really important," he said.

"It's important for recruiting, it's important for spring practice ... so we want a lot of momentum going into that. It's been such a great year for us in our first one that we'd sure like to end it with a win against Mississippi State."

Mississippi State has had a pretty satisfying season, too, going 9-3 and winning its SEC division before the agonizing loss in the title game.

Coach Jackie Sherrill already has enjoyed the most successful of his eight falls in Starkville. One more victory would make it even more memorable.

"The game plan is in place," Sherrill said following the team's practice in Texas Stadium. "We're just polishing right now. We're trying to move the concentration level up as we get closer to Friday's game."

Sherrill will join Paul "Bear" Bryant and Jess Neely as the only coaches to bring two schools to the Cotton Bowl. He is 2-1 in three previous appearances with Texas A&M, the last in 1988.

Sherrill also carries a 7-2 career mark against Texas, with the last two victories coming with the Bulldogs. The most recent, in 1992, was preceded by the infamous castration of bull to motivate his squad.

"I'm sure," Sherrill said, "that I'm not a good word to their fans."

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
y-N.Y.Jets	12	4	0	.750	416	266
x-Miami	10	6	0	.625	321	265
x-Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	400	333
x-NEngland	9	7	0	.563	337	329
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	310	444
Central						
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	371	335
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	330	320
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	260	282
Baltimore	6	10	0	.375	269	335
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	268	452
West						
y-Denver	14	2	0	.875	501	309
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	288	356
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	372	310
KansasCity	7	9	0	.438	327	363
SanDiego	5	11	0	.313	241	342

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East						
y-Dallas	10	6	0	.625	381	275
x-Arizona	9	7	0	.563	325	378
N.Y.Giants	8	8	0	.500	287	309
Washington	6	10	0	.375	319	421
Philadelphia	3	13	0	.188	161	344
Central						
y-Minnesota	15	1	0	.938	556	296
x-GreenBay	11	5	0	.688	408	319
TampaBay	8	8	0	.500	314	295
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	306	378
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	276	368
West						
y-Atlanta	14	2	0	.875	442	289
x-SanFran	12	4	0	.750	479	328
NewOrleans	6	10	0	.375	305	359
Carolina	4	12	0	.250	336	413
St.Louis	4	12	0	.250	285	378

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division title

Saturday, Dec. 26
Minnesota 26, Tennessee 16
Kansas City 31, Oakland 24

Sunday, Dec. 27
Buffalo 45, New Orleans 33
Carolina 27, Indianapolis 19
Baltimore 19, Detroit 10
Green Bay 16, Chicago 13
Atlanta 38, Miami 16
New York Jets 31, New England 10
Tampa Bay 35, Cincinnati 0
New York Giants 20, Philadelphia 10
San Francisco 38, St. Louis 19
Arizona 16, San Diego 13
Denver 28, Seattle 21
Dallas 23, Washington 7

Monday, Dec. 28
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville, 8:20 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Davis reaches 2,000-yard mark

DENVER (AP) — Terrell Davis became the fourth NFL running back to run for 2,000 yards in a season and won his first rushing title Sunday, gaining 178 yards in the Denver Broncos' 28-21 victory over Seattle on Sunday.

Eric Dickerson (2,105 yards in 1984), Barry Sanders (2,053 in 1997) and O.J. Simpson (2,003 in 1973) are the other members of the 2,000-yard club. Davis finished the season with 2,008 yards.

Fryar retires after Eagles' game

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Irving Fryar retired after Philadelphia's loss to the New York Giants on Sunday, ending a 15-year career. Fryar, who last week announced he would retire after the season finale, received a motorcycle as a gift from the Eagles.

The receiver had three catches for 36 yards in the game, falling 17 yards short of becoming the eighth player to reach 12,000 receiving yards. The 36-year-old Fryar also ended up two catches short of extending the NFL's longest current streak of 50-catch seasons to nine.

Billick to interview with Browns

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Brian Billick finally is about to become more than a rumored candidate for an NFL head coachin. job.

Billick will interview with the expansion Cleveland Browns this week, his first official chance to take over his own team after six seasons as Minnesota's offensive coordinator. His resume includes this season's NFL-record 556 points and a team-record 6,264 yards.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Explaining paroxysmal tachycardia

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have paroxysmal tachycardia. Please tell me what this is, what causes it, and what the best treatment is.

DEAR READER: Paroxysmal means sudden bursts of unpredictable activity; tachycardia means rapid heart rate — you are experiencing periodic episodes of rapid pulse.

Answering your question requires a detour into some basic cardiac anatomy.

The heart is divided into four muscular chambers: two low-pressure atria and two high-pressure ventricles. These chambers contract in sequence because of rhythmic electrical charges that begin in the heart's natural pacemaker (the sinoatrial node), pass through the atrial muscles, intensify in an area called the AV node (the junction between the atria and the ventricles) and then spread through a conduction system into the ventricles. All along this route are areas of cardiac tissue that can initiate their own bursts of electricity, competing with the normal mechanism. On occasion, one of these areas will fire off a series of charges (paroxysms), causing the entire heart to contract at an accelerated rate.

Doctors recognize three major sources of paroxysmal tachycardia: atrial, junctional and ventricular.

Atrial and junctional tachycardia are, by and large, harmless. They last from a few beats to a few minutes and are frightening because a person may feel that his or her heart is beating out of control. The tachycardia can usually be terminated by the Valsalva maneuver, during which the patient strains hard for a moment or two, as though having a difficult bowel movement. This maneuver stimulates the vagus nerve in the chest to slow the heart rate and re-establish a more normal pattern. Paroxysmal atrial or junctional tachycardia can often be prevented with drugs, particularly beta-blockers.

Ventricular tachycardia, however, is serious. It may herald the development of heart stoppage or a runaway rhythm. This ominous arrhythmia (irregularity) must be treated using drugs that suppress the ventricles' tendency to override the normal pacemaker. It often reflects underlying heart disease, such as coronary insufficiency, that also should be treated. Ventricular tachycardia may produce no symptoms other than lightheadedness.

Therefore, the answer to your question depends on your type of paroxysmal tachycardia. The symptoms should be assessed by a doctor who can give specific advice and treatment, according to the nature of the tachycardia.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Eating Right for a Healthy Heart." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: The glands in my armpits and neck have been swollen for about 15 years, and I'm always fighting anemia. I've always felt I had Hodgkin's disease, but the doctors just feel the glands and send me home.

DEAR READER: Hodgkin's disease and other forms of lymphoma (cancer of the lymph glands) are often chronic and associated with anemia. The diagnosis can be established by blood tests and a biopsy of one of the glands. Also, a 15-year survival for untreated lymphoma would be exceedingly unusual.

Although lymphadenopathy (lymph-gland swelling) does not ordinarily indicate a serious condition, you are correct in being concerned. I'm sure you'd feel more comfortable knowing the cause of your symptoms.

Ask your doctor to refer you to an internist for a second opinion. Such a specialist should be able to clear up the matter by examining and testing you.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Medical Specialists." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: What causes dementia, and how is it treated?

DEAR READER: Dementia is a term that describes a constellation of symptoms that interfere with daily function. These include loss of intellectual ability and the appearance of cognitive impairment. Dementia is chronic and, in most cases, progressive.

There are two major causes in the elderly: vascular disorders and Alzheimer's disease.

Accounting for an estimated 15 percent of dementia, vascular disorders consist primarily of small- to medium-sized strokes. Treatment involves physical therapy, anticoagulant drugs and — eventually — nursing care.

Alzheimer's disease is estimated to cause up to 60 percent of dementia cases. The cause is unknown and, until recently, these patients eventually became totally dependent. Even with powerful drugs to control confusion, disorganized thinking and outbursts of physical violence, Alzheimer's patients usually survive an average of 10 years and — for most of that time — require 24-hour supervision, ordinarily in a skilled nursing facility.

In the past few years, however, two new drugs have become available; both appear to slow the progression of dementia. Cognex (tacrine) and Aricept (donepezil) have been shown favorably to delay the need for nursing home placement. Other medications are currently under development.

In addition, studies have shown that the progression of Alzheimer's symptoms can be slowed by ginkgo biloba extract; vitamin E; ibuprofen; and, in women, estrogen replacement therapy.

Unfortunately, there are — as yet — no drugs to reverse the consequences of late dementia.

Thus, the treatment of dementia is slowly improving but is far from perfect. Best results are seen before profound mental changes appear. Late-stage dementia patients are still most appropriately cared for in nursing facilities, where 24-hour supervision and the use of behavior-modifying drugs can help to improve the quality of life for these unfortunate souls.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of both my Health Reports "Alzheimer's Disease" and "What You Should Know About Nursing Homes."

Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 for each report plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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Datebook

Dec. 28, 1998

Today is the 362nd day of 1998 and the eighth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1832, Vice President John Calhoun resigned. He was the first American vice president to do so.

On this day in 1949, the situation comedy "That Wonderful Guy" debuted on ABC television.

On this day in 1981, the first American "test-tube baby" was born in Norfolk, Va.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), U.S. president; Earl "Fatha" Hines (1905-1983), musician; Terry Sawchuck (1929-1970), hockey great; Maggie Smith (1984-), actress, is 64; Denzel Washington (1954-), actor, is 44.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1958, Alan Ameche scored on a one-yard run, giving the Baltimore Colts a 23-17 victory against the New York Giants in the NFL championship game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Faith is an excitement and an enthusiasm: it is a condition of intellectual magnificence to which we must cling as to a treasure, and not squander." — George Sand

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 26) and full moon (Jan. 1).

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Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Dec. 26: Ila Cox; Dec. 27: Billie Holt, Kelsey Davis, Jessie Roberts, Patsy Taylor, Rudy Trevino of San Angelo.

DISMISSALS: Dec. 26: Carl Ashley; Dec. 27: Melissa Garcia.

CENSUS: 35 (Med., Surg.-10, Long-term Care-25).

Crimes

Continued From Page 2

da on a charge he conspired to arrange the contract killing of his stepson's girlfriend in a Las Vegas motel.

In September, Moseley — the husband of Lisa Dean Moseley, the great granddaughter of former DuPont Co. president Lammot du Pont — was arrested on a golf course near Wilmington by FBI agents who said he confessed to conspiring in the death of Patricia Margello.

Her body was found Aug. 5 in an air conditioning duct at the Del Mar Hotel near Las Vegas.

Moseley and two others have pleaded innocent in Las Vegas and a trial is scheduled there for November.

1 subject is jailed over the weekend

One arrest was made and several offense reports filed over the weekend.

Officers arrested a 17-year-old male at 10:45 a.m. Saturday in the 3200 block of Avenue G for disorderly conduct/offensive gestures and evading arrest.

In other activity, Frances Gruben requested to speak to a deputy at 10:44 a.m. Saturday in reference to someone running over her mailbox at 1080 North Avenue L. An offense report for failure to report an accident involving a fixed object was filed.

At 2:41 p.m. Saturday, Teresa Moore requested to speak to an officer in reference to her cell phone being taken from her vehicle while it was parked at Allsup's. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was filed.

At 6:43 p.m., Moore contacted the police department to report her phone had been recovered and that she would pursue charges.

At 2:41 p.m. Sunday, an offense report for attempted suicide was filed.

An officer was requested at Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency room at 4:34 p.m. Sunday in reference to a seven-year-old male having been bitten by a praire dog at Towle Park. An offense report for animal bite was filed.

An offense report for Class C criminal mischief was filed at 5:17 p.m. Sunday at 209 35th Street in reference to a window being broken at the residence.

At 5:56 p.m. Sunday, officers filed an offense report for recovered bicycle in reference to one being located on Deep Creek near Lawrence IGA #400.

AP selects top stories

By The Associated Press

President Clinton's entanglement with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky that led to his impeachment ranked as 1998's top story, according to the annual Associated Press poll of news executives.

A happier duo provided the year's No. 2 story. The St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire hit 70 home runs, racing the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa, to shatter the single-season home run record that Roger Maris set as a Yankee 37 years earlier.

Global economic turmoil placed third, as a faltering Asia and Russia sent the U.S. stock market plunging. Then in descending order:

Hurricanes Georges and Mitch; the showdown with Iraq; elections that eroded Republican Congressional dominance; the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa; the spate of fatal shootings by schoolchildren; John Glenn's return to space; the tobacco settlement.

This was the 63rd year that the AP polled newsroom executives. Last year's top story was the death of Britain's Princess Diana.

For the third year, members of the public picked the year's top stories voting by electronic ballot on the AP's Web site, www.wire.ap.org. Their No. 1 story? The White House sex scandal and its political fallout.

Russian writes book about sex

MOSCOW (AP) — Give this much to Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the bad boy of Russian politics: He has an impeccable sense of timing.

As the year dominated by Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky drew near its close, Zhirinovsky took over a Moscow nightclub Sunday to unveil his new book: "The A to Z of Sex."

Zhirinovsky, an extreme nationalist with a taste for the outrageous, was once considered a strong candidate for president of Russia.

"Man needs something more in life," Zhirinovsky said, explaining how he came to write about sex. "Man doesn't live for the factory whistle, nor for the machine gun fire, nor for stocks and shares, nor for revolution and reform. ... It's our nature."

'Patch Adams' No. 1; 'Stepmom' is second

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Patch Adams," starring Robin Williams as a medical student with a funny bedside manner, debuted at No. 1 at the box office while "Stepmom" fought with "You've Got Mail" for second place during the busy holiday weekend.

"The Faculty" and "Mighty Joe Young" opened to mediocre business against tough competition, while "The Prince of Egypt" got a small boost in its second week, preliminary estimates showed Sunday.

"The Thin Red Line" and "A Civil Action" both opened to packed houses in limited-release, Academy Award-consideration runs.

Overall, movies grossed an impressive $134 million for the weekend despite fears that business would drop because Christmas fell on a Friday, a big film night.

The total was up 3.4 percent from last year, and an impressive seven films took in more than $10 million each.

"It just shows that there's a lot out there for an audience to discover," said Ed Russell, spokesman for Sony, which released "Stepmom." "The wide range of movies was a big benefit for the industry overall."

Leading the way was "Patch Adams" with $25.3 million — a record opening for a Christmas weekend release, topping "Michael" ($17.4 million in 1996.) It was the third-highest opening for a movie in December, behind "Scream 2" and "Titanic."

That was a belated bit of good news for struggling Universal Studios, which has suffered a string of flops such as "Meet Joe Black" and "Babe: Pig in the City."

The dying mother story "Stepmom" opened with an estimated $19.4 million, the best debut for a film with Susan Sarandon and the second-best opening for Julia Roberts, just behind "My Best Friend's Wedding" in June 1997.

Also vying for the No. 2 slot was the Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan romantic comedy "You've Got Mail," which had an estimated $19.1 million in its second week.

The "Prince of Egypt" saw business rise 5 percent to finish fourth with $15.3 million. But with a cumulative gross of about $40 million, it has only a remote chance of recouping its budget — estimated as high as $100 million — in the initial domestic theatrical run.

The heavily marketed "Mighty Joe Young," a remake of the RKO big ape flick, debuted with $10.9 million in sixth place and also has a long way to go to make up for its $70 million-plus, special effects-heavy costs.

Sandwiched between "Prince" and "Mighty Joe" was "The Faculty," the classroom horror film that opened with $11.8 million for fifth place.

"A Bug's Life" enjoyed a 1 percent jump in business even though it was taken off more than 300 screens, finishing seventh with $10.1 million. After six weeks, "Bug's Life" topped the $100 million mark with a total of $114.6 million.

"Star Trek: Insurrection," which had been tumbling after a strong opening, flattened out a bit, losing just 10 percent of its business to finish eighth with $7.5 million, well ahead of "Enemy of the State," which was ninth with $5.2 million.

Among the limited-release offerings, the World War II epic "The Thin Red Line" and the legal thriller "A Civil Action" played to sold-out audiences in New York and Los Angeles. Maya Angelou's directing debut in "Down in the Delta" opened weakly.

Oscar contenders "Shakespeare in Love" and "Waking Ned Devine" added more than 200 screens each and maintained strong business, while Italy's "Life is Beautiful" also got a holiday bounce after adding more than 50 screens.

Here are estimated grosses at North American theaters for Friday through Sunday as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

1. "Patch Adams," $25.3 million.
2. "Stepmom," $19.4 million.
3. "You've Got Mail," $19.1 million.
4. "The Prince of Egypt," $15.3 million.
5. "The Faculty," $11.8 million.
6. "Mighty Joe Young," $10.9 million.
7. "A Bug's Life," $10.1 million.
8. "Star Trek: Insurrection," $7.5 million.
9. "Enemy of the State," $5.2 million.
10. "Jack Frost," $4 million.

Thai officials criticized

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Frustrated filmmakers have criticized Thai authorities for refusing to permit a remake of "The King and I" to be shot on location.

Thai coordinators for the project and the screenwriter who tried to make a fifth version of the script palatable to Thai sensibilities called the Thai Film Board "paranoid."

"There can be only one reason why the board didn't approve the fifth script, and that is fear," coordinator Malinee Chakraband told Sunday's Bangkok Post.

Berry's World

"Here we go — 'Stating a score that is at variance with one's actual score is not an impeachable offense.'"

Happy 15th Birthday Sabrina

Love,
Mom, Dad
& Miranda

DEC 28 1998

WESTMORELAND WELCOMES SELLARS — Mary Westmoreland (left), retiring secretary for the Scurry County Coliseum, welcomes her replacement Linda Sellars. Sellars has been employed at the courthouse in the tax office for 14 years. Westmoreland had been coliseum secretary for four years. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Survey of police records reveals crimes at hospital

RUSK (AP) — Nearly 100 of 157 criminal complaints filed by patients or employees of the Rusk State Hospital involved violent crimes such as homicide, assault or sexual assault.

But it's unlikely the general public ever knew about most of the incidents because of a Rusk police policy that hindered media access to records, the Jacksonville Daily Progress reported.

The incidents include an attack on Billy Ray McDaniel, a slight, 51-year-old patient who died a week after he was beaten by a fellow patient last summer.

Rusk Police Chief Larry Robertson and Mayor Emmett Whitehead contended there was little public interest in the matter and that few incidents at the hospital merit news coverage.

Whitehead said most complaints lodged at the hospital yield no felony charges.

"I checked with the chief and about the only felony charges you'll get at Rusk State Hospital is some of these female patients holler rape," Whitehead said at an August council meeting.

The newspaper reported that it launched a months-long review of police offense reports after challenging a police policy that prohibits department dispatchers from even acknowledging reported crimes at the hospital without a supervisor's permission.

Robertson initially refused to release information about McDaniel's death, the newspaper said.

"This like this happen all the time out there, but y'all don't seem interested in those," the chief told a reporter when the information was requested.

Robertson now says he has reviewed the policy and is willing to cooperate with reporters.

Homework Club gets recognized

Three Central Elementary first graders in Pam Hart's class belonged to a Homework Club for the fall semester. Marcos Aguilar, Dana Garcia and Roberto Lopez consistently turned in their assigned homework, Monday through Thursday, throughout the semester.

Before the Christmas break, Hart arranged for the three students to sit at a special table in the cafeteria where they were treated to a lunch from the Pizza Inn.

Hart noted that she formed the Homework Club to emphasize the importance of doing homework and to begin training students to take "responsibility" for their own learning.

Mixed results for college admission law

AUSTIN (AP) — A state law intended to increase college enrollment of black and Hispanic students is getting mixed grades.

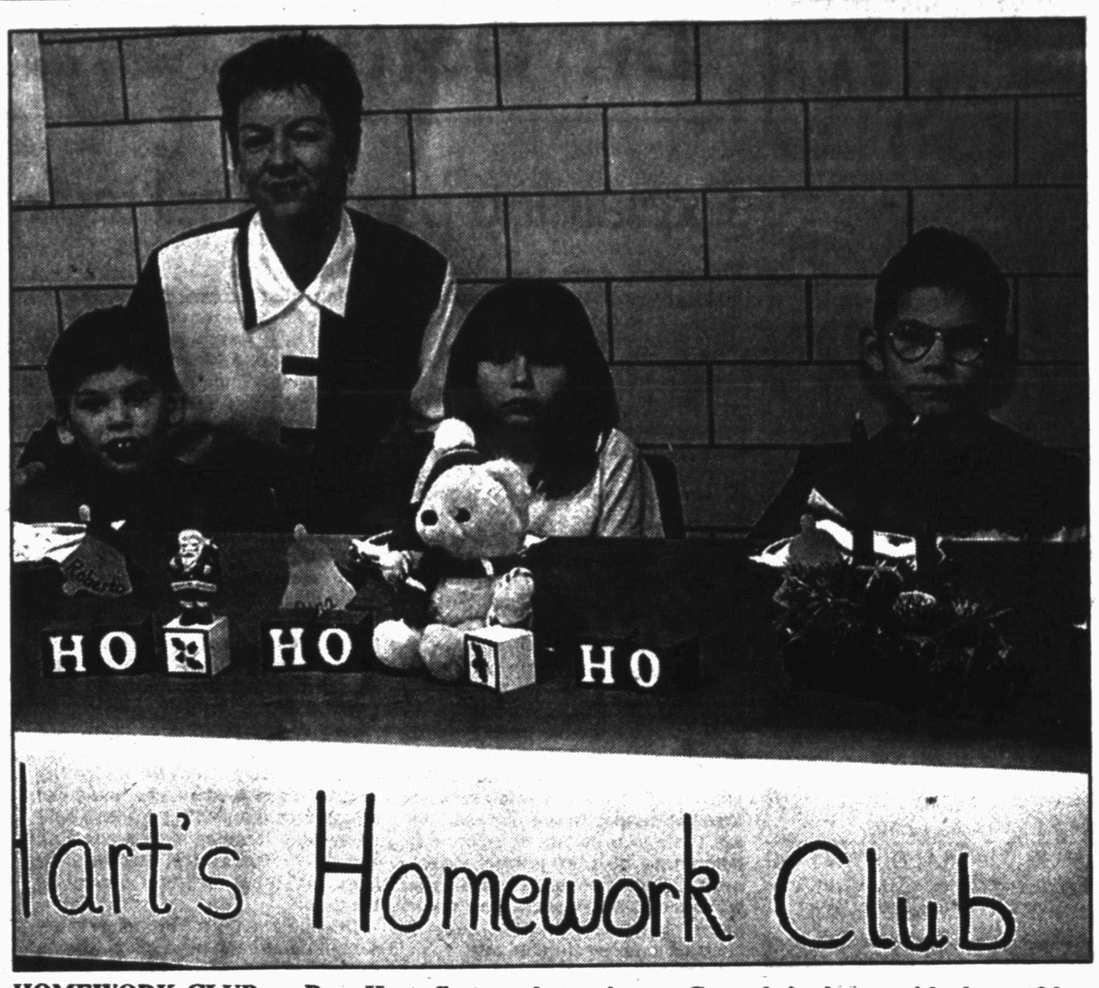
Officials at the biggest state universities said, however, that it's too early to tell if Texas' effort to trump affirmative action in college admissions is working since many students, parents and counselors were unaware of the 1997 law.

The law required state universities this fall to admit residents graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

"It's a story that's unfolding, and it would be difficult to predict the end when we're just beginning," University of Texas Admissions Director Bruce Walker told The Austin American-Statesman.

For UT, at least, "the top 10 percent law is heading the train in the right direction," he said.

Policymakers expected the state's most selective schools, namely UT and Texas A&M University, to have the most dramatic results. They were among the few schools that previously rejected some students in the top 10 percent category.



HOMEWORK CLUB — Pam Hart, first grade teacher at Central, is shown with three of her students who were in a Homework Club during the fall semester. For always turning in their homework, they recently got to sit at a special table in the cafeteria and enjoy a Pizza Inn lunch. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Filmmakers ask Bible expert for help on 'Prince of Egypt'

AUSTIN (AP) — The Bible story about Moses and his people's exodus from Egypt sounded like a sure box office flop to Old Testament expert Stephen Reid before he met with DreamWorks producers.

"I remember flying out to Los Angeles the first time thinking, 'How are they going to make money on this?' " Reid said. "And I remember flying back the last time thinking, 'They are going to make a lot of money on this.' "

Reid, an associated professor of Old Testament studies at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, was one of 350 religious leaders and scholars who served as a consultant on "The Prince of Egypt," the animated movie about the Bible's story of Moses freeing the Israelites from slavery.

Reid, in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, said his job was to view the film from an African-American perspective while applying his biblical and cultural knowledge. DreamWorks also had input from a spectrum of experts in Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

"They really set a level of excellence on biblical material that others will be judged by," Reid said. He predicted the movie "will go down in Bible film history."

Reid said two of his favorite scenes are when the baby Moses is set afloat in the Nile by his mother and the parting of the Red Sea.

The film took more than four years to make, and though DreamWorks has not revealed the cost, industry analysts estimate that the company spent more than $100 million.

"The Prince of Egypt," which brought in $14.5 million in its first week, was released Dec. 18.

Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1998

The seeds you've sown in the past could come to yield a hearty crop in the year ahead. Be ready for a greater harvest than anticipated. Stay on top of things already in the making, and you won't be disappointed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Members of the opposite gender are likely to be the ones who'll find you the most appealing today. However, you are also likely to be popular with almost everyone you encounter. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Look for opportunities today among new trends that could have an effect on your material well-being. Several of them might be undergoing adjustments to produce profitable benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take the limitation out of your thinking and let your expectations run high today. Although grandiose ideas can sometimes count for little, this will not be true at this time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your chart shows that you could be lucky through indirect involvements today. There is a possibility that you could derive material gains of some kind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Concentrate your efforts on worthwhile endeavors today that require your personal touch. Impressive achievements are well within your reach when your hand imprints the project.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's difficult for us to see ourselves through the eyes of our peers, but you might get a glimpse of their reaction today by the nice things people are saying about you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) An exception might be made in your case today. A favor not likely to be given to others will be granted to you by someone who rarely puts him or herself out for anybody.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't be intimidated today by size or titles. You're likely to be at your best when dealing with those who head up large groups or organizations. Empowerment comes from the top.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll likely fare best today in those arrangements with those you love. The ones who care about you will try to do all that they can to assist you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Lady Luck may be playing favorites today, and it could be you! A change initiated by someone other than yourself works out better for you than it does for the author of the idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to align yourself today with someone who always seems to enhance your luck. Unique benefits could be in store for you when dealing with constructive, one-on-one relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Conditions in general today look exceptionally encouraging where your work or career is concerned. Be alert for opportunities that might assure you an advantage in some way.

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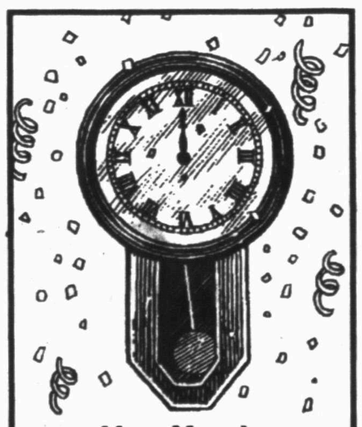

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Welfare-to-work where you'd least expect it

NEW YORK (AP) — Walk across the marbled atrium, through the security checkpoint and past the Java City stand dispensing caffeinated jump-starts to investment bankers. You'll find 10,000 Salomon Smith Barney employees moving more than $1 trillion each week.

It seems galaxies away from the struggles of welfare, but scattered throughout this world of multimillion-dollar stock offerings are 67 former welfare recipients — proof, backers say, that welfare-to-work can thrive even where you'd least expect it.

"Some of these women literally go from food stamps to stock options within a year," said Michael Schlein, a corporate vice president.

Beyond the odd marriage of welfare and Wall Street, the program represents a fundamental shift in the job-training field, from traditional programs that prepared people for the abstract work force to training for an actual, specific job. Here, the jobs include filing, processing checks and executing transactions over the phone.

And while these jobs are clearly meant for particularly qualified welfare recipients, the program is shaking up stereotypes about people on welfare — both within the company and, to a growing extent, the white collar world of finance.

Participants are woven into the fabric of Salomon Smith Barney after four months of specialized training at a neighborhood center and a four-month paid internship. The company participates to meet its own hiring needs — not to be a good corporate citizen — and recruits get very little special treatment.

"In a big company like this one, just being here alone is an opportunity to make it in life," said Jackie Diaz, 27, who began her internship in November working in the file room of accounts payable. Before that, she supported her two daughters with welfare and a midnight waitressing job.

Both the high-powered environment and the work can be intimidating. Margaret Herndon, hired permanently last year, remembers her internship in operations, where she executed stock transfers.

"I would call Merrill Lynch and ask, 'Does a certain party have certain shares?' Then I would transfer them," said Herndon, who now makes $24,500 a year after a 10-year absence from the labor force.

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Tommy and Mary Williams, residents of Snyder for many years, have been building a video business for some 15 years with God as their only partner. Tommy began with a Beta camera videoing his own children and their activities and soon others wanted tapes of those same activities of their own children. Through taping of various children's church activities, and the acquisition of much more equipment; the business has expanded into what is now - YOU STAR VIDEO. They tape weddings, video presentations of bride and groom's lives (usually used at rehearsal dinners), seminars, transfer of 8mm movies and slides to video tape, family and school reunions, special interest and training videos, and musical concerts. Several of their video tapes are on sale at SNYDER DAILY NEWS.

The last 3 years, Tommy has videoed the Western Swing Music Fest in Snyder. Those tapes plus special interest videos have been sent all over the United States and the world-including Spain, Japan, Australia, and Canada.

Mary does all the computer work and designs different covers for each event. Sometimes her original poetry is included on the cover. She runs a second camera for weddings and other times when needed.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Quick impeachment trial sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — The push for a speedy Senate impeachment trial is gaining momentum among key lawmakers from both parties. But Republicans say censure should be considered only after those proceedings begin, and perhaps not before they conclude with an up-or-down vote on removing President Clinton.

Democrats, meanwhile, say Clinton may not agree to a censure resolution that says he lied under oath. And talk of imposing a fine on him is slowing down, according to Minority Leader Tom Daschle.

"I don't think a fee will be part of the final solution," Daschle, of South Dakota, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Talks on the logistics are expected to intensify this week as the 106th Congress prepares to convene Jan. 6.

Senators such as Rick Santorum, R-Pa., and John Breaux, D-La., are suggesting the trial begin by the next day. Several senators said on the Sunday television talk shows that they want the matter concluded in the first two months of the year.

One GOP senator said censure should not be discussed until after the Senate votes on the perjury and obstruction-of-justice impeachment articles approved Dec. 19 by the House.

"We ought to vote on these articles of impeachment, and then that is the appropriate time to consider a censure," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said on "Fox News Sunday."

"Assuming neither of those articles pass, which is what's widely expected will be the outcome ... you sit down and you negotiate the censure alternative," he said.

Republicans and Democrats agreed that any trial should be quick, given that many senators of both parties believe there is little chance that the Senate could muster the two-thirds majority to convict and remove Clinton.

Internal surveys to see whether there actually is a two-thirds majority for conviction will not begin until after the trial opens, said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

Without the 67 votes needed, Senate leaders then would "come up with the strongest censure resolution there is," Hatch said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Democrats are pushing for a strongly worded censure to punish Clinton for trying to cover up his affair with Monica Lewinsky, perhaps adding a fine and admission of perjury. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., said he is leading a bipartisan censure drafting effort.

5 escapees recaptured; 1 still at large

Inmates broke out of maximum-security Tennessee prison

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Five of six inmates who used a pre-dawn Ramadan meal as an opportunity to overpower their guards were recaptured within a day and a half of their escape. The search continued today for the other, a convicted murderer.

Lyle Thomas Van Ulzen, 33, and Jay Roy Denton, 32, were found this morning in an industrial area about three miles from Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, according to Jim Rose, assistant commissioner for operations for the state Department of Correction. They were brought back to the prison at about 11 a.m.

Van Ulzen is serving 65 years for second-degree murder and arson while Denton is serving seven years for burglary and a previous escape.

Two other escapees were captured late Sunday, about 18 hours after they fled the prison on the outskirts of Nashville. Another was found about 2 a.m. today. He told officers he was wet, tired and hungry.

Still at large was Aaron Tyrone James, 24, sentenced to 50 years for second-degree murder, kidnapping and robbery. In March, James and another convicted killer used a homemade knife to steal a delivery truck, which they drove through a fence at Riverbend. Guards shot out the tires before they escaped.

Riverbend, home to death row and built in 1989, has about 700 inmates and is one of several in the mostly industrial, wooded area along the Cumberland River a few

Around 5:30 a.m., they overpowered two guards, took their radios and jackets, and chained them to chairs with handcuffs and leg irons and stashed them in a laundry room, she said. One of the inmates then got into the prison control room, somehow fended off the officer there and opened the cell doors of the other four inmates.

None of the guards was injured, Hobbins said. She didn't think the men took weapons from the guards because the officers may only carry pepper spray inside the prison.

Investigators did not know how the inmates got outside. Once they did, they used a ladder to scale two 12-foot fences that encircle the grounds, shielding themselves from the fences' razor wire with a mattress.

"There was a trail of blood, which gave evidence that some of them had been cut on the razor wire," Hobbins said.

Prison officials discovered the breakout when guards were late in reporting a head count.

State and local police set up checkpoints and used dogs and helicopters to search for the escapees, who were dressed in blue jeans and blue prison shirts with white T-shirts.

Seventh anthrax scare keeps 800 quarantined

POMONA, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of people were quarantined for hours inside a nightclub after a phony anthrax threat, at least the seventh such hoax in Southern California this month.

No trace of the potentially deadly bacterium was found in preliminary tests, authorities said Sunday.

A Los Angeles County hazardous materials team and the FBI's Domestic Terrorism Task Force were called to the Glass House club at 11:50 p.m. Saturday after a man called the Police Department and said "a significant quantity" of anthrax would be released into the air, police Lt. Gary Graham said.

If inhaled and then left untreated, anthrax spores can cause respiratory failure and death within a week.

About 800 people were kept inside the club for about four hours while the air-conditioning system was checked and samples taken for further study, Graham said.

Clubgoers then were taken outside and given information on anthrax symptoms. They were then allowed to return to the club if they wished.

Thousands are still without power in South, Pacific NW

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Four days after an ice storm crippled electrical service across the South, thousands of customers were still in the dark today.

Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore asked residents to help neighbors get through the state's worst ice storm in five years while Virginia Power continued around-the-clock efforts to restore service.

"This is a time where neighbors need to look after neighbors," Gilmore said Sunday. "This is a time for every Virginian to step up."

Stormy weather also caused widespread outages in the Northwest, and a threat of avalanches stranded thousands of travelers.

About 81,000 Virginia homes and businesses had no power today, mostly in the central counties, and states of emergency had been declared in at least 17 locations. At the height of the storm, 285,000 customers were without power.

In Tennessee, about 22,000 customers were waiting to have service restored, along with fewer than 10,000 in Mississippi and 5,500 in Alabama. Crews worked into the night to restore power in northern Louisiana.

Obituaries

Hazel Denson

1902-1998

Hazel Denson, a longtime Snyder resident, died this morning in Snyder Healthcare Center.

Funeral service for Mrs. Denson, 96, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the North College Avenue Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 16, 1902 in Calera, Okla., she married Henry Grady Denson on Dec. 10, 1922 in Achille, Okla. He died on March 1, 1979.

A Snyder resident since 1947, Mrs. Denson was a homemaker and a member of the North College Avenue Baptist Church.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Dewey Denson; two sisters; and six brothers.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Barbara Denson of Ira; a daughter, Peggy Grinslade of Snyder; a daughter-in-law, Martha Denson of Garland; three sisters, Fay Jackson and Ray Martin, both of Denison and Mamie Ritter of Durant, Okla.; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

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	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	59 15-16	59	59 3-16	— ⅛
AT&T Corp	74 15-16	74 9-16	74⅛	+ 1-16
AirTouch	67 15-16	67⅛	67⅛	— ⅛
Albertsons	66 7-16	65 13-16	65 13-16	— 7-16
AlldSignal	43 11-16	43 3-16	43⅛	— 1-16
Alltel	58	57⅛	57 11-16	— 1-16
AmOnline s	152⅛	139⅛	149⅛	+ 13
AmStores	38 13-16	38⅜	38 7-16	— 5/16
Ameritech	61 15-16	61	61⅛	— ⅛
Amoco s	58¼	58⅛	58¼	— ⅛
AndarkPtr s	29⅛	28¼	29⅛	+ 9-16
Armcolnc	4⅛	4 5-16	4 5-16	— 1-16
AtlRichfld	64⅛	63 13-16	63⅜	— ¼
ATMOS Egy	31¼	31⅛	31 13-16	+ 5-16
Aviall		11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
BakerHughes	17 1-16	16⅛	16 11-16	— 7-16
BankAmerica	62 3-16	61 3-16	61⅜	— ⅛
BellAtl s	58⅜	58	58⅜	+ 5-16
BellSouth s	46 9-16	45⅞	46⅜	+13-16
BethSteel	8 5-16	8¼	8¼	
BritPet	90⅜	90 5-16	90 5-16	— 5-16
BurlNoSFe s	34	33⅜	33 9-16	+ 5-16
CBS Corp	31⅞	30 9-16	31⅛	+ 9-16
Caterpillar	44¼	43 13-16	44⅛	+1 3-16
CenSoWst	27⅛	27⅛	27 7-16	+ 1-16
Chevron	84 1-16	83⅛	84	—11-16
Citigroup	52 3-16	51⅛	51⅜	+ ⅛
Coastal s	35 9-16	34 7-16	34½	— 9-16
CocaCola	69 15-16	69 3-16	69⅜	— 3-16
ColgatePalm	92¼	91¼	91 9-16	— ⅜
ComclMetals	26 11-16	26⅛	26 5-16	— 5-16
Cooperln	47 5-16	46	46½	—15-16
CyprusAmax	9⅜	9 5-16	9 5-16	— ⅛
DaimlrChry s	99 3-16	98	98 13-16	+ 4⅛
DallSemico		39⅛	39	39⅛ + ⅛
DeltaAirl s	50 15-16	50⅛	50⅛	+ 3-16
Dillards Inc	28 11-16	27⅛	28	— 3-16
DowChem	92 1-16	91 3-16	91 5-16	—15-16
DuPont	56⅛	55⅛	55 7-16	— ⅛
EastmanChem		44 5-16	44	44⅛ — ⅛
EstKodak	73 1-16	72⅛	72⅛	— ⅛
EDS Corp	49 9-16	47 9-16	47⅞	+ 5-16
Entergy	31 7-16	31 5-16	31 5-16	— 1-16
Exxon	74⅜	74⅛	74 3-16	— 7-16
Flowers	23 15-16	23⅜	23⅜	— 1-16
FordMotor s	59 11-16	59⅛	59 9-16	+11-16
GTE Cp	69¼	68 7-16	68⅛	— 9-16
GenDynam s	56¼	55 13-16	56⅛	+1 7-16
GenElec	101¼	101	101⅜	+ 5-16
GenMills	77 1-16	76⅛	76⅛	— ⅜
GenMotors	74 3-16	73	73⅛	— 5-16
GaPacGP	55 11-16	55⅛	55 11-16	+11-16
GlobalMar	9⅛	8 13-16	8 13-16	— ⅛
Goodrich	33¾	33	33 1-16	— ⅛
Goodyear s	50 15-16	50⅛	50 11-16	+ 1-16
GtAtlPac	29½	29¼	29⅝	+ ¼
Halliburta	32 13-16	32 1-16	32 3-16	—13-16
Hanson ADS	39⅛	39⅛	39⅛	— ⅛
HarteHanks s	27⅛	26 13-16	27 7-16	+ ⅛
HomeDepot	60⅛	59⅜	59 13-16	— 3-16
HoustonInds	32⅜	32 5-16	32⅜	— ⅛
IBM	189 15-16	186	189⅛	+1 3-16
IntlPaper	43 15-16	43¼	43⅜	— ⅛
JohnsonJn	80⅜	79⅜	80 11-16	+1 5-16
K mart	14	13 13-16	13 15-16	— 3-16
Kroger Co	59 9-16	58 13-16	59 7-16	+ ⅛
Litton	60⅛	60⅛	60⅜	— ⅛
LockhdMart	85⅛	84⅛	84⅛	+ ⅛
Lowes Cos s	50 15-16	50⅛	50⅝	+ ⅛
Lubys	15⅜	15⅛	15⅜	+ ¼
LucasTech s	111 13-16	108 1-16	111⅛	+ 4⅛
MayDeptStrs	60⅜	60⅛	60 3-16	— ⅛
MediaOne	46⅞	46⅛	46 7-16	+ ⅛
Medtronic	75 13-16	75⅛	75 9-16	+ 3-16
Mobil	88⅛	87⅛	87⅞	— 1
Monsanto			46	45⅞ 45⅞
MorganJP	106⅜	105⅞	106 3-16	+1 3-16
Motorola	60 13-16	60⅛	60 3-16	+ ⅛
NCR Corp	37⅞	37⅛	37 9-16	+ ⅛
Navistar	28	27⅞	27⅞	+ 5-16
OryxEngy	13	12⅞	12 13-16	— ⅛
Penney JC	48 9-16	48⅛	48 3-16	— ⅛
Penzoil	31⅛	30 7-16	31 1-16	+ ⅛
PepBoys	15¾	15⅛	15 3-16	— 1-16
PepsiCo	40⅞	40 1-16	40⅛	+ 1-16
PhelpDodge	50⅛	49⅝	49⅞	—1 3-16
PhilipPet	42⅛	42	3-16	42⅛ — ⅛
PilgrmPrd B	17 13-16	17⅛	17 13-16	+ 1-16
Polaroid	17 15-16	17	11-16	17⅛ — ⅛
Praxair	33 13-16	33⅜	33⅜	+ ⅛
ProctGamb	94 11-16	92 15-16	94 3-16	+ 7-16
PubSNwMx	19 15-16	19⅛	19⅛	
RoyalDut	49 9-16	49 3-16	49 3-16	— 3-16
SBC Comm s	52⅛	52 9-16	52⅜	— ⅛
SaraLee s	29 9-16	29	29	— ⅛
Scripps EW	49⅛	49	49⅛	+ 5-16
SearsRoeb	41 15-16	40⅞	41 1-16	—13-16
SherwinW	28 5-16	28	28⅛	+ 1-16
SmithkldBchm	69⅛	69⅛	69⅜	— ⅛
SouthernCo	29 7-16	29 3-16	29⅛	— 3-16
SwstAirl s	22 3-16	21 11-16	21 15-16	
SprintFON s	84⅛	83⅜	84 1-16	— 1
SprintPCS s	18	17⅛	17 15-16	+ 9-16
Sunoco Inc	33 11-16	33⅛	33⅛	— 3-16
Tandy	41 7-16	40⅛	41 7-16	+ ⅛
TempleInland	54⅛	54 3-16	54⅛	+ ¼
Tenneco	32⅛	32⅛	32 7-16	
Texaco	51 11-16	51	1-16	51 7-16 + ⅛
TexInd	26¼	26	26	— 3-16
TexasInst	87⅛	85 7-16	86	+ ⅛
TexUtil	46 13-16	46 5-16	46 5-16	— ⅛
Textron	72⅛	72⅛	72⅜	— 7-16
TricomGlbR	48⅛	47 9-16	47 15-16	+ 5-16
TrinityInds	35 11-16	35	35 7-16	+ 3-16
TritonEngy		7⅛	7⅛	7 11-16
Tyler	5⅛	5⅛	5 13-16	— 1-16
US West Inc	65	64 5-16	64⅝	+ 9-16
USX-Marathn	28 5-16	27⅛	27 15-16	
USX-USS	23⅛	23	23 1-16	— 7-16
UnCarbde	44⅛	43⅛	43 13-16	+ 5-16
UnionPacif	44	43	43 1-16	—11-16
UnitedTech	109¼	107⅛	109	+2 5-16
Unocal	29⅛	28⅛	28⅜	— 1
Venator Grp	6⅜	6⅛	6⅛	
WalMart	81 3-16	79 1-16	79 3-16	—1 15-16
WellsFargo	38 9-16	37⅛	38 9-16	+13-16
WstnGasRs	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛	
WinnDixie	46 5-16	45⅛	45 15-16	+ 9-16
Xerox Corp	114⅜	111 5-16	114 9-16	+4 1-16

WHAT'S UP?

events

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 this evening are "The Church as Part of God's Eternal Plan," followed by "Teaching Your Child to Pray."

Joint retirement reception

A joint retirement reception honoring District Clerk Elois Pruitt and County Commissioner Jerry Gannaway will be held from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday in the county courtroom.

Lions Club meeting set

The Snyder Lions Club will not meet Tuesday. The next meeting will be Jan. 5 at the regular time.

Blood pressure checks

Cogdell Home Health blood pressure checks will be held Wednesday, replacing the regular Friday clinic.

No Rotary meeting

The Snyder Rotary Club will not meet Thursday. The next regular meeting will be Jan. 7.

New Year Mass schedule

Our Lady of Guadalupe announces its New Year Mass schedule: 7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday.

1998 First Methodist cookbook

The First United Methodist Church's 1998 cookbook, compiled by the Angel Seekers Sunday School Class and dedicated to the memory of Ruby Anderson, can be purchased at the church or Classic Interiors. The cost is $10 and all proceeds benefit the Lord's Acre projects.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District is selling windbreak trees. Both evergreens and hardwoods are available. Call 573-6317, or come by the office at 5309 Big Spring Highway.

Social Security visits

Representatives of the Big Spring Social Security office will be at the Snyder Senior Center on Tuesday, Jan. 12. For additional information, call 1-800-772-1213.

Adult education classes

Adult basic education classes that can lead to a GED are underway at Western Texas College. Students may enroll at any time in Room 209 of the WTC library. Both day and evening sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday. Call 573-8511, Ext. 322, for more information.

Road to Recovery program

Volunteers are needed to take patients to Abilene or Lubbock one day a week for cancer treatment. Following approval by the American Cancer Society, drivers will be provided liability insurance and can be reimbursed for fuel expenses incurred for the trip. For more information, contact ACS Road to Recovery volunteer coordinator Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 and leave a message, or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

Engine flames force plane evacuation

GRAPEVINE (AP) — A Delta airplane stopped short of taking off from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Saturday evening after crew members of another plane reported seeing flames shooting out of the jet's engines.

The crew ordered the plane's 47 passengers to evacuate, but officials said no fire was found.

Delta spokesman Clay McConnell said the flames that were seen in the engine were sparked by residual gasoline and were not dangerous.

"As it turns out, it appears it might not have been necessary to evacuate that aircraft, but you have to make a prudent decision," McConnell said. "At the time, that was the prudent decision."

The plane was headed to Cincinnati and was about one-third full.

Authorities said a few passengers suffered minor injuries sliding down the MD-88's inflatable evacuation chutes, and two people were taken to a hospital for minor ankle injuries.

The rest of the passengers were bused back to the terminal and booked on other flights.

Pick 3

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

4-9-1

(four, nine, one)

Lotto Texas

By The Associated Press

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

A matching ticket would have been worth an estimated $14 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 7-15-19-26-31-39.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $18 million.