LOCAL

Meaning of season

"I used to be a little kid who wanted his Christmas presents. Nowadays just watching the children open their presents makes (Greg Palko) feel good."/1B

SPORTS

Championship

Austin Westlake finally has a state title with 55-15 win over Abilene Cooper for the Class 5A Division II championship./1C

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Daily 50¢, Sunday $1.50 | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1996 | Vol. 69, No. 308

Not so wintry forecast

Midlanders' Christmas promises to be anything but white

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

It's hard to predict what the weather will bring Midlanders come Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

But it is almost a certainty that the snow won't be falling over Midland to bring forth a "White Christmas."

"Currently, it looks like dry," said National Weather Service meteorologist Wade Earle at Midland International Airport. "Of course, that's going to be a given" in West Texas where dry weather is the norm.

Unlike last week's record-breaking series of low temperatures, including an ice-happy 10 degrees just three days ago, this week promises mild temperatures, winds of breeze to gust velocity, just barely freezing-to-chilly low temperatures of 30 to 35 degrees, and wintry warm daytime highs in the 60s.

"We don't see any precipitation for at least the next five to seven days or longer," Earle said Saturday.

However, he said, "It can change. There is some Arctic

Please see WINTER/4A

Curt Wilcott/Reporter-Telegram

The home above on Winddrift is one of thousands of homes in Midland all decked out for the holidays. The character at left lives on the lawn of 1519 S. Marshall St. for the Christmas season. Many Midland residents have pulled out all the stops this year to give families who make seeing Christmas lights part of their holiday tradition something to look at. For more on "Tis the Lights Before Christmas" and photos, see the Lifestyle page on 1D.

McLaren awaits public hearing

■ Republic of Texas "ambassador" plans to stay in Fort Davis "embassy" until he can present evidence that Texas is sovereign nation.

By Joe Gaines
Staff Writer

FORT DAVIS — Holed up in Fort Davis, Richard McLaren, an "ambassador" for the group Republic of Texas, awaits either a public hearing that he has scheduled on Texas' independence, or action by U.S. marshals. Whichever comes first.

McLaren hopes U.S. marshals will use "common sense" and not arrest him or at least wait until he presents evidence against the U.S. government on Jan. 6 at the state capitol rotunda.

■ Fort Davis residents' response, photos/4A

The Republic's doctrine is based on the belief that Texas is a sovereign nation because it never lawfully re-entered the union following the Civil War.

Neighbors hope law enforcement will remove him soon and rid them of a man who for years has held them and their community "hostage" with property lawsuits.

Members of the Republic of Texas are split on whether to back McLaren or let the government arrest him.

On Thursday, a warrant for McLaren's arrest was issued by federal district Judge Lucius Bunton III after McLaren failed to appear at a hearing in Pecos.

After the warrant was issued, McLaren said he would not surrender without a fight and surrounded himself with armed escorts. He hasn't left his

Please see MILITIA/4A

Above, Jim Warmke, recruiting officer for defense forces out of Henderson County, placed Republic of Texas flags along the drive up to the "embassy" Saturday morning. "The last thing we want is physical confrontation with state or federal government," Warmke said. At left, Richard McLaren is an "ambassador" for the Republic of Texas, a self-proclaimed militia group. Below left, the Republic of Texas militia patch. Below right is a view of the compound where McLaren and his armed escorts are staying.

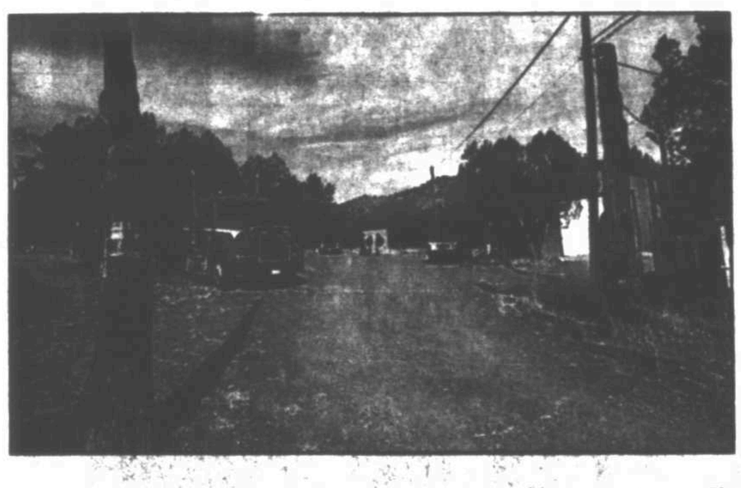

Photo at top left by Tim Fischer

Other photos by Kes Gilhome

> *"I don't want to be a martyr and I don't want to die, but what other choice do we have? Are the U.S. marshals and Bunton ready to die? Are they prepared to lose everything they own?"*
>
> Richard McLaren, Republic of Texas "ambassador"

AM Briefing

Cheer fund

The Midland Cheer Fund, a citywide project to provide gifts to many of the city's less fortunate during the holidays, is conducting its annual drive, sponsored by the Reporter-Telegram. Donations will benefit The Giving Tree, Meals on Wheels, Loved Ones Of Prisoners and the Kelsey Logan Angel Fund. Those wishing to participate should make checks payable to Midland Cheer Fund, in care of the Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland 79702.

*Navy Blue Team from Goddard Junior High ..... $55.
TOTAL ..... $2,255.
*This donation is a corrected total from Saturday's paper.

Gingrich confesses

WASHINGTON — In a stunning confession Saturday after two years of denials, Speaker Newt Gingrich admitted violating House ethics rules. Republican sources said Gingrich was bargaining for a reprimand that would allow him to remain the House's top official. Gingrich, who had a meteoric rise to the speakership in 1995, could fall from that perch just as fast if the chamber votes instead to censure him. The punishment is reserved for serious offenses, and House rules prohibit censured members from serving as speaker. While the speaker's defense team bargained for him secretly with the House ethics committee, the Republican hierarchy swiftly closed ranks in hopes of ensuring his re-election next month.

Story page 9A

No winners

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 7-17-18-22-30-35. Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $12 million.

INSIDE TODAY

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Oil Report ..... to come Monday
Opinion 10A
Sports 1C
Weather 4A

Also see our expanded weather coverage and map on page 8B.

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Natural gas prices pump additional income into basin

By John Paul Pitts
Oil Editor

Natural gas prices have climbed from $1.85 per Mcf to more than $4 since September and that has had a profound impact upon the economy of the Permian Basin.

"Even though we all know it is short-term, it is causing every operator in the Permian Basin to take a look at drilling prospects," said Buddy Sipes, president of Chisos Operating Co. "Higher gas prices are definitely fueling optimism for independents and causing more wells to be drilled."

Sipes estimates that the Permian Basin was producing only $6.6 million of natural gas a day in September. But, at $4 per Mcf the basin is producing $16 million of gas a day.

"That's a lot of additional income coming into the Permian Basin," Sipes said. "Most of it will go back into the ground with new drilling. An increase of $9.4 million per day would be enough capital to drill approximately 19 new wells a day, if the prospects and rigs were available."

A sampling of drilling contractors confirms that rigs are in tight supply in the Permian Basin and elsewhere in the state.

"We had to delay spudding a well in East Texas last week, because we were having difficulty getting trucks to move the rig. There is a definite shortage of trucks and rigs around the state, and it's all result of natural gas prices," he said.

"I drove from Midland to Pecos the other night and I must have seen 20 rigs running," said Paul Morris, president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Morris said higher gas prices were making operators take a real hard look at what they were going to drill, and would put most of the increased revenue back in the ground. "At Wagner & Brown we are trying to strengthen our position for 1997, and try to get as many wells drilled as possible."

While higher gas prices are a boon to those selling their gas on the spot market, it does not go as well for those with a locked-in price.

"It is real nice to get $4 an Mcf for gas, and while $2 is pretty low for a locked-in price, it is better than 95 cents," said Dick Gaddy, an operator who sells on floating contracts and

Please see PRICE/4A

Oil Report

The Permian Basin Oil Report does not appear in today's edition, but instead will be published as a part of Monday's newspaper in order that we may provide Permian Basin readers with a preview of the Reporter-Telegram's Gulf Coast Oil & Gas Report.

The Permian Basin Oil Report will return to the Sunday edition on Dec. 29.

DEC 22 1996

Peruvian president urges rebels to free hostages from home of ambassador

LIMA, Peru (AP) — President Alberto Fujimori on Saturday urged rebels holding some 340 people in the Japanese ambassador's residence to free the hostages, in his first public comments since the crisis began.

The Peruvian leader did not rule out the use of force as a solution to the crisis, which began Tuesday night when rebels launched a bold raid on the residence in an upscale Lima neighborhood.

"The proposal is concrete, that the captors lay down their arms ... and facilitate the release of all the hostages, without exceptions," Fujimori said in a national television address.

"That way, the possibility of the use of force by the Peruvian state will be dismissed," said Fujimori, who built his political reputation on a pledge not to negotiate with terrorists.

Fujimori condemned the takeover by communist rebels of the Japanese ambassador's residence as "a repugnant attack against the liberty, the health and the lives of innocent people."

"They fake dialogue by putting an AK rifle on the necks of the hostages," he said, accusing the Tupac Amaru guerrillas of sowing terror for a decade.

A close ally, the president of Congress, said earlier Saturday that Fujimori had rejected a military raid to try to free the hostages.

And rebel leader Nestor Cerpa said he will gradually release hostages not connected to Peru's government.

The rebel leader's announcement via short-wave radio came after the government apparently ruled out an armed assault to free the captives.

The Tupac Amaru chief said he wanted to avoid bloodshed and believed a peaceful resolution to the four-day standoff could be reached.

"I want to repeat that the gentlemen who are the great majority and have no connection with the government will be released by degrees," Cerpa said during a 10-minute connection with a television station just as night fell.

He said they would be freed "in the next hours and days." Minutes after the short-wave transmission, power was cut to the crowded residence.

It was unclear why power was severed, but it might have been another government attempt to put pressure on the rebels. The government cut power once before, but restored it early Saturday amid complaints from hostages. Telephone service has been down since early in the siege.

The rebels have held the hostages since Tuesday night, when two dozen guerrillas seized the ambassador's residence during a party honoring Emperor Akihito's birthday.

Also speaking in the short-wave transmission from the residence were Peru's foreign minister, Francisco Tudela, and the Japanese ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, both of whom called for direct negotiations. President Alberto Fujimori has so far shunned any direct contact with rebels.

Aoki urged that "a peace accord" be reached, and Tudela called for a "definitive solution."

Tudela said the rebels, though "well-trained and well-armed," had not hurt any hostages and that none were ill. That contradicted Aoki, who said "there are already cases of people sick, especially the Japanese guests."

The guerrillas freed 38 hostages on Friday night, the largest number since a few hours after the raid Tuesday night, when rebels freed nearly 200 people, mostly women.

Cerpa said the release of those hostages with government ties — who include police generals and Supreme Court justices — "will depend solely on the government's will to arrive at a solution that could perhaps mark a historical milestone" and lead to a definitive peace.

The main demand of the rebels, holding 11 ambassadors and other VIPs, hostage, is that Fujimori free about 300 of their jailed comrades.

In his talk, the president took a tougher stance than that described by his ally, Victor Joy Way, who said in comments earlier Saturday that Fujimori had rejected a military raid.

Joy Way said in a television interview that the elite units offered by "numerous countries" won't be necessary. He did not identify the countries.

During the day, the Red Cross delivered some diversion: playing cards, chess sets and dominoes.

It became known Saturday that Cerpa, the only Tupac Amaru leader not currently in jail, was leading the rebel unit.

"We're not talking about just anyone," said Javier Diez Canseco, a Peruvian congressman and spokesman for the 38 hostages freed Friday. "If this leader has placed himself in the lion's den, it's because he's going for broke."

Some officials expected incremental releases, saying fewer hostages would be easier for the rebels to handle.

"I thought at the outset, 'What are they going to do with some 400 hostages? That's unmanageable," said Diez Canseco.

In a 12-point statement released Friday night, Cerpa said that if permitted to speak by telephone with jailed comrades the rebels would free "a significant number of detained people with no ties to the government."

Running water was cut to the ambassador's residence early Friday and telephone and electrical service was shut down a day earlier. Telephone communications remained blocked on Saturday.

AP Laserphoto

Hostages in their fourth day of captivity at the residence of Japan's ambassador in Lima hold up a poster Saturday that says "SEDAPAL, water has not arrived." SEDAPAL is the name of the local water company.

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China installs provisional legislature in Hong Kong, readies for takeover

The new legislature will be dominated by businessmen and pro-China figures, in contrast to the existing one, which is roughly split between China's supporters and critics.

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — With Britain and China trading insults and the United States voicing its dismay, China unraveled some of Hong Kong's democratic reforms Saturday by appointing a new legislature to supplant the elected one.

The provisional legislature, to take office July 1 when China recovers the British colony, will replace the existing one in midterm.

It will be dominated by businessmen and pro-China figures, in contrast to the existing one, which is roughly split between China's supporters and critics.

In some of the strongest language he has used as governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten denounced the move as a "bizarre farce" below even Third World standards.

He was reacting to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who said in a pep talk to the Chinese-organized committee that elected the new legislature that Britain's opposition reflected its "helplessness" and "lack (of) courage to face reality."

Fifty of the 60 members of the new legislature are from the 400-member selection committee, and Patten said it was "stomach-turning" to watch as "people nominate one another, as they vote for themselves and vote for each other."

The new legislature will contain 33 members of the existing one. The strongest parties in the new assembly will be the pro-business Liberals and the pro-China Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, with 10 seats each. Twenty-six incumbents did not run.

The U.S. consul in Hong Kong, Richard Boucher, said the new legislature "is a bad idea and a mistake," because Hong Kong needs democracy to thrive as a financial powerhouse.

China says the existing legislature must go because it was elected under rule changes devised by Patten without Beijing's consent. Britain says the rules were part of a 1984 deal to end its 156 years of colonial rule and return Hong Kong to China.

Some of Saturday's winners sounded less than happy with the way they were elected.

"Everybody here feels reluctant. They have no choice. We would like to see another 2.5 million people voting for us," said Gary Cheng, one of at least seven candidates who was defeated in the last election but chosen by the selection committee Saturday.

During the last six months of British rule, Hong Kong will in effect have two legislatures, posing potential legal headaches and conflicts of loyalty.

The main question now is how long the provisional legislature will last and what shape the next election promised by China will take.

Tung Chee-hwa, the shipping tycoon picked to lead Hong Kong's semiautonomous government after July 1, has pledged the legislature will last just one year and that elections for a new one will probably take place before that.

The fate of the Democrats, Hong Kong's largest party, will be closely watched. It is boycotting the provisional legislature, rendering a large chunk of the populace voiceless for the first year of Chinese rule.

The Democrats led a march by 250 people who dragged trash bags through the city to show what they thought of the provisional legislature.

Others tried to float balloons carrying slogans across the border toward Shenzhen, the neighboring Chinese city where the selection was taking place.

"I'm absolutely pessimistic about the future," said Yeung Siu-kun, who brought her 5-year-old son along. "This provisional legislature shows what our Hong Kong will have to face in the non-democratic future. I am very sad."

Democratic Party chairman Martin Lee said it was "the blackest day for Hong Kong since June 4, 1989," when Chinese troops crushed a pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

The legislature has little power over the governor, or over Tung, his successor-in-waiting. But in recent years, the one elected by Hong Kong's people has become a challenge both to China and to Britain over everything from civil liberties to increases in bus fares.

Thousands of fans pay their respects to Italy's most famous actor, Mastroianni

ROME (AP) — Marcello Mastroianni's body returned home to Rome on Saturday, passing through the heart of the city and some of its more romantic backdrops before thousands of fans attended a viewing to pay their respects to Italy's best-known actor.

His body was flown from Paris, where Parisians said their farewell Friday to the Italian who made that city his second home. Mastroianni, 72, died Thursday of cancer.

The hearse carrying his coffin drove past the ruins of the Roman forum before winding to the top of the Capitoline hill, the seat of Rome's ancient and modern government.

The hill is a 10-minute stroll from one of the most enduring scenes in Mastroianni's 50-year acting career, Trevi Fountain, where Anita Ekberg lured him into the icy waters in "La Dolce Vita."

Among the first fans to pay their respects were Premier Romano Prodi and Culture Minister Walter Veltroni. Orchids from Sophia Loren and her producer-husband Carlo Ponti were among the floral decorations.

Mastroianni's wife Flora Carabella, and their daughter, Barbara, greeted some of the mourners.

Barbara Mastroianni also attended the service in Paris. Other women in Mastroianni's life who took part in the Paris memorial were his companion of some 20 years, Anna Maria Tato, French actress Catherine Deneuve, with whom Mastroianni had a daughter, and that daughter, Chiara, also an actress.

Despite Mastroianni's affairs with other women, he and his wife stayed close.

"I understood Marcello; he understood me," his wife said in an interview published Saturday by Rome daily Il Messaggero. "Only some habits changed; the affection and the esteem ... they grew stronger through the years."

Public viewing also was scheduled for this morning, before Rome Mayor Francesco Rutelli was to lead Italy's memorial service.

Mastroianni was to be buried in Rome's Verano cemetery.

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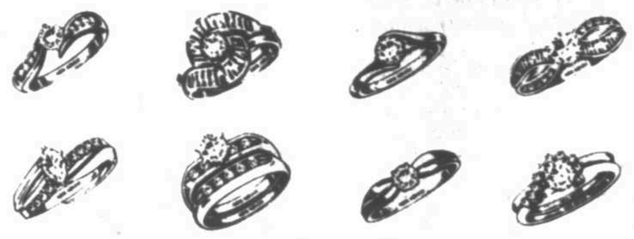
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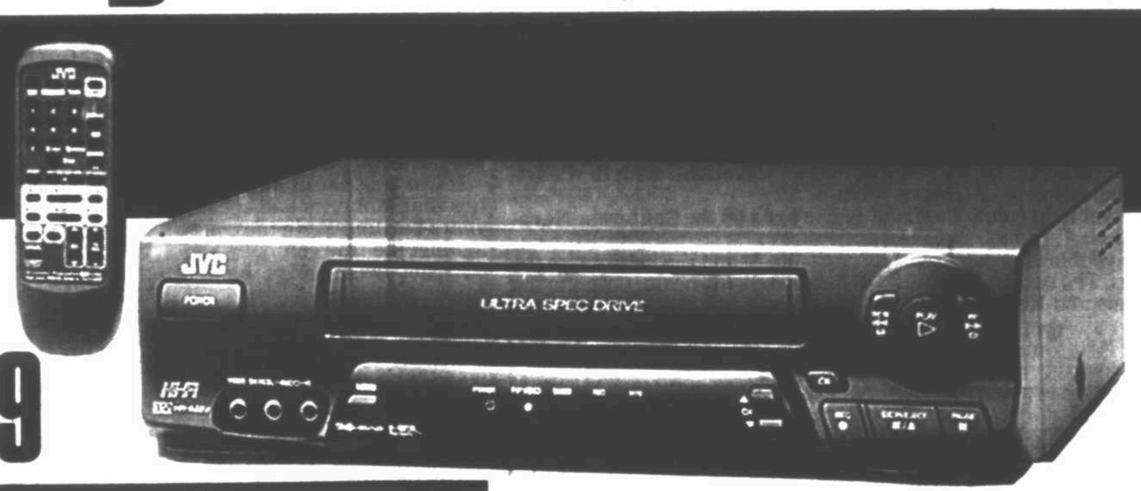

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DEC 22 1996

Coming Monday

■ You may think all of the new businesses coming to town are locating on Loop 250, but you would be wrong. Some of them have their sights on Interstate 20, especially at the intersection of I-20 and Rankin Highway. Read about the latest developments in Monday's Reporter-Telegram.

■ It is the end of an era ... especially for fans of the Dallas Cowboys and the Washington Redskins. Sunday's showdown between the two bitter rivals marks the last game to be played at RFK Stadium. Check out the details in Monday Sports.

■ Everyone has a few favorite things that come to mind when Christmas rolls around ... and so does columnist Jimmy Patterson. He will share his with you on the Reporter-Telegram's Monday Morning page.

MILITIA: McLaren waits for Austin hearing

(From 1A)

"embassy" at the Davis Mountain Resort — about 20 miles west of Fort Davis — since then and doesn't plan to until the Austin hearing, he said.

"I have a million things to do. I have a hearing to set up, legal work and setting up expert witnesses," he said.

As of Saturday, no attempts have been made to arrest McLaren. Marshals are in no rush to serve the warrant, but McLaren must either comply with Bunton's order to appear or he will be apprehended, said Jack Dean, U.S. marshal for the Western District of Texas.

"It's been quiet around here," McLaren said at his embassy.

McLaren said he is a peaceful man and has tried to present his case through paper work, not with guns. But, any marshal or other law enforcement who tries to arrest him will be met with force, McLaren said.

His "embassy" is protected under international law and no state or federal officer has a right to arrest him, he said.

"I have followed the legal process and they're mad I beat them at their own game. There's nothing left legally they can do to stop me and the Republic of Texas," he said.

In case officers do try to arrest him, he and his guards said they are prepared to protect themselves and risk being killed.

'Even the U.S. marshals are not happy with (Bunton's) issuance of the warrant. The man has got to stop violating people's rights. He is an enemy to the people of Texas and America.'
— Richard McLaren
Republic of Texas

McLaren refused to say how many guards and supporters were at the "embassy," but neighbors estimated he had anywhere from between five and 15, including a woman and two children.

"I carry arms for self-defense, not to wage war," said Jim Warmke, a R.O.T. recruiting officer for the "defense forces."

"I don't want to be a martyr and I don't want to die, but what other choice do we have," McLaren said. "Are the U.S. marshals and Bunton ready to die? Are they prepared to lose everything they own?"

If anyone were to be killed while trying to arrest him, U.S. marshals and Bunton could be tried as war criminals under international law, he said. "That would mean Bunton would probably be hanged," he said.

McLaren said Bunton is "out of control," a "bully" and "loves salamanders more than people," referring Bunton's judgment in a San Antonio water rights case.

"Even the U.S. marshals are not happy with his issuance of the warrant," McLaren said. "The man has got to stop violating people's rights. He is an enemy to the people of Texas and America."

Bunton refused to comment on McLaren's statements Saturday.

In addition to members of his "defense forces," McLaren said militia men from nine states have offered support and foreign forces may intervene on his behalf; he would not say from which countries.

Even Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former U.N. secretary general, had asked the United States to resolve its situation with the Republic, he said.

"That's why the U.S. does not want him to be secretary general again," McLaren said.

WEATHER WATCH

WINTER: Today's high to be in 70s

Staff Report

(From 1A)

air brewing up in Canada again. So, if that stuff does decide to come down a little early, it could be cold" on Christmas Day. "But, still, it looks like it is going to stay dry even if we do get a (cold) front to come through."

For today, the forecast is calling for variably high clouds, daytime highs in the mid-70s, and southwesterly winds at 15 to 25 mph and gusty.

Tonight's low is to be near 40.

Monday's high is to be around 70.

While snow-graced Christmastimes seem far more rare in Midland than do droughts, hardcore cold weather during the Christmas season does occur.

Old-time Midland cowboy C.M. Edwards, who is in his 80s, has heard of the catastrophic drought of 1886 when ranchers burned off the thorns on cacti just so their lean livestock could survive.

Rancher Hoot Leonard recalled the winter of December 1983 and January 1984 when it "got terribly cold down here, zero, and stayed below freezing for a couple of weeks, maybe."

And the 1983-84 winter's cold front moved on down to the Hill Country and on to the Gulf Coast.

Leonard also recalled the severe, ice-laden cold of the late 1940s when ice saddled trees and broke down power lines. Blanket sheets of ice made roadway and highway travel treacherous.

Midland farmer-rancher Alvey Bryant, who has lived in Midland County since 1925, recalled that winter in the late 1940s when "the ground didn't thaw for two weeks. "We had ice hanging for two weeks."

And he expressed gratitude for last week's "cold weather (that) killed more boll weevils (in the cotton fields) than the government and the farmers will with our program of (spraying) chemicals to kill them. The Lord is taking care of us."

STATE

A warming trend continued throughout the state Saturday as cloud cover and winds up to 40 mph dominated the Texas landscape.

A developing low pressure system in Colorado combined with a high pressure system in the eastern United States, increasing southerly winds across North Texas. Wind gusts in the region averaged about 20 to 25 mph, with gusts up to 40 mph in some areas.

Regional temperatures were in the upper 50s to upper 60s.

Today will bring cloudy conditions with highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s and a slight chance of rain.

Wind gusts also blasted throughout West Texas, gusting up to 30 mph in some areas.

Skies remain cloudy with highs in the 50s and 60s.

Lows will be in the 30s and 40s today with highs in the 60s and 70s. Cloudiness will continue as a cold front moves into the region.

A deck of clouds also continued to shroud South Texas Saturday helping to warm temperatures as light rain and fog dominated deep South Texas.

Significantly warmer temperatures in the 40s inland and 50s across the coast provided a vast contrast to the region that saw light snow in some areas earlier this week.

Temperatures were in the low 40s to upper 50s Saturday, with highs expected in 60s and 70s today. Lows will be in the mid 40s to 50s under cloudy skies.

NATION

Heavy snow fell on the mountains of the West on Saturday, piling up as much as 4 feet in the Sierra Nevada. In the East, temperatures fell to record lows in the central Appalachians.

A strong jet stream carried abundant moisture in from the Pacific, creating moderate to heavy rain along the coast and across inland valleys from northern California through Oregon into Washington.

Eureka, Calif., collected more than an inch of rain in 24 hours. Thundershowers were reported in southwestern Oregon.

The rain turned to heavy snow at higher elevations, with the heaviest accumulations in the Sierra Nevada.

Up to 4 feet fell around the Lake Tahoe area on the California-Nevada state line.

The heavy, blowing snow closed Interstate 80 and U.S. 50 through the mountains. The two major highways connect Sacramento, Calif., to the Lake Tahoe and Reno, Nev., area.

A winter storm warning was posted for the central Sierra, including the Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Lakes areas, and an additional 2 feet of snow was expected through this morning.

The Sierra snowpack was already 120 percent of average for the season when the storm hit late Friday afternoon, the National Weather Service said.

"By the time it ends, they could end up with six or seven feet of snow just from this storm," said meteorologist Jim Fischer.

Moderate to heavy snow also extended inland as far as the Wasatch mountains of northern Utah, with more than a foot in places.

The East was affected by the same cold air mass that earlier in the week had spread from the northern Plains all the way to the Gulf Coast.

Temperatures fell into the single digits in the central Appalachians, producing record lows of 3 above zero at Blacksburg, Va.; 7 at Morristown, Tenn., and 7 at Asheville, N.C.

West of that cold air mass, southerly and southwesterly wind started blowing across the southern Plains and Mississippi Valley, boosting temperatures in the 50s and 60s. Gusts to near 40 mph were reported from Texas into southern Illinois.

Also see expanded weather coverage, map on page 8B.

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:

7-17-18-22-30-35

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $8 million

Pick 3 Texas

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

9-6-3

Residents are frightened, tired of Republic of Texas

By Joe Gaines
Staff Writer

FORT DAVIS — Neighbors, hoping the government arrests Richard McLaren, ambassador of the Republic of Texas, said it would be the best Christmas present.

A warrant was issued for McLaren's arrest Thursday after he failed to appear in a federal court in Pecos.

But with every day that passes with no arrest, McLaren and his group get stronger, neighbors said.

"I don't think the government is going to do anything until someone gets hurt," Michele Behrent said.

She and her husband, Ben, moved to the Davis Mountain Resort — 20 miles west of Fort Davis — four years ago from Illinois. Behrent had retired and wanted to move to a warmer climate.

The first of their woes was when they moved to Fort Davis and were unable to buy the original home they had chosen at the resort. The home was unavailable because it was tied up in litigation initiated by McLaren, Mrs. Behrent said.

For three weeks they searched, settling for a another home costing $10,000 more.

"If we had researched better, we probably wouldn't have moved here. But we're not going to let him drive us out. We like it here," Mrs. Behrent said.

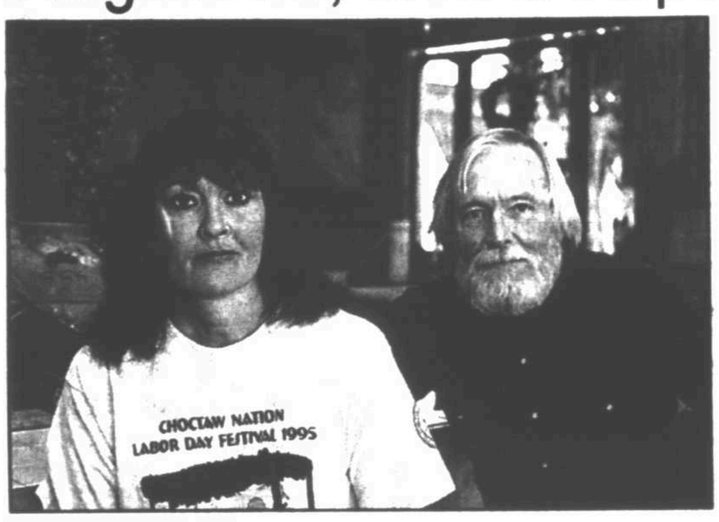
It was just one of many properties that McLaren had spent years battling for in the courts against the title company and other lot owners, Mrs. Behrent said.

As a settlement with the title company, McLaren received five lots in the resort.

"It's something he got for nothing. He just wore down the title company, until he (the owner) surrendered," Behrent said.

The owner of the title company had a daughter and grandson who needed medical attention and couldn't afford medical and court costs, Mrs. Behrent said.

In a Sept. 23 letter, McLaren allowed "Texas Defense Forces" to perform militia maneuvers on his five lots. Shortly after, several militia men came to the resort and on Thanksgiving Day, residents were frightened when they heard several rounds of ammunition being fired, resident Joe Rowe said.



'If the law enforcement is afraid to arrest him, what should we think about him?'
— Joe Rowe
Fort Davis resident pictured at left with his wife M.A.

So frightened were the Behrents that they started to carry a loaded gun with them wherever they went — even to church, Mrs. Behrent said.

The Rowes said they have been visited by representatives of the State Attorney General's office investigating rumors that R.O.T. forces wanted to use their home as headquarters.

'Something will happen soon. People out here have had enough. I think they are going to take matters into their own hands and the wrong person is going to go to jail.
— Michele Behrent
Fort Davis resident shown at right with her husband Ben

They also keep loaded guns available, Rowe said.

Postal service has been suspended to the community because of possible violence. Mailboxes are near the R.O.T.'s embassy.

The postal service has wanted to stop service to the resort for years, and is using McLaren as an excuse, Mrs. Behrent said.

"Why not arrest him, and not shut down the post office. If a man was wanted on a warrant that lived next to the Midland post office, do you think it would shut down or he would be arrested?" Rowe said.

Vi Webster, owner of the country store next to the "embassy," said the government probably stopped mail service and blamed McLaren to anger residents and get them to kill McLaren.

But either way, residents said it's just another government service abandoning them. Both the Rowes and Behrents said the government may be afraid of another Waco or Ruby Ridge situation, but it is no reason to leave them to fend for themselves.

"If the law enforcement is afraid to arrest him, what should we think about him?" Rowe said.

If it isn't the law enforcement who takes care of McLaren, it may be residents, Mrs. Behrent said.

"Something will happen soon. People out here have had enough. I think they are going to take matters into their own hands and the wrong person is going to go to jail," Mrs. Behrent said.

U.S. marshals have said McLaren must comply with Judge Lucius Bunton's order to appear in court or he will be apprehended.

But, Ms. Webster doesn't think they would come to arrest him on "nothing but a contempt of court charge."

"If they come after him, there will a shootout," M.A. Rowe said.

McLaren and his guards have said they are willing to die and use deadly force to protect themselves against U.S. marshals.

"I think that is easy for him (McLaren) to say," Mrs. Behrent said. "I think he will put other people in front of him to do the fighting and slip out the back."

Most residents don't believe in him or the R.O.T., Mrs. Behrent said.

"I bet if you took a vote of property owners, not even 20 would agree with him and the Republic of Texas," Mrs. Behrent said. Of the nearly 700 lot owners, fewer than 80 families live at the resort.

"We're tired of the Republic of Texas," she said.

Even Ms. Webster, who said she considers McLaren a friend, doesn't believe him.

"I'm over 65 and I don't have time for another cause," Ms. Webster said.

PRICE: Natural gas jumps to $4 per Mcf

(From 1A)

fixed prices.

George Conly, chairman of Laguna Petroleum Corp., said higher gas prices would make certain companies look at getting more balanced in oil and gas production.

"Right now we are 90 percent balanced toward oil because we didn't believe all the talk about the gas bubble busting. Now, however, we may look at becoming more balanced toward natural gas, because it looks like we may be moving to a more constant natural gas price."

Sipes said he doesn't think gas prices will remain around the $4 level past March but will return to an average price of $2 per Mcf.

Morris said that based on conversations with utilities back East, he thinks higher prices will be sustained all the way through the winter to March.

He said that the increase in gas prices was good not only for the producer, but for the thousands of royalty owners in the Permian Basin. Higher prices are also good for the service companies, as marginal wells are given new life by higher prices.

"I am encouraged about natural gas prices," Morris said. "It reminds me of that period of 1977-78, when there was talk about longer-term contracts and operators were looking for rigs to drill wells."

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Fighting among Somali factions leaves as many as 200 dead, 1,500 wounded

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Renewed fighting in Mogadishu has left hundreds dead and more than 1,500 wounded in what appears to be a bid by two Somali factions to pressure a key player to make a peace deal.

In the most recent clash, eight people died in south Mogadishu in artillery exchanges Wednesday between forces loyal to Hussein Aidid and those of his rivals Osman Hassan Ali.

Aidid, the leader of the strongest Somali faction, has refused to take part in a new round of reconciliation talks that has brought together 26 Somali factions at a resort outside the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

His principal enemies were there: Ali Mahdi Mohamed, whose Abgal clan controls north Mogadishu and an embattled enclave in the southern half of the city; and Hassan Ali, also known as Atto, who is Mohamed's ally from south Mogadishu.

In Aidid's absence, a foreign ministry official in Addis Ababa said, the leaders agreed to set up a coordinating council to prepare an agenda and decide on a venue for further talks.

This is not the first time Somali leaders have failed in efforts to put an end to the six-year civil war, which, combined with serious food shortages, has left more than 350,000 dead, the economy in shambles and no central authority in the country.

Probably the most homogeneous nation in Africa, with eight million people united under one flag and one religion, Somalia has fractured instead along clan lines.

Originally united against the late dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, ousted in 1991, six principal Somali clans turned their guns on each other in a battle for power less than a year later.

Although an American-led U.N. intervention rescued hundreds of thousands from starvation, it failed to create conditions for reconciliation and finally ended in pullout in March 1995, leaving the country in the hands of rival factions.

Aidid's refusal to participate in the three weeks of talks in Ethiopia — sponsored by the 52-member Organization of African Unity — means any deal is out of the question for now in Mogadishu, Somalia's largest port.

A high-ranking Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States has contacted Aidid and the other two leaders and told them that difficult compromises have to be made in order to bring an end to the turmoil.

No response was forthcoming, and for now both Aidid and Ali Mahdi claim the Somali presidency.

Hussein Aidid, a 34-year-old former member of the U.S. Marine reserves, succeeded his father, Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid, after the general died of battle wounds in August. The elder Aidid strongly opposed the U.S. and U.N. intervention forces.

At first, Gen. Aidid's death raised hopes that there might be a solution to the conflict. But these hopes were dashed when fighting broke out after Aidid's forces killed some of Ali Atto's top men. Aidid blames Ali Atto's faction for his father's death.

Like his father, Aidid refuses to discuss the composition of a national government. He says his is already the only legitimate Somali authority.

But the tactics his father employed may not necessarily work for him, and the word from Mogadishu is that Aidid is running out of money, ammunition and perhaps even support among his own followers within the Habr Gedir subclan.

With both Mogadishu airport and the city's Indian Ocean port closed and widespread unemployment and insecurity on the rise, patience is running low among residents of the southern half of the city.

Tajikistan rebels release all but two hostages

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — After holding seven U.N. military observers and 16 other people hostage for a day, Tajik gunmen released all but two Saturday, Russian news agencies said.

The gunmen, members of a group led by a rebel warlord who switched to the government side this month, said they hoped to exchange the final two hostages for three comrades captured by rebels.

The government of Tajikstan, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia, has struggled for years against armed rebels who have bases in the country's rugged mountains or in Afghanistan. Some of the rebels seek to make Tajikistan an Islamic state.

The hostage-taking came as Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov met in Moscow with opposition leader Syed Abdullo Nuro in Moscow to sign a formal cease-fire agreement.

The signing, scheduled for Saturday, was postponed because of disagreements between the two sides. Rakhmonov's press secretary Zafar Saidov said it may take place Monday.

The kidnappers belong to a group led by warlord Rezvon Sadirov, the Interfax news agency said, citing Tajik government officials.

Sylvana Foa, U.N. spokesman in New York, said the gunmen demanded freedom for Sadirov's brother and a safe corridor for his fighters to pass into Tajikistan from bases in northern Afghanistan.

The hostages were captured Friday as they traveled in a convoy between the towns of Faizabad and Garm, about 90 miles east of the capital, Dushanbe.

The final pair of captives were both opposition representatives to a joint commission monitoring a cease-fire, the news agencies said. One U.N. observer, a Bulgarian colonel, volunteered to stay with the two remaining hostages to help negotiate their release, ITAR-Tass said.

The gunmen had threatened to kill the hostages and explode 30 bombs they claimed to have hidden in Dushanbe unless their demands were met by today, according to U.N. officials.

The government held night-long talks with the hostage-takers, but did not give in to their demands, ITAR-Tass said Saturday.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

■ Man arrested after IRA attack on officer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Police arrested a man Saturday in connection with an IRA attack on officers guarding a prominent Protestant politician as he visited his son in a hospital.

A gunman wearing an ill-fitting wig fired at three officers in a corridor of the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, then escaped with an accomplice late Friday. One bullet hit an officer in the foot, while another struck an empty baby incubator.

The officers were guarding Nigel Dodds, a former Belfast mayor and secretary of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, as he visited his 7-year-old son, Andrew.

Police said the Irish Republican Army was targeting the officers, not Dodds.

The suspect, who was not identified, was taken to an interrogation center in east Belfast, where police are allowed to hold him without charges for up to a week.

■ Battle for Zairian prime minister heats up

KINSHASA, Zaire — Supporters of rival opposition leaders brawled briefly outside one of the men's homes Saturday, a sign of rising tensions before President Mobutu Sese Seko's possible selection of a new prime minister.

Mobutu has not said for certain if he'll replace his prime minister, Leon Kengo wa Dondo, but his announcement Thursday that a new government would be formed within 48 hours prompted competition among Kengo opponents.

By Saturday night, after a day of meetings with aides, advisors and opposition representatives, Mobutu had not made an announcement. One close advisor, businessman Bemba Saolona, said that would come by the end of the year.

■ Communists celebrate birthday of Stalin

GORI, Georgia — About 1,000 Communists demanding the return of the Soviet social safety net marched through Stalin's hometown Saturday to commemorate the 117th anniversary of his birth.

Hundreds of hard-liners also marched on Red Square in Moscow and laid flowers at the Soviet dictator's grave.

Josef Stalin's birthday also was celebrated by the baptism Saturday of his great-grandson and namesake in a church in Gori, his hometown in the Caucasus Mountains about 75 miles from Tbilisi, the Georgian capital.

Stalin was educated at a church school and entered an Orthodox Christian seminary, but he was expelled for his revolutionary activities and became the leader of an atheist state that persecuted religious believers.

In Gori, about 1,000 Communists joined Stalin's grandson, Yevgeny Dzhugashvili, in marching from the house where he was born to a Stalin monument in the center of town.

Stalin ruled Russia from the death of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin in 1924 until his own death in 1953.

■ Police dismantle bomb in front of post office

MARSEILLE, France — Police dismantled a powerful bomb Saturday in front of a post office crowded with people mailing holiday packages in France's second-largest city.

State-run France Info radio said investigators believe that Corsican militants may have planted the 7 1/2 pound device.

Separatists from the French Mediterranean island fighting to break away from mainland France bombed another post office in Aix-en-Provence, a quiet, southern college town popular with foreign students, in September.

A customer found Saturday's bomb at about 8: 15 a.m. in a plastic bag propped against the wall of the post office near Marseille's St. Charles train station, said postal official Claude Mascarel.

The post office alerted police, who evacuated the building and sent in a bomb squad to defuse the device, which was made in part of dynamite.

Compiled from Reporter-Telegram wire services.

Delegation seeks way to restore Serbian opposition victories

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Pro- and anti-government protesters faced off in a city south of Belgrade on Saturday, and an international fact-finding mission reportedly sought ways to restore opposition election victories.

The mission, led by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, met with members of the opposition and representatives of President Slobodan Milosevic's Serbian government.

Officials from the mission confirmed that there were problems with the Nov. 17 local elections. Massive daily protests began against Milosevic after he annulled opposition victories in those elections.

"Our perception now is that an effort is needed in order to overcome this," Gonzalez said. "There is a confirmation of the initial impression that we had. The problem does exist."

Milosevic had claimed there were no election irregularities.

About 100,000 people rallied in the streets of Belgrade, blocking the center of the capital for several hours. Earlier in the day, about 10,000 students held their daily protest.

To the south, in the industrial city of Kragujevac, a cordon of police kept crowds of pro- and anti-Milosevic protesters from each other's throats. About 5,000 people chanted "Red Bandits!" against Milosevic and his Socialists. On the other side, about 3,000 people, many of them elderly, were holding banners reading "Slobo, we love you."

"This is very bad, very bad," said Ranko Djurovic, a 45-year-old passer-by in Kragujevac. "I am afraid we will fight each other, and that is the worst that can happen."

The danger of widespread clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters has grown with plans by Milosevic aides to stage a large rally in Belgrade next week.

The monthlong protests against Milosevic were triggered by his annulment of opposition election victories in all major Serbian towns, including Belgrade. The demonstrations present the biggest challenge to Milosevic since the autocratic ruler rose to power nine years ago.

The Zajedno, or Together, opposition coalition claimed in a statement that police arrested demonstrators in small towns. It listed five names, and said one of them had been badly beaten. It also claimed activists were fired from their jobs, and that workers and retirees were threatened with loss of pay or pensions if they didn't participate in pro-Milosevic rallies.

Opposition leaders said Saturday that a mission from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was looking for a way to allow Milosevic to reinstate the opposition victories.

"It is only up to Milosevic to decide," said opposition leader Zoran Djindjic. "There are a number of legal possibilities, and if he wants to, he can choose one of them."

The opposition on Friday presented the OSCE with documents that it says prove that Milosevic stole its victories.

OSCE spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said international officials were looking for a way out of the crisis " should it be reinstatement of the initial results, or some other possibility."

OSCE officials' meetings with the opposition included "very thorough questioning about all the possibilities to get out of this crisis ... and about what is the legal situation in this country," Fleming said.

Fleming said the delegation was happy with the cooperation it was receiving on both sides.

Possible compromises include a review of the elections by the election commission, or new rulings by courts that already have ruled in favor of Milosevic's Socialists.

Milosevic may use the OSCE visit to float a compromise, such as rerunning the elections. Opposition leaders say that as long as Milosevic controls the government structure and the media, free elections are not possible. They want Milosevic to recognize the results of the Nov. 17 vote.

Tensions have risen this week as Milosevic supporters accused the opposition of being in the service of foreign powers and organized counter-rallies.

OSCE is an organization of 54 countries from North America and Europe. It focuses on democracy, including elections, and political security. Serb-led Yugoslavia was excluded from the organization in 1992 after Milosevic instigated wars in Bosnia and Croatia.

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NATION IN BRIEF

■ Time magazine selects Man of the Year

NEW YORK — Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year is AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho, who pioneered a treatment for HIV infection that has shown promise in beating back the deadly disease.

Ho, scientific director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York, has fundamentally changed the approach to combating the AIDS virus, Time said in its Dec. 30, year-ending issue.

Ho, a 44-year-old father of three, used a "cocktail" of antiviral drugs to combat the AIDS-causing virus, HIV, in early stages of infection. His work included using protease inhibitors to help clarify how HIV overwhelms the body's immune system, insights that helped treatment research focus on early stages of infection instead of later terms of the illness.

Ho "did not make the most headlines, but he helped make history," the magazine said.

The cost of Ho's "cocktail" treatment — up to $20,000 a year — puts it beyond the reach of all but the best-insured patients. And Ho himself said he has only begun an experiment that might help a small group of men in the first three months of infection.

Still, Time said his work "might, just might, lead to a cure."

In 1996, 3.1 million people became HIV-infected, bringing the worldwide total to 22.6 million people living with HIV or AIDS, according to the United Nations.

■ School suspends students over flier

YORK, Pa. — Five vocational school students were suspended after a flier describing a hunting season on black people was circulated on campus.

The racist flier, purportedly a notice to hunters from state fish and wildlife officials, referred to numerous stereotypes about black people and included nearly two dozen racial slurs.

Some 11 percent of the 1,000 students at York County Vocational-Technical School are members of minority groups.

M. Baba Whisler, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the group would work with school officials to ease racial tensions at the school in this southeastern Pennsylvania city.

■ Clinton touts 'shining light of literacy'

WASHINGTON — Promoting his goal of "shining the light of literacy" on millions, President Clinton said Saturday he hopes to use a new work-study program to enlist an army of literacy tutors on college campuses.

Clinton said 20 leading college presidents have pledged to dedicate half their federally funded work-study slots to those students willing to work as reading tutors for young children.

"Right away this should give us thousands of new tutors, a down payment toward our goal of enlisting 100,000 work-study students to help America read," the president said in his weekly radio address.

■ Donor puts gold coin in Christmas kettle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The tradition continues — in Nashville.

Someone dropped an 1879 gold coin into a Salvation Army kettle outside an insurance office here on Friday, keeping alive a yuletide tradition dating to 1982 that previously had been limited to Chicago.

The coin was wrapped inside a copy of a Wall Street Journal article about the mysterious Chicago donor who has been dropping coins into Salvation Army kettles for years, including earlier this month.

Except for a couple of years in the late '80s, at least one gold coin has appeared in a Chicago kettle every year since.

Friday's coin was believed to be Nashville's first.

The coin has a face value of $5, but is worth about $140, said Bart Dennis of the Nashville Gold Market.

Compiled from Reporter-Telegram wire services.

Participants sometimes not informed they're part of drug tests, report says

CLEVELAND (AP) — When it came time to test the hepatitis A vaccine, the government gave it to a group of people among the most susceptible to the disease: American Indian children.

But parents on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in the Dakotas were never told their children were taking part in a research project, and that the vaccine hadn't been approved yet, according to The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"They were using our kids as guinea pigs," said Ella-Mae White Tail, who signed her 11-year-old up for the shots in 1991. "In the beginning, I thought it was approved by the (FDA). And then, I found out it wasn't."

It wasn't the first or the last time the government tested unproven drugs on unknowing Americans, the newspaper said in a four-part series last week.

The "Hepatitis A Vaccine Prevention Program," which tested a vaccine for a British pharmaceutical company, was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Service.

The vaccine eventually was proved to be safe and effective, and is now widely recommended for international travelers, American Indians and others at high risk of catching hepatitis.

American test subjects have been kept in the dark or were not fully informed in 63 percent of all medical research that the newspaper could identify as government-sponsored from 1977 through 1995.

Analyzing internal Food and Drug Administration records of inspections on a portion of the nation's medical research, the newspaper found consent forms were unclear or sometimes missing. Such forms are evidence that patients were fully informed of the risks.

In experimental trials, "you have the heightened obligation to tell the patient — someone who trusts you with their most precious possession, their life and well-being — you don't know the answers," said Dr. Bernadine Healy, dean of the Ohio State University medical school and former director of the National Institutes of Health.

In one case, the CDC admitted it erred in not telling some parents their children were given an experimental measles vaccine called E-Z. The government is now collecting blood samples to learn whether the vaccine's affect on the children's immune systems. Results are due in July.

"We fully acknowledge that it was a mistake" not to tell families the vaccine was experimental, said CDC Associate Director Dixie E. Snider.

The Plain Dealer's four-part series also found that:

■ At least 1,000 Americans in 23 states have participated in medical research without required evidence that they not only consented, but that they were fully informed of the risks.

■ Research still is conducted on unknowing people.

■ More than half of foreign research submitted to the FDA during the last decade was unreliable.

■ Local ethics committees frequently fail to ensure that people know they are being used in research.

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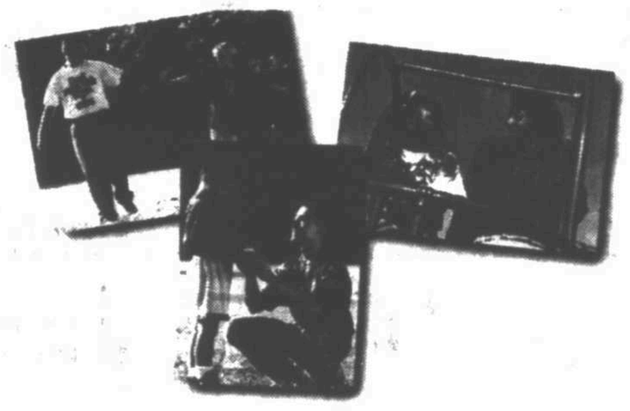
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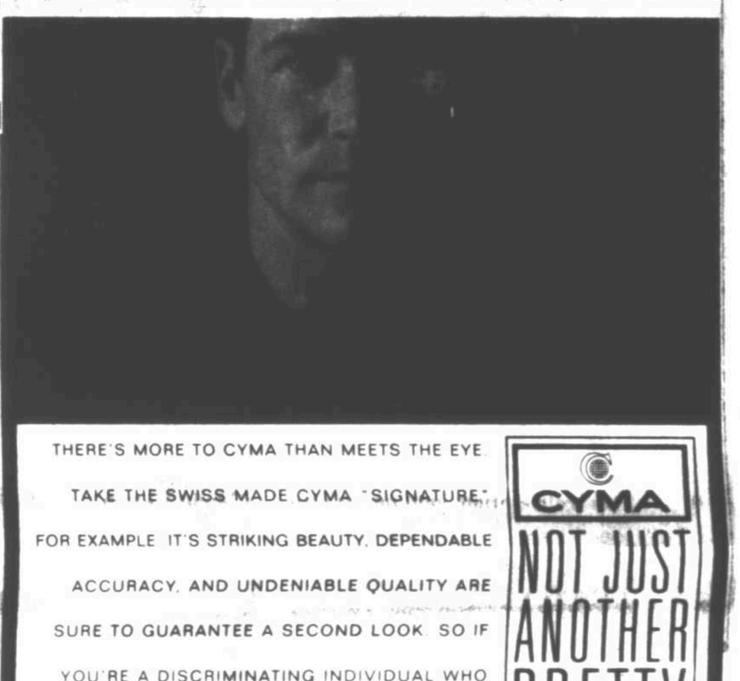
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N.H. Santa charged with slapping child

PLAISTOW, N.H. (AP) — A retired electrician who has played Santa Claus for more than 20 years was charged with assault for allegedly slapping a 7-year-old Cub Scout who had tugged on his beard.

Roy Keiser, 65, apparently got steamed after several scouts at a party Wednesday accused him of being a fake. Scout leader Margot Collins said the 7-year-old ripped the beard off Keiser's face, taking skin with it.

Other witnesses, however, told police the boy only tugged on the beard.

Keiser turned himself in to police Friday after he found out he had been charged, Sgt. Charles Myers said Saturday. He was released on a summons. Conviction carries punishment of up to one year in jail and fined $1,000.

In La Mesa, Calif., Santa was on the receiving end of a punch thrown by an irate father who lost his temper after Santa's helpers ran out of film as he and his son waited in line to get a picture taken.

Santa wasn't hurt, and went back to work.

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3, 5, & 7 pm (Mastercuts)	2 to 3:30 pm (Regis)
Greg Hall	**La-La Clown**
2, 5:30 & 7:30 pm (Express)	2 to 6 pm (Express)
A Tuba Christmas	**Shylo & Mylo**
4 pm (County Seat)	2 to 6 pm (Payless)
Harlin Rhoades	**Teddy Seals**
10 to 2 pm (Payless)	2, 3 & 6 pm (Express)
Dusty Rollies	**Lone Star Brass**
noon (Regis)	4 & 5 pm (Express)
Devin Pettit	**Electric Gypsies**
1, 3, 5 & 7 pm (Regis)	12, 2, 4 & 6 pm (Footlocker)
Teddy Seals	**Jennifer Mahan**
2, 4 & 6 pm (Corn Dog)	5 pm (Footlocker)
The Seen	**Hawaiian Christmas Dancing**
1, 3, 5 & 7 pm (Footlocker)	3 pm (Gordon's)
Hispanic Heritage	**Hispanic Mariachi**
2 & 4 pm (Gordon's)	2 to 4 pm (Sears)
Sunday, Dec. 22	**Greg Hall**
The Berenstain Bears -Live!	1 & 7 pm (Footlocker)
2 pm to 7 pm	

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Men of the cloth turn centuries-old practices into hot commodities

By Danica Kirka
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his coarse, hooded robe, Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette only seems as if he's poised to take up a quill and bend low over a gilded manuscript.

He is, in reality, planning another book tour, complete with back-to-back TV interviews, signings and cooking demonstrations.

The Roman Catholic monk from upstate New York wrote a cookbook on soups — and became hot himself.

"God works in strange ways," Brother Victor says while taking a break at Our Lady of the Resurrection Monastery near Millbrook, N.Y., where he worked six years on "Twelve Months of Monastery Soups."

As the book goes into a second printing and his editor prepares to re-release an earlier cookbook, monks like Brother Victor are finding the fruits of their labors are gaining unexpected cachet.

Monks have been brewing, baking and chanting for centuries, selling their products to support a life based on prayer and solitude. But the things monks make are today increasingly marketable, with part of the attraction based on the very distance they maintain from secular society.

AP Laserphoto

Roman Catholic monk Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette lights a candle for vespers in the chapel of Our Lady of the Resurrection monastery in Millbrook, N.Y. His "Twelve Months of Monastery Soups" has become a best seller.

A book on monks in Ireland is on the New York Times bestseller list. The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain have recorded their third compact disc and claim to have sold 3 million copies of the first two. Individuals like Brother Victor retain agents, appear on network news shows and demonstrate techniques at chic cooking emporiums like Williams-Sonoma.

"They are hot," says Barbara Kuck, director of the Culinary Archives & Museum at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I.

Williams-Sonoma put Brigittine Monks Fudge in their catalog, right next to the French chocolate truffles priced at $39 for a half-pound box. Company spokeswoman Amy Burke says monk appeal be one reason why people buy Assumption Abbey Fruitcake, made in the foothills of the Missouri Ozarks.

Ms. Kuck thinks people simply buy things that taste good.

"I think they are very high quality," she says of the food items she's sampled. "Is it part of the hype or do I unconsciously want to support their lifestyle so it tastes wonderful? I don't know."

Ms. Kuck sees the low-profile phenomenon as part of a historical cycle in which people every hundred years or so focus on simplicity as they review the past and confront the future.

"The closer you get to the end of the millennium, the more you get nostalgic for a quiet, more peaceful, less stressful life," she says.

Trend watchers like Arnold Brown, a principal partner with Weiner, Edrich, Brown Inc., a New York futurist consulting group that studies what's hot and how to make money from it, say the attraction is probably connected to the surge in interest in religion and spirituality that has marked the 1990s.

"Buying the chants and the food, going to dinners on behalf of the Dalai Lama, are all ways of vicariously living the monastic experience — without having to actually live it," Brown says. "I mean, no one wants to be a monk, but (consumers) think it's wonderful."

With numbers dwindling among religious orders, the monks and sisters who sell fudge, fruitcakes and jam to help support themselves are avidly advertising in gourmet magazines, taking telephone credit card orders and setting up web pages on the Internet.

The monastic orders do manage to contain capitalistic impulses, however, by limiting production, taking prayer breaks and keeping short hours — even at Christmas, the busiest time of year.

Take Sister Barbara Smickel of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Crozet, Va. A single paragraph about the sisters' cheese in a magazine helped fuel such demand that new customers will have to wait until the third week of February when the next batch is made.

"We made as much as we could, and when it's gone, it's gone," she says.

Brother Victor readily admits he prefers solitude and prayer to television lights and book signings, even though he wants to sell books.

But he says his purpose is bigger than earning enough cash for monastery upkeep. Like monks of the past who established soup kitchens to feed the hungry, Brother Victor seeks to nourish souls with good food, simply prepared.

"I think cookbooks — to me — are a way of opening up the monastery to the world and sharing something from the inside," he says. "The Lord provides."

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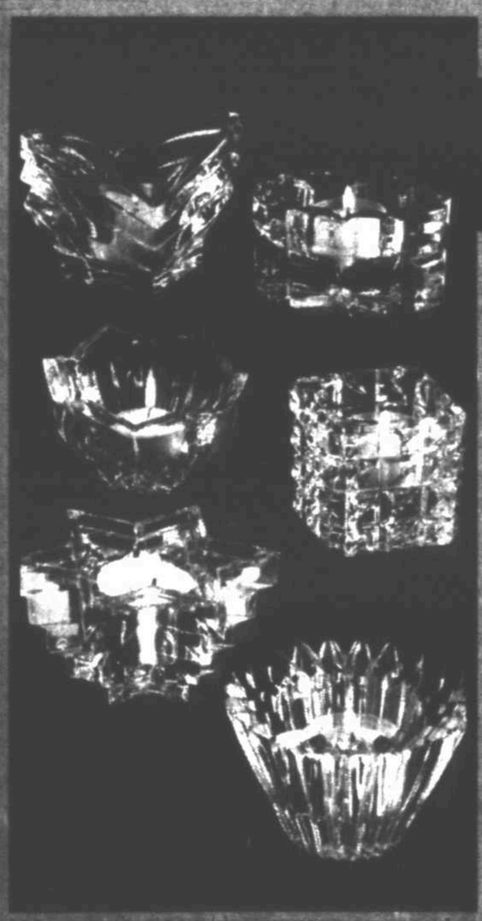

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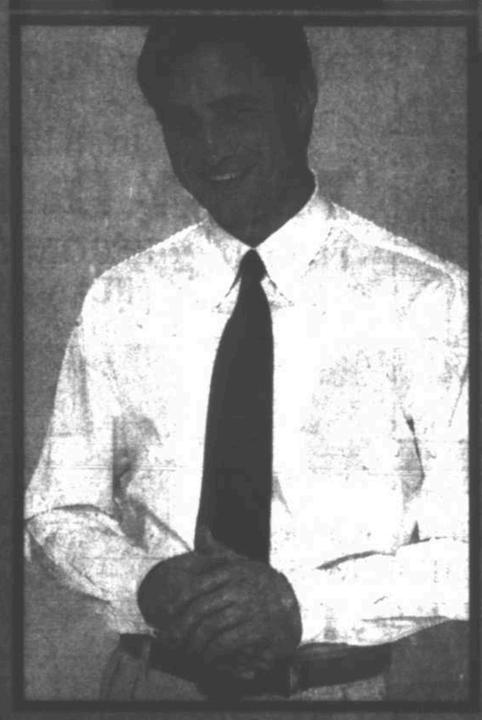

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N.Y. Times News

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Gingrich confesses he violated ethics rules, bargains on punishment

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a stunning confession Saturday after two years of denials, Speaker Newt Gingrich admitted violating House ethics rules. Republican sources said Gingrich was bargaining for a reprimand that would allow him to remain the House's top official.

Gingrich, who had a meteoric rise to the speakership in 1995, could fall from that perch just as fast if the chamber votes instead to censure him. The punishment is reserved for serious offenses, and House rules prohibit censured members from serving as speaker.

A lesser vote to reprimand Gingrich would allow him to keep his job. While the speaker's defense team bargained for him secretly with the House ethics committee, the Republican hierarchy swiftly closed ranks in hopes of ensuring his re-election next month.

Persistent denials ended Saturday for the speaker with the striking statement that "I, Newt Gingrich, admit" to wrongdoing. He acknowledged his failure to seek legal advice that would have prevented his use of tax-exempt organizations for political purposes.

The ideological leader of the GOP's House takeover also conceded, "In my name and over my signature, inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable statements were given to the (House ethics) committee, but I did not intend to mislead."

He was answering a 22-page "statement of alleged violation," the House version of an indictment, that was approved unanimously by an ethics investigative subcommittee of two Republicans and two Democrats.

The full ethics committee, five Republicans and five Democrats, will hold a hearing on punishment. While the proceeding could be held after the Jan. 7 speaker's election, Gingrich still would have to leave the post if he was elected and censured later.

The GOP sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gingrich was not allowed to bargain on the wording of the "statement of alleged violation" — but did negotiate his own statement explaining his actions.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey and the rest of the GOP leaders rallied to their leader by proclaiming: "Today, with the work of the subcommittee complete, we reiterate our unequivocal support."

By admitting to every point in the "statement of alleged violation," Gingrich agreed that he failed to "seek and follow" legal advice that would have demonstrated his tax-exempt organizations were used improperly as arms of his political action committee: GOPAC.

The subcommittee said a college course taught by Gingrich from 1993 to 1995 and three television programs — all financed through tax-exempt organizations — were political in nature and should not have qualified for tax-deductible donations.

The committee said tax experts — including one representing Gingrich — agreed that if they had been consulted about the speaker's fund-raising tactic, "they would have advised that it not be conducted under the auspices" of tax-exempt organizations.

The false statements by Gingrich were submitted on March 27, 1995, and Dec. 9, 1994. The speaker described his college course as "completely nonpartisan" and "wholly independent of GOPAC."

The subcommittee disagreed, saying "the main message" of Gingrich's "Renewing American Civilization" course at two Georgia colleges was "also the main message of GOPAC."

In his admission, Gingrich said, "I did not seek personal gain, but my actions did not reflect creditably on the House of Representatives."

He added, "I did not seek legal counsel when I should have in order to ensure clear compliance with all applicable laws, and that was wrong.

"Because I did not, I brought down on the people's house a controversy which could weaken the faith people have in their government."

Technically, the committee found that Gingrich's conduct violated the House rule that obliges all lawmakers to conduct themselves "at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House of Representatives."

House Democratic leader Richard A. Gephardt said the admission "revealed very disturbing and serious questions about the actions of the speaker. ...

"I am saddened that as a result of the speaker's actions, the integrity of the House of Representatives and the office of the speaker has been called into question."

Gingrich's chief antagonist, Democratic Whip David Bonior, was more forceful.

"The speaker should step down as speaker of the House of Representatives and allow his colleagues in the majority party to elect a new speaker on the 7th of January," he commented.

New research casts doubt on evidence of life on red planet

N.Y. Times News Service

The Martians of summer are facing a hard winter. Their very survival is in question.

New research has cast a cold shadow over the sensational claims made in August that a meteorite that fell on Antarctica carried chemical and possibly fossil evidence of primitive life on early Mars — microbial Martians.

The possibility revived speculation about life on other worlds, an idea ever latent in science and the human imagination, and seemed to provide additional impetus for projects to explore the neighboring planet, including two American spacecraft now on their way.

But independent tests conducted since the meteorite announcement, scientists said, have shown that the supposed evidence for Martian life can be explained away in nonbiological terms. What had been detected in the potato-shaped rock could well be neither animal nor vegetable, but strictly mineral.

The results of one study, researchers concluded, invalidates three of four lines of evidence offered in support of the claim that the meteorite contained traces of microorganisms on Mars from long ago.

The results of one study, researchers concluded, invalidated three of the four lines of evidence offered in support of the claim that the meteorite contained traces of microorganisms on Mars from long ago, when the planet was a warmer, wetter place.

It is unclear, they said, whether the fourth clue — the presence of the kind of organic molecules that are common on Earth and are often related to biological activity — can stand alone as evidence of past life.

But another study raised suspicions about that, too. It suggested how contaminants from the Antarctic ice could have misled scientists into thinking they had found the first sign of Martian organic molecules.

Dr. John Kerridge, a planetary scientist at the University of California at San Diego who is familiar with both studies, said, "The biological explanation for the meteorite is becoming less and less plausible."

The scientists raising the doubts spoke in apologetic tones about the implications of their research. One of them, Dr. Harry McSween Jr. of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, said, "It makes me feel like the Grinch stealing everybody's Martians."

McSween and others said their findings did not rule out microbial Martians. They emphasized that while the meteorite clues might be suspect, there remained other intriguing circumstantial evidence suggesting that some forms of rudimentary life could have existed on Mars 3 to 4 billion years ago, and could still exist today in moist soil beneath the surface.

Earlier spacecraft revealed topography indicating that water must have once covered parts of the planet and could have created conditions favoring the emergence of life.

So far, the scientists who first saw in the meteorite "fossil remains of a past Martian biota," as they reported then in the journal Science, are not yielding an inch. They are studying the new research, they said, but could see no reason yet to revise or withdraw their interpretation.

Responding to the critics, Dr. David McKay of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, a leader of the initial meteorite study, said: "We disagree with their interpretation, and we're basically not worried by all this. For one reason, we don't think they're looking at the same places in the meteorite."

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Parental rights ruling correct

In what must be hailed as a victory for parental rights, the Supreme Court's recent ruling that states must allow parents to appeal court orders terminating their rights has again bolstered the legal bond between parents and their children.

The crux of the ruling last week that reversed a Mississippi Supreme Court decision, said in effect that the relationship between a parent and their children is so critical that a decision by the state to end it must be weighed with utmost care.

Writing the majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated, "No ties are more precious than those binding parent and child, and ... few decrees are so grave in their consequences as a court order permanently severing the parent-child bond."

Yet the ruling gave even additional weight to parental rights by affirming that even poor parents who cannot afford to appeal a court order terminating their rights must be permitted to do so. To that end, it then becomes the burden of other taxpayers to underwrite the assurance of parental rights.

It was on that point where three justices dissented, notably Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Antonin Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas who predicted the ruling will end up being extended to other types of civil cases.

While that possibility certainly exists, it was extremely critical that the high court come down in favor of parental rights due to all the fears surfacing in recent months that the rights of parents to their own children are in danger of being usurped by the federal government.

Parental rights are critical to our very way of life and even if the cost of ensuring those rights are protected for all parents must be borne by the nation's taxpayers as a whole, that assurance must be maintained. This was a good and correct ruling.

Another View

Regulating politics won't end corruption

In their recent book, "Dirty Little Secrets," detailing contemporary political corruption, political scientist Larry Sabato and reporter Glenn Simpson observe:

"The last two decades have produced greater regulation of politics than occurred in all of the preceding two centuries, and yet many critics contend that the problems are worse now than they have ever been." Then they ask this question: "Is the logical step really more regulation?"

The post-Watergate campaign reforms featured spending and giving limits and taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns. This led to the growth of political action committees and reliance on "soft money" for political parties, back-door spending by non-political ideological groups — and even bigger advantages for incumbents than before.

Messrs. Sabato and Simpson propose what they call deregulation plus: No public funding, no spending limits, no contribution limits — but requirements for full and prompt disclosure of political spending would be tightened.

Adjunct outfits such as employee organizations also would have to disclose their political-related spending. That way, voters would now where candidates get their money and in what amounts, make judgements accordingly and be able to watch for post-election payoffs.

Of course, the only sure way to reduce corruption and the influence of money in politics is to reduce the size and power of government to grant favors and give out goodies.

However, until the president and Congress are ready to do that — not just talk about it — tightening disclosure laws would be far more useful than implementing more of the same kinds of rules that provided us with the present mess.

— Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 1996. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1864, during the Civil War, Union General William T. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln from Georgia, saying, "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah."

On this date:

In 1775, a Continental naval fleet was organized in the rebellious American Colonies under the command of Ezek Hopkins.

In 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act, designed to force peace between Britain and France by cutting off all trade with Europe.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans demanded the surrender of American troops at Bastogne, Belgium; Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe reportedly replied: "Nuts!"

In 1963, an official 30-day mourning period following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy came to an end.

In 1989, Romania's hard-line Communist ruler, Nicolae Ceausescu, was toppled in a popular uprising.

In 1990, Lech Walesa took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

Five years ago: The body of Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage murdered by his captors, was found dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

Jack Anderson

More powerful incentive is needed to save money

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has promised to work hard for a balanced budget during his second term. But his efforts are doomed to fail unless the bureaucracy follows him by eliminating wasteful practices.

Bureaucrats love paper, and there is no organization around that is more "in triplicate" than the armed services. Over the years, the branches of the U.S. military have helped pile up America's $5 trillion national debt with costly requirements that bury common sense six feet under.

Anderson

Sometimes, in fact, it's hard to tell whether what they're asking for is on the level or just someone's idea of a joke. Take the "refund questionnaire" that we received in the mail.

It was accompanied by an indignant note from a woman who tried to get a soft drink out of a vending machine on an Army base. The machine swallowed her change, she wrote, and gave forth no soda. So she followed the instructions on the machine and applied for a refund.

Instead of her change, she got a three-page questionnaire containing 20 questions that were to be answered before she could get her money back. There was an affidavit-like "statement" to sign at the end, attesting that "the answers given are true to the best of my knowledge."

After demanding the refund applicant's name and exact place of work, the questionnaire got to down to cases:

"Do you consider yourself (a) a regular vending machine patron, (b) an infrequent vending machine user, or (c) a first time user?

"How did you insert coins? (a) drop, (b) snap, (c) spin, or (d) other (please describe).

"Did the coin make a falling sound? (a) behind slot, (b) into mechanism, (c) into coin box, (d) into coin return, or (e) other (please describe).

"Following insertion of coins did you (a) tap on the coin slot, (b) tap the machine below the coin slot, (c) kick or shake the machine, (d) none of the above, or (e) other (please describe)."

Assuming total recall by the thirsty victim, the questionnaire asked if the machine was full, partially full or "other." Were there any signs of machine abuse? Did anyone else manage to use the machine successfully?

Surely the questionnaire was a joke, a parody of bureaucratic officiousness. Not so. Its dead-serious author, an Army lieutenant, told us it was designed to give maintenance people precise information.

Over four decades of reporting in Washington leads us to predict that further, well-intended cost-cutting measures by the Republican Congress and President Clinton may be gently detoothed and bound up by the rope-knowing Lilliputians of the permanent bureaucracy. So gradually and imperceptibly will they tighten the bonds that reformers may never appreciate the extent to which they are in the bureaucratic behemoth's grip.

In private business, a standard of competence is imposed by the market. If a business branch is wasteful, loses money or its profits decline, a bell goes off at headquarters and that branch is either pruned or cut off. Whether a branch manager is doing a good or a bad job will be proved definitively by the profit-and-loss figure.

But the government bureau, with no such automatic arbiter, can always claim that a poor result could be improved upon with a bigger staff and more money. The bureau chief has often been rewarded, not for efficiency which cannot be measured, but by the number of people he has under him. The more bodies, the higher his grade.

The bureaucrats, therefore, have developed a too-cavalier attitude toward government appropriations. No amount is ever sufficient; they must always have more. With expansion and expenditure as their motive, they are constantly maneuvering for more money.

If we may be permitted a modest suggestion, a more powerful incentive is needed to save money. So why not reward the bureaucrats in the military and elsewhere for seeking out and eliminating unnecessary expenditures? Instead of the higher salaries they now get for padding the budget, why not give them bonuses for cutting the budget?

Jack Anderson's and Jan Moller's column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate.

George Will

In age of 'whatever,' Americans are slaves to nonchalance

WASHINGTON — Pursuant to the Motion Picture Production Code's mandate that "no picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it," the script of "Casablanca" (1942) was changed, the word "like" replacing "enjoy" in what was originally this line for Captain Renault (Claude Rains): "You enjoy war. I enjoy women." The Hays Office, enforcer of the code, issued this edict after reviewing the script of "The African Queen" (1951): "There must be no unacceptable exposure of Rose's (Katharine Hepburn's) person as she 'tucks her skirt up into her underclothes.' We assume the intention here is to tuck the skirt under the knees of her bloomers."

Will

America has liberated itself from not only such pettifoggery but also from what is now considered the tyranny of taste. So, is everyone happy?

Not exactly. There is a certain troubling lack of refinement in Dennis Rodman's America, a lack linked to three linked ideas: distinguishing between liberty and license is incipient fascism; manners are servants of hypocrisy; concern for appearances and respectability is a craven treason against self-expression, hence not respectable.

The eclipse of civility is a fact fraught with depressing significance, as explained in the autumn Wilson Quarterly, in essays by Richard Bushman, a Columbia historian, and James Morris of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The gravamen of their arguments is: a coarse and slatternly society—boomboxes borne through crowded streets by young men wearing pornographic T-shirts and baseball caps backward; young women using, in what formerly was called polite society, language that formerly caused stevedores to blush—jeopardizes all respect, including self-respect.

Bushman says the young American nation had to overcome the fear that gentility, the product of an elite culture, put common people at a disadvantage, hence compromised democracy. But as American lives became less and less governed by austere material conditions and austere religious codes, rules of gentility (young George Washington was required to read "110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation") supplied governance for human nature's unruly impulses.

Bushman defines gentility as "a compulsion to make the world beautiful," beginning with the individual and extending to the home—a piano on a carpet in the parlor; polished walnut furniture; ceramic dinnerware—and to parks and museums to elevate the public's taste. Gentility stimulated a market for many of capitalism's goods, and capitalism democratized gentility by making those goods affordable.

As urban density came to a formerly frontier society, Bushman writes, "the premium on simply getting along in public grew." There were uniformed ushers in theaters, sometimes distributing printed rules of decorum, such as not talking during the performance. Behavior was better when cinemas were opulent. Bring back the printed rules for the boors whose minimalist manners are suited to today's "multiplexes."

Time was, writes Morris, Americans understood that rules of civility do not just smooth surfaces, they "inscribed the soul." Today America is a nation of "voluble solipsists," chatting away on cellular phones in public, unconcerned for privacy or dignity. Or safety. A bumper sticker: "Hang up and drive." Morris warns:

"In this age of 'whatever,' Americans are becoming slaves to the new tyranny of nonchalance. 'Whatever.' The word draws you in like a plumped pillow and folds round your brain; the progress of its syllables is a movement toward ... a universal shrug. It's all capitulation. No one wants to make a judgment, to impose a standard, to act from authority and call conduct unacceptable."

So this nation, where traditions "have the shelf life of bread," is getting perhaps not the behavior it deserves, but that which it countenances. Why, "even the meek drive like Messala out to teach Ben Hur who's boss." The future stares blankly at us through the eyes of the "fragile young men/women" in Calvin Klein ads, "in a conga line of pointless sexuality," having opted "for a new cologne over bathing."

Today's is not the "honest coarseness of frontier settlers removed from society and struggling with bears and the seasons." It occurs in a land where plenitude inflames the sense of entitlement to more of almost everything, but less of manners and taste, with their irritating intimations of authority and hierarchy.

Today, Dennis Rodman. What next?

Whatever.

George Will's column is distributed by Washington Post Writers Group.

Russell Baker

Lincoln's bedroom is big moneymaker at Hotel Clinton

Somebody is bound to call it Abegate. I mean this business of the White House renting out the Lincoln Bedroom for rates varying from $750,000 to $1.2 million per night.

That's pricey even by New York hotel standards. Just this past weekend my favorite New York hotel was charging $215 per night. Even after adding the 8.25 percent New York State sales tax, the $6 New York City occupancy tax and the 5 percent New York City tax, it came to a mere $249.49 per night.

Baker

My auditor, of course, won't think $249.49 is mere. That's because I've never booked the Lincoln Bedroom at Hotel Clinton.

Its rates were reported Sunday by Washington Post reporters Michael Weisskopf and Charles R. Babcock. To qualify for the Lincoln Bedroom, guests have to raise at least $750,000 for the Democratic National Committee and most have to come up with another $100,000 or so out of their own pockets.

As you can imagine, neither your dry-cleaner nor your mailman was listed on Hotel Clinton's register.

It is tempting to preach a sermon here. There is — to put it as gently as possible — something tasteless, something tacky, something just plain common about using Mr. Lincoln's bedroom to hustle zillionaires for political contributions.

Before enjoying a good wallow in righteous indignation, however, we probably ought to ask how much more tasteless, tacky, common it is than the rest of the tasteless, tacky, common, not to mention disgusting, chase for money that is mostly what politics is all about these days.

So let parsons, priests and Republicans rage about Abegate. Let the rest of us, hardened to the cynicism of political frauds and chiselers and deaf to cant, be content to satisfy curiosity.

The first question is whether any of these well-heeled guests saw Lincoln's ghost. One, a movie tycoon who doesn't want his name printed, told us he saw two ghosts during the night.

The first, which stood at the foot of the Lincoln bed glaring angrily at him, didn't look much like Lincoln. Mustering his courage, he asked it, "What is your name, ghost?"

"Are you in business?" the ghost replied.

"You bet your sweet patootie I'm in business," said the tycoon. "You don't think working stiffs can afford this room at these rates, do you?"

In reply the ghost said, "The business of America is business," and vanished. Waking his wife, the guest said, "I think we were just haunted by Calvin Coolidge's ghost."

Two hours later he was awakened by a clanking of chains. A second ghost was in the room. It was Alfonse D'Amato. The chains, said the ghost, were the chains he had forged for Bill and Hillary while leading the Whitewater investigation. Now he was doomed to wear them into his next election campaign.

Next morning the guest complained at the checkout desk. He had raised the requisite $750,000 and had paid $200,000 out of pocket, but he had been haunted only by Calvin Coolidge and Alfonse D'Amato. At that price he felt entitled to see Lincoln's ghost. Or at least Raymond Massey's.

Before he could make a scene, the manager intervened. "You do not get Lincoln's ghost in the $950,000 package," he said. "For $950,000 we provide only two random Republican haunts. You were lucky to get Coolidge and D'Amato. Last night's moneybags had to settle for Thomas E. Dewey and Phyllis Schlafly."

Russell Baker's column is distributed by New York Times News Service.

Letti

Self examin… important fo…

As many as 4… cancer cases … mammogram. … examination al… as a mammogr… I discovered an … breast and show… who advised me… opinion. After c… for a long perio… tor did a lumpe… cancer. Becaus… cancer that do… mammogram, … be felt and we k… it was, my doct… tectomy, which … November. She… cells other than… and the lymph … very lucky.

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Remember, … your breasts ma…

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Does Midland … a city that cater… and ignores the … poor people (t… taxpayers)? To … groups that woul… people, teenag… afford cars), … single parents, s… people on assis…

Speaking …

SWE…

By Michael Ka…

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LETTERS

Self examination is important for detection

As many as 40 percent of breast cancer cases do not show on a mammogram. This makes self examination almost as important as a mammogram. Last January I discovered an irregularity in my breast and showed it to Dr. Bartha who advised me to go for another opinion. After carefully watching for a long period of time my doctor did a lumpectomy and it was cancer. Because I had the kind of cancer that does not show on a mammogram, even when it could be felt and we knew exactly where it was, my doctor advised a mastectomy, which was done early in November. She found no other cells other than the original lump and the lymph was clear, so I was very lucky.

I especially want to thank those of you who already have been down this road, and who shared your experiences with me, even showing me your reconstruction, and also showing me that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. All of you had this behind you and were living what seems to me to be full and happy lives. This is so important when one thinks she will never be normal or happy again. I feel a kinship to each of you because of this common thread that binds us.

Remember, getting to know your breasts may save your life.

Ruth Holmstrom

How can we ignore transportation needs?

Many people have moved to Midland, not knowing there is no public transportation, aside from a city taxi cab, the city has a franchise on. So who would be surprised, when Midland was rated one of the worse cities to live in?

No matter how beautiful a city is, the image portrayed to others should be how a city benefits its citizens, especially where transportation is concerned.

The question most have asked, is Midland too poor to have a real bus line, with designated bus stops, like smaller towns have? If small towns of 30,000 provide this service, why can't Midland with more than 90,000? When small towns recognize the need, why doesn't Midland? Thousands of people, men and women, of all ages, day or night...have no choice but to walk everywhere they go, in all types of weather. These people don't mind walking a few blocks to a bus stop, but many walk several miles, because they can't afford a taxi.

Does Midland want the image of a city that caters only to the rich, and ignores the middle class and poor people (the hard working taxpayers)? To mention only a few groups that would benefit: working people, teenagers (who can't afford cars), people on parole, single parents, senior citizens, and people on assistant programs. So how can we continue to ignore the needs of our people in Midland?

Faye Russell

Four abortion cases don't justify millions

Recent editorials comparing the legality of abortion to the murder of infants paint an uncomfortable picture for those who support abortion. Our laws draw an arbitrary line between what is legal and what is a crime. Aborting a baby before birth is OK. To murder the baby just hours after birth is not. It is difficult to believe that thinking Americans cannot see the fallacy of this position. Pro-lifers such as myself, see in abortion the disregard for human life when it is inconvenient, unwanted, imperfect. This mentality is taking us into euthanasia, infanticide, and eventually genocide. When the majority can determine who lives and who dies, we are on a course of destruction. The director of Planned Parenthood misses that point. Yes, four women stood with President Clinton as he vetoed the partial-birth abortion bill. I can only imagine their pain and heartache. I would willingly give the pro-choice movement those four cases. They do not justify the remaining 30 million babies who have been killed since 1973.

Emory Mansour

'Celebrations' is un-Christian program

My generation was so blessed to have the story of Jesus celebrated in our communities, to hear of the Savior who died for us and offers us eternal life.

Today the government and public schools attempt to blemish the name of our forefathers and erase the fact that this country was established by Christian men and women.

I hope that everyone in Midland looks very carefully at Midland's school curriculum called "Celebrations." It is un-Christian.

Trying to appease everyone, our government and public schools have watered down the one thing that has made this country great. The Celebrations curriculum is more of the agenda of the "intellectual liberal": No accountability, no right or wrong, just choose your own god.

Janet Pollard

MISD increased total spending by $4 million

Steve Buck, president of Midland Federation of Teachers, wrote to accuse our group, the Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, of unethically "throwing around facts and figures." In his letter he corrected us as follows: "MISD teachers did not receive a 4.3 percent increase in pay — they received an average 4.3 percent increase."

We're grateful to Mr. Buck for the opportunity to clarify this question. We realize that the teachers' raise was a state mandate, and that the 4.3 percent did not apply to individuals, but to salary midpoints. Some received more, some less. But here's the point: faced with a requirement to give teachers a raise, the board chose to give the very same raise (on average) to all 1,300 employees who are not teachers.

During that meeting on May 14, trustee Diane Anderson suggested that raises be withheld for the highest-paid administrators. No other board member supported this idea, even though MISD's average base pay for administrators is $54,986, higher than Ector County, San Angelo, Abilene or Lubbock, and 6.2 percent above state average (according to the 1996 Texas Association of School Board Benchmarks).

MISD's 1996-97 budget increased total spending by almost $4 million. This, despite the cancellation of the long-term program of renovating one elementary school every year. Could MISD have found a way to meet the state teacher salary mandate, and still renovate Travis, without raising taxes? We don't know, because they didn't try. That's the point we were trying to make.

Richard D. Bowdon
chairman, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility

City's reasons don't justify course's delay

I was quite angry when I read in the paper last week that the city of Midland has decided, seemingly without public input, to delay the construction of the fourth nine at Hogan Park. In what I believe to be a sorry set of excuses, the city is refusing to fund improvements that certainly will increase revenues in an already money-making property. Let's examine the city's excuses for this delay.

Excuse No. 1: Higher than expected construction costs:

Certainly, the cost of constructing the fourth nine now is more than it was when the idea was first proposed years ago. I also would think that a further delay will increase the construction costs beyond the current $1.1 million estimate. If the city waits until the surcharge fund can pay for the expansion, (a possibility, given the hesitancy now) it would take 15.6 years to raise the funds. Assuming interest for the surcharge fund can keep up with inflation inherent to construction costs, 15-plus years is still a long time. Will the city always have higher priority projects that require full funding with available bond money?

Excuse No. 2: Priorities for bond dollars:

Aside from the stated "development participation for infrastructure," no specific projects were mentioned as being more important than golf-course expansion. Now I'm sure "development participating for infrastructure" is important but so is outdoor recreation and there is darn little of it in Midland. Besides, if Midland plans on attracting more non-oil businesses, recreation is an important part, especially considering how remote Midland is from a large city. One 27-hole public golf course for 90,000-plus people does not sound as attractive as two 18-hole courses.

Excuse No. 3: Golf course does not generate enough dollars to justify additional debt:

I am not privy to the numbers, but the golf course has been open for a long time and it is hard for me to believe that all these years the course has operated in red. Currently the course is limited in the amount of tournaments (especially shotgun start tournaments) that it can hold, and more tournaments would yield more income. Tournaments could be held on one 18 and the regular players could play on the other course. Is the city manager blind to this obvious revenue generator or is there another reason for the delay?

I think there is another reason for the delay and I don't think it has anything to do with revenue, "participating for infrastructure," or bond money. I think the delay is due to an unfortunate accident. I think the accidental puncturing of a gas line while clearing brush in preparation for construction of the fourth nine has petrified the city and caused the delay. Does it make sense that the city would start to clear ground if they planned on delaying construction? No one was injured in the accident but I think the city officials are afraid to proceed, fearing lawsuits. I think the city should go ahead with it's original timing and build the fourth nine at Hogan Park now. The stated reasons are lame and do not justify a delay.

Bob Goon

Put aside party pride, work for better Texas

An old friend and political nemesis, Tom Craddick, representative from Midland, had an interesting letter (The GOP Heart of Texas, Nov. 22) in the Austin American-Statesman recently. With the significant gains by Republicans in Texas, perhaps some gloating was inevitable, but, in my view, the claim that "Texas is a Republican state" is exaggerated and simply not true. The huge majority of our 254 counties still vote Democrat in most local races. This dichotomy of voting may be explained by the very successful campaign, by Republican operatives, to co-opt many Texans by linkage of terms. Like, family/patriotic/conservative equals Republican while their opposites are a part of being a Democrat.

This is a gross distortion of the truth as well as the literate meaning of all the subject words. Yes, Democrats are also loving family folk, patriots and both liberal and conservative depending on the issue. The siren song of Republicans has, unfortunately I believe, lured many Texans (and folks across the South) into a macho-type fad of believing that to vote Republican is to be rich and famous as well as pure of heart and patriotic. Not so!

Craddick represents Midland, a fine city (our home for many years) and Republican bastion, serving since the late sixties. His Republican feelings come quite easily, emanating from the Midland political environment. My family loved Midland but found it hard to enjoy it fully as high-profile Democrats. Thanks to George W. Bush and other post WWII immigrants from Ivy League environs, the Republican Party became the party to belong to. The Bush family are admirable folk and they did an admirable job of making Midland a Republican town.

Yes, Craddick, Texas is apparently going Republican at the top of the ticket and instead of boasting about it please be aware that Texas is at the bottom in many categories of human needs like health care, education and welfare. We can do better, and I challenge you and the Republicans in the Texas statehouse to put aside partisan claims and demands to work with Democrats to push Texas toward the top as we approach "that bridge to the 21st century." A bit trite and overused expression by now, but let's hope that the Republicans can get over gidd/ pride now so we can all get over the bridge to a better state for all the folks of Texas in whatever party.

Bob Northington
Marble Falls, Texas

Our policy on letters

The Reporter-Telegram recognizes the "Letters to the Editor" format as an important forum for citizen opinion and encourages participation of all readers. To that end, we have set as few rules as possible. However, we must have some, and they are:

- Letters must be signed and include a street address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters not including this information will not be considered for publication.
- They should be no more than 350 words in length. While some lengthy letters are published, we reserve the right to edit when necessary due to space limitations. The briefer the letter, the better its chance of publication.
- Only one letter per month per writer can be published.
- Letters will be edited for length, taste and legal reasons and are accepted only on that basis. Letters which are difficult to reduce in length will be returned to the writer to be edited before being re-submitted.
- We do not publish 'open' letters, copies of letters sent to others or multiple signatures.

Because we cannot research and verify all information in letters, by publishing them we neither imply nor guarantee the accuracy of information stated by writers.

Letters should be sent to: The Editor, Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702 or you may fax to 682-3793.

They can also be faxed to 682-3793 or sent via e-mail to Letters@basinlink.com - Letters faxed or sent by e-mail should indicate they are for publication.

SPEAKING OUT: RESPONSE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

SWB takes swift action to open markets

By Michael Kaufman

Southwestern Bell's Michael Kaufman is regional president of Central & West Texas.

On Feb. 8, when President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996, executives from Southwestern Bell gathered to cheer the landmark change. Overwhelmingly supported by Congress, this legislation ended the 100-year-old concept that was the law of the land: that of an exclusive local franchise.

Southwestern Bell worked diligently for the passage of the Telecommunications Act. We vigorously supported the concept that the market should be open to all competition because we knew our customers wanted one-stop shopping — the ability to receive their local telephone service, cellular service, long-distance service, Internet access, cable TV and other telecommunications-related services all from a single source and on one monthly bill.

On the day the act became law, the barriers that had prevented competition from entering the local telephone market were removed. AT&T, or for that matter any telecommunications provider, could, on that day, enter our business.

Southwestern Bell, however, would need to meet a local competition "checklist" in order to offer long-distance service to our customers. Since the passage of the legislation, we have matched our words with our deeds.

We have taken swift, deliberate steps to open our markets through 16 local competition agreements in Texas with telecommunications providers like MFS Communications, soon to be a part of Tulsa-based WorldCom, the fourth largest long distance carrier in the U.S. We've also reached agreements with such companies as cable giant Time Warner, American Telco, US Telco, US Long-Distance, TIE Communications, and Intel-Com Group.

We're also finalizing negotiations with many of the nearly 60 other companies (more than 100 companies have filed for certification) that have received regulatory approval to offer local service in Texas. Southwestern Bell is working hard to meet the federal guidelines for competition despite AT&T's unwillingness to come to terms.

We're moving aggressively to meet those guidelines in spite of our concern that regulators are asking us to offer new competitors extremely low discounts, which give them access to our network at rates below our cost. Such an approach, in effect, forces Southwestern Bell customers to subsidize the entry of new competitors into the marketplace.

Nevertheless, we will continue to push this process forward, because the sooner the local market is opened, the sooner Southwestern Bell can seek approval from the Federal Communications Commission to offer our customers long-distance service, which would move us one step closer to offering our customers the true one-stop shopping they want and need. And that's just the way Congress envisioned it.

When we enter the long-distance market, our customers can depend on Southwestern Bell for high-quality service and affordable rates. In fact, Southwestern Bell's local rates have not increased for 13 years and won't rise in the next couple years under the Texas telecommunications law (House Bill 2128). Moreover, adjusted for inflation, rates actually have declined 30 percent since 1984, despite service improvements and billions of dollars of investment.

By contrast, the "Big Three" long-distance carriers — AT&T, MCI/British Telecom and Sprint — have increased their basic rates more than 20 percent in less than three years (including nearly 6 percent earlier this month), despite the supposedly intense state of competition in that market.

We'll also bring to our long-distance efforts a solid record for reliability and quality of service. Our Texas network processes 114 million calls a day (including 3 million here in the Midland-Odessa area) through state-of-the-art switching facilities that provide Texans with 99.999 percent reliability when they pick up the phone. Still, we work to serve our customers even better — investing billions of dollars in our network, including more than $6.6 billion since 1988. Last year alone, we spent close to $9 million in capital investments locally. And that investment is backed by the nearly 30,000 men and women we employ across the state, including nearly 330 in the Midland-Odessa area.

We also will continue to bring new technology into Texas on behalf of our customers. From Caller ID to high-speed ISDN telephone, more than one-third of our 300 telecommunications products have been introduced in the past two years. New long-distance offerings will expand that range of choices even further.

We'll also continue to meet or exceed our commitments to the people of this state under Texas House Bill 2128 — just as we have met or exceeded those commitments to date. For example, we already have met our goal of making digital service available to every Texan by the end of this year. And we are moving forward to provide improved educational opportunities for Texas students, new online resources for libraries, and telemedicine projects that provide critical links between urban doctors and rural patients.

In other words, when we have the opportunity to provide all telecommunications services to our customers, some important things won't change. We'll still provide the same reliable, affordable, high-quality service that we have in the past.

We'll still have an employee team that's quite simply the best in the business, winning high marks for service excellence from our more than 1 million business and residential customers statewide.

We'll continue to repair the lines after floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, and make sure that our customers' service is always there for them.

In short, we'll provide the highest quality telecommunications products and services — including long-distance — and one-stop shopping convenience for all of our customers.

That's our commitment to the people of Midland, and our pledge to Texas.

AT&T urges Texans to support competition, choice, innovation

By Rian Wren

Rian Wren is vice president of local services for the Southwest region of AT&T.

The flood of innovation in the telecommunications industry is giving Texans an exciting array of ways to get connected for business and pleasure. Just look in any corner of the house or office.

Cable and satellite services are dueling for customers in the home entertainment market.

Cellular, paging and personal communication services offer a growing choice of wireless ways to be in touch with office or family.

Internet access providers, large and small, vie for the budding on-line market.

And, as we at AT&T are well aware, many companies provide long-distance service at ever lower prices.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, which became law in February, has mandated a completely competitive communications market in the United States. As the examples above suggest, competition is thriving in many markets, spurring innovation, quality and lower prices. One sector of communications, though, is only on the threshold of competition — local telephone service. While the long-distance market has become increasingly competitive over the past dozen years, local service largely remains a monopoly business.

This will change with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since its passage, state authorities and the Federal Communications Commission have been engaged in sorting through the complex issues associated with opening local service to the type of competition that has been such a boon to the long-distance marketplace. Long-distance prices have dropped as much as 66 percent since the breakup of the Bell System in 1984, and they continue to decline. New types of calling plans have responded to differing consumer needs. Network improvements such as the AT&T True Choice sound quality enhancement have made good service even better. When competitors continually try to best one another, as they do every day in the long-distance market, consumers are the clear beneficiaries.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) is now examining how and when the benefits of competition promised by the federal act will be implemented for Texas consumers. The PUC has a difficult, important task. Its decisions will determine whether the benefits of competition become a reality for Texas consumers or an empty promise.

Texas has a tremendous opportunity. It can pave the way for a choice in local service for the 83 percent of Texans who, in a survey this year, said they want it. It can give customers, both consumers and businesses, the option of one-stop shopping for all their telecommunications needs or of selectively bundling the services they choose. And it can help spur the development of new technologies, which will lead to even more new services.

We at AT&T urge Texas to decide in favor of competition, as California, Illinois, New York and other states have done. These states are moving ahead with choice and innovation in telecommunications at flank speed. Texas cannot afford to be left behind.

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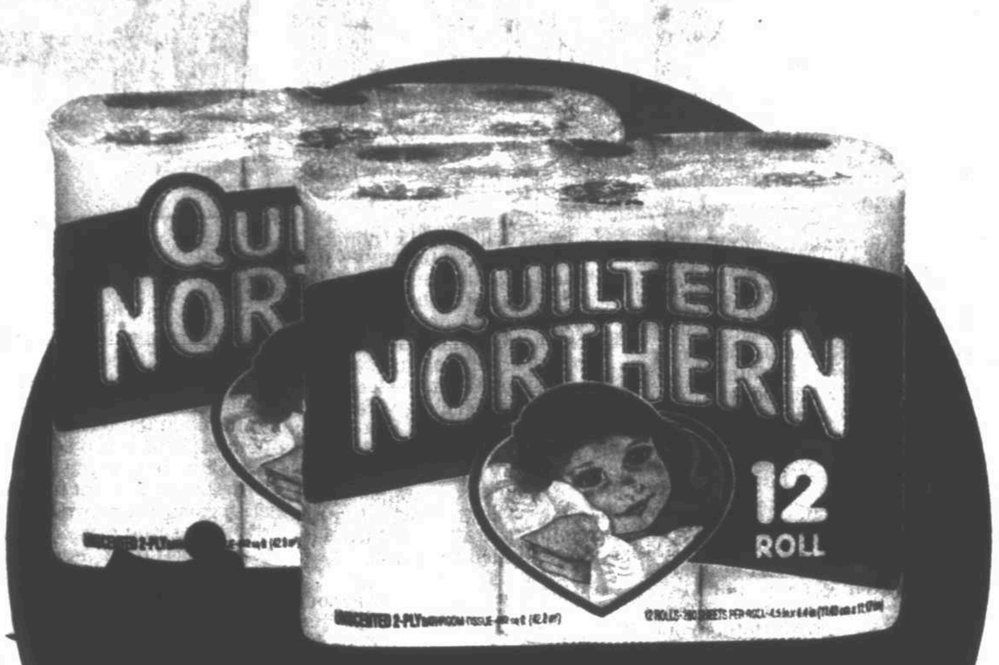

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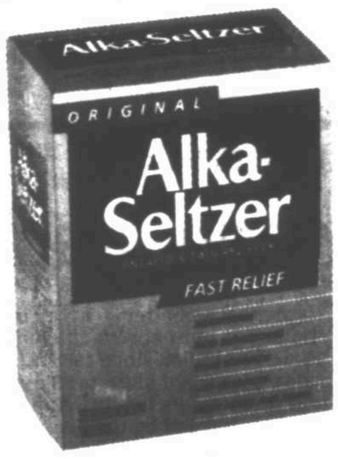

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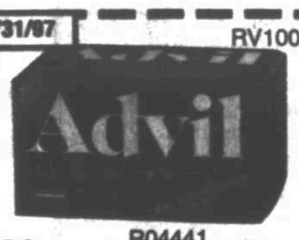

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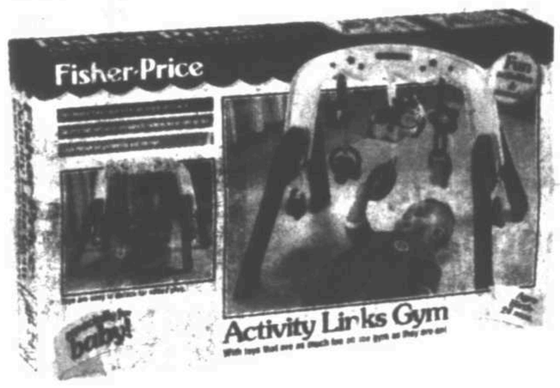

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DEC 22 1996

Money scandals in Washington force religious group into limelight

By Scott Lindlaw
Associated Press

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. — Minh Nguyen says it would be impossible to find a group of people less politically minded than his fellow disciples of Supreme Master Suma Ching Hai.

The follower who dares to introduce politics to a meditation gathering at Ching Hai's center here is swiftly shown the door, Nguyen said.

Yet members, who sometimes meditate for nine hours a day in this manicured patch of ranch country two hours southeast of Los Angeles, have been thrust from obscurity into the national limelight.

The fund created to pay President Clinton's legal bills from the Whitewater case and other matters disclosed last week that it had returned $640,000 to donors, many of whom belonged to the sect.

Nguyen's personal check for $1,000 has not been returned. He said he made the donation to the fund earlier this year after members learned through electronic mail, TV and newspaper reports, and "maybe talk between us," that they could help defray Clinton's mounting legal bills.

"He is a good person, a spiritual person," Nguyen said of Clinton.

Standing on the outskirts of Ching Hai's compound in the rugged Riverside County hills, Nguyen said the entire affair was "only a mistake."

"This is a spiritual place," the Vietnamese native said. "It doesn't matter what happened outside. We just enjoy the spiritual life here."

But investigators working for the fund reportedly suspected many contributions were bogus because the donors appeared unable to afford $1,000 gifts. Some signatures on the donation checks had identical handwriting, and some of the donations were in sequentially numbered money orders from people in different cities, the fund's lawyer has said.

In March, fund-raiser and Clinton friend Charles Yah Lin Trie delivered $460,000 to the Presidential Legal Expense Trust. He later provided more money, but the fund returned all of it — a total of $640,000.

Fund administrators feared that Trie was using Ching Hai members as a front to conceal the true source of the donations, or to violate contribution limits set by the fund. But Trie's link to the group is unclear and no larger scheme has been uncovered.

On Thursday, the Justice Department issued subpoenas both to the White House counsel's office and the trust seeking records related to the return of the donations.

Nguyen, 34, a U.S. citizen who owns a vegetarian food manufacturing firm, said he was not reimbursed by anyone and that no one was pressured to donate. His own wife, a fellow disciple and a Republican, did not contribute.

And while some sect members borrowed the money from friends, he did not.

"People, from my point of view, they appreciate the government to give them freedom to come to the U.S.A. and start a new life," he said of the many Asian immigrant members.

"Because we are Americans, we need to fulfill our rights to support a good president," he said. "After four years he did good work. He helped a lot of people in and outside the U.S.A."

Asked why he and other members chose to donate to the legal defense fund instead of the Democratic Party or Clinton's re-election campaign, Nguyen said, "That I don't know."

He said he had never heard of Trie until the name surfaced in news reports.

On Friday, volunteers tended the compound's gardens in preparation for the hundreds of meditators who throng there every weekend. The center also expects a visit this month from Ching Hai, said Nguyen, who unfailingly refers to her as "master."

He showed a reporter a shop where books and tapes dispensing her wisdom are sold, a cafeteria where congregants get a free meal after meditating and the hall where as many as 500 people gather to meditate on weekends.

From both sides of the long room, Ching Hai gazes down at visitors from several large, framed photographs. Meditators often watch tapes of her lectures on a large-screen TV before the room falls silent.

While meditating, followers of the sect, which claims to have 100,000 members worldwide, seek "the enlightened master's" help in opening their "wisdom eyes," Nguyen said. He likened this state to the peace others seek beside a rushing river, but a thousand times more powerful.

Sect members eschew material comforts and the workaholic lifestyle.

But, Nguyen said, "If we get money in the bank after enlightenment, we still enjoy it. We live a normal life."

Remains from TWA crash to undergo costly DNA testing

NEW YORK (AP) — Unidentified remains of TWA Flight 800 victims will undergo costly DNA testing in an effort to match them with the 15 people still unaccounted for after the jetliner's fiery crash.

A formal request was sent Friday to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md., said Jack Ballantyne, Suffolk County supervisor of forensic services.

A spokesman for the lab, Chris Kelly, said it will be up to the Pentagon to formally approve the tests and make funding arrangements. But Kelly said the lab has been on "sort of on standby" in the case.

Medical examiner Dr. Charles Wetli had angered families of the victims by refusing to agree to conduct nuclear DNA tests, which cost about $600 each. Wetli did not return phone calls seeking comment on the policy change.

All 230 people aboard were killed when the Paris-bound 747 jumbo jet exploded in midair off Long Island's south shore in July. Of those, 215 were recovered and identified by fingerprints, dental records and other standard means. DNA was used to determine six identities and to verify two others.

More than 100 skeletal fragments gleaned from underwater crash sites remain unidentified.

Richard Bergman of Los Angeles, a friend of missing victim Eugene Silverman and three other family members, called the decision "a very important step toward proving they are doing everything possible" in the case.

The military lab uses sophisticated DNA technology to identify victims of U.S. military incidents and human remains from past wars.

Its reputation has been built partly on high-profile outside work, like identifying victims of the 1994 Branch Davidian fire in Waco, Texas, and confirming that bones found in Siberia belonged to deposed Czar Nicholas II.

The tests can produce results in 24 hours to 48 hours, depending on the condition of remains and other factors. In the tests, a tiny strand of deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is extracted from tissue, bone or blood.

Technicians then develop the strand's unique genetic profile and compare that with known-identity samples to find a match.

The Flight 800 crash is the first commercial air disaster in which DNA samples were obtained for every victim, Ballantyne said. Samples from the victims and fragmented remains will be sent to the lab.

Investigators have been unable to determine what sparked the catastrophic explosion inside the plane's center fuel tank, but leading theories include static electricity, faulty wiring or a spark from the tank's fuel pump.

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Custo

By Michael Fleer
Associated Press

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Custody ruling could help Simpson in civil trial

By Michael Fleeman
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — O.J. Simpson now has custody of his two younger children, and the decision may have given him even more — a big boost in his wrongful death trial.

Over their two-week Christmas break, jurors almost certainly will find out that an Orange County judge has deemed Simpson fit to raise his children with Nicole Brown Simpson, whom he is accused of killing. He has two adult children from his first marriage.

If they don't find out, Simpson's attorneys or Simpson himself in testimony next month will surely tell them, somehow. Legal analysts say that can only help him.

"The custody decision can only be a badge of honor that he can symbolically wear," said Robert Pugsley, a Southwestern University law professor. "It suggests, 'Hey, how bad could I be?'"

On Friday, a judge found that Simpson posed no physical or psychological threat to daughter Sydney, 11, and son Justin, 8. Judge Nancy Wieben Stock suggested, in fact, that the children would thrive in Simpson's care.

"The children share a relationship with their father that appears to be strong, positive, and healthy, with powerful psychological bonding," she said in her ruling.

Sydney and Justin returned Saturday to their father's estate, which was decorated inside and out for Christmas.

"They're home. Everything is fine," Simpson told The Associated Press in a brief telephone conversation.

The custody decision came just before jurors in the civil trial were sent away for a holiday vacation until Jan. 6.

Simpson is being sued in Superior Court here by the estate of Ms. Simpson and the parents of Ronald Goldman. Simpson was acquitted last year of murder charges in their June 1994 slayings.

Analysts said the custody decision could sway jurors from holding Simpson liable for the slayings. Or, if jurors make that finding, they might impose a smaller financial penalty because of the potential effect on the children.

"I personally think this will impact very favorably on Mr. Simpson," said Sorrell Trope, a veteran family law attorney.

No sooner had the ruling from the judge been released than the media spin began.

The attorney for Ms. Simpson's parents, Lou and Juditha Brown, held a news conference at her office before appearing on CNN with Ms. Simpson's sister, Denise Brown. The Browns had taken care of the children after the killings and were fighting Simpson for custody.

Simpson issued a statement, saying he was grateful to have his children home where they wanted to be. He later said the children were exactly where his slain ex-wife would have wanted them to be.

Sensing a media avalanche, the judge in the wrongful death trial, Hiroshi Fujisaki, warned jurors they might be inadvertently exposed to news about the custody case.

"You are instructed, whatever happens in the case involving Mr. Simpson and the children has nothing to do with this case. Our case is fact-specific," the judge said.

He told them that if they see a headline, they should turn away. If they see anything on TV, he said, "switch it off."

Family law attorney Deborah Ewing said ordering jurors to avoid media coverage of Simpson is all well and good, but the custody decision will likely play a role — even if the jury decides against Simpson.

"If jurors say they don't want to give a big award because he has to take care of his children, it shouldn't make a difference," she said. "But as for emotion, none of us can ever predict what a jury will do."

ValuJet cancels flights operated by charter

ATLANTA (AP) — ValuJet on Saturday canceled all its flights to Dallas and Fort Myers, Fla., because of problems with a charter running the routes.

The cancellations affect about 3,000 passengers booked for the six round-trip flights each day from today to Jan. 6. They will get full refunds and a free ticket for another ValuJet flight, the airline said.

The Atlanta-based discount carrier announced plans last month to expand service to Dallas and Fort Myers and West Palm Beach, Fla., and even sold tickets, although it didn't yet have government approval to add planes.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday that charters could run the flights through the holidays and ValuJet contracted with three charters.

ValuJet's charter flights to West Palm Beach are not affected; ValuJet also serves 17 cities in the Southeast and along the eastern seaboard.

The canceled flights were operated by Kiwi International Airlines. ValuJet spokeswoman Marcia Scott said Kiwi failed to provide adequate staffing and reliable service for the charter flights. Only one of 21 Kiwi-operated flights Friday and Saturday was on time, she said.

"We are not confident in the services that were being provided," she said. She said company officials struggled with the decision to cancel because it would hit during one of the airline's busiest seasons.

A Kiwi spokesman could not be reached for comment Saturday night; a message was left at his home and office.

Johnnie Carnes, of Snellville, Ga., was upset Saturday night after getting a call from ValuJet. Her 18-year-old son, J.B., was booked to come home for the holidays from Dallas on a now-canceled flight.

"ValuJet made promises to families, to friends, to people that don't have a lot of funds ... They literally slapped us in the face and said, 'so what'" she told TV station WAGA.

ValuJet was grounded after the May 11 crash in the Florida Everglades that killed all 110 people aboard. Under an agreement with the Department of Transportation, the airline resumed flying on Sept. 30.

The Newark, N.J.-based Kiwi has had its own problems. The airline ceased operations in October because of financial problems; it expects to resume flights early next year.

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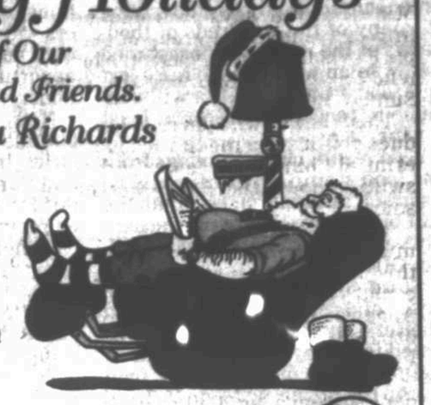

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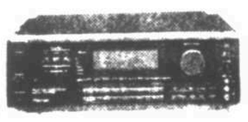

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Loophole lets states delay food-stamp cuts for single adults, 18-50

WASHINGTON — (NYT) Because of a loophole in the new federal welfare law and a mistaken economic analysis underlying it, many of the hundreds of thousands of the nation's poorest men and women who were to have lost full food stamp benefits will continue to receive them for at least a year.

As a result, budget savings from the food stamp program could be as much as $2 billion less than the $5.1 billion projected over the next six years, the Congressional Budget Office said.

State officials, fearful of the onset of winter and of overtaxed shelters and soup kitchens, have found that they can spare some of their single and childless food stamp recipients, age 18 to 50, from cuts. There are about 1 million such recipients nationwide; up to 40 percent may be exempted.

These people, mostly jobless and unskilled, always have been eligible for food stamps. But with the law that President Clinton signed in August, Congress cut that entitlement to just three months of food stamps every three years, unless the recipients work, look for work or engage in work-related activities like job training at least 20 hours a week.

Now, 13 states, including Illinois and New Jersey, have asked the Department of Agriculture, which manages the food stamp program, to exempt recipients in hundreds of cities and counties from the three-month, three-year provision.

In interviews, officials from 6 of 16 other states, including Pennsylvania and Missouri, said they would apply, too.

The exemptions, initiated by governors, are possible because of both the miscalculated economic analysis and a Clinton administration interpretation two weeks ago of an eligibility provision in the law that Congress left unclear.

Under the exemptions, some large cities, among them New York and Philadelphia, might be able to continue giving food stamps to single and childless men and women.

Some states, notably Michigan, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Tennessee and New Mexico, say they will not seek exemptions. All argue that it is unfair to make exemptions for single adults when mothers with young children, also faced with benefit cuts, do not have the opportunity for similar exemptions.

New Jersey already has obtained waivers for most of its cities, including Newark, Trenton and Camden, preserving the benefit for 24,000 of the 39,000 affected recipients.

Illinois, which has obtained waivers for about 16 percent of 60,000 recipients, is appealing a rejection of an exemption for the entire city of Chicago, which would bring the level above 70 percent.

Twelve of Washington state's 39 counties have been exempted, and the state is seeking the same for 24 others. If it succeeds, food stamps would continue uninterrupted for all but 7,600 of the 38,000 recipients who were to have been cut off. Rhode Island, which has not yet applied, says it wants a statewide waiver. West Virginia, where 41 of 55 counties have been exempted, is applying for exemptions for the rest.

Another big welfare state, California, with 208,000 affected recipients, is considering a request for exemptions. "We just got the federal guidelines a week ago," said Bruce Wagstaff, California's deputy director for welfare programs. "We're actively looking at this issue, and we're moving on a very fast track."

The position of New York is unclear. Gov. George Pataki has asked for authority to exempt people in communities where the unemployment rate exceeds 10 percent, but he does not plan to use the exemption yet. New York City, where the unemployment rate is about 7 percent, would qualify on other grounds. But Pataki has not sought an exemption for the city.

The surge of applications for exemptions has come so quickly that Congress has not yet reacted. Rep. E. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means subcommittee that wrote the law, said he was unaware of the numbers of adults exempted from the food stamp provision.

"But there will be glitches that come to light from time to time," he said, "and Congress, working with the states, will have to look at them. People who were not committed to welfare reform will try to dismantle it as time goes on. But the basic structure of welfare reform, encouraging work and discouraging idleness, Congress is not going to dismantle."

These 18- to 50-year-old food stamp recipients are often characterized as loitering inner city men, and many are. But Yvette Jackson, an Agriculture Department deputy administrator who directs the food stamp program, said 41 percent are women who are either childless or who have become ineligible for the more generous welfare program, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families under the new law, because their children have grown.

Unlike families on welfare, these adult recipients are excluded from all other federal safety net programs, including Medicaid and housing assistance.

To qualify for food stamps, their assets cannot exceed $2,000, and their annual incomes cannot exceed 130 percent of the poverty line for a single adult, or $10,062. The department also says 19 percent of the recipients have jobs of some kind or participate in training programs, but the average income of all recipients is just $2,200.

After walking out 11 years ago, Jobs returns to Apple Computer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Eleven years ago, Steve Jobs stormed out of Apple Computer Inc. after losing an ugly fight for control of the company he had co-founded and built into a computer legend.

Since then, he hasn't hesitated to criticize his old company as lacking its former creative edge — or to instill other ventures with his vision of the technological future.

But now, in one of the most stunning and ironic developments in Silicon Valley history, Jobs is back.

"It's time for someone to come up with some new innovation to drive the industry again, and ... who better than Apple?" Jobs said at a Friday night news conference to announce Apple's purchase of his Next Software Inc. for $400 million.

Jobs, who started Next after leaving Apple, will now help blend the companies' software to create a new operating system intended to surpass the competition.

Apple's Macintosh personal computer — the creation of which Jobs oversaw — desperately needs a new operating program, which controls the computer's basic functions. The company's own project to produce one collapsed earlier this year.

For Jobs, returning to Apple was an irresistible opportunity to show that his vision is more than a dream.

"When the opportunity came to be vindicated, he jumped at it," said longtime Apple watcher Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies Research International in San Jose. "It's his opportunity to create the next great operating system."

The dramatic deal — signed just over an hour before the announcement — ended intense speculation about Apple's software plans. The nation's No. 3 personal computer maker had been negotiating with several companies.

Apple chairman and CEO Gil Amelio said the company settled on Next because it had superior technology.

He declined Friday to explain how Apple and Next software would be combined but promised to do so at the MacWorld trade show in San Francisco early next month.

Apple, recovering from financial troubles and struggling to regain lost market share, hopes to win back software developers and computer users who have defected to more popular PCs using Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Jobs, 41, who will work part-time as an adviser to Amelio, co-founded Apple in 1976, guiding the development of what he called the "insanely great" Macintosh, the ... commercial PC to have a ...and graphical window dis-

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BASIN BRIEFING

'Answer Line'

Does the city provide pickup service for such things as discarded hot water heaters, air conditioners, etc.?

Yes. Residents who pay for city sanitation service can have furniture and appliances picked up on a request-only basis. To do so, call the city's solid waste division at 685-7278.

— Assistant City Manager Glen Hackler

Readers with questions should send them to "Answer Line," c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland 79701.

Trust fund

A trust fund has been established for Melanie Moore, a 14-year-old Midland girl who last week endured her eighth operation for recurring cancer. Donations will go to help Melanie's family with medical expenses and should be directed to Pam Puckett, c/o Norwest Bank, Acct. No. 0504359763, 6 Desta Drive, Suite 2400, Midland 79702.

New Year's dances

New Year's dances are planned for junior high and freshmen students 8:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 28. The Junior High Dance will be at the Lee High Youth Center, 3500 Neely; the Freshman Dance will be at the Midland High Youth Center, 1001 W. Illinois Ave. Tickets are $5; students must show ID for admittance. Parents are invited to attend. For more information call 689-1175 or 689-1675.

Museum closed

The Petroleum Museum will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On display at the lobby is a 12-foot tree decorated by members of the Santa Rita Club. For more information call 683-4403.

Community of Joy

The Dec. 29 production at Community of Joy will be "Lures of Life." The gathering meets 10:30 a.m. each Sunday at Cole Theater.

TODAY'S AGENDA

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the Midland County Library Information Line, on CITYLINE, 560-2400, Category 7100.

11th Step Study group for people in recovery, 10:30 a.m., 2103 W. Louisiana Ave., 697-4751 or 682-1646.

Greater Permian Basin Duplicate Bridge & Novice Duplicate Bridge, 1:30 p.m., Allison Bridge Center.

Tall City Road Riders, 9 a.m., Warfield Truckstop, 682-9669 or 687-5313.

Overeaters Anonymous, 4 p.m., 408 S. G Street. 694-4166; 580-7545; 684-8726.

Tall City VFW 7208 Auxiliary Bingo, 3:30 p.m. 1406 E. Taylor St., (lic.: 1-51-0171588-4).

MONDAY

Survivors Group for sexual abuse, rape and incest, 6 p.m., Glenwood Hospital, 563-1200.

Texaco Toastmasters Club, 11:30 a.m., Texaco Heritage Center, 688-2932.

Clogging, basic & intermediate levels, 7 p.m., 2800 W. City Rd. 130.

Midland Area AIDS Support, for family & friends of people with AIDS, 7 p.m., 684-6161 or 684-7821.

West Texas Singles dance class, 7:30 p.m., 550-6960.

Midland Rape Crisis support for incest survivors. For group information call 682-7273.

Midland Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., MARC clubhouse, 699-5441.

Rebekah Lodge No. 91, 8 p.m., 610 E. Florida St.

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For Local, National and World Updates, call CITYLINE, and enter category 1200 for the main news menu.

Christmas in the Tall City

Midland residents share their Christmas plans

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

The celebration of Christmas, rooted in the birth of Jesus, is for children, the child in people, and people rich and poor in spirit and wealth.

The holiday is a celebration of family and a hope for reconciliation.

"I just used to be a little kid who wanted his Christmas presents," Greg Palko recalled Friday as his joyful 6-year-old daughter, Mary, hugged him during a Christmas party at St. Ann's School.

Nowadays, Palko, a Midland geologist, said that "just ... watching the children open their presents makes me feel good, makes me happy."

For John Maha, a grandfather who traveled from San Antonio to Midland "just to be with the family" at Christmastime, said that for him the joy of the season is delighting in "the happiness in their (the grandchildren's) eyes."

"It's Jesus' birthday," said his granddaughter, 5-year-old Kristi Maha. To her, the holiday simply means "love."

At age 5, Gabrielle Shayeb realizes that not only is Dec. 25 a time to celebrate Christ's birthday, it is also a time for the family to "make some stuffing and clean up the house ... (and) open gifts on Christmas morning."

Of Christmas Day, "I think about unwrapping presents and what the presents are going to be," mused 6-year-old Mitchell Thornton, who said that he sometimes goes to bed early on Christmas Eve. "I wake up when my mom and dad do."

In celebrating Christ, "I go to my mom's church," Mitchell said. "Dad doesn't go to church. Sometimes when we get back, he's awake."

A major part of his Christmas is visiting his grandparents.

Odessan Rafael Rivera, 22, who is bound in friendship with Fishers-of-Men minister Gilbert Delgado of Midland, spoke of his hope to have his first-ever Christmas celebration with his mother.

"Truthfully, I have never celebrated Christmas," said Rivera, whose family has "never had a tree — me and my mother."

Please see SHARE/2B

Mary Palko, top, is hugged by her dad, Greg, as they talk about what they are going to do for Christmas. Fisher's of Men Ministries members, right, talk about spreading Christmas cheer: Gilbert Delgado, right, and his wife Velia, back row in the middle, Rafael Rivera, left, Alfred Ortega, middle front row, and Linda Bonilla. The inner-city outreach ministry's new headquarters, at 1115 N. Carrizo Ave., is being renovated. The ministry is an outreach of Shekinah Glory Church. Gabrielle Shayeb, above left, said Christmas is "the birth of Jesus." Mitchell Thornton, above middle, says he gets to sleep late on Christmas morning. Kristi Maha, above right, said Christmas is spending time with her family.

Community & Senior Services to deliver gift baskets

By Gary Shanks
Staff Writer

Generous Midland students, companies and individuals have teamed up to provide holiday gift baskets for the hundreds of area elderly residents who rely on the Meals on Wheels program.

About 400 of these baskets will be delivered Monday along Meals on Wheels' routes throughout the city, said Karen Sparks, community awareness director for Community & Senior Services of Midland Inc., which oversees the Meals on Wheels program.

Each of the holiday baskets will contain food and toiletry items such as canned vegetables, fruit, meat, cereal, juice, lotion, soap, shampoo and tissues, said Jan Faulk, volunteer coordinator for Meals on Wheels.

The holiday basket program is an annual tradition and gives a number of local groups and individuals a chance to brighten the holiday for some of the area's elderly residents, Ms. Faulk said.

Because of the efforts of those in the community, all of the items in the baskets are donated, collected and packaged for the Meals on Wheels program. "So there's no cost to us," Ms. Sparks said.

Students from Lee High, San Jacinto Junior High, Abell Junior High, Midland Christian, Lee Freshman and Bonham Elementary schools collected the food.

Donations came from Texaco, Conoco, Parker & Parsley, Henry Petroleum, Tom Brown Inc. and Hanover Compressor; the bags for each basket were donated by Dillard's, Ms. Faulk said.

Assistance was also provided by individuals at Hillcrest Manor and Langtree Village.

Meals on Wheels delivers to about 400 households each week day; deliveries are made on weekends to those elderly citizens most in need of meals.

In addition, this program provides about 150 meals each day for the Midland Senior Center, Casa de Amigos and the Southeast Senior Center.

"Not only do they need the nutrition ... most important is the interaction — to see a smiling face each day," Ms. Faulk said.

'Not only do they need the nutrition ... most important is the interaction — to see a smiling face each day.'

— Jan Faulk, Meals on Wheels

Related to this is a sister program at the CSS, Friendly Visitor — where volunteers befriend an elderly person in the community and visit them each week, Ms. Faulk said.

Other CSS programs include Telephone Reassurance, where daily calls are made to the homes of elderly residents to

Please see GIFT/2B

GARY OTT

Best be cautious when playing the Christmas Game

OK, gang, admit it. Christmas is a mere three days away and you're still not quite through with your shopping, are you?

Oh, sure, you've done most of it ... the family stuff, the exchanges at the office, maybe even a little something for your pet. But you're not FINISHED. Not just yet.

Ott

That's because you are in the middle of a contest and the No. 1 rule is that each time you think you have made your final purchase, you are required to say the following words: "Good heavens, what if she (or he) gets me something more expensive? I'll feel just awful."

So you jump in your car, head back to the mall and buy something even more extravagant in hopes of being declared the game's ultimate winner; or, in more blatant terms, that you will become known as, and I quote, "the person who spent the most money needlessly in a childlike attempt to impress that special someone."

Actually, an even more accurate way of stating it is: "I was the person who managed to survive the Christmas season without coming across as a stingy gut in the eyes of my companion."

And let's be honest here, that is exactly what we are attempting to accomplish with our last-minute shopping sprees. To heck with getting something of sentimental value, or even a gift that is actually needed, what we're really after is that big, gaudy, extravagant present that just screams out, "THE GUY WHO BOUGHT ME SPENT BIG BUCKS BECAUSE HE'S NO CHEAPSKATE!"

Never mind that we are now hopelessly in debt, the important thing to remember is that we will not be humiliated on Christmas morning.

And that — avoiding personal embarrassment at all costs — is what the holiday season is all about. After all, nothing is worse than opening a gift and suddenly realizing it cost three times more than the item you chose for that person.

And it doesn't make you feel any better to have her (or him) say, "No, really, I LOVE it. Besides, it's the thought that matters."

No it's not.

That might be a nice lesson to teach your children — much like "It matters not if you win or lose, but how you play the game" — but in the real world, the price tag does count.

Big time.

That's why with a couple of days of shopping still ahead, most of us are nowhere near finished, even though we have maxed out on our credit cards and are now emulating the federal government's policies regarding deficit spending.

Buy now, pay later.

But the real problem is not knowing what the other person is buying ... or how much she (or he) is spending.

So it becomes a guessing game.

How much do you THINK the person is going to spend?

And the most important thing to remember when attempting to answer that question is to ignore what you have been told. If, for example, the person puts a $200 limit on all purchases, immediately triple the figure.

Likewise, if your partner says, "This year let's just get each other ONE gift," you need to reply, "OK, that sounds reasonable." Then you should start thinking in terms of six or seven gifts.

And don't think for a second that the other person isn't keeping score ... silently, of course.

As each gift is opened, the mental calculator is busy at work ... "OK, that's three presents totalling, oh, let's give him the benefit of doubt and say $425. He's not doing very good so far. That big one in the corner had better be a doozy or this little cheapskate is in deep ..." well, you get the picture.

But fret not, it is only Sunday.

You've still got plenty of time to destroy your credit.

Hey, if the federal government can do it, so can you.

Gary Ott is city editor of the Reporter-Telegram.

DEC 22 1996

Money scandals in Washington force religious group into limelight

By Scott Lindlaw
Associated Press

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. — Minh Nguyen says it would be impossible to find a group of people less politically minded than his fellow disciples of Supreme Master Suma Ching Hai.

The follower who dares to introduce politics to a meditation gathering at Ching Hai's center here is swiftly shown the door, Nguyen said.

Yet members, who sometimes meditate for nine hours a day in this manicured patch of ranch country two hours southeast of Los Angeles, have been thrust from obscurity into the national limelight.

The fund created to pay President Clinton's legal bills from the Whitewater case and other matters disclosed last week that it had returned $640,000 to donors, many of whom belonged to the sect.

Nguyen's personal check for $1,000 has not been returned. He said he made the donation to the fund earlier this year after members learned through electronic mail, TV and newspaper reports, and "maybe talk between us," that they could help defray Clinton's mounting legal bills.

"He is a good person, a spiritual person," Nguyen said of Clinton.

Standing on the outskirts of Ching Hai's compound in the rugged Riverside County hills, Nguyen said the entire affair was "only a mistake."

"This is a spiritual place," the Vietnamese native said. "It doesn't matter what happened outside. We just enjoy the spiritual life here."

But investigators working for the fund reportedly suspected many contributions were bogus because the donors appeared unable to afford $1,000 gifts. Some signatures on the donation checks had identical handwriting, and some of the donations were in sequentially numbered money orders from people in different cities, the fund's lawyer has said.

In March, fund-raiser and Clinton friend Charles Yah Lin Trie delivered $460,000 to the Presidential Legal Expense Trust. He later provided more money, but the fund returned all of it — a total of $640,000.

Fund administrators feared that Trie was using Ching Hai members as a front to conceal the true source of the donations, or to violate contribution limits set by the fund. But Trie's link to the group is unclear and no larger scheme has been uncovered.

On Thursday, the Justice Department issued subpoenas both to the White House counsel's office and the trust seeking records related to the return of the donations.

Nguyen, 34, a U.S. citizen who owns a vegetarian food manufacturing firm, said he was not reimbursed by anyone and that no one was pressured to donate. His own wife, a fellow disciple and a Republican, did not contribute.

And while some sect members borrowed the money from friends, he did not.

"People, from my point of view, they appreciate the government to give them freedom to come to the U.S.A. and start a new life," he said of the many Asian immigrant members.

"Because we are Americans, we need to fulfill our rights to support a good president," he said. "After four years he did good work. He helped a lot of people in and outside the U.S.A."

Asked why he and other members chose to donate to the legal defense fund instead of the Democratic Party or Clinton's re-election campaign, Nguyen said, "That I don't know."

He said he had never heard of Trie until the name surfaced in news reports.

On Friday, volunteers tended the compound's gardens in preparation for the hundreds of meditators who throng there every weekend. The center also expects a visit this month from Ching Hai, said Nguyen, who unfailingly refers to her as "master."

He showed a reporter a shop where books and tapes dispensing her wisdom are sold, a cafeteria where congregants get a free meal after meditating and the hall where as many as 500 people gather to meditate on weekends.

From both sides of the long room, Ching Hai gazes down at visitors from several large, framed photographs. Meditators often watch tapes of her lectures on a large-screen TV before the room falls silent.

While meditating, followers of the sect, which claims to have 100,000 members worldwide, seek "the enlightened master's" help in opening their "wisdom eyes," Nguyen said. He likened this state to the peace others seek beside a rushing river, but a thousand times more powerful.

Sect members eschew material comforts and the workaholic lifestyle.

But, Nguyen said, "If we get money in the bank after enlightenment, we still enjoy it. We live a normal life."

Remains from TWA crash to undergo costly DNA testing

NEW YORK (AP) — Unidentified remains of TWA Flight 800 victims will undergo costly DNA testing in an effort to match them with the 15 people still unaccounted for after the jetliner's fiery crash.

A formal request was sent Friday to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md., said Jack Ballantyne, Suffolk County supervisor of forensic services.

A spokesman for the lab, Chris Kelly, said it will be up to the Pentagon to formally approve the tests and make funding arrangements. But Kelly said the lab has been on "sort of on standby" in the case.

Medical examiner Dr. Charles Wetli had angered families of the victims by refusing to agree to conduct nuclear DNA tests, which cost about $600 each. Wetli did not return phone calls seeking comment on the policy change.

All 230 people aboard were killed when the Paris-bound 747 jumbo jet exploded in midair off Long Island's south shore in July. Of those, 215 were recovered and identified by fingerprints, dental records and other standard means. DNA was used to determine six identities and to verify two others.

More than 100 skeletal fragments gleaned from underwater crash sites remain unidentified.

Richard Bergman of Los Angeles, a friend of missing victim Eugene Silverman and three other family members, called the decision "a very important step toward proving they are doing everything possible" in the case.

The military lab uses sophisticated DNA technology to identify victims of U.S. military incidents and human remains from past wars.

Its reputation has been built partly on high-profile outside work, like identifying victims of the 1994 Branch Davidian fire in Waco, Texas, and confirming that bones found in Siberia belonged to deposed Czar Nicholas II.

The tests can produce results in 24 hours to 48 hours, depending on the condition of remains and other factors. In the tests, a tiny strand of deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is extracted from tissue, bone or blood.

Technicians then develop the strand's unique genetic profile and compare that with known-identity samples to find a match.

The Flight 800 crash is the first commercial air disaster in which DNA samples were obtained for every victim, Ballantyne said. Samples from the victims and fragmented remains will be sent to the lab.

Investigators have been unable to determine what sparked the catastrophic explosion inside the plane's center fuel tank, but leading theories include static electricity, faulty wiring or a spark from the tank's fuel pump.

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Custody ruling could help Simpson in civil trial

By Michael Fleeman
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — O.J. Simpson now has custody of his two younger children, and the decision may have given him even more — a big boost in his wrongful death trial.

Over their two-week Christmas break, jurors almost certainly will find out that an Orange County judge has deemed Simpson fit to raise his children with Nicole Brown Simpson, whom he is accused of killing. He has two adult children from his first marriage.

If they don't find out, Simpson's attorneys or Simpson himself in testimony next month will surely tell them, somehow. Legal analysts say that can only help him.

"The custody decision can only be a badge of honor that he can symbolically wear," said Robert Pugsley, a Southwestern University law professor. "It suggests, 'Hey, how bad could I be?'"

On Friday, a judge found that Simpson posed no physical or psychological threat to daughter Sydney, 11, and son Justin, 8. Judge Nancy Wieben Stock suggested, in fact, that the children would thrive in Simpson's care.

"The children share a relationship with their father that appears to be strong, positive, and healthy, with powerful psychological bonding," she said in her ruling.

Sydney and Justin returned Saturday to their father's estate, which was decorated inside and out for Christmas.

"They're home. Everything is fine," Simpson told The Associated Press in a brief telephone conversation.

The custody decision came just before jurors in the civil trial were sent away for a holiday vacation until Jan. 6.

Simpson is being sued in Superior Court here by the estate of Ms. Simpson and the parents of Ronald Goldman. Simpson was acquitted last year of murder charges in their June 1994 slayings.

Analysts said the custody decision could sway jurors from holding Simpson liable for the slayings. Or, if jurors make that finding, they might impose a smaller financial penalty because of the potential effect on the children.

"I personally think this will impact very favorably on Mr. Simpson," said Sorrell Trope, a veteran family law attorney.

No sooner had the ruling from the judge been released than the media spin began.

The attorney for Ms. Simpson's parents, Lou and Juditha Brown, held a news conference at her office before appearing on CNN with Ms. Simpson's sister, Denise Brown. The Browns had taken care of the children after the killings and were fighting Simpson for custody.

Simpson issued a statement, saying he was grateful to have his children home where they wanted to be. He later said the children were exactly where his slain ex-wife would have wanted them to be.

Sensing a media avalanche, the judge in the wrongful death trial, Hiroshi Fujisaki, warned jurors they might be inadvertently exposed to news about the custody case.

"You are instructed, whatever happens in the case involving Mr. Simpson and the children has nothing to do with this case. Our case is fact-specific," the judge said.

He told them that if they see a headline, they should turn away. If they see anything on TV, he said, "switch it off."

Family law attorney Deborah Ewing said ordering jurors to avoid media coverage of Simpson is all well and good, but the custody decision will likely play a role — even if the jury decides against Simpson.

"If jurors say they don't want to give a big award because he has to take care of his children, it shouldn't make a difference," she said. "But as for emotion, none of us can ever predict what a jury will do."

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ValuJet cancels flights operated by charter

ATLANTA (AP) — ValuJet on Saturday canceled all its flights to Dallas and Fort Myers, Fla., because of problems with a charter running the routes.

The cancellations affect about 3,000 passengers booked for the six round-trip flights each day from today to Jan. 6. They will get full refunds and a free ticket for another ValuJet flight, the airline said.

The Atlanta-based discount carrier announced plans last month to expand service to Dallas and Fort Myers and West Palm Beach, Fla., and even sold tickets, although it didn't yet have government approval to add planes.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday that charters could run the flights through the holidays and ValuJet contracted with three charters.

ValuJet's charter flights to West Palm Beach are not affected; ValuJet also serves 17 cities in the Southeast and along the eastern seaboard.

The canceled flights were operated by Kiwi International Airlines. ValuJet spokeswoman Marcia Scott said Kiwi failed to provide adequate staffing and reliable service for the charter flights. Only one of 21 Kiwi-operated flights Friday and Saturday was on time, she said.

"We are not confident in the services that were being provided," she said. She said company officials struggled with the decision to cancel because it would hit during one of the airline's busiest seasons.

A Kiwi spokesman could not be reached for comment Saturday night; a message was left at his home and office.

Johnnie Carnes, of Snellville, Ga., was upset Saturday night after getting a call from ValuJet. Her 18-year-old son, J.B., was booked to come home for the holidays from Dallas on a now-canceled flight.

"ValuJet made promises to families, to friends, to people that don't have a lot of funds ... They literally slapped us in the face and said, 'so what'" she told TV station WAGA.

ValuJet was grounded after the May 11 crash in the Florida Everglades that killed all 110 people aboard. Under an agreement with the Department of Transportation, the airline resumed flying on Sept. 30.

The Newark, N.J.-based Kiwi has had its own problems. The airline ceased operations in October because of financial problems; it expects to resume flights early next year.

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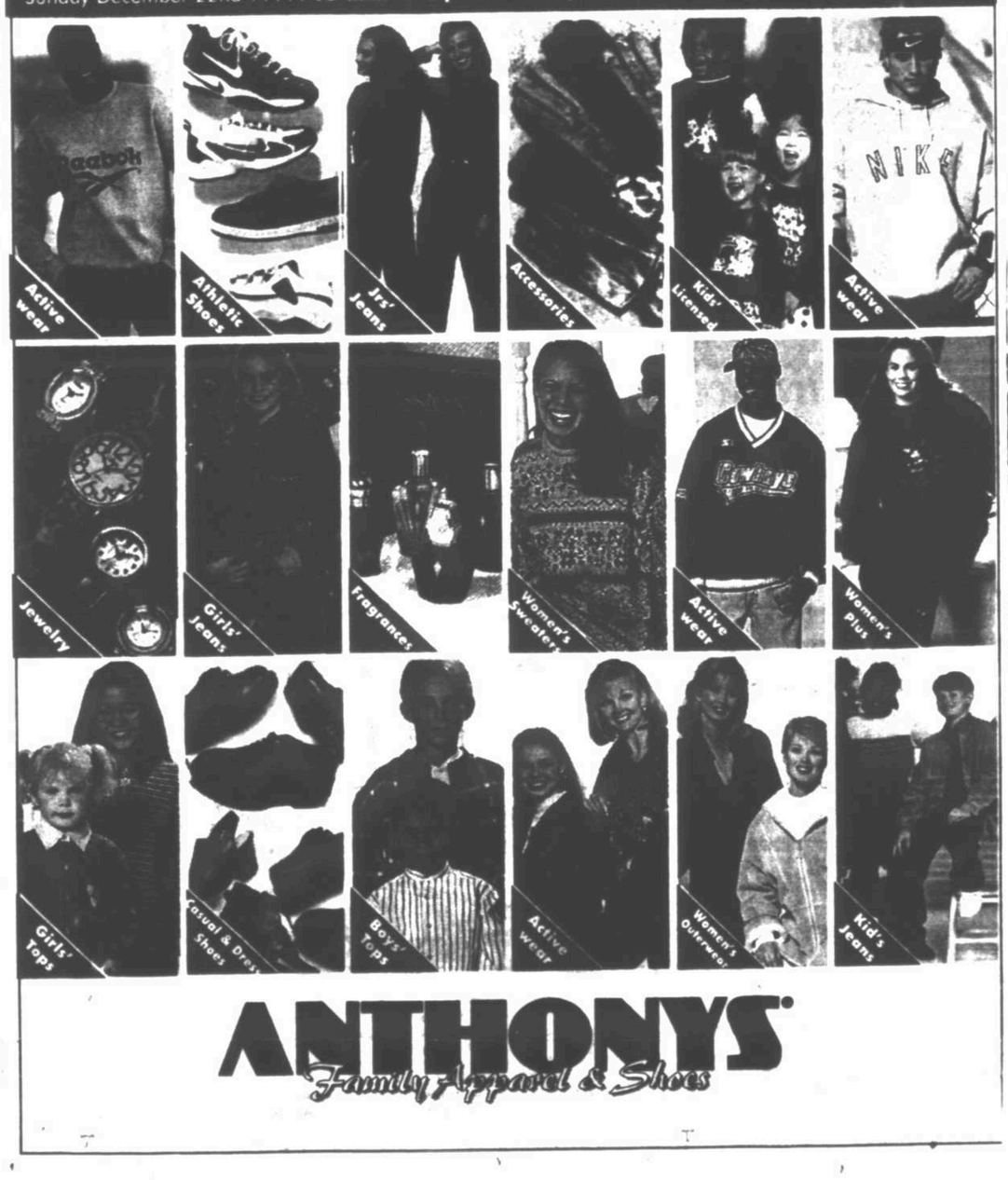

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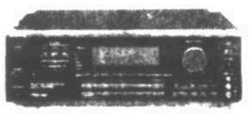
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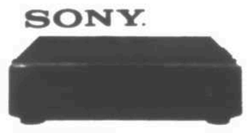
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Loophole lets states delay food-stamp cuts for single adults, 18-50

WASHINGTON — (NYT) Because of a loophole in the new federal welfare law and a mistaken economic analysis underlying it, many of the hundreds of thousands of the nation's poorest men and women who were to have lost full food stamp benefits will continue to receive them for at least a year.

As a result, budget savings from the food stamp program could be as much as $2 billion less than the $5.1 billion projected over the next six years, the Congressional Budget Office said.

State officials, fearful of the onset of winter and of overtaxed shelters and soup kitchens, have found that they can spare some of their single and childless food stamp recipients, age 18 to 50, from cuts. There are about 1 million such recipients nationwide; up to 40 percent may be exempted.

These people, mostly jobless and unskilled, always have been eligible for food stamps. But with the law that President Clinton signed in August, Congress cut that entitlement to just three months of food stamps every three years, unless the recipients work, look for work or engage in work-related activities like job training at least 20 hours a week.

Now, 13 states, including Illinois and New Jersey, have asked the Department of Agriculture, which manages the food stamp program, to exempt recipients in hundreds of cities and counties from the three-month, three-year provision.

In interviews, officials from 6 of 16 other states, including Pennsylvania and Missouri, said they would apply, too.

The exemptions, initiated by governors, are possible because of both the miscalculated economic analysis and a Clinton administration interpretation two weeks ago of an eligibility provision in the law that Congress left unclear.

Under the exemptions, some large cities, among them New York and Philadelphia, might be able to continue giving food stamps to single and childless men and women.

Some states, notably Michigan, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Tennessee and New Mexico, say they will not seek exemptions. All argue that it is unfair to make exemptions for single adults when mothers with young children, also faced with benefit cuts, do not have the opportunity for similar exemptions.

New Jersey already has obtained waivers for most of its cities, including Newark, Trenton and Camden, preserving the benefit for 24,000 of the 39,000 affected recipients.

Illinois, which has obtained waivers for about 16 percent of 60,000 recipients, is appealing a rejection of an exemption for the entire city of Chicago, which would bring the level above 70 percent.

Twelve of Washington state's 39 counties have been exempted, and the state is seeking the same for 24 others. If it succeeds, food stamps would continue uninterrupted for all but 7,600 of the 38,000 recipients who were to have been cut off. Rhode Island, which has not yet applied, says it wants a statewide waiver. West Virginia, where 41 of 55 counties have been exempted, is applying for exemptions for the rest.

Another big welfare state, California, with 208,000 affected recipients, is considering a request for exemptions. "We just got the federal guidelines a week ago," said Bruce Wagstaff, California's deputy director for welfare programs. "We're actively looking at this issue, and we're moving on a very fast track."

The position of New York is unclear. Gov. George Pataki has asked for authority to exempt people in communities where the unemployment rate exceeds 10 percent, but he does not plan to use the exemption yet. New York City, where the unemployment rate is about 7 percent, would qualify on other grounds. But Pataki has not sought an exemption for the city.

The surge of applications for exemptions has come so quickly that Congress has not yet reacted. Rep. E. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means subcommittee that wrote the law, said he was unaware of the numbers of adults exempted from the food stamp provision.

"But there will be glitches that come to light from time to time," he said, "and Congress, working with the states, will have to look at them. People who were not committed to welfare reform will try to dismantle it as time goes on. But the basic structure of welfare reform, encouraging work and discouraging idleness, Congress is not going to dismantle."

These 18- to 50-year-old food stamp recipients are often characterized as loitering inner city men, and many are. But Yvette Jackson, an Agriculture Department deputy administrator who directs the food stamp program, said 41 percent are women who are either childless or who have become ineligible for the more generous welfare program, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families under the new law, because their children have grown.

Unlike families on welfare, these adult recipients are excluded from all other federal safety net programs, including Medicaid and housing assistance.

To qualify for food stamps, their assets cannot exceed $2,000, and their annual incomes cannot exceed 130 percent of the poverty line for a single adult, or $10,062. The department also says 19 percent of the recipients have jobs of some kind or participate in training programs, but the average income of all recipients is just $2,200.

After walking out 11 years ago, Jobs returns to Apple Computer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Eleven years ago, Steve Jobs stormed out of Apple Computer Inc. after losing an ugly fight for control of the company he had co-founded and built into a computer legend.

Since then, he hasn't hesitated to criticize his old company as lacking its former creative edge — or to instill other ventures with his vision of the technological future.

But now, in one of the most stunning and ironic developments in Silicon Valley history, Jobs is back.

"It's time for someone to come up with some new innovation to drive the industry again, and ... who better than Apple?" Jobs said at a Friday night news conference to announce Apple's purchase of his Next Software Inc. for $400 million.

Jobs, who started Next after leaving Apple, will now help blend the companies' software to create a new operating system intended to surpass the competition.

Apple's Macintosh personal computer — the creation of which Jobs oversaw — desperately needs a new operating program, which controls the computer's basic functions. The company's own project to produce one collapsed earlier this year.

For Jobs, returning to Apple was an irresistible opportunity to show that his vision is more than a dream.

"When the opportunity came to be vindicated, he jumped at it," said longtime Apple watcher Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies Research International in San Jose. "It's his opportunity to create the next great operating system."

The dramatic deal — signed just over an hour before the announcement — ended intense speculation about Apple's software plans. The nation's No. 3 personal computer maker had been negotiating with several companies.

Apple chairman and CEO Gil Amelio said the company settled on Next because it had superior technology.

He declined Friday to explain how Apple and Next software would be combined but promised to do so at the MacWorld trade show in San Francisco early next month.

Apple, recovering from financial troubles and struggling to regain lost market share, hopes to win back software developers and computer users who have defected to more popular PCs using Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Jobs, 41, who will work part-time as an adviser to Amelio, co-founded Apple in 1976, guiding the development of what he called the "insanely great" Macintosh, the first commercial PC to have a mouse and graphical window displays.

SEARS

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

last 3 days to save!

All major Sears stores open early 8am and close late 11pm
Sunday, December 22 through Monday, December 23
Tuesday, December 24 open early 8am

Dec. 22 Dec. 23 Dec. 24

JUST IN THE (St.)NICK OF TIME SALE

for him

sale 19.99 men's Canyon River Blues jeans, stonewashed and other finishes

sale 31.99 ALL men's wrinkle-free Dockers twill pants

25-40% off ALL men's activewear

25% off ALL men's team apparel (NBA, NFL and more)

for her

50% off ALL Christmas motif women's apparel, sleepwear and accessories

50% off ALL social occasion dresses and collections for misses', women's, petites' and juniors'. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken

40% off ALL blanket fleece robes and loungewear

40% off ALL terry, chenille, flannel and velour robes

30% off ALL misses' leather outerwear

30% off ALL Cotton Nights flannel sleepwear and breakfast coats

30% off ALL activewear and sweaters

30% off ALL misses' Tap and Co. shirts

30% off ALL misses' Classic Elements corduroy and twill pants

for kids

An additional 50% off ALL girls' holiday dresses
Intermediate markdowns may have been taken

30-50% off boys' size 4-20 knit and woven tops

35% off ALL character apparel

shoes and accessories

50% off select women's wallets

30% off ALL Dearfoam chintz bootie. Sale 6.99

30% off ALL women's and kids' fashion boots

25% off selected Reebok styles for the family. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken

20-30% off ALL insulated workboots

home electronics

sale ALL TVs, VCRs, camcorders, stereos, boom boxes and car audio

home office

sale ALL computers, software, phones and fax machines

home appliances

0% finance charge* until July 1997 on all home appliances over $399

Free delivery** on all home appliances over $399

for the home

An additional 15% off ALL breadmakers, regular or sale price

White sale! ALL down comforters, comforter sets and flannel sheets on sale

sale ALL blenders, toaster ovens, irons, plus all shavers and hair clippers

hardware

sale 18.74 25% off Black & Decker snakelights, 93029. Reg. 24.99

sale 29.88 Craftsman detail sander w/case and extra sandpaper, 11639. Reg. 39.99

sale 39.88 62-pc. mechanic's tool set, w/case, 33039. Reg. 49.99

sale 78.00 6-dr. chest and cabinet 65798 or work bench, 65530. Reg. 99.99

sale 88.00 9.6v industrial cordless drill w/case, 27184. Reg. 99.99

sale 119.99 garage door opener, 53335. Reg. 149.99

sale 279.99 5.0-hp, 25-gal. compressor, 16525. Reg. 299.99

fun & fitness

50% off toy mower, 6.49 3710 and tractor, 12.49 3711

sale 69.99 2-in-1 dartboard, 12299. Reg. 99.99

sale 94.99 12-in-1 game table, 1/2 price, 25070. Reg. 189.99

sale 179.99 basketball system, 18814. Reg. 279.99

sale 549.99 honeycomb pool table, 25178. Reg. 799.99. Some assembly required.

Come see the merry side of SEARS

All offers good through Dec. 24 unless otherwise indicated. Excludes Exceptional Values.
*0% finance charge through Dec. 26 on single item purchases. See details below. **Free delivery with mail-in coupon through Dec. 26. Available in most areas of the U.S. See store for details.
0% Finance Charge Details (when offered)
Available for qualified purchases with Sears Delayed Billing Option on Sears Card or SearsCharge PLUS. Be sure to ask our sales associate for this option and details. $400 minimum purchase of qualified merchandise required to open a SearsCharge PLUS account. Regular credit terms apply after 0% finance charge period.
Important Sears Card Terms: Annual percentage rate is 21%. (20.6% in PR). NOTE: Minimum monthly finance charge of $.50 applies in all states except DC, MD, PR.
Important SearsCharge PLUS Terms: Annual percentage rate is 21% unless you reside in the following states: AR, 10.25%, but rate may vary. 20.6% in PR. NOTE: Minimum monthly finance charge of $.50 applies in all states except AR, DC, MD and PR.
All the above terms and conditions are accurate as of 4/96 but may change after that date. To find what may have changed write to: Sears Telemarketing Center, 111 Lomas Blvd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102

BASIN BRIEFING

'Answer Line'

Does the city provide pickup service for such things as discarded hot water heaters, air conditioners, etc.?

Yes. Residents who pay for city sanitation service can have furniture and appliances picked up on a request-only basis. To do so, call the city's solid waste division at 685-7278.

— Assistant City Manager Glen Hackler

Readers with questions should send them to "Answer Line," c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland 79701.

Trust fund

A trust fund has been established for Melanie Moore, a 14-year-old Midland girl who last week endured her eighth operation for recurring cancer. Donations will go to help Melanie's family with medical expenses and should be directed to Pam Puckett, c/o Norwest Bank, Acct. No. 0504359763, 6 Desta Drive, Suite 2400, Midland 79702.

New Year's dances

New Year's dances are planned for junior high and freshmen students 8:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 28. The Junior High Dance will be at the Lee High Youth Center, 3500 Neely; the Freshman Dance will be at the Midland High Youth Center, 1001 W. Illinois Ave. Tickets are $5; students must show ID for admittance. Parents are invited to attend. For more information call 689-1175 or 689-1675.

Museum closed

The Petroleum Museum will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On display at the lobby is a 12-foot tree decorated by members of the Santa Rita Club. For more information call 683-4403.

Community of Joy

The Dec. 29 production at Community of Joy will be "Lures of Life." The gathering meets 10:30 a.m. each Sunday at Cole Theater.

TODAY'S AGENDA

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the Midland County Library Information Line, on CITYLINE, 560-2400, Category 7100.

11th Step Study group for people in recovery, 10:30 a.m., 2103 W. Louisiana Ave., 697-4751 or 682-1646.

Greater Permian Basin Duplicate Bridge & Novice Duplicate Bridge, 1:30 p.m., Allison Bridge Center.

Tall City Road Riders, 9 a.m., Warfield Truckstop, 682-9669 or 687-5313.

Overeaters Anonymous, 4 p.m., 408 S. G Street. 694-4166; 580-7545; 684-8726.

Tall City VFW 7208 Auxiliary Bingo, 3:30 p.m. 1406 E. Taylor St.,

(lic.: 1-51-0171588-4).

MONDAY

Survivors Group for sexual abuse, rape and incest, 6 p.m., Glenwood Hospital, 563-1200.

Texaco Toastmasters Club, 11:30 a.m., Texaco Heritage Center, 688-2932.

Clogging, basic & intermediate levels, 7 p.m., 2800 W. City Rd. 130.

Midland Area AIDS Support, for family & friends of people with AIDS, 7 p.m., 684-6161 or 684-7821.

West Texas Singles dance class, 7:30 p.m., 550-6960.

Midland Rape Crisis support for incest survivors. For group information call 682-7273.

Midland Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., MARC clubhouse, 699-5441.

Rebekah Lodge No. 91, 8 p.m., 610 E. Florida St.

PERMIAN BASIN Cityline
A 24 HOUR INFORMATION SERVICE
560-2400

For Local, National and World Updates, call CITYLINE, and enter category 1200 for the main news menu.

Christmas in the Tall City

Midland residents share their Christmas plans

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

The celebration of Christmas, rooted in the birth of Jesus, is for children, the child in people, and people rich and poor in spirit and wealth.

The holiday is a celebration of family and a hope for reconciliation.

"I just used to be a little kid who wanted his Christmas presents," Greg Palko recalled Friday as his joyful 6-year-old daughter, Mary, hugged him during a Christmas party at St. Ann's School.

Nowadays, Palko, a Midland geologist, said that "just ... watching the children open their presents makes me feel good, makes me happy."

For John Maha, a grandfather who traveled from San Antonio to Midland "just to be with the family" at Christmastime, said that for him the joy of the season is delighting in "the happiness in their (the grandchildren's) eyes."

"It's Jesus' birthday," said his granddaughter, 5-year-old Kristi Maha. To her, the holiday simply means "love."

At age 5, Gabrielle Shayeb realizes that not only is Dec. 25 a time to celebrate Christ's birthday, it is also a time for the family to "make some stuffing and clean up the house ... (and) open gifts on Christmas morning."

Of Christmas Day, "I think about unwrapping presents and what the presents are going to be," mused 6-year-old Mitchell Thornton, who said that he sometimes goes to bed early on Christmas Eve. "I wake up when my mom and dad do."

In celebrating Christ, "I go to my mom's church," Mitchell said. "Dad doesn't go to church. Sometimes when we get back, he's awake."

A major part of his Christmas is visiting his grandparents.

Odessan Rafael Rivera, 22, who is bound in friendship with Fishers-of-Men minister Gilbert Delgado of Midland, spoke of his hope to have his first-ever Christmas celebration with his mother.

"Truthfully, I have never celebrated Christmas," said Rivera, whose family has "never had a tree — me and my mother."

Please see SHARE/2B

Mary Palko, top, is hugged by her dad, Greg, as they talk about what they are going to do for Christmas. Fisher's of Men Ministries members, right, talk about spreading Christmas cheer: Gilbert Delgado, right, and his wife Velia, back row in the middle, Rafael Rivera, left, Alfred Ortega, middle front row, and Linda Bonilla. The inner-city outreach ministry's new headquarters, at 1115 N. Carrizo Ave., is being renovated. The ministry is an outreach of Shekinah Glory Church. Gabrielle Shayeb, above left, said Christmas is "the birth of Jesus." Mitchell Thornton, above middle, says he gets to sleep late on Christmas morning. Kristi Maha, above right, said Christmas is spending time with her family.

Community & Senior Services to deliver gift baskets

By Gary Shanks
Staff Writer

Generous Midland students, companies and individuals have teamed up to provide holiday gift baskets for the hundreds of area elderly residents who rely on the Meals on Wheels program.

About 400 of these baskets will be delivered Monday along Meals on Wheels' routes throughout the city, said Karen Sparks, community awareness director for Community & Senior Services of Midland Inc., which oversees the Meals on Wheels program.

Each of the holiday baskets will contain food and toiletry items such as canned vegetables, fruit, meat, cereal, juice, lotion, soap, shampoo and tissues, said Jan Faulk, volunteer coordinator for Meals on Wheels.

The holiday basket program is an annual tradition and gives a number of local groups and individuals a chance to brighten the holiday for some of the area's elderly residents, Ms. Faulk said.

Because of the efforts of those in the community, all of the items in the baskets are donated, collected and packaged for the Meals on Wheels program. "So there's no cost to us," Ms. Sparks said.

Students from Lee High, San Jacinto Junior High, Abell Junior High, Midland Christian, Lee Freshman and Bonham Elementary schools collected the food.

Donations came from Texaco, Conoco, Parker & Parsley, Henry Petroleum, Tom Brown Inc. and Hanover Compressor; the bags for each basket were donated by Dillard's, Ms. Faulk said.

Assistance was also provided by individuals at Hillcrest Manor and Langtree Village.

Meals on Wheels delivers to about 400 households each week day; deliveries are made on weekends to those elderly citizens most in need of meals.

In addition, this program provides about 150 meals each day for the Midland Senior Center, Casa de Amigos and the Southeast Senior Center.

"Not only do they need the nutrition ... most important is the interaction — to see a smiling face each day," Ms. Faulk said.

'Not only do they need the nutrition ... most important is the interaction — to see a smiling face each day.'

— Jan Faulk, Meals on Wheels

Related to this is a sister program at the CSS, Friendly Visitor — where volunteers befriend an elderly person in the community and visit them each week, Ms. Faulk said.

Other CSS programs include Telephone Reassurance, where daily calls are made to the homes of elderly residents to

Please see GIFT/2B

GARY OTT

Best be cautious when playing the Christmas Game

OK, gang, admit it. Christmas is a mere three days away and you're still not quite through with your shopping, are you?

Oh, sure, you've done most of it ... the family stuff, the exchanges at the office, maybe even a little something for your pet. But you're not FINISHED. Not just yet.

Ott

That's because you are in the middle of a contest and the No. 1 rule is that each time you think you have made your final purchase, you are required to say the following words: "Good heavens, what if she (or he) gets me something more expensive? I'll feel just awful."

So you jump in your car, head back to the mall and buy something even more extravagant in hopes of being declared the game's ultimate winner; or, in more blatant terms, that you will become known as, and I quote, "the person who spent the most money needlessly in a childlike attempt to impress that special someone."

Actually, an even more accurate way of stating it is: "I was the person who managed to survive the Christmas season without coming across as a stingy gut in the eyes of my companion."

And let's be honest here, that is exactly what we are attempting to accomplish with our last-minute shopping sprees. To heck with getting something of sentimental value, or even a gift that is actually needed, what we're really after is that big, gaudy, extravagant present that just screams out, "THE GUY WHO BOUGHT ME SPENT BIG BUCKS BECAUSE HE'S NO CHEAPSKATE!"

Never mind that we are now hopelessly in debt, the important thing to remember is that we will not be humiliated on Christmas morning.

And that — avoiding personal embarrassment at all costs — is what the holiday season is all about. After all, nothing is worse than opening a gift and suddenly realizing it cost three times more than the item you chose for that person.

And it doesn't make you feel any better to have her (or him) say, "No, really, I LOVE it. Besides, it's the thought that matters."

No it's not.

That might be a nice lesson to teach your children — much like "It matters not if you win or lose, but how you play the game" — but in the real world, the price tag does count.

Big time.

That's why with a couple of days of shopping still ahead, most of us are nowhere near finished, even though we have maxed out on our credit cards and are now emulating the federal government's policies regarding deficit spending.

Buy now, pay later.

But the real problem is not knowing what the other person is buying ... or how much she (or he) is spending.

So it becomes a guessing game.

How much do you THINK the person is going to spend?

And the most important thing to remember when attempting to answer that question is to ignore what you have been told. If, for example, the person puts a $200 limit on all purchases, immediately triple the figure.

Likewise, if your partner says, "This year let's just get each other ONE gift," you need to reply, "OK, that sounds reasonable." Then you should start thinking in terms of six or seven gifts.

And don't think for a second that the other person isn't keeping score ... silently, of course.

As each gift is opened, the mental calculator is busy at work ... "OK, that's three presents totalling, oh, let's give him the benefit of doubt and say $425. He's not doing very good so far. That big one in the corner had better be a doozy or this little cheapskate is in deep ..." well, you get the picture.

But fret not, it is only Sunday.

You've still got plenty of time to destroy your credit.

Hey, if the federal government can do it, so can you.

Gary Ott is city editor of the Reporter-Telegram.

DEC 22 1996

POLICE REPORTS

Midland Police Department
Saturday

Vandalism: Christmas decorations were damaged at 2303 Keswick Road. Michael Stoltz reported the incident at 3 a.m.

Burglary of a residence: Keith Atley reported an incident at 5506 Ashwood Court. It was reported at 1:40 p.m.

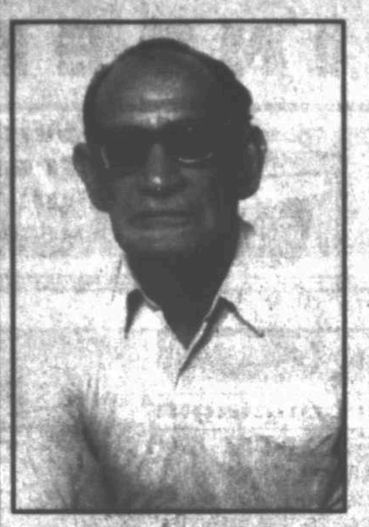
Theft: Several electrical tools were taken at Fairfield Inn, 2300 Faulkner Drive. The incident was reported at 2:10 p.m.

Midland County Sheriff's Department
Saturday

Theft: $10.39 in gasoline was taken at the Town & Country Food Store at 2622 S. Highway 349. The incident was reported at 3:31 p.m.

Anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the Police Department at 685-7108 or Crime Stoppers at 694-TIPS.

OBITUARIES



Palermo "Pale" Sotelo Lopez

KERMIT — Palermo "Pale" Sotelo Lopez, age 88, of Kermit, died Friday, Dec. 20, 1996, at Winkler County Memorial Hospital in Kermit.

Public visitation will be held from 1 to 10 p.m. today, Dec. 22, at Martinez Funeral Home of Odessa and from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, at Martinez Funeral Home.

Rosary will be said at 7:30 p.m. today, Dec. 22, at Martinez Funeral Home. Services will be at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church with Father Francis Frey officiating. Burial will be at Rose Hill Cemetery. Arrangements by Martinez Funeral Home.

Mr. Lopez was born on April 3, 1908, in Alpine and had lived in Kermit since 1956. He was a construction worker with Bowden Construction in Odessa. He was a member of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

Pallbearers are Harold Lopez, Benny Lopez, Michael Lopez, Rolando Lopez Jr., Trey Lopez, Marco Lopez, Eddie Lopez and Stephen Salcido.

Honorary pallbearers are Jeffrey Lopez, Julian Sanchez Jr., Pete Aranda and Joe Arthur Reschman.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Maria Sotelo Lopez and Jose Lopez.

Mr. Lopez is survived by his wife, Petra Lopez of Kermit; sons, Joe "Sonny" Lopez of Kermit, Eddie Lopez of Midland, Palermo "Jay" Lopez Jr. of Fort Worth, Freddy Don Lopez of Katy and Rolando Lopez Sr. of Odessa; daughter, Pauline Mesa of Kermit; sister, Arabella Aranda of Odessa; 18 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

Ama Belle Hammond

Mrs. Ama Belle Hammond died Thursday evening, Dec. 19, 1996, at Llano Hospital in Llano, Texas.

Graveside services were held Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. at Resthaven Memorial Park with Dr. Jarrell Sharp, of Saint Luke's United Methodist Church, officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Honorary pallbearers are Scott Kidwell, Robert Hammond, David Lawler, Barry Harris, Steve Rooster, Cliff Johnson and Eddie Heikkila.

GIFT: Baskets to be delivered Monday

(From 1B)

check on their well-being. Handyman Services provides home repairs and such jobs as building wheelchair ramps in the homes of elderly residents.

Grocery Express volunteers do grocery shopping for elderly residents.

The Senior Help Line, (800) 491-4636, provides information on various senior programs in the city.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program provides coordination for the efforts of hundreds of area retired volunteers.

DEATH NOTICES

Rebekah Slover

CORPUS CHRISTI — Rebekah Nicole Slover, infant daughter of George and Celia Slover, of Corpus Christi died Friday, Dec. 20, at a Corpus Christi hospital.

Services are to be at 1:30 p.m. today, Dec. 22, at the Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John Blacklock officiating. Graveside services are to be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland with the Rev. Cletus B. Beights officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Sawyer-George Funeral Home in Corpus Christi.

She was born Nov. 19, 1996, in Corpus Christi.

Other survivors include two brothers, Samuel Slover and Daniel Slover, both of Corpus Christi; and her grandparents, Claud and Eleanor Slover of Midland and Maxine Looney of Lubbock.

SHARE: Midland prepares for Christmas

(From 1B)

Rivera lamented that his siblings "kind of rejected her."

Until he "got saved," Rivera said that the glitter and music of the Christmas season unnerved him. "I used to hate it."

Now that he is a Christian, Rivera noted that "Christmas is all about reconciliation.

"I am thinking about spending Christmas Day with her (his mother)," Rivera said. "It has got to start somewhere. So, I wanted to start with me — showing love to her. I hope to win her over ... with God's love."

Rivera said that he prays to God that he will be "the son she has always wanted."

Delgado, 45, is celebrating Christmas in his new home, the site of an outreach ministry for youths in gangs, on Midland's east side.

"My focus is to reach out," he said. "It is not so much what we can give each other. It is what can we give of ourselves? It is like God when he gave His only Son. That is the best present we could ever receive: the Lord" and the promise of eternal life.

Delgado said that believers can be Christ-like by "giving of ourselves - the spirit of love. Everyday we celebrate the Christmas of our Lord."

Delgado, whose work encompasses the Shekinah or "Glory of God" ministry, said that in celebrating Christmas, Christians are "acknowledging that it is Christ's birthday ... that this world was given a gift — a living Savior.

"It is a special time of the year when everybody comes together," said Delgado, who also recognized that during the holiday season, "a lot of people get depressed. The crime rate goes up. The suicide rate goes up."

In his family of kin and friends, "We are just thankful we are all healthy and alive and are just counting blessings."

Among his blessings are his wife, Belia, who is the "mother part of my ministry. She is the one who keeps me in check."

More than that, though, Christmas represents "giving of yourself.

"The spirit of Christmas (is this): God is reconciling man to Himself through the force of Jesus Christ. Our focus is to reconcile ourselves to our loved ones, to reconcile relationships with children, with our enemies. I think that is the biggest gift."

Delgado's daughter, Sylvia Zapata, suggested that the ideal Christmas would be "where we can all be together (in harmonious spirit) — everyone, brothers and sisters," the world over.

Midland businessman Don Hellinghausen noted a minister's homily on Jesus Christ's exhortation in Matthew 25 to feed, clothe, and shelter the poor people and even to take heed of strangers' needs.

"'It is not an option,'" Hellinghausen quoted the minister of helping "the less fortunate."

In Midland, for instance, there are volunteers who serve through such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, Christmas in April, West Texas Food Bank, Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry, Salvation Army and other United Way of Midland agencies and various church groups, including Saint Vincent de Paul, which helps the poor, hungry and homeless.

Hellinghausen's wife, Marge, who is a religion educator, said that "the main thing we try to do at Christmas is to get in touch with all of our families," which include sisters and brothers and to "spend time with each of the children and grandchildren. The couple has eight children — six daughters and two sons — in Midland, Austin, Abilene, and the Dallas area.

Mrs. Hellinghausen said that family members have "made a conscious effort to downplay gift-giving, except for the grandchildren.

"We try to participate with our communities and friends without letting ourselves get overwhelmed by the material part of it," she said. "We do some decorating, and we do some cooking, and we try to have surprises for the grandchildren. Don makes wonderful ... peanut brittle."

The Christmas season has developed into a "wonderful time to remember how good God has been, how good life is, how good it is to have families ... brothers, sisters, relationships," she said. " It is a good time to think of all the people who have gone before us. We enjoy life. We insist on getting to Mass" to celebrate Christ's life and love.

Midland Salvation Army Capt. Yvette Villafuerte said that she and her husband, Capt. Albert Villafuerte, Salvation Army commander, celebrate Christmas by "having community dinner at the shelter.

"And then we usually have a private dinner at home" with their daughter, Gabrielle, 5. "Usually, that is our time to rest and relax and take advantage of the season because we have been so busy."

Nikki Holley, 24, of Midland said that her family and her husband, Rusty's, family celebrate Christmas together.

"We just do it (prepare Christmas gifts) for the kids," said Mrs. Holley, who has two children, Chelsea, 5, and Cheyenne, 6. "We all cook a turkey and stuff. The kids have their stockings, and we all go to church on Christmas Eve."

To Mrs. Holley, Christmas means "just being with each other and giving, giving the gifts, if you can give."

Midland farmer-rancher Alvey Bryant, 80, said that his family celebrates Christmas the way his parents did — in a grand, old get-together.

"On Christmas Eve night, we have a Christmas tree, and all of our family that can, meets here at the house," he said. "And we have sandwiches and any kind of soda pop they want to drink for Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Virginia (his wife) cooks turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, and all the trimmings that go with the Christmas dinner. And all the family has Christmas dinner with us. At Christmas night for supper, we just let everybody eat what is left from Christmas dinner."

In the Hoot and Colleen Leonard family, the children and grandchildren get "together on Christmas Eve night ... for a little devotion," said Leonard, who is a rancher and a minister. "We sing songs, and we have Scripture readings and candle-lighting, and then the grandkids open their presents. We really do have a nice time."

MISD improvement-plan data shows positive learning trends

From Staff Reports

The improvement plan for Midland Independent School District was presented to school board trustees recently and the data reveals a positive trend in improvement in grades three through eight, and grade 10, for all students and subgroups taking the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test.

The district has experienced overall improvement of 1 1/2 to 2 percent growth each year.

The June 1996 report of TAAS results reflects a 2.6 percent improvement by all students tested in reading. The African-American students showed the most improvement in reading with a 4.2 percent increase in the number passing the subtest. In mathematics, the percentage of all students passing the subtest increased by 5.8 percent. Again, the African-American students showed the most improvement with a 9.2 percent increase in the number passing the math subtest, followed by Hispanic students at 8.4 percent.

The report reflects that the district's writing and reading programs are teaching students more and helping them perform better as shown by the rapid approach toward 80 percent of all students passing the tests. Continued improvement at this pace will allow the district to reach and exceed its goal of 90 percent of all students passing the subtests, according to MISD administrators.

A positive trend also is reflected by the increased percent of daily attendance and decreased percent of student dropouts for all students and each subgroup. An attendance rate of 94 percent or higher is necessary for a rating of "Exemplary" or "Recognized." The district's attendance rate was 94.1 percent.

The overall dropout rate improved by 1.3 percent with the most improvement shown by 2.1 percent fewer African-American dropouts than the previous year and 1.7 percent fewer Hispanic dropouts than the previous year.

The percent of students taking college entrance exams also increased, with the exception of a slight decline in the percentage of African-American students taking the exams. Eight percent more students took the test than in the baseline year of 1993, for a total of 60 percent of the May 1995 graduates taking a college entrance exam. The percent of students tested and scoring above the criterion of 1000 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test — or 24 on the American College Testing program exam — also showed a positive trend.

The district is approaching a level where one of four students taking the tests exceed those scores. These students will have a greater college acceptance opportunities as a result of their higher scores.

Safety standards may be lifted soon

PASADENA (AP) — Phillips Petroleum Co. officials believe an agreement that set new industry safety standards in the wake of a 1989 explosion that killed 23 people will be lifted soon.

"We are very comfortable that we have complied with all aspects of the agreement," Norm Berkely, a spokesman for Phillips in Pasadena, told the Pasadena Citizen.

Widely known as the "explosion agreement," the settlement was supposed to end last year. But union representatives asked the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration for an extension.

Union officials said they won't request another extension this year.

Federal inspectors surveyed the plant recently, and the company expects a decision before the end of the month.

The agreement became the prototype for OSHA's Process Safety Management rules, adopted for all industry after the Phillips explosion, which also injured 314 people.

The plant was required to prepare detailed emergency plans and conduct regular safety inspections.

The Phillips agreement also included a $4 million settlement.

The Oct. 23, 1989, blast occurred during routine maintenance on loop reactors in a polyethylene plant.

Residents show support for nativity scene

WEATHERFOR (AP) — About two dozen people demonstrated their support Saturday for a nativity scene at the heart of Christmas controversy.

The chanting group picketed outside the Parker County Courthouse where the display is located, opposing a court challenge to its legality.

Richard Hogan, Texas state director for American Atheists, is seeking an injunction to have the exhibit removed from the courthouse square. He contends the wooden manger scene erected by local residents violates his constitutional right to separation of church and state.

"I don't really have an objection to the nativity scene," Hogan said. "I just think it should be displayed somewhere besides taxpayer property, government property."

The threat to the creche, displayed annually for nearly a decade, brought the pickets to the courthouse, where they showed their support with signs reading "Keep the Nativity Scene," and "Honk If You Love Jesus." The latter prompted deafening honks around the downtown square.

County Judge Ben Long was unmoved by Friday's legal action over the yuletide display.

"It will remain here until such time as a superior court or commissioner's court requires it be removed," he said, adding Hogan's request will be addressed at the Dec. 30 commission meeting.

This isn't the first time that Hogan has aired his grievance. He sent Long a letter last year asking that the display be removed. At the time, members of commissioner's court chose to leave it up, Long said.

The county has no taxpayer money involved in the display and doesn't pay workers to erect it on the lawn, he said.

The scene was a gift from local residents to the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and is maintained and erected by the local Professional Business Association of Weatherford.

Carrie Sperling, regional director of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking the injunction of Hogan's behalf, said the government has no business in matters of conscience.

"We hate to be seen as the Grinch that stole Christmas, but the idea is that there are plenty of churches and houses and private property on which we can display our religious beliefs," she said.

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Former welfare

HOUSTON (AP) ent effort to boost subsidiary of the runs the Texas Gov. Ann Richard than a dozen gove last year, the Hou reported Saturday

The Oct. 22, Austin was hosted Corp., the comp Texas' multimilli tronic food stamp as the Lone Star c

Transactive is GTECH Corp., wh Texas Lottery and a probe by the Lotte and the state aud federal grand jury into matters involv and lobbyists.

Ms. Richards, lottery through t five years ago, is t eral high-ranking officials who have as having connecti

No governors sh dinner and only tw of-state bureaucra newspaper said.

"Ms. Richards h for or on behalf of GTECH spokesma said, adding he comment.

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Former Gov. Richards sought welfare business for GTECH

HOUSTON (AP) — In an apparent effort to boost business for a subsidiary of the company that runs the Texas lottery, former Gov. Ann Richards invited more than a dozen governors to dinner last year, the Houston Chronicle reported Saturday.

The Oct. 22, 1995, dinner in Austin was hosted by Transactive Corp., the company that runs Texas' multimillion-dollar electronic food stamp program known as the Lone Star card system.

Transactive is a subsidiary of GTECH Corp., which operates the Texas Lottery and is the focus of a probe by the Lottery Commission and the state auditor's office. A federal grand jury also is looking into matters involving the lottery and lobbyists.

Ms. Richards, who pushed the lottery through the Legislature five years ago, is the latest of several high-ranking former state officials who have been identified as having connections to GTECH.

No governors showed up for the dinner and only two or three out-of-state bureaucrats attended, the newspaper said.

"Ms. Richards has done no work for or on behalf of the company," GTECH spokesman Bob Rendine said, adding he had no further comment.

Steve Kearney, a spokesman for the law firm where Ms. Richards works, said her client was not GTECH or Transactive directly. He would not name the client who wanted the governors to attend the dinner or say whether the firm was paid for Ms. Richards' service.

Ms. Richards did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press on Saturday.

The Transactive dinner was held the night before Comptroller John Sharp hosted a conference to show off the state's new electronic system that replaced paper food stamps. The system had been running in two counties and was about to be expanded statewide.

GTECH has come under intense scrutiny since its former national sales manager, J. David Smith, was convicted in federal court in October for defrauding the company through kickback schemes with local lobbyists in New Jersey.

The controversy flared last month amid revelations that GTECH gave a $30,000 contract to a close friend of embattled Texas lottery director Nora Linares. She has said she did not know until recently about GTECH's contract with Mike Moeller, now in prison on unrelated corruption charges.

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Crosbyton, Texas native **John Ellison** obtained his Funeral Director's license in 1983 and has been a member of the **Ellis Funeral Home** family since 1985.

A native of Midland, **Bobby Garcia** has been with **Ellis Funeral Home** 12 years and a licensed Funeral Director since 1989.

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Disappearance of atheist leaders shrouded in cloud of mystery

N.Y. Times Service

AUSTIN — Through more than three decades of crusades as a leader of American atheism, Madalyn Murray O'Hair was never silent. She took her battles to the Supreme Court, sparking a landmark 1963 ruling banning organized prayer in public schools, and to the nation's advice columnists.

"Dear Ann Landers," Mrs. O'Hair wrote in 1993. "Do you have any idea how many people you insult on a daily basis with your Judeo-Christian-based 'problem solving'?"

But now Mrs. O'Hair, once famous for her cantankerous advocacy of the right not to believe in God, is at the core of a bizarre and growing mystery, one set off by her total silence, and her apparent disappearance.

Nearly 15 months ago, Mrs. O'Hair simply vanished, along with two other principal figures of American Atheists Inc., the group she founded in the early 1960s: her son Jon Garth Murray and her granddaughter, Robin Murray-O'Hair. Leaving their three Scottish terriers behind in Austin, where the group is based, the three went to San Antonio for what they said was a "working vacation" and no one, publicly at least, has reported seeing them since.

Just what happened to Mrs. O'Hair, who is 77 years old if she is still alive? The authorities here in Austin say they do not know, and there is no trail of hard evidence. Instead, there are only a flurry of conjecture and tantalizing, possible clues: more than half a million dollars reported to have been taken by Murray from an atheist group's account and allegations by a former atheist worker of a secret bank account in New Zealand.

The disappearance has shed light on the turmoil in the first family of American atheism and in the group they founded.

Many atheists and friends say they strongly believe that Mrs. O'Hair went somewhere secret to die and then be cremated, so that she might be guaranteed one of her most fervent wishes. No "Christers" or "religionists," she often said, should ever be allowed to pray over her body, dead or alive.

But in the self-absorbed network of American atheists and in rumors exchanged on the World Wide Web, an equally persistent theory has it that Mrs. O'Hair, Murray, 42, the president and director of the group at the time he disappeared, and Ms. Murray-O'Hair, 31, the estranged daughter of Mrs. O'Hair's other son, all went into hiding someplace far away, perhaps New Zealand, perhaps Tahiti. Dogged by discontent and allegations by some members that they were increasingly autocratic, the theory goes, the trio fled.

In recent days, the mystery has only deepened with a revelation that could fit either possibility — or a third, raised by some atheists, which has it that one, two or all three might have been murdered for money.

Officials now in charge of American Atheists and related groups, who earlier this year insisted that all the cause's money was accounted for, now concede that more than $600,000 is missing. It is "believed to be in the possession of Jon Murray," United Secularists of America, a group founded by Mrs. O'Hair, said last month in a tax statement to the Internal Revenue Service.

Ellen Johnson, a New Jersey homemaker picked by the American Atheists' board last December to replace the missing Murray as president, said Murray apparently had the money but that the board had no plans to file a theft report or to press for charges against him, Mrs. O'Hair or Ms. Murray-O'Hair.

"They are the most honest, decent people I know," Ms. Johnson said. "I will go to my grave defending them, no matter what."

As president, Murray had access to the money, but Ms. Johnson said she did not think it had been taken for any nefarious purpose.

"They left their own bank accounts, their house, two cars, the rest of the money in the organization, their pets, their entire life work," she said. "For what? Seven hundred thousand dollars."

ARMED FORCES NEWS

Navy Hospitalman Terry Kirkpatrick, a former Midlander, recently reported for duty aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

He joined the Navy in March 1996.

• • •

Marine Lance Cpl. Baldomero Vargas, son of Yolanda and Baldomero Vargas Jr. of Midland, recently was promoted to his present rank while serving with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Air Wing in Okinawa, Japan.

He was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated speciality.

Vargas is a 1995 graduate of Midland High School and he joined the Marine Corps in August 1995.

• • •

Marine Cpl. Kimberly McDonough, whose husband Jimmy, is the son of Tom and Becky O'Neal of Midland, recently was promoted to her present rank while serving with 8th Communications Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

She was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in her designated specialty.

Ms. McDonough is a 1992 graduate of Bellport Senior High School of Brookhaven, N.Y., and she joined the Marine Corps in October 1992.

• • •

Army Pvt. Robert Reyna, son of Felipa and Robert Reyna of Midland, has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Knox in Radcliff, Ky.

During the training, trainees received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Reyna is a 1996 graduate of Midland High School.

• • •

Jeffrey Cameron, son of Don Cameron of Midland and Veronica Gorsuch of Abingdon, Va., enlisted in the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program on Dec. 13.

Cameron graduated from Lee High School and is scheduled for enlistment in the regular Air Force on April 16, 1997.

Upon successfully completing the Air Force's six week basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the tactical aircraft maintenance career field. In conjunction with the vocational skills, he will be earning college credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and other Air Force technical training schools.

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David Evans, son of Mike and Ginny Evans of Midland, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program on Dec. 3.

Evans graduated from Lee High School and is scheduled for enlistment in the regular Air Force on April 9, 1997. Upon successfully completing the Air Force's six week basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the tactical aircraft maintenance career field. In conjunction with the vocational skills, he will be earning college credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force while attending Basic and other Air Force technical training schools.

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Iwo Jima Veterans Reunion will be held Feb. 17-20 at Sheraton Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi.

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Associated Press

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Rangers end guard duty at lottery commission

Associated Press

Texas Rangers, called in earlier this month to ensure the integrity and security of documents at the Texas Lottery Commission, have been taken off the assignment, commission chairwoman Harriet Miers said.

Ms. Miers said she is convinced that security measures are now in place to limit access and ensure no unauthorized departure of records from the lottery commission offices.

Ms. Miers asked for the Rangers, she said, after embattled lottery director Nora Linares questioned the authenticity of records subpoenaed by a federal grand jury.

A spokesman for the Department of Public Safety told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that the Rangers and other DPS officers left the building Friday.

Meanwhile, the commission is considering whether it wants Attorney General Dan Morales to assign another attorney to represent it in a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees.

Assistant Texas Attorney General Dennis Garza has been representing the commission in the suit. However, as president of the South Austin Tejano Democrats, Garza has publicly criticized Ms. Miers for her handling of the commission's investigation into Ms. Linares' ties to lobbyists for GTECH, the lottery's prime contractor, and other companies doing business with the lottery and whether they have received preferential treatment.

"Because it involves a pending suit and a lawyer who is representing us, I thought I ought to ask our attorneys to review the situation and take whatever action is in the best interest of the Texas Lottery Commission," Ms. Miers is quoted as saying in Saturday editions of the Austin American-Statesman.

Three ex-employees — Tommy Headrick, Feliciano Acevedo and Billie Myrick — were fired last year for improperly carrying weapons while on duty. They sued claiming the real reason was their attempts to raise concern about "improprieties" at the agency, according to their attorney, Doug Brothers.

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Drug trafficker sentenced to life in prison

HOUSTON (AP) — A Columbia native convicted for running a Houston-based drug ring that dealt heavily on college campuses in Texas and Louisiana has been sentenced to life in prison.

Samuel Posada Rios, 36, was found guilty in September of racketeering, conspiracy and related cocaine-trafficking charges.

"You are a very intelligent man, but you were waylaid by the lure of easy money and the adventure of the life of a drug dealer," U.S. District Judge Melinda Harmon told Posada Rios before sentencing him to three life terms on Friday.

"I think the world needs to be protected from you," Harmon said. "I think you have committed heinous crimes."

Posada Rios admitted to wrongdoing but said he never headed the organization. He said he only followed instructions and acted out of fear.

"I was a pawn, a fool," he told Harmon.

A federal grand jury in Houston charged Posada Rios and 35 members of his organization in 1992 with 177 acts of racketeering during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Prosecutors submitted evidence showing Posada Rios had parlayed connections to the Medellin cartel into an international drug enterprise during the mid-1980s.

"Hundreds of college students at (Texas) A&M and other colleges were receiving drugs from this organization," prosecutor Charles Lewis said.

Defense attorneys said they will appeal.

"Any Columbian, even a minor player, automatically became a kingpin because of his nationality," Posada Rios' lawyer David Adler said.

A cartel member smuggled cocaine through the Port of Houston and across the Mexican border to Posada Rios, Lewis said. The ring made about $100 million over eight years, the prosecutor said.

Authorities ultimately were led to the organization after the arrest of some Texas A&M University students in the late 1980s.

In an agreement with prosecutors, a man who headed a division of the ring at A&M told authorities he had distributed between 880 and 1,320 pounds of cocaine a month for the organization.

Authorities learned that Posada Rios had distributors at the University of Texas, Louisiana State University and Tulane University, Lewis said.

A former University of Texas student testified in Posada Rios' trial that he sold thousands of small amounts of cocaine per month for the ring.

Thirteen members of the organization have fled the country and haven't been caught.

Civil right leaders still back boycott

DALLAS (AP) — Two Dallas black leaders continue to support a boycott of Texaco despite a call by the NAACP and the Rev. Jesse Jackson to end the action.

A boycott of Texaco was organized after tape recordings surfaced on which Texaco executives belittled blacks and plotted to destroy potentially incriminating documents.

Jackson joined NAACP leaders in declaring an end to the boycott after Texaco vowed to diversify its workforce and do more business with minorities and women.

Dallas-area black leaders said they're waiting to see what kind of effect the plan will have, especially in Texas.

"People are still sending me cut-up Texaco cards," said Lee Alcorn, president of the Dallas NAACP. "There are still some very deep-rooted feelings in the community."

Alcorn is still inviting members dissatisfied with Texaco's $176 million settlement of a racial discrimination lawsuit to cut up their Texaco credit cards and send them to the Dallas NAACP.

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Big Bend residents say casual Rio Grande crossings are vital

By Mike Drago
Associated Press

BOQUILLAS, Mexico — Jose Falcon gazes across the Rio Grande from the shaded patio of his restaurant and considers what would happen if his tiny, 100-year-old village and its 40 families were cut off from the trickle of tourists who arrive in rowboats every day.

"If they close the border, that's it," Falcon says. "Boquillas is closed. Finished."

Citing its efforts to catch drug smugglers along the Texas border, the U.S. Customs Service has voiced the intent to stop casual border crossings crucial to such Mexican towns as Boquillas, nearby Santa Elena and, further upriver, Paso Lajitas.

While the U.S. Border Patrol recognizes crossings at so-called Class B ports, Customs officials say anyone crossing the border must do so at the nearest Customs checkpoint or risk a year in federal prison and up to $10,000 in fines.

The policy, which apparently conflicts with Border Patrol policy, has been in effect since 1986 but has never been enforced in this region.

Roger Maier, Customs spokesman in El Paso, said the recent initiative stemmed from several drug seizures near an unguarded mining bridge at La Linda, east of Boquillas. The bridge has since been shut down, but Customs' interest was piqued.

"For a time there was an implied belief that these crossings were legal," Maier said. "We needed to let people know that entering the United States there is illegal, so we've taken efforts to do that."

"We understand the concerns of the people living there, but the law is very clear."

Since the nearest official port, Presidio, is some 50 miles away, the Customs policy means a quick trip across the river for groceries or to visit a relative could become a journey at least 100 miles long, half of that on unpaved roads.

It's uncertain if Customs will act on the policy — the agency has no agents assigned to the region aside from Presidio.

But longtime Big Bend residents say any such action would erode the cross-border interdependence and trust that people have developed over many years of living together in the harsh Chihuahuan Desert.

"The Mexicans down there are closer to Alpine than they are to Chihuahua City. The same goes for the people in Alpine and Marathon, who are removed from Austin," said Kirby Warnock, a Dallas resident and part-time West Texas rancher whose family has been in the Big Bend since the late 1800s.

"There may be a river there that says it's a boundary, but there have been crossings there for centuries."

The economies of Boquillas and Santa Elena are almost entirely dependent on tourism dollars that flow from Big Bend National Park. About 10 percent of park visitors pay a $3 fee to Mexican boatmen who row them across the Rio Grande.

Once across, tourists may wander around town, buy a plate of tacos or a colorful yarn bracelet for $1, and head back to the park.

Miguel Ureste, who makes a living driving tourists between Boquillas and the river bank in his old Ford Bronco, said there would be no work in the town if not for tourism. Mines in the nearby Sierra del Carmen that once kept the town going went bust more than 50 years ago.

"I'd have to move somewhere else," said the 32-year-old, who once went to Dallas looking for work but returned to Boquillas because of the tourist trade. "Nothing to do here."

Villagers, at least 150 miles removed from the nearest Mexican cities, also rely on the national park for such necessities as mail, telephones, milk and medicine. Many in Paso Lajitas also have family members living just across the river in Lajitas, Texas.

Residents on the U.S. side, if not quite so dependent on Mexico, also benefit from cross-river trade. Rafting and tour companies in Lajitas, Terlingua and Study Butte for years have taken visitors on brief visits to Mexico, and other businesses have long made a living off trading with neighbors across the river.

Bill Ivey, who operates a wax refinery in Alpine, was one of two business owners to receive written warnings from Customs that he was breaking the law.

Ivey used to buy raw wax from Mexicans who harvest the candelilla plant that grows only in this desert. For years he brought truckloads of wax across the river at Lajitas and drove it on paved Texas highways to declare it at the Customs office in Presidio.

But because of the Customs threat a few months ago, Ivey now purchases more expensive materials in Presidio or El Paso rather than risk getting caught by federal agents.

Ivey said the initiative has cost him profits, but the effect has been harsher for those who used to sell him wax.

"It's a very widespread area of very poor folks," he said. "For many people that was the only means of support they have. They have only really one alternative and — here's the irony of it all — it's the drug business."

Residents here also contend that the Customs policy has no effect on drug traffic. Smugglers who disregard drug laws aren't likely to pick official checkpoints for their border crossings, the rationale goes.

"This kind of stuff comes and goes," Warnock said. "What it mainly does is inconvenience a way of life for people who have been doing this 200 years. I would say it's pure P.R. ... It's all a sound-bite."

Valerie Naylor, chief of public interpretation at Big Bend, said the region is likely no different than any other part of the Texas border when it comes to drugs.

"We would be naive to say that drugs never cross into the park," Ms. Naylor said. "But it's not an area of major activity. This is a very remote area.

"The majority of people who are crossing from both directions are law-abiding citizens who are going across the border for personal reasons."

She said park rangers continue to distribute maps and brochures of Boquillas and Santa Elena.

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Birdwatchers spend on trips, equipment big to see feathered friends

Associated Press

One spring day in 1981, Paul Fagala looked out his bedroom window in Cove, Texas, and spotted a rose-breasted grosbeak. The 10-year-old reached for the binoculars his grandparents gave him for Christmas and for the field guide from his aunt.

"I looked at him through my binoculars and thought he was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. I looked in my field guide and found that bird. I was hooked," Fagala said from his Grand Prairie, Texas, home. "From that first identification began a lifetime of birding as a hobby."

Fagala, now 25, belongs to the growing ranks of bird enthusiasts who spend their time — and billions of dollars — getting close to warblers, eagles, owls, puffins, plovers and egrets.

Five years ago, more than 10 percent of the adults in the United States took birding trips of at least a mile from home and 30 percent fed birds, according to a 1991 Interior Department survey.

A survey last year put the number of bird watchers at more than 20 percent, according to Paul Kerlinger, a New York-based eco-tourism consultant who tracks birders and their spending habits.

All those backyard bird watchers and traveling birders spent about $14.4 billion on trips, equipment, birding magazines, membership dues and birdseed in 1991.

"It's about the same as fishermen and more than hunters. There's almost 10 times as many bird watchers as hunters," said Greg Butcher, executive director of the 18,000-member American Birding Association, which has added 2,000 members a year for the last five years.

While some venture no farther than the backyard feeder, others hit the road at dawn to walk through peaceful wildlife sanctuaries or spend thousands to watch exotic birds in Belize or Antarctica.

The more competitive keep "life lists" of every species they've spotted. Fagala, who set a 1996 goal of 225 species, surpassed the mark last month when he saw 40 in one day around Dallas.

"It's addictive. It's a lifelong treasure hunt, and it's like coming into an art gallery, but you'll never know what's going to hang on the wall," said Pete Dunne, director of natural history information with the New Jersey Audubon Society and renowned birding author.

As a little boy, Dunne would get home from school, pick up his binoculars and run out the back door.

"There was nobody telling me what to do. I was into my world," he said.

"What had been everyday had suddenly turned into 'wow,'" said Dunne, 45, "and 'wow' beats almost anything on the planet."

The hobby can be enjoyed in some urban areas as well in rural areas.

Nestled near Philadelphia's airport, the 1,200-acre John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, the largest freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania, hosts more than 280 species, including great blue herons, and is a stopover for migratory birds.

The refuge, which draws 100,000 visitors annually, was one of 73 Pennsylvania sites named as Important Bird Areas this month by the National Audubon Society. The designation of the spot Audubon calls an "urban oasis" is part of a worldwide effort to protect natural habitats.

In Cape May, N.J., a popular beach town and major stop on migrants' eastern flyway, the Cape May Bird Observatory, headed by Dunne, tracks 350 species and counted about 70,000 hawks this year. The area draws more than 100,000 people who spend upward of $10 million there annually.

"I know of no place on the planet that offers great natural spectacles more consistently than Cape May, and I know of no place where the possibility of something unusual occurring is a matter-of-fact, day-to-day occurrence," said Dunne.

Hawk Mountain, a 2,380-acre Appalachian nature preserve in Kempton, Pa., also designated as "important," attracts some 80,000 visitors a year who get a prime look at migrating hawks and spend more than $3 million.

"It's a great place to introduce kids and adults to birds of prey. It sort of makes them instant conservationists of these birds, and they go out and spread the word," said Keith Bildstein, research director at Hawk Mountain, where 20,000 migrating hawks pass each year.

Hawk Mountain and Cape May — research centers that offer guided walks, programs and birding gift shops — are but two prominent signs of a birding boom that can translate into big money and time for fanatics.

"It can cost anything from a tank of gas to $10,000," Butcher said. One American Birding Association member recently saw her 8,000th bird, no small feat considering the world holds roughly 9,700 identified species.

A topflight pair of binoculars can cost $1,000, but low-rent birders can do well on a $100 pair, an inexpensive field guide and fuel.

Fagala, a church youth minister, spends little money on his pastime. His excursions are mostly local but include two road trips a year to the bird-rich upper Texas coast.

Family pets receive their share of Christmas loot

DALLAS (AP) — As some Christmas shoppers are making their list and checking it twice, they're making sure they get something nice for the family pet.

Ruth Ann Ragland and her husband, Fred, are giving their two cats, a Siamese named Sam and an Abyssinian named Nellie Bly, a battery-operated ball with a toy weasel attached.

"They're part of the family," said Ms. Ragland, a journalism teacher at Texas Woman's University in Denton. "If we left them out, it would be like the Grinch stole Christmas."

The Raglands aren't alone.

A 1995 survey by the American Animal Hospital Association found that 79 percent of all pet owners give their creatures holiday and birthday presents. About 72 percent chose play toys, while 60 percent preferred snacks.

Add Jan Shon to that list. Her cats are getting a pretty big stocking stuffer this year — a 2-foot high fountain.

One of the felines, Sheena, a Bengal, likes to drink from running water and some of the other cats (Ms. Shon and her husband have a house full of them) like to watch.

"I think they'll be excited when they see the fountain," she said.

They're also getting an assortment of cat beds and cat toys.

"It gives us a lot of pleasure," Ms. Shon, a psychiatric social worker from Austin, said. "Our pets are part of our family. Our pets are our children."

Another Austin resident, Nancy Parkinson, will be giving gifts to several pets, although they're not all hers.

Ms. Parkinson owns her own pet sitting business, Wild About Cats Hooked on Dogs, and has already given her cats a new scratching pad.

"It's still their Christmas present," she said. "They don't know what day it's Christmas."

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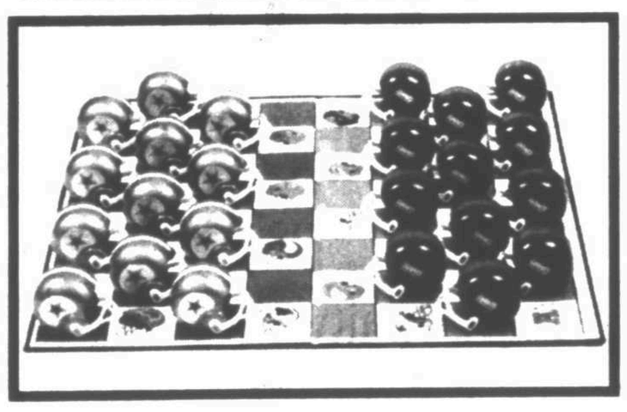
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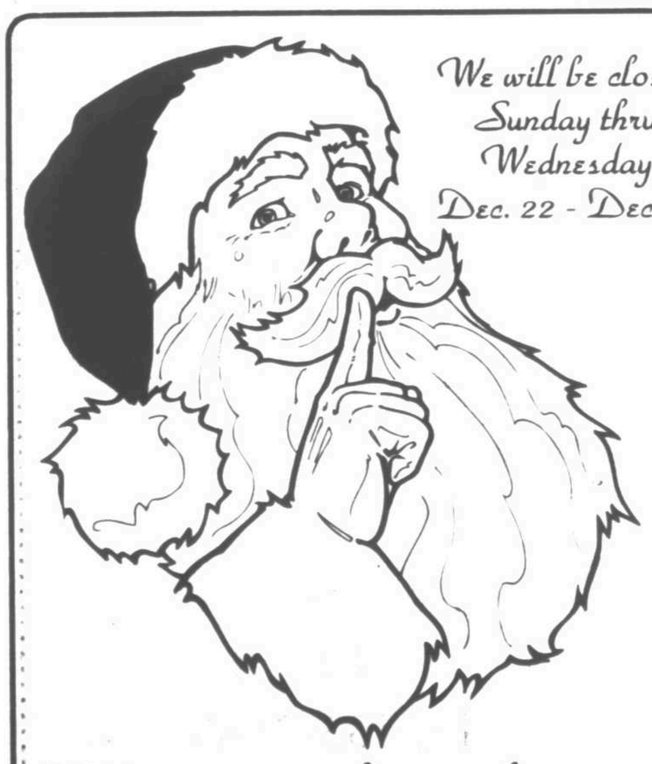
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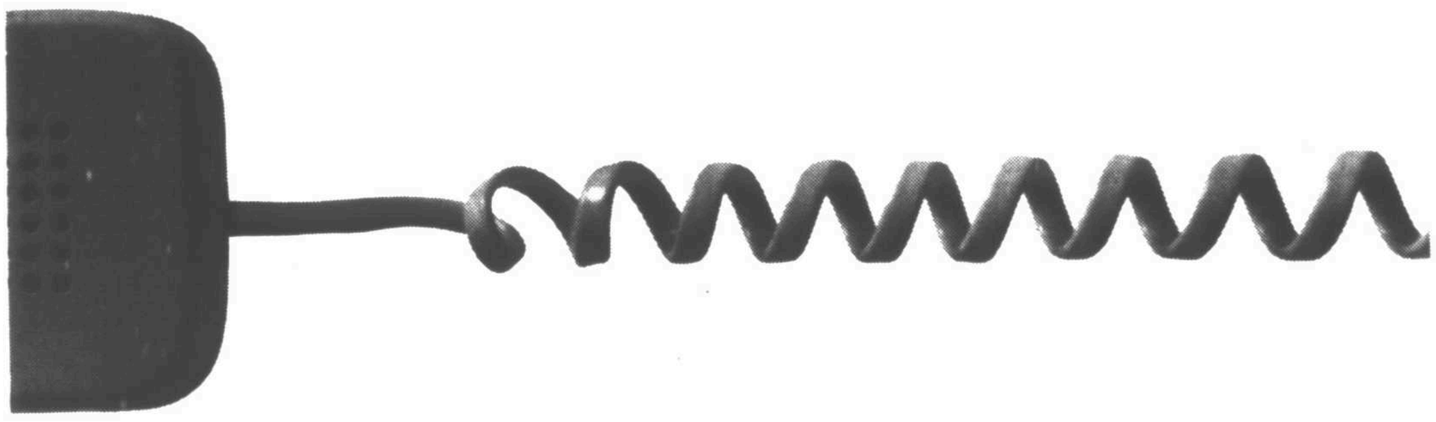

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

TODAY Mostly cloudy and mild
High: 74
Low: 36

MONDAY Partly cloudy and not as mild
High: 69
Low: 34

TUESDAY Partly cloudy and continued cooler
High: 62
Low: 30

Texas Yesterday

City	H/L/Pcp
Abilene	63/37/0.00
Amarillo	64/37/0.00
Dallas/Ft. Worth	67/37/0.00
El Paso	62/28/0.00
Lubbock	65/39/0.00
San Angelo	64/37/0.00
San Antonio	63/44/

YESTERDAY'S PRECIPITATION

Rainfall Friday	0.00 in.
Rainfall Saturday	0.00 in.
Total for the month	trace
Total for the year	8.84 in.
Normal for the month	0.42 in.
Normal for the year	14.82 in.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

High	69
Low	31
Norm. High	57
Norm. Low	30

AVIATION
VFR conditions are expected all day, with southwest wind at 10 to 20 knots.

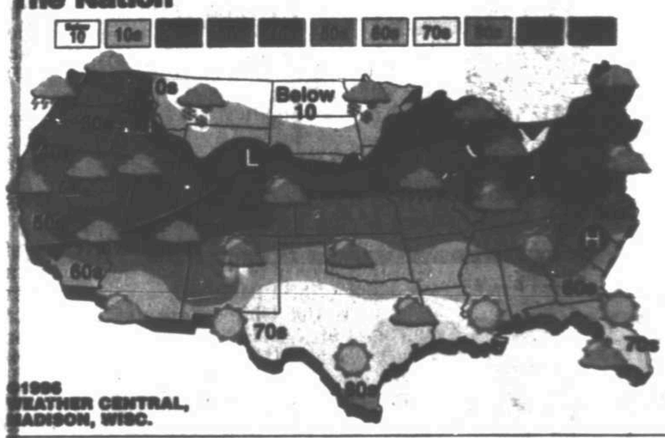
MOON PHASES

DEC. 24 JAN. 1 JAN. 9 JAN. 16

SUNRISE & SUNSET

Sunrise today	7:46 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:49 p.m.
Sunrise Monday	7:46 a.m.
Sunset Monday	5:50 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:30 p.m.
Moonset today	5:35 a.m.

The Nation



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United States

City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W
Albany	36	28	c	Colorado Spgs.	47	21	c	Juneau	18	2	pc	Phoenix	63	44	pc
Albuquerque	55	28	pc	Columbia, SC	57	39	s	Kansas City	51	28	pc	Pittsburgh	42	37	c
Anchorage	12	0	pc	Columbus, OH	44	37	c	Las Vegas	50	35	c	Portland, OR	42	35	sh
Aspen	26	4	sn	Dayton	38	31	c	Little Rock	61	46	c	Raleigh	53	37	pc
Atlanta	56	41	s	Denver	49	20	c	Los Angeles	63	54	pc	Reno	39	25	sn
Austin	69	58	pc	Des Moines	32	20	c	Louisville	50	43	pc	Richmond	48	34	pc
Baltimore	40	32	pc	Detroit	38	31	sn	Memphis	62	49	pc	St. Louis	52	36	c
Birmingham	60	46	s	Duluth	13	3	sn	Miami Beach	76	65	pc	Salt Lake City	45	29	sn
Bismarck	-4	-11	i	Evansville	45	39	pc	Milwaukee	35	27	sn	San Diego	61	50	pc
Boise	35	26	sn	Grand Rapids	37	29	sn	Minneapolis	21	15	sn	San Francisco	55	45	sh
Boston	40	33	c	Great Falls	0	-12	sn	Mobile, AL	67	53	s	Seattle	41	34	sh
Buffalo	36	31	sn	Helena	5	-6	sn	Nashville	56	47	pc	Sioux Falls	20	5	sf
Charlotte	54	38	pc	Honolulu	79	68	pc	New Orleans	71	57	s	Spokane	41	34	pc
Cheyenne	42	14	sn	Houston	70	62	pc	New York	42	36	c	Tampa	72	49	pc
Chicago	34	33	sn	Indianapolis	38	33	sn	Omaha	35	18	sn	Topeka	53	27	pc
Cincinnati	46	39	c	Jackson, MS	68	50	pc	Orlando	71	48	pc	Washington	41	36	pc
Cleveland	41	36	c	Jacksonville	63	40	pc	Philadelphia	41	35	pc	Wichita	56	31	pc

Pan American

City	H	L	W
Acapulco	90	71	pc
Bermuda	69	59	sh
Cabo San Lucas	72	54	pc
Chihuahua	47	25	c
Guadalajara	71	40	pc
Havana	85	65	sh
Kingston	85	75	c
Mazatlan	77	60	pc
Merida	74	61	sh
Mexico City	58	44	r
Nassau	70	65	c
St. Thomas	84	72	pc
San Jose	76	69	t
San Juan, PR	82	71	pc
Torreon	48	31	c
Trinidad	89	72	t
Vera Cruz	68	56	sh

World

City	H	L	W
Bangkok	89	70	t
Beijing	43	24	s
Bogota	66	46	pc
Johannesburg	76	51	pc
London	45	37	w
Montreal	27	14	sn
Moscow	18	8	sn
Nairobi	79	63	w
New Delhi	72	43	pc
Paris	48	38	c
Rio de Janeiro	86	81	c
Riyadh	77	51	s
Rome	63	46	c
Stockholm	22	4	s
Sydney	70	60	w
Tokyo	48	39	c
Toronto	34	21	sf

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy, dr=drizzle, f=fair, h=hazy, pc=partly cloudy, r=rain, s=sunny, sh=showers, sn=snow, ts=thunderstorms, w=windy.

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Questions of possible legal violations center mostly on donors, fund-raisers

By Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Big Democratic donors felt so emboldened they personally wrote the president seeking government appointments — and got them. One was invited inside the Oval Office to talk policy.

Another even managed to get a Chinese government arms dealer into a White House coffee klatch with the president.

It's the sort of access average Americans only dream of, the very stuff that candidate Bill Clinton promised to end when he vowed to free a government "held hostage by big-money interests."

Instead, the feverish fund-raising machine that Democrats built over the last four years tapped donors for contributions ranging from $1,000 for the first family's legal defense to six-figure checks for the party. And now the money raisers are staring down the barrel of an intensifying criminal investigation.

To date, disclosures have revealed a sloppy fund-raising system that allowed hundreds of thousands of dollars of donations from prohibited foreign entities or dubious sources to flow into the Democrats' coffers.

More than $2 million already has been returned by the party or the president's legal fund. Businessman with shadowy interests in Asia and members of obscure Buddhists sects were among the givers getting their checks back.

Unlike many of the earlier controversies to hit the administration — Whitewater, the White House travel office firings, the gathering of FBI background files — this one places the president as a central figure.

His causes benefited from the money. Old Arkansas friends are among donors causing the biggest stir. The president often hosted events that rewarded big donors with access to the White House.

So far, questions of possible legal violations have centered mostly on the donors and the fund-raisers. President Clinton is quick to note that neither he nor his senior aides stand accused of wrongdoing.

The Justice Department, which has a task force investigating the expanding fund-raising controversy, issued subpoenas last week to the White House and the legal defense fund seeking to know what presidential aides and their boss knew, and when.

Attorney General Janet Reno so far has resisted appointing an independent counsel but signaled last week that she remains open to the idea.

Republican-led investigators in both the Senate and House have begun their own inquiries.

For their part, major donors wrote personal letters directly to Clinton making specific policy requests, even seeking appointments to government jobs affording access to sensitive intelligence information.

One, John Huang, got such a high-level job at the Commerce Department. Others got plum appointments to advisory panels.

Some focused their extraordinary access to the president on trying to influence policy.

"There are certain steps that your administration might consider," Indonesian billionaire Mochtar Riady wrote Clinton just two months after the president took office.

Riady, whose family had contributed heavily to Clinton and the Democrats, urged the president to normalize relations with Vietnam, nominate businessmen as U.S. ambassadors to Asian countries and continue economic engagement with China despite its poor human-rights record.

He also lobbied Clinton on behalf of Indonesia's President Suharto.

Intriguing new characters seem to emerge daily. A longtime Arkansas friend of Clinton, international consultant Charles Yah Lin Trie, escaped scrutiny after he delivered $640,000 in questionable donations to the Clintons' Whitewater legal defense fund last spring.

The money was returned by the president's lawyers because of its uncertain origins. Yet Trie continued to hobnob at the White House, an invited guest 23 times in the past four years.

Trie, who also was appointed to a presidential trade commission, used his access to arrange for the Chinese weapons dealer, Wang Jun, to attend a reception last February held by Clinton.

Just four months later, Wang's company was implicated in arms smuggling into the United States. He also is closely aligned with communist China's government and military.

As for Huang, he worked for the Riadys' Lippo Group conglomerate before being appointed to the senior position at Commerce. He got an exemption from full background security checks and even got a top-secret security clearance six months before he started his job.

SPORTS

Scoreboard/3C

SPORTS BRIEFING

TV Sports

NFL — Kansas City Chiefs vs. Buffalo Bills, noon, NBC.
Regional game, TBA, noon, FOX.
Dallas Cowboys vs. Washington Redskins, 3 p.m., FOX.
Denver Broncos vs. San Diego Chargers, 7 p.m., ESPN.
SKATING — Pro Skating Championships, 2 p.m., CBS.
GOLF — Lexus Challenge, 3 p.m., NBC.
TENNIS — Boris Becker vs. Goran Ivanisevic, 7 p.m., FSS.

Texas Scores

NBA — San Antonio Spurs 101, Phoenix Suns 88.
Miami Heat 86, Houston Rockets 66.
NHL — Dallas Stars 3, N.Y. Islanders 2.
COLLEGE MEN: Utah 80, Texas 68.
Texas Tech vs. Fresno State, late.
Baylor 66, UT-Pan Am 57.
Houston 74, Creighton 73.
Oklahoma State 73, SMU 54.
COLLEGE WOMEN — Texas Tech 78, SMU 69.
Tennessee 68, Texas 65, OT.

Unser Missing

CHAMA, N.M. — Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Unser and another man were missing Saturday after embarking on what was supposed to be a day trip of snowmobiling, state police said.

Unser, 63, and Robert Gaynor, 36, were to return Friday but failed to do so, said Sgt. Crystel Menesee of the state police post at Espanola.

"The trail that they took runs from New Mexico into Colorado," Menesee said.

She said state police and Colorado's Canjejos County sheriff's deputies were searching for the men.

"It's expanding, but last I heard there were six to 13 ground units and air support is on standby," Menesee said.

Temperatures were forecast to dip below freezing Saturday night.

Unser is a member of a family whose name has become synonymous with the most famous auto race in the world, winning it nine times. His brother, Al Unser, won the 500 four times and Al's son, Al Unser Jr., has won it twice.

The Unser family owns prime fishing and hunting land in the Chama area, which has a population of 1,100.

Guns for tickets

OAKLAND, Calif. — Grocery carts full of rifles and handguns and sawed-off shotguns sat nearby as defensive tackle Chester McGlockton handed out Raiders tickets and softly thanked each person.

"Bless you," he said as gang members, proud fathers and septuagenarians turned over everything from Swedish army rifles to Nazi-era handguns to tiny pistols that fit comfortably in the purses of society women.

McGlockton led several Raiders teammates in promoting a tickets-for-guns exchange intended to get some firearms off Oakland's deadly streets. In four hours, police collected 152 weapons on a soggy Saturday afternoon.

In exchange for each gun, McGlockton and his teammates offered a handshake, a few words of thanks and two tickets to Sunday's season finale against Seattle.

The gun toters at the rain-swept Oakland Coliseum ranged from a couple in their 70s, relieved to get rid of three hunting rifles that had been rusting in the garage, to sullen teen-agers who seemed to bristle at the sight of so many policemen — all of whom donated their time Saturday.

"This is a way to begin to curb some of the violence on the streets," said McGlockton, who led his teammates in donating money to pay for the tickets. "God blessed me to be a professional football player, and this is what he put me here for. This is one way of helping people."

Many of those who turned in guns were drawn by the offer of tickets or the chance to meet McGlockton and teammates such as Tim Brown and Pat Swilling. Others simply wanted to rid their homes of at least some of their guns.

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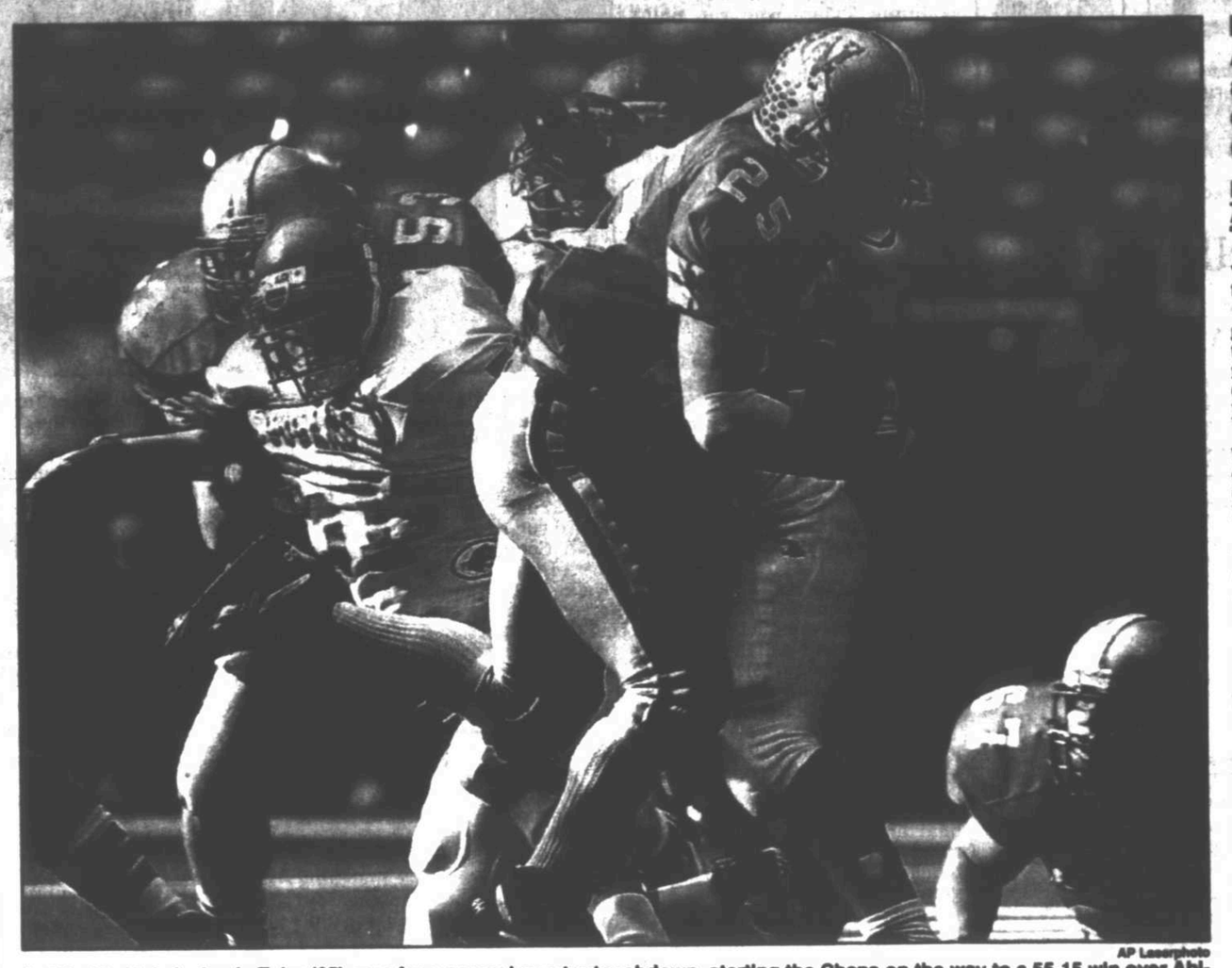
State title road ends for Cooper



AP Laserphoto

Austin Westlake's Jamie Tyler (25) runs for a second quarter touchdown, starting the Chaps on the way to a 55-15 win over Abilene Cooper in the Class 5A Small School state title game Saturday at Texas Stadium.

■ Austin Westlake denies Abilene Cooper, District 4-5A of another state football championship with a 55-15 win over the Cougars.

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Austin Westlake, Texas' winningest high school football team of the 1990s, finally has a state title.

The Chaparrals broke open a close game with three quick third-quarter touchdowns and added four more in the fourth to crush turnover-plagued Abilene Cooper 55-15 Saturday for the Class 5A Division II championship.

Westlake (16-0) improved to 94-8-3 in the decade, and avenged title-game losses in 1990 and 1994. The Chaps had fallen to the eventual state champ four of the last six years.

"It's hard to express how it feels when you're as happy as I am right now," said Westlake coach Ron Schroeder, who took over the team in 1987 following a 2-8 season.

Cooper (12-4), making the finals for the first time since a controversial 20-19 loss to Austin Reagan in 1967, held its own in the first half only to self-destruct over the final two quarters.

The Cougars led 7-0 early in the second quarter and were tied 7-7 at halftime. They had the ball to open the third quarter, but an interception by Michael Anderson on the second play of the half began Cooper's demise.

That turnover was the first of six by Cooper over the final two quarters and one of eight in the game for the Cougars. Westlake scored following all but one of the second-half turnovers.

In fact, the Chaparrals got touchdowns on seven of their eight second-half drives. They had three within a 3-minute, 35-second span of the third quarter, and three more within 3: 16 of the fourth quarter.

"You can't beat a good football team when you make that many turnovers," Cooper coach Randy Allen said. "In the third quarter, they gave us three quick punches before we got started, and that did us in."

Westlake's Drew Brees, the 5A offensive player of the year, ran for three second-half touchdowns (two 1-yard dives

Please see COOPER/2C

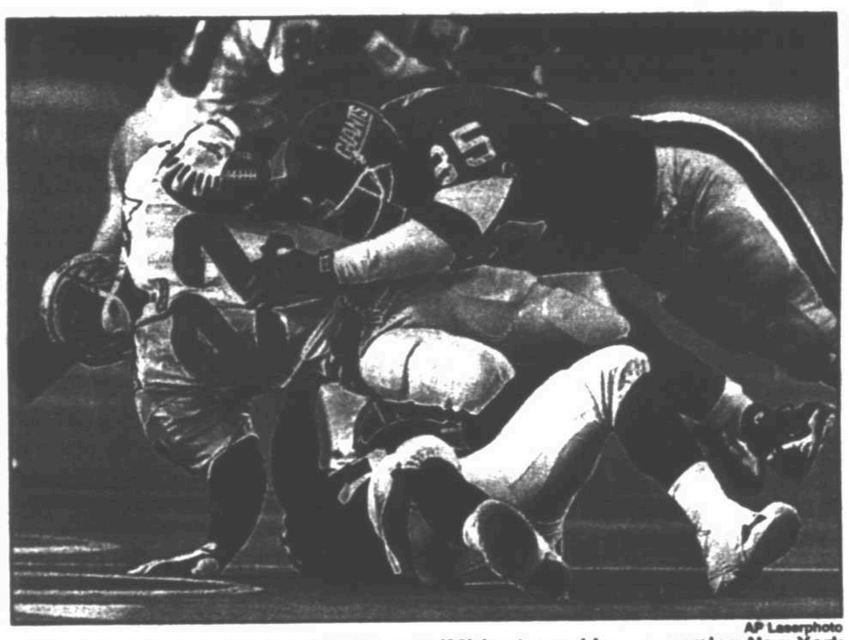
Patriots secure first round bye

By Tom Canavan
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The embrace between Dan Reeves and Bill Parcells lasted only seconds at midfield but it spoke volumes.

Parcells hustled to the New England locker room for an emotional celebration after the Patriots secured a first-round playoff bye by rallying from a 22-0 halftime deficit to a 23-22 victory over the New York Giants on Saturday.

Reeves went to his locker seemingly just to say goodbye after four years as coach of the Giants (6-10).



AP Laserphoto

New England punt returner David Meggett (22) is stopped by a swarming New York Giants defense Saturday, but the Patriots came back to win, 23-22.

Drew Bledsoe capped the sensational comeback for New England (11-5) by throwing a 13-yard touchdown pass to Ben Coates on a fourth-and-7 play with 1: 23 to go give the Patriots their eighth victory in 10 games.

"We were lucky to win and lucky to get out of here alive," Parcells said after coaching his first game against the Giants since resigning as coach following the 1990 Super Bowl victory over Buffalo.

"We may not be the most talented team in the playoffs but these guys have a lot of character and heart," he said. "It was a great rally. They really had us on the ropes."

Coates dragged two Giants defensive back the final yard for New England's third touchdown in the final 12: 20, assuring the Patriots a week off and denying Reeves a going-away present.

Earlier in the week, Reeves said he expected the Giants to fire him when the season ends. He expects to talk with management Monday.

"I took this job under certain circumstances and it just hasn't worked out the way that we all wanted it to," said Reeves, who led the Giants to the playoffs in 1993 and but missed the next three seasons.

This last loss was one of the toughest of his long coaching career. The Giants played a flawless first half in building a 22-0 lead, then collapsed.

"It typifies how the whole season has gone," Reeves said. "We had tremendous highs and tremendous lows. The first half was a tremendous high and the second half a tremendous low. When it comes down to making the plays at key times, that's the thing that plagued us."

The Patriots did, especially in the second half.

Adam Venatieri's third-quarter field goal got the comeback going for the AFC East champions. Bledsoe, who was 31-of-47 for 301 yards, made it 22-10 with a 26-yard touchdown pass to Terry Glenn with 12: 20 to play, and former Giant David Meggett returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown at 11: 09 to go.

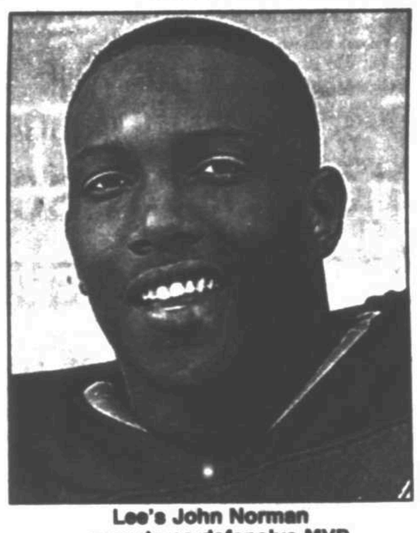
The Patriots' game-winning drive covered 75 yards in 13 plays and lasted 5: 45. Bledsoe hit Glenn on passes of 17 and 13 yards, and Troy Brown kept it alive with a great catch while lying on his back for 13 yards on third-and-13 to the New York 29.

"You're not going to make the plays we made in that last drive too often," Bledsoe said. "But there were a lot of plays by a lot different players. As bad as we were in the first half, we were that good in the second."

Coates capped the drive by dragging Conrad Hamilton and Tito Wooten into the end zone.

The Giants got to the Patriots 40 on their final possession, but Dave Brown was called for intentional grounding and New York got no closer.

"You just don't want to go into the playoffs losing two straight," Patriots fullback Keith Byars said.



Lee's John Norman
...repeats as defensive MVP

All-District

Lee's Norman gets defensive MVP for 2nd straight year

By Terry Williamson
Sports Editor

Midland Lee defensive back John Norman has been named District 4-5A's most valuable defensive player of the year for the second season in a row by unanimous vote as Lee, Abilene Cooper and Odessa Permian each landed seven players on the 1996 All-District football team.

Joining Norman with MVP status was Permian running back Ja'Quay Wilburn, who was the offensive player of the year.

The team was picked by league coaches and one sports writer each from Midland, Odessa, San Angelo and Abilene. Coaches could not vote for their own players and the team was picked after regular season play so as to not reflect playoff performances.

Lee, the district champion, also had coach John Parchman named as coach of the year in District 4-5A.

Other unanimous picks to the district's elite team were Lee running back Josh Norman, Midland High running back Sammy Powell, Lee linebacker Cory Pertile, Lee defensive back Antwan Alexander, Lee's John Norman, Cooper running back Dominic Rhodes, Permian's Wilburn, Permian tackle Jason May and Cooper wide receiver Miles Durham. Rhodes was also named special teams player of the year.

Other Lee players to earn first team honors include center Tony Frescaz, defensive lineman Fred Pertile and linebacker Michael Hall. Midland High's other first team pick was defensive back Russell Dunlavy.

Lee, Cooper and Permian, the three district playoff representatives domi-

Please see HONOR/2C

Rams rally past Saints

By R.B. Fallstrom
AP Sports Writer

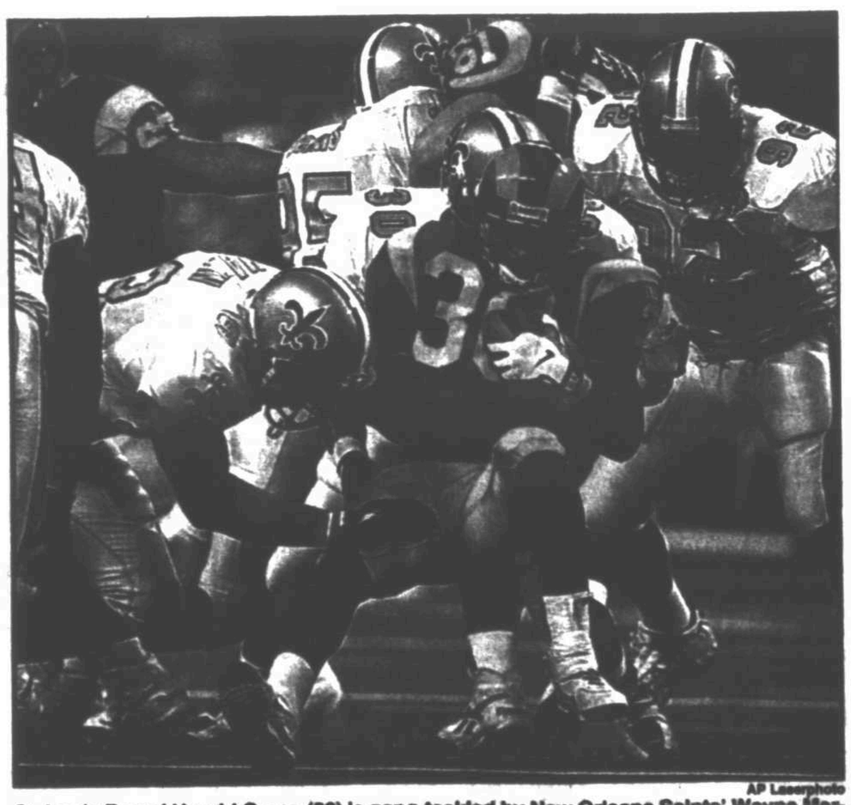
ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams awoke from a sluggish start to beat the New Orleans Saints, although it may not have helped save their coach's job.

Eddie Kennison caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Jamie Martin with 5: 30 to go as the Rams, who had trailed 10-0 at the half and looked dispirited in the process, rallied for a 14-13 victory in a game of NFL downtroddens.

The Rams (6-10) won three of their last four, but the victims were New Orleans (3-13) twice and Atlanta (3-12), so the finish may not mean a whole lot to coach Rick Brooks' future. Brooks likely needed to make a bold statement to save his job, and this wasn't it.

Team president John Shaw has said he'll make a quick decision on the fate of Brooks, who has two years left on a four-year contract and is at least a popular choice. A poll by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was 3-1 in favor of retaining Brooks

Please see RAMS/2C



AP Laserphoto

St. Louis Rams' Harold Green (30) is gang-tackled by New Orleans Saints' Wayne Martin (93), Anthony Newman (30) and Darren Mickell (92) Saturday.

DEC 22 1996

HONOR: Lee gets seven, MHS two on 4-5A 1st team

(From 1C)

nated the team with 21 selections overall. Odessa High, Midland High and San Angelo each had two first team selections while Abilene High had one.

Parchman

Midland High offensive tackle Jeff Ortloff was the only Bulldog to land second team offensive honors while Lee placed tackle Matt Jewett, tight end Brian Boyd, quarterback David Smith, defensive lineman Chito Subia and defensive back Ahmad Austin on the second team. Boyd is the only local junior picked to the two teams. All the rest were seniors.

Honorable mention picks for Midland High included offensive lineman Kyle Nix (Jr.), kicker Zach Inman (Jr.) and defensive lineman Erik McCright (Jr.). Lee's honorable mention selections were offensive linemen Jesus Hernandez and Brad Gibson, receiver Ricky Green, running back Chad Chandler and defensive back Shae Jones.

1996 District 4-5A All-District
First Team Offense

Center: Tony Frescaz, Lee, 6-0, 265, Sr.
Guards: Matt Royals, Cooper, 6-2, 265, Sr.; Willie Merritt, Odessa High, 6-3, 250, Sr.
Tackles: Jason May, Permian, 6-4, 249, Sr. (unanimous); Joey Heath, Cooper, 6-5, 290, Jr.
Tight End: Jared Whitson, San Angelo, 6-0, 200, Sr.
Wide Receivers: Miles Durham, Cooper, 6-3, 185, Sr. (unanimous); Marteis Rogers, Permian, 5-11, 178, Sr.
Running Backs: Ja'Quay Wilburn, Permian, 5-10, 180, Sr. (unanimous); Josh Norman, Lee, 6-2, 205, Jr (unanimous); Dominic Rhodes, Cooper, 5-10, 195, Sr. (unanimous); Sam Powell, Midland High, 5-7, 160, Sr. (unanimous).
Quarterback: (Tie) Julio Guerrero, San Angelo, 5-11, 170, Jr.; and Michael Anderson, Cooper, 6-3, 185, Sr
Kicker: Jimmy White, Permian, 5-10, 170, Jr.
Most Valuable Offensive Player: Ja'Quay Wilburn, Permian, 5-10, 180, Sr.

Second Team Offense

Center: Kevin Hofmann, Cooper, 5-10, 235, Sr.
Guards: Russell Crumpton, Permian, 6-1, 205, Sr.; Eric Stegmoller, Abilene High, 5-10, 235, Sr.
Tackles: Jeff Ortloff, Midland High, 6-0, 235, Sr.; Matt Jewett, Lee, 6-1, 230, Sr.
Tight End: Brian Boyd, Lee, 6-3, 230, Jr.
Wide Receivers: Ahmad Brooks, Abilene High, 5-9, 155, Jr.; Jason Millsap, San Angelo, 5-7, 142, Jr.
Running Backs: Kyle Willey, Odessa High, 5-8, 150, Jr.; Patrick Strantzer, Permian, 5-11, 192, Sr.; Chuck Newman, Abilene High, 6-0, 185, Jr.; Chris Cherry, Cooper, 5-10, 185, Sr.
Quarterbacks: David Smith, Lee, 5-10, 175, Sr.
Kicker: Courtney Martin, Cooper, 6-0, 170, Sr.

First Team Defense

Defensive Linemen: Fred Portillo, Lee, 6-0, 194, Sr.; Kandon Culberson, Abilene High, 6-0, 240, Sr.; Kevin Stevenson, Cooper, 6-2, 215, Jr.; Nathan Martin, Permian, 6-1, 254, Sr.
Linebackers: Cory Portillo, Lee, 6-3, 205, Sr. (unanimous); Michael Hall, Lee, 6-0, 194, Sr.; Jesse Waters, Odessa High, 6-0, 200, Sr.; Heath Moody, Permian, 6-0 1/2, 188, Sr.
Secondary: John Norman, Lee, 6-2, 188, Sr. (unanimous); Antwan Alexander, Lee, 6-0, 175, Sr. (unanimous); Russell Dunlevy, Midland High, 6-0, 175, Sr.; Melvin Barnes, Cooper, 6-0, 165, Sr.
Punter: Jimmy White, Permian, 5-10, 170, Jr. (unanimous).
Most Valuable Defensive Player: John Norman, Lee, 6-2, 185, Sr. (unanimous).
Special Team Player of the Year: Dominic Rhodes, Cooper, 5-10, 195, Sr.
Coach of the Year: John Parchman, Lee.

Second Team Defense

Defensive Linemen: Chito Subia, Lee, 5-9, 245, Sr.; Jason May, Permian, 6-4, 249, Sr.; Willie Merritt, Odessa High, 6-3, 250, Sr.; Larry Newton, San Angelo, 6-3, 250, Sr.
Linebackers: David Bennett, Abilene High, 6-3, 185, Sr.; Rich Coffey, San Angelo, 6-1, 230, Jr.; Mack Garrett, Cooper, 6-2, 225, Sr.; Jason Waters, Odessa High, 5-11, 190, Jr.; Terrance Harris, Permian, 5-10, 186, Sr.
Secondary: Ahmad Austin, Lee, 5-10, 170, Sr.; Donnie Pipes, Permian, 5-10, 160, Sr.; Marteis Rogers, Permian, 5-11, 178, Sr.; Ahmad Brooks, Abilene High, 5-9, 155, Jr.
Punter: James Greer, Odessa High, 5-10, 205, Sr.

Honorable Mention Offense

Offensive Linemen: Hank Stout, San Angelo, 6-1, 235, Sr.; Webb Murphy, Cooper, 6-2, 235, Jr.; Jarrod Hoskinson, Odessa High, 5-8, 195, Sr.; Eval Zubiate, Odessa High, 5-10, 225, Sr.; Everret Fraser, Cooper, 6-4, 245, Jr.; Jesus Hernandez, Lee, 5-10, 220, Sr.; Brad Gibson, Lee, 6-0, 220, Sr.; Kyle Nix, Midland High, 6-0, 200, Jr.
Tight Ends: Cory Aldridge, Cooper, 6-0, 200, Sr.; Chad Forman, Cooper, 6-0, 190, Sr.
Wide Receivers: Jesse Sharp, Cooper, 5-10, 170, Jr.; Ricky Green, Lee, 5-3, 116, Sr.
Running Backs: Chad Chandler, Lee, 5-10, 175, Sr.; Nick Graves, Odessa High, 5-9, 175, Soph.
Quarterbacks: Ahmad Brooks, Abilene High, 5-9, 155, Jr.
Kicker: Zach Inman, Midland High, 5-7, 150, Jr.

Honorable Mention Defense

Defensive Linemen: Doug Dowden, Abilene High, 6-2, 235, Jr.; Stephen Westphal, Lee, 5-11, 196, Sr.; Erik McCright, Midland High, 6-0, 200, Jr.
Linebackers: Trey Lunsford, San Angelo, 6-2, 205, Sr.; Javier Garcia, Abilene High, 5-10, 190, Sr.; Sean Phillips, Permian, 5-8, 148, Jr.
Secondary: Shae Jones, Lee, 5-10, 190, Sr.; Jared Villegas, Odessa High, 5-7, 140, Sr.; Clint Burton, Odessa High, 6-1, 185, Sr.; Josh Button, Cooper, 5-11, 175, Jr.; Ryan Johnson, San Angelo, 6-2, 170, Jr.; Adam Stockstill, Abilene High, 5-11, 175, Sr.; John Johnson, Permian, 5-7, 138, Jr.

Thompson scores 30 for Tech against SMU

Associated Press

DALLAS — In the end, it came down to who could find their shooting range first.

There's a reason Texas Tech is ranked No. 11 as they were first to find the hole, going on to beat Southern Methodist 78-69 on Saturday.

Alicia Thompson scored 30 points and 16 rebounds to lead Texas Tech (6-2).

Tech led 31-28 at halftime before finding it's shooting range during the second half, hitting 56 percent of its shots behind Thompson.

"Alicia has to be a go-to player for us and she understands that," Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp said. "SMU had a great game plan against her early. We moved her around a bit in the offensive set to give her a few good looks, and fortunately, she made some positive things happen."

But before the half, Tech and SMU (4-4) battled neck and neck throughout the first half.

The difference was in turnovers as the Raiders collected 13 first-half turnovers as compared to SMU's seven.

Tech overtook the Mustangs with a 3-point shot, hitting four of six attempts. The Mustangs struggled, hitting only three of 21 3-point attempts.

No. 6 Tenn. 68, No. 13 Texas 65

AUSTIN — Abby Conklin grabbed a rebound of Texas' last shot, then sank two free throws with 0.9 seconds left in overtime as No. 6 Tennessee beat No. 13 Texas.

Angela Jackson, who led Texas (5-1) with 19 points and four blocks, missed an opportunity to give the Lady Longhorns a victory with 3 seconds left in overtime. Jackson's short shot missed and Conklin grabbed the rebound and drew a foul. Conklin's two free throws padded the lead to three points and the Lady Longhorns couldn't get off another shot.

Jackson cut the Lady Vols' lead to 66-65 with a field goal with 2:00 left. Tennessee had a chance to put it away with 29 seconds remaining, but Laurie Milligan missed the front end of a 1-and-1 and Texas got the rebound.

Chamique Holdsclaw's 24 points led Tennessee (9-3), which improved its record against ranked teams to 4-3.

The game was a lesson in futility with neither team shooting more than 40 percent. Texas shot 35 percent (24-for-68), Tennessee 38 percent (26-of-68).

■ Top 25 Women

No. 8 North Carolina State 116, Delaware State 39

RALEIGH, N.C. — Nobody played more than 25 minutes for the Wolfpack (9-2) in a victory over winless Delaware State, and eight N.C. State players scored double figures.

It was N.C. State's seventh straight win since back-to-back losses to No. 14 Notre Dame and No. 11 Louisiana Tech, and it was the Wolfpack's biggest margin of victory and most points since a 127-50 trouncing of Howard in 1993.

No. 16 Notre Dame 75, Valparaiso 56

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Beth Morgan, Rosanne Bohman and Katryna Gaither each scored 13 points Saturday, leading No. 16 Notre Dame over Valparaiso.

Mollie Peirick added 11 points for Notre Dame (9-3) and Sheila McMillen had 10. Sarrah Stricklett led Valparaiso (5-4) with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 20 Auburn 96, N. Illinois 77

DE KALB, Ill. — Laticia Morris scored a career-high 31 points, including seven straight during a crucial 14-0 run that propelled No. 20 Auburn over Northern Illinois.

The Tigers (8-0) used that run to go up 27-18, and never trailed thereafter.

No. 4 Old Dominion 86, Rutgers 59

PISCATAWAY N.J. — Old Dominion ran the risk of a letdown, but Rutgers was the team constantly trying to catch up.

Clarisse Machanguana scored 18 of her 23 points in the decisive first half, and Nyree Roberts added 21 points as fourth-ranked ODU beat Rutgers.

No. 2 UConn 85, No. 17 Kansas 64

STORRS, Conn. — Nykesha Sales scored 23 points as second-rated Connecticut staked its claim to the nation's No. 1 ranking with a victory over No. 17 Kansas.

The Huskies (8-0) could move up because No. 1 Stanford was beaten by fourth-ranked Old Dominion last Tuesday. The Associated Press poll will be released Monday.

COOPER: Chaps have big second half

(From 1C)

and a 2-yard bootleg) and threw for two more, a 47-yarder to Jeremy Amos and a 20-yarder to Matt Murphy.

Brees was 11-of-18 for 163 yards. Three of the catches were by all-state receiver Ryan Read, giving him 108 for the year and breaking the state record of 106 held since 1992 by Arlington's Nassar Ayaad.

Jamie Tyler, who ran eight yards for the Chaps' first-half touchdown, had a 23-yard touchdown in the third quarter and Brent Chalmers scored from the game's final points on a 1-yard run with 2:21 left to play.

Westlake ran for 230 yards, with Tyler gaining a team-high 127 on 24 carries.

Schroeder said he had a 50-play game plan, but decided at halftime to go with only seven of them.

That change in strategy was so successful that Schroeder said "we didn't even use all of those."

For Cooper, the game was uncharacteristic in many ways.

The Cougars had lost the ball just six times in their previous five playoff games, and they hadn't allowed more than 31 points since a Week Five loss to Amarillo.

The lone bright spot for Cooper was running back Dominic Rhodes, who ran for 230 yards — the most Westlake had allowed all year.

But the game was a nightmare for Cougars quarterback Michael Anderson. He completed half as many passes to Westlake (4) as he did to his own team (8). He had as many second-half interceptions, two, as completions.

The game was especially disappointing for Allen, the Cooper coach who was a starting running back on the 1967 Cougars team that was denied the state title when quarterback Jack Mildren was ruled down an inch short of a touchdown on the championship game's final play.

Allen returned to his alma mater in 1991 and made "One More Inch" his mantra. The Cougars began believing this could be the year after a Week Seven victory over Odessa Permian, their first since 1979.

Things looked good early as the Cougars became the first team to force Westlake to punt on its first possession, and they took a 7-0 lead at 10:37 of the second quarter on a 3-yard run by Rhodes.

But Cooper didn't score again until Peter Abrigg returned a blocked extra-point kick 88 yards for a two-point conversion. That cut the Cougars' deficit to a whopping 41-9 midway through the fourth quarter.

Cooper would score again with 6:15 left in the game on an 82-yard run by Rhodes and the Cougars even followed that by recovering an onside kick.

Yet, a few plays later, Cooper fumbled and Westlake turned it into a touchdown. Again.

Notes: Westlake's Tomi Keah had three interceptions, matching his total for the year coming into the game. ... Cooper had won nine straight. ... Westlake did have some bad news: three players (Jonny Rodgers, Bret Robin and Jeff White) were lost to injuries on the Texas Stadium turf. ... This was the second-most points in a 5A title game, behind last weekend's 58-34 Lewisville victory over Converse Judson. ... Westlake will try cramming the football crown into a trophy case already jammed with titles from girl's basketball, golf, tennis, swimming and volleyball.

AP Laserphoto

Abilene Cooper's Nathan Fort sits dejected on the sidelines of Texas Stadium Saturday after the Cougars lost to Austin Westlake in the Class 5A Small School state football championship, 55-15.

Austin Westlake 55, Abilene Cooper 15

Abilene Cooper	0	7	0	8—15
Austin Westlake	0	7	21	27—55

Second Quarter
Abi— Dominic Rhodes 3 run (Courtney Martin kick)
Aus — Jamie Tyler 8 run (Dylan Becker kick)
Third Quarter
Aus— Drew Brees 1 run (Becker kick)
Aus— Tyler 23 run (Becker kick)
Aus— Brees 1 run (Becker kick) **Fourth Quarter**
Aus— Jeremy Amos 47 pass from Brees (Becker kick)
Aus— Matt Murphy 20 pass from Brees (kick failed)
Abi— Peter Abrigg 88 return extra point kick
Aus— Brees 2 run (Becker kick)
Abi— Rhodes 82 run (run failed)
Aus— Brent Chalmers 1 run (Becker kick)

	Abilene	Westlake
First downs	13	25
Rushes-yards	33-271	47-230
Passing	44	163
Comp-Att-Int	8-18-4	11-18-2
Punts-Avg.	4-40.0	2-35.0
Fumbles-Lost	5-4	3-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Abilene Cooper, Dominic Rhodes 24-230, Michael Anderson 6-17, Richard Rodriguez 3-24; Austin Westlake, Bret Robin 5-35, Jamie Tyler 24-127, Drew Brees 7-9, Matt Murphy 1-3, Bradfield Heiser 4-30, Brent Chalmers 3-11, Justin Hartley 2-1, Hayden Briggle 1-12.

PASSING — Abilene Cooper, Michael Anderson 8-18-4 44; Austin Westlake, Drew Brees 11-18-2 163.

RECEIVING — Abilene Cooper, Dominic Rhodes 1-(-6), Miles Durham 2-14, Mark Rau 2-6, Jesse Sharp 2-24, Chad Forman 1-6; Austin Westlake, Ryan Read 3-33, Jeremy Amos 5-94, Jamie Tyler 1-10, Bradfield Heiser 1-8, Matt Murphy 1-20.

La Marque back to taste repeat

IRVING (AP) — First, La Marque learned what it was like to lose back-to-back state football championships.

Now, the Cougars know what it's like to win two in a row.

A 17-yard run by Dwain Goyens on the first play of the fourth quarter started a three-touchdown final period for La Marque, propelling the Cougars to a 34-3 pasting of Denison on Saturday.

■ Class 4A State

The Cougars (14-2) received the first 4A Division II crown after winning the final consolidated 4A title last season.

La Marque had lost the two 4A championship games before that to Stephenville. Now it's Denison that has lost consecutive finals. The Yellow Jackets fell 31-8 to La Marque last season.

Denison (14-2) was never in this one. The Yellow Jackets trailed 12-0 one play into the second quarter and were lucky to be down 12-3 when La Marque began its fourth-quarter scoring spree.

The Cougars — just the fourth 11-man team to appear in four straight title games and the first since 1A Sonora from 1968-71 — weren't very impressive on offense.

The 5A-4A Division II championship doubleheader at Texas Stadium drew 21,667 fans.

AP Laserphoto

La Marque defenders sandwich Denison running back Chris Steenain.

RAMS: Saints' fast start finally fails

(From 1C)

and a Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat poll was 5-1 for Brooks, a nice guy who just hasn't been able to win. He was one of the league's darlings after a 5-1 start last year but is 13-19 overall.

Brooks chewed out his offense at the end of the first quarter, in which it totaled 33 yards. But at times he also seemed dispirited, electing to run out the clock at halftime after Kevin Carter recovered a fumble at the Rams 30 with 1:15 to go. He finally called a timeout after Harold Green ran for a first down at midfield with 18 seconds to go and the Saints got a sack on the next play.

Rick Venturi likely won't lead the Saints (3-13) in 1997, either. Venturi, who stepped in after the midseason resignation of Jim Mora, beat the New York Giants 17-3 last week but is only 2-17 as an NFL coach.

Martin played the second half in place of rookie Tony Banks, who bruised his right elbow running a draw play with 1:04 left in the half. Martin, who was 12-for-19 for 132 yards and two touchdowns, got the Rams on the board with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce with 4:29 left in the third quarter.

The Rams missed a chance to take the lead when Martin was whacked on the arm by Darren Mickell and his pass from the Saints 19 was intercepted by Mark McMillian at the goal line and returned to the 3. St. Louis held and Eddie Kennison's 10-yard punt return to the New Orleans 33 put them back in position.

Six plays later, Martin hit Kennison, who was wide open, for the lead.

The Rams handed the Saints a fast start. On the third play of the game, Eric Allen intercepted Banks' pass and returned it 30 yards to the St. Louis 1, setting up Mario Bates' touchdown on the next play. A 43-yard field goal by Doug Brien made it 10-0 with 3:01 left in the quarter and the Saints kept the Rams under wraps the rest of the half.

Brien added a 35-yard field goal with 14:19 left in the fourth to make it 13-7.

Bruce, the Rams' lone Pro Bowl player, caught seven passes for 97 yards.

"I think half the guys were already on planes ready to go home," said Bruce. "Coach kind of went nuts on us and we kind of we went nuts on ourselves."

"Have we done an awful job?" Brooks said. "Hell no, we haven't done an awful job. Have we done as well as I'd like to? Hell no, we haven't done as well as I'd like to."

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Iraan puts cap on title

BEDFORD, Texas (AP) — Reinaldo Mendoza ran for two touchdowns leading Iraan in a 14-7 victory over Groveton in the Class 2A state championship Saturday.

Iraan (16-0) held Groveton (15-1) scoreless until the final minutes of the match.

With 5:41 left in the game, Groveton scored on a 5-yard pass from Jim Bird to Joe Horace after failing on the fourth down inside the Iraan 10 twice in the third quarter.

■ Class 2A State

Mendoza scored on a 2-yard run with 48 seconds left in the first half, allowing his team to take a 7-0 halftime lead. With 8:07 left in the third quarter, Mendoza scored again on a 1-yard run.

Groveton, which failed on fourth down from inside the Iraan 10 twice in the third quarter, finally scored with 5:41 left in the game on a 5- yard pass from Bird to Joe Horace on fourth-and-goal.

Groveton forced a quick Iraan punt and regained possession with 4:35 left in the game, then quickly moved from its 26 to the Iraan 34. But on second-and-9, Iraan's Billy Palmore made a lunging interception as he slid out of bounds at his 8-yard line. It was Palmore's second interception of a Bird pass.

Groveton's final desperation drive reached the Iraan 30 with two seconds left, but Robin Hanna intercepted Bird in the end zone after the horn had sounded.

Groveton's Chris Spivey led rushing with 61 yards on 17 carries followed by Ross Blackwelder's 58 yards on 15 carries.

Iraan won its first state title and finished 16-0 after its second consecutive 10-0 regular season.

This was Groveton's first return to the title game after winning three state titles during a seven year span from 1983 to 1990.

The win marked Iraan's first state title.

Dabney paces Sealy crown

HOUSTON (AP) — Jaron Dabney ran for 173 yards on 23 carries and scored four touchdowns as Sealy overcame four turnovers to beat Tatum 36-27 in the Class 3A championship game at the Astrodome Saturday.

The win made Sealy the first team in 40 years to win three consecutive state football titles. Abilene (1954-56) was the last team to win three titles in a row.

■ Class 3A State

Dabney scored his second and third touchdowns within a three-minute span late in the second quarter, giving Sealy a 22-15 halftime lead.

Sealy stretched its lead to 29-15 when freshman Isaiah Joiner scored on a three-yard touchdown run with 4:18 left in the third quarter.

However, Tatum took advantage of a Tigers turnover and sliced the lead to 29-21 on Hightower's third touchdown pass of the game, an 18-yard strike to Chingo Brown with 10:46 left in the game.

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SPORTS SCOREBOARD

College Basketball

Men's Scores

SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Little Rock 78, Alcorn St. 66
Baylor 66, Texas-Pan American 57
Houston 74, Creighton 73
Lamar 73, SW Texas St. 67
Louisville 91, Arkansas 88, OT
Oklahoma 82, Purdue 58
Oklahoma St. 73, Southern Meth. 54

FAR WEST
Air Force 80, Colo.-Colo. Springs 66
CS Northridge 77, UC Irvine 53
Cal St.-Fullerton 65, Pepperdine 54
Colorado 76, UC Santa Barbara 55
Colorado St. 89, Chicago St. 66
Gonzaga 80, E. Washington 65
Idaho 87, W. Montana 58
Idaho St. 86, Texas-San Antonio 79
Montana St. 98, Appalachian St. 71
N. Arizona 111, Occidental 63
New Mexico 76, Sam Houston St. 55
New Mexico St. 98, Southern, NO 78
Pacific 77, Santa Clara 59
Southern Cal 79, Ohio St. 68
Utah 80, Texas 68
Utah St. 73, Wyoming 72
Washington 80, Portland 77

MIDWEST
Ball St. 81, NE Louisiana 64
Detroit 68, Ioria 48
Grambling St. 64, Ill.-Chicago 59
Illinois 79, UCLA 63
Illinois St. 71, Wis.-Green Bay 61
Indiana 75, Evansville 57
Iowa 88, Missouri 77
Kansas 84, N. Carolina St. 66
Michigan 73, Arizona 71, OT
Michigan St. 75, Kansas St. 43
Minnesota 70, Nebraska 56
Northwestern 64, Loyola, Ill. 57
Notre Dame 92, Loyola, Md. 75
Ohio U. 83, Radford 65
S. Illinois 74, James Madison 67
SW Missouri St. 79, Drake 57
St. Louis 81, E. Illinois 59
Toledo 74, Wright St. 71
W. Michigan 64, N. Illinois 58
Wichita St. 95, Prairie View 62
Xavier, Ohio 113, Akron 111, 3OT

SOUTH
Alabama 72, Va. Commonwealth 69
Auburn 86, Murray St. 72
Citadel 86, Charleston Southern 80, OT
Coastal Carolina 83, Furman 81
Florida St. 79, Florida 65
Georgia 84, Brigham Young 65
Georgia St. 68, Georgia Southern 49
Kentucky 88, Georgia Tech 59
LSU 59, Oral Roberts 58
Marshall 109, N.C.-Asheville 82
Maryland 81, American U. 74
Memphis 76, Texas Southern 53
N.C.-Greensboro 71, Hampton U. 59
N.C.-Wilmington 71, Mississippi St. 54
NW Louisiana 92, SE Louisiana 87
SW Louisiana 84, Southern Miss. 63
Samford 77, E. Kentucky 72
South Alabama 69, Nicholls St. 66
South Carolina 79, S. Carolina St. 60
Tn.-Chattanooga 67, Tennessee St. 49
VMI 96, Winthrop 78
Vanderbilt 82, Tennessee Tech 61
Virginia 57, Md.-Baltimore County 34
W. Carolina 76, Austin Peay 69
W. Kentucky 91, Jacksonville 73
Wake Forest 90, Campbell 53
Youngstown St. 72, Stetson 54

EAST
Boston College 92, Holy Cross 76
Connecticut 68, Fairfield 58
Dartmouth 77, Navy 63
Davidson 75, New Hampshire 57
DePaul 68, Niagara 60
Drexel 92, Lehigh 73
Georgetown 92, Morgan St. 64
Hartford 81, St. Peter's 69
N.C. Charlotte 54, Canisius 51
Pittsburgh 75, Duquesne 73
Providence 58, Brown 44
Rider 76, Northeastern 70
St. John's 77, FDU 50
Temple 69, Penn 45
Villanova 91, Mount St. Mary's 66
Wagner 73, Delaware St. 59

Women's Scores

SOUTHWEST
LSU 69, Oklahoma St. 48
Nebraska 75, SW Texas St. 46
Rice 64, Purdue 63
Tennessee 68, Texas 65, OT
Texas Tech 78, Southern Meth. 69
Tulsa 78, St. Louis 60

FAR WEST
New Mexico 63, New Mexico St. 44
Ohio U. 94, Jackson St. 60
San Francisco 68, Marquette 59
USC 91, Long Beach St. 61

MIDWEST
Auburn 96, N. Illinois 77
Cincinnati 80, Wis.-Green Bay 66
DePaul 72, Ohio St. 66
Drake 80, Iowa 59
Notre Dame 75, Valparaiso 56

SOUTH
Arkansas St. 79, Austin Peay 69
Duke 85, Manhattan 36

Top 25 Men

Illinois 79, No. 24 UCLA 63
UCLA (3-3): O'Bannon 4-13 4-4 12, Henderson 5-10 2-7 12, McCoy 3-3 1-6 7, Dollar 0-1 0-0 0, Bailey 7-16 2-2 17, Johnson 5-9 1-2 12, Loyd 1-2 0-0 3, Myers 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-54 10-21 63.
ILLINOIS (9-2): Notree 4-11 5-6 14, Johnson 2-4 2-2 6, Gandy 7-11 3-4 18, Heidman 5-13 4-4 19, Garris 2-12 4-8 10, Gee 2-3 0-0 4, Chukwude 1-3 0-0 2, Turner 2-5 0-0 6, Abdullah,0-0 0-0 0, Freeman 0-0 0-0 0, Boline 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-62 18-24 79.
Halftime—Illinois 38, UCLA 31. 3-point goals—UCLA 3-11 (Johnson 1-2, Loyd 1-2, Bailey 1-4, Henderson 0-1, O'Bannon 0-2). Illinois 11-28 (Heidman 5-12, Turner 2-4, Garris 2-7, Gandy 1-1, Notree 1-4). Fouled out—Dollar. Rebounds—UCLA 42 (O'Bannon, Henderson 9), Illinois 32 (Johnson, Garris 6). Assists—UCLA 17 (Bailey 6), Illinois 19 (Garris 10). Total fouls—UCLA 23, Illinois 17. A—15,331.

No. 2 Wake Forest 90, Campbell 53
CAMPBELL (2-4): Davis 2-8 1-2 5, Simmons 3-6 0-0 6, Holdan 3-10 0-0 6, Mardis 4-11 0-0 10, Fitzpatrick 1-9 0-0 3, Best 1-6 1-2 3, King 4-5 1-1 9, Hucks 1-4 0-0 3, Smith 1-4 0-0 2, Gurley 1-2 0-0 3, Miller 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 22-67 3-5 53.
WAKE FOREST (8-0): Peral 2-3 0-2 4, Allen 4-8 0-0 8, Duncan 7-9 8-10 22, Braswell 3-7 1-2 8, Rutland 2-8 2-2 7, Woods 7-11 8-11 22, Arnonett 3-7 0-0 7, Goolsby 1-6 0-0 2, Scott 2-3 2-2 6, West 1-2 2-2 4, Fuller 0-0 0-0 0, Herbst 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 32-66 23-31 90.
Halftime—Wake Forest 48, Campbell 27. 3-point baskets—Campbell 6-21 (Mardis 2-3, Gurley 1-1, Miller 1-2, Hucks 1-4, Fitzpatrick 1-6, Davis 0-1, Best 0-1, King 0-1, Holdan 0-2), Wake Forest 3-17 (Arnonett 1-3, Braswell 1-4, Rutland 1-5, Duncan 0-1, Scott 0-1, Goolsby 0-3). Fouled out—King, Smith. Rebounds—Campbell 37 (Simmons 10), Wake Forest 45 (Duncan 15). Assists—Campbell 10 (Simmons, Fitzpatrick 4), Wake Forest 14 (Duncan 4). Total fouls—Campbell 26, Wake Forest 7. Technical—Best. A—11,279.

No. 13 Indiana 75, Evansville 57
EVANSVILLE (5-6): Morales 3-3 2-5 8, Sullivan 2-5 1-4 5, Quinn 1-5 1-2 3, Richardson 2-3 4-4 10, Hollender 5-10 5-6 15, Begle 1-5 0-0 3, Wilson 2-7 2-2 7, Risinger 0-1 0-0 0, James 0-1 2-2 2, Layden 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 17-43 19-27 57.
INDIANA (10-1): Miller 6-11 2-3 15, Patterson 6-12 4-4 17, Collier 2-4 2-5 6, Reed 1-5 5-6 7, Lewis 2-5 5-6 9, Guyton 1-9 4-4 7, Mandeville 2-3 0-0 4, Jiminez 2-3 0-0 6, Eggers 1-2 0-1 2, Richardson 1-2 0-0 2, Mujezinovic 0-2 0-0 0, Paul 0-2 0-2 0. Totals 24-60 22-31 75.
Halftime—Indiana 36, Evansville 30. 3-Point goals—Evansville 4-16 (Richardson 2-3, Wilson 1-4, Begle 1-4, Hollender 0-2, Sullivan 0-3), Indiana 5-15 (Jimenez 2-3, Miller 1-2, Guyton 1-3, Patterson 1-4, Reed 0-2, Lewis 0-1). Fouled Out—Morales, Richardson. Rebounds—Evansville 29 (Hollender 7), Indiana 31 (Patterson 7). Assists—Evansville 11 (Sullivan 4), Indiana 14 (Guyton 4). Total Fouls—Evansville 24, Indiana 14. Technicals—Crew 2. A—15,860.

No. 20 Alabama 72, Va. Comm. 69
VA. COMMONWEALTH (3-4): Hamilton 2-9 0-0 6, Lee 10-22 2-2 27, Byrd 5-8 3-8 13, Archie 2-4 0-0 4, Drake 0-4 3-4 3, Griggs 0-0 0-0 0, Brooks 1-7 0-0 2, Miles 0-0 0-0 0, Reed 4-7 0-2 10, Moore 1-5 2-2 4, Marston 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 25-58 10-16 69.
ALABAMA (10-0): Williams 3-6 10-12 18, Reese 1-4 2-2 4, McClure 2-3 3-3 7, Washington 5-14 4-4 15, Alexander 5-11 1-2 11, Brown 0-2 2-2 2, Mazique 0-1 0-0 0, Sacote 0-6 1-2 11, Thrasher 0-2 2-2 2, Hays 1-6 0-0 2. Totals 22-59 25-29 72.
Halftime—Alabama 37, VCU 33. 3-point goals—VCU 8-27 (Lee 5-11, Moore 2-4, Hamilton 2-8, Drake 0-4), Alabama 3-10 (Williams 2-3, Washington 1-5, Reese 0-1, Sacote 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—VCU 43 (Byrd, Moore 6), Alabama 41 (Alexander 10). Assists—VCU 11 (Drake 3), Alabama 7 (Washington, Alexander 2). Total fouls—VCU 26, Alabama 15. A—7,679.

No. 18 Louisville 91, No. 19 Arkansas 88, OT
LOUISVILLE (9-0): Dantzler 2-8 1-3 5, N.Johnson 4-8 4-5 12, Sanders 4-8 4-4 12, Simms 8-15 6-14 22, Wheat 7-16 2-2 21, Flynn 4-7 5-7 15, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, E.Johnson 0-1 0-0 0, J.Johnson 1-2 2-4 4. Totals 30-64 24-39 91.
ARKANSAS (8-2): Hood 6-9 5-6 17, Thompson 6-11 1-1 13, Wilson 0-2 4-6 4, Bradley 4-9 6-6 16, Reid 6-12 8-10 21, Alexander 0-4 2-4 2, Williams 1-2 1-2 3, Davis 2-6 0-0 4, Wallace 0-2 6-6 6, Whitney 1-1 0-0 2, Green 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 28-69 33-41 88.
Halftime—Arkansas 46, Louisville 38. End of regulation—77-77. 3-Point goals—Louisville 7-21 (Wheat 5-11, Flynn 2-5, Dantzler 0-1, Sanders, 0-1, Williams 0-1, J.Johnson 0-1, Simms 0-1), Arkansas 3-13 (Bradley 2-7, Reid 1-2, Alexander 0-2, Wallace 0-1, Green 0-1). Fouled out—Dantzler, Thompson. Rebounds—Louisville 39 (N.Johnson 10), Arkansas 38 (Hood 7). Assists—Louisville 21 (N.Johnson, Sanders, Wheat, Flynn 4), Arkansas 12 (Reid 7). Total fouls—Louisville 27, Arkansas 28. A—20,208.

No. 25 Maryland 81, American U. 74
AMERICAN (3-6): Small 6-9 6-10 20, Treadwell 5-14 2-5 12, Harris 2-6 0-0 4, Epps 1-2 0-0 2, Smith 6-16 2-2 17, Clayton 1-1 0-0 2, Childs 2-2 0-1 5, Rooths 1-4 0-0 2, Crowe 4-8 0-0 10. Totals 28-63 10-18 74.
MARYLAND (8-0): Booth 4-11 6-8 14, Ekezie 8-8 3-6 19, Profit 5-12 2-2 13, Stokes 3-8 4-6 10, Jasikevicius 3-6 0-0 6, Elliott 3-3 4-6 10, Kovarik 1-2 0-0 2, Watkins 3-5 1-2 7. Totals 30-55 20-30 81.
Halftime—Maryland 43, American 26. 3-Point goals—American 8-23 (Smith 3-11, Small 2-2, Crowe 2-2, Childs 1-1, Harris 0-1, Rooths 0-2, Treadwell 0-4). Maryland 1-9 (Profit 1-3, Booth 0-1, Jasikevicius 0-2, Stokes 0-3). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—American 34 (Treadwell 8), Maryland 37 (Elliott 10). Assists—American 17 (Childs, Smith 6), Maryland 19 (Jasikevicius 7). Total fouls—American 19, Maryland 17. A—13,264.

No. 17 Xavier 113, Akron 111, 3OT
XAVIER, OHIO (8-0): Johnson 2-5 3-7 7, Williams 7-9 3-3 19, Braggs 4-7 7-9 15, Lumpkin 8-19 6-8 26, Brown 11-26 2-7 29, Harvey 0-2 0-0 0, Anderson 0-4 0-0 0, Posey 6-14 5-8 17. Totals 38-86 26-42 113.
AKRON (1-6): Phillips 7-15 2-6 16, Moore 5-8 6-9 16, Hahn 2-4 1-1 5, Kart 2-10 0-0 5, Ball 16-30 5-6 44, Benton 0-1 1-3 1, Gooden 5-14 2-3 13, Minor 3-8 0-0 9, Hample 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 41-92 17-28 111.
Halftime—Akron 39, Xavier 33. 3-point goals—Xavier 11-32 (Brown 5-13, Lumpkin 4-9, Williams 2-4, Harvey 0-2, Anderson 0-2, Posey 0-2), Akron 12-32 (Ball 7-14, Minor 3-5, Kart 1-5, Gooden 1-6, Phillips 0-2). Fouled out—Braggs, Phillips, Hahn, Minor. Rebounds—Xavier 59 (Posey 14), Akron 46 (Hahn 12). Assists—Xavier 17 (Lumpkin 6), Akron 20 (Moore, Kart, Ball 4). Total fouls—Xavier 24, Akron 28. A—3,918.

No. 4 Michigan 73, No. 6 Arizona 71, OT
ARIZONA (5-2): Dickerson 4-20 1-2 9, Davison 4-9 1-1 9, Harris 4-8 1-2 9, Bibby 5-9 7-9 19, Terry 6-17 4-5 18, Bramlett 2-4 2-9 6, Edgarton 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 25-65 17-30 71.
MICHIGAN (9-0): Ward 4-11 0-0 11, Baston 3-5 5-9 11, Traylor 5-13 2-4 12, Hughes 4-11 0-0 9, Bullock 5-15 2-2 15, Conlan 0-2 2-7 2, Taylor 6-13 1-3 13. Totals 27-70 12-25 73.
Halftime—Arizona 37, Michigan 37. Regulation—Arizona 64, Michigan 64. 3-point goals—Arizona 4-18 (Bibby 2-4, Terry 2-7, Dickerson 0-7), Michigan 7-18 (Ward 3-6, Bullock 3-7, Hughes 1-3, Conlan 0-2). Fouled out—Harris, Bibby, Traylor, Hughes. Rebounds—Arizona 53 (Dickerson 10), Michigan 42 (Traylor 8). Assists—Arizona 10 (Bibby 4), Michigan 15 (Conlan 6). Total fouls—Arizona 21, Michigan 23. A—19,303.

No. 3 Kentucky 88, Georgia Tech 59
KENTUCKY (8-1): Prickett 0-0 0-0 0, Mercer 9-16 1-2 20, Magloire 0-4 0-0 0, Anderson 6-10 8-9 21, Epps 0-5 0-0 0, Edwards 3-9 1-1 9, Masiello 1-1 0-0 2, Turner 2-3 0-1 4, Mohammed 6-14 6-7 18, Mills 0-1 2-2 2, Padgett 4-10 2-2 12. Totals 31-73 20-24 88.
GEORGIA TECH(4-3): Harpring 6-12 12-17 25, Maddox 1-6 3-4 6, Elisma 8-10 1-3 17, Morris 1-8 0-0 2, Babul 1-6 0-0 2, Machado 1-3 0-0 2, Saunders 2-9 0-0 5, Brennan 0-2 0-0 0, Floyd 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 20-59 16-24 59.
Halftime—Kentucky 51, Georgia Tech 32. 3-Point goals—Kentucky 6-19 (Edwards 2-5, Padgett 2-5, Anderson 1-3, Mercer 1-4, Epps 0-2), Georgia Tech 3-20 (Harpring 1-4, Maddox 1-4, Saunders 1-5, Babul 0-2, Floyd 0-2, Morris 0-3). Fouled out—Prickett. Rebounds—Kentucky 51 (Mohammed 12), Georgia Tech 37 (Elisma 11). Assists—Kentucky 14 (Edwards 4), Georgia Tech 5 (Floyd 2). Total fouls—Kentucky 22, Georgia Tech 19. A—27,842.

No. 10 Villanova 91, Mount St. Mary's, MD. 66
MOUNT ST. MARY'S (3-2): Gayle 4-9 3-5 11, Hayden 8-12 5-6 19, Vandorpe 6-13 0-2 13, Harris 2-9 0-0 5, Cheung 1-6 0-0 3, Balgac 0-3 0-0 0, Bethel 4-7 0-0 11, Cook 1-2 2-5 4, Brown 0-1 0-0 0, Kessler 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-62 10-18 66.
VILLANOVA (7-1): Brown 6-13 0-0 14, Komegay 3-7 2-2 8, Lawson 6-10 3-3 15, Celestand 3-8 4-7 12, Williams 4-9 3-8 12, Lynch 2-8 1-3 6, Bigus 5-8 2-3 12, Caouette 2-4 1-1 5, Allen 2-2 1-2 5, Noone 0-1 0-0 0, Lee 1-1 0-0 2. 34-71 17-29 91.
Halftime—Villanova 42, Mount St. Mary's 28. 3-Point goals—Mount St. Mary's 8-28 (Bethel 3-6, Hayden 2-5, VanDorpe 1-3, Harris 1-5, Cheung 1-6, Balgac 0-3), Villanova 6-19 (Celestand 2-3, Brown 2-7, Williams 1-3, Lynch 1-5, Noone 0-1). Fouled out—Harris. Rebounds—Mount St. Mary's 39 (Gayle, Hayden 8), Villanova 53 (Lawson 13). Assists—Mount St. Mary's 15 (Hayden 4), Villanova 22 (Celestand 5). Total fouls—Mount St. Mary's 22, Villanova 17. A—6,572.

No. 1 Kansas 84, N.C. St. 58
N. CAROLINA ST. (6-2): Strong 5-10 0-0 11, Harrison 3-9 0-0 7, Thornton 4-7 3-6 12, Benjamin 1-6 3-4 5, Hyatt 4-8 0-0 10, Gainey 2-7 0-0 4, Pinkins 2-4 3-3 7, McCullum 0-2 0-1 0, Norton 0-0 0-0 0, Wells 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-53 9-14 56.
KANSAS (10-0): LaFrentz 7-9 3-4 17, Pierce 9-13 3-5 21, Pollard 2-6 1-2 5, Robertson 1-2 3-3 5, Haase 5-7 5-7 15, Williams 0-3 2-2 2, Thomas 3-8 1-2 9, Bradford 0-0 0-0 0, Pugh 4-4 0-0 8, McGrath 1-1 0-0 2, Nooner 0-0 0-0 0, Ransom 0-0 0-0 0, Branstrom 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-53 18-25 89.
Halftime—KU 39, NC St. 25. 3-Point goals—NC St. 5-15 (Strong 1-4, Harrison 1-4, Thornton 1-1, Benjamin 0-2, Hyatt 2-2, Gainey 0-2), KU 2-7 (Pierce 0-1, Thomas 2-6). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—NC St. 23 (Thornton 10), KU 34 (LaFrentz 8). Assists—NC St. 7 (Benjamin 3 leader), KU 18 (Robertson 7). Total fouls—NC St. 18, KU 17. Technicals— NC St. bench: A—16,300.

No. 8 Iowa St. 77, E. Tenn St. 40
EAST TENNESSEE STATE (4-4): Keaton 3-7 1-1 8, Walker 3-6 0-0 6, Wilson 4-7 0-0 8, Blakely 2-3 1-3 5, Lisicky 1-5 0-0 2, Seymour 2-4 0-0 4, Anavitarte 0-1 0-0 0, Shelton 2-11 0-0 5, Todd 2-5 0-0 4, Davis 3-6 0-0 6. Totals 22-55 2-4 40.
IOWA STATE (7-0): Bankhead 6-8 3-5 15, Edwards 4-6 0-1 8, Cato 6-9 4-4 16, B. Johnson 2-3 0-0 6, Holloway 2-5 0-0 6, Knoll 0-1 0-0 0, Harris 0-1 0-0 0, S. Johnson 3-6 1-1 7, Pratt 4-5 4-5 12, Shirley 2-2 2-2 6, Rampton 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 28-47 15-20 77.
Halftime—Iowa State 33, East Tennessee State 23. 3-Point goals—East Tennessee State 3-9 (Keaton 2-3, Shelton 1-3, Walker 0-1, Lisicky 0-1, Anavitarte 0-1), Iowa State 4-11 (Holloway 2-5, B. Johnson 2-3, Harris 0-1, Knoll 0-1). Fouled out—none. Rebounds—East Tennessee State 22 (Wilson, Davis 4), Iowa State 34 (Cato 10). Assists—East Tennessee State 15 (Seymour, Shelton 4), Iowa State 23 (Holloway 6). Total fouls—East Tennessee State 15, Iowa State 8. A—12,135.

No.9 Utah 80, No.14 Texas 68
TEXAS (9-2): Clark 4-12 3-8 12, Dixon 0-2 0-0 0, Jordan 2-7 0-0 4, Vazquez 5-9 2-2 14, Freeman 7-20 7-8 23, Muoneke 2-3 0-0 4, Quarles 0-3 0-1 0, Coleman 0-4 0-0 0, Perryman 4-9 0-0 11, Clark 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 24-73 12-19 68.
UTAH (6-1): Johnsen 1-2 0-0 2, Van Horn 11-18 9-12 34, Dolsac 6-8 5-7 17, Caton 3-11 5-6 11, Miller 2-4 9-10 13, Hansen 0-1 0-0 0, Mottola 0-0 1-2 1, Jackson 1-2 0-0 2, McTavish 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-46 29-37 80.
Halftime—Texas 34, Utah 28. 3-Point goals—Texas 8-28 (Perryman 3-6, Vazquez 2-5, Freeman 2-8, Clack 1-5, Dixon 0-1, Coleman 0-3), Utah 3-10 (Van Horn 3-6, Hansen 0-1, Caton 0-3). Fouled out—Texas, Clack, Jordan, Quarles. Rebounds—Texas 40 (Freeman 9), Utah 42 (Van Horn 12). Assists—Texas 12 (Freeman 4), Utah 16 (Miller 5). Total fouls—Texas 26, Utah 18. A—15,401.

Top 25 Women

No. 11 Texas Tech 78, SMU 69
Texas Tech (6-2): Schmucker 4-8 1-3 11, Lake 2-6 3-4 8, Hanebutt 4-7 4-4 14, Boles 1-5 0-0 2, Thompson 8-18 11-13 30, Cockerell 3-4 1-3 7, Dickerson 3-8 0-2 6, Parker 0-1 0-0 0, Tate 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-55 20-29 78.
SMU (4-4): Truchlikova 2-11 0-0 6, Ford 2-11 2-2 8, Brassard 10-19 7-10 27, Brandl 5-14 0-0 11, Kennedy 5-7 1-1 11, Blair 2-8 0-0 4, Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Barber 0-1 0-0 0, Boniol 0-4 0-0 0, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 27-78 10-13 69.
Halftime—Texas Tech 31, Southern Methodist 28. 3-Point goals—Texas Tech 8-12 (Schmucker 2-4, Lake 1-2, Hanebutt 2-3, Thompson 3-3), SMU 5-31 (Truchlikova 2-8, Ford 2-9, Brandl 1-8, Blair 0-3, Boniol 0-3). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Texas Tech 42 (Thompson 16), SMU 47 (Brassard 12). Assists—Texas Tech 8 (Schmucker, Lake, Boles 2), SMU 11 (Ford 5). Total fouls—Texas Tech 14, SMU 22. A—2,429.

No. 2 UConn 85, No. 17 Kansas 64
KANSAS (7-2): Raymant 5-12 0-0 10, Trapp 1-2 0-0 2, Sanford 3-7 0-4 6, Halbleib 9-19 1-2 20, Dixon 8-19 5-6 22, Scott 0-0 0-0 0, Reed 0-1 0-0 0, Canada 1-5 0-0 2, Grayer 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 28-70 6-12 64.
CONNECTICUT (9-0): Berube 4-11 3-3 11, Sales 10-21 2-2 23, Wolters 9-16 4-4 22, Duran 3-4 2-2 10, Williams 1-5 1-3 3, Rose 0-0 0-0 0, Hansmeyer 0-1 1-2 1, Ralph 5-9 4-4 14, Hunt 0-0 0-0 0, Sauer 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 32-67 18-22 85.
Halftime leader—Connecticut 39, Kansas 37. 3-Point goals—Kansas 2-17 (Dixon 1-4, Halbleib 1-7, Raymant 0-6), Connecticut 3-10 (Duran 2-2, Sales 1-5, Berube 0-1, Williams 0-2). Fouled out—Trapp, Sanford. Rebounds—Kansas 35 (Sanford 7), Connecticut 49 (Wolters 14). Assists—Kansas 8 (Dixon 3), Connecticut 15 (Berube 8). Total fouls—Kansas 20, Connecticut 16. A—10,027.

No. 6 Tennessee 66, No. 13 Texas 65, OT
TENNESSEE (9-3): Holdsclaw 12-22 0-1 24, Laxton 3-6 2-2 8, Conklin 2-12 3-4 8, Butts 0-3 0-0 0, Milligan 3-10 4-6 11, Johnson 3-7 2-3 8, Elzy 2-8 1-2 5, Greene 0-0 0-0 0, Stephens 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 26-68 14-20 66.
TEXAS (5-1): A.Smith 2-6 0-0 4, Wallace 3-12 5-6 11, A.Jackson 7-12 5-8 19, Viglione 6-19 2-2 15, Lummus 2-5 0-0 6, Hasenmyer 2-5 0-0 4, Oglesbee 0-2 0-0 0, E Brown 0-4 0-0 0, T.Brown 1-1 0-0 2, Bailey 1-2 2-3 4. Totals 24-68 14-19 65.
Halftime—Tennessee 28, Texas 27. End of Regulation—Tennessee 59, Texas 59. 3-Point goals—Tennessee 2-8 (Conklin 1-3, Milligan 1-3, Holdsclaw 0-2), Texas 3-17 (Lummus 2-5, Viglione 1-10, A.Smith 0-1, Wallace 0-1). Fouled out—Elzy, A.Smith. Rebounds—Tennessee 58 (Holdsclaw 16), Texas 37 (A.Smith 9). Assists—Tennessee 19 (Holdsclaw 5), Texas 14 (Wallace 6). Total fouls—Tennessee 15, Texas 18. A—9,036.

Texas Boxes

Oklahoma St. 73, SMU 54
SMU (5-2): Matthews 5-9 0-2 13, Dimson 3-5 3-5 9, Poerner 2-8 4-5 8, Rich 4-10 0-0 10, Woods 2-8 0-0 6, Anderson 0-2 0-0 0, Tijani 1-5 3-3 5, Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Gratenreed 0-0 0-0 0, Krist 0-3 0-0 0, Hearn 1-4 0-0 3. Totals 18-54 10-15 54.
OKLA. ST. (6-2): Roberts 5-7 0-0 10, Mason 3-8 0-0 7, Robisch 1-4 0-2 2, Alexander 3-8 2-2 10, Peterson 9-13 0-0 22, Dorsey 3-6 0-0 8, Warner 0-0 0-0 0, Robinson 2-3 1-2 5, Adkins 2-4 0-0 5, Adkins 2-4 0-0 5, Robisch 0-1 0-0 0, Webber 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 30-57 3-6 73.
Halftime—Oklahoma St. 38, So. Methodist 15. 3-point goals—So. Methodist 8-23 (Matthews 3-6, Poerner 0-1, Rich 2-5, Woods 2-6, Anderson 0-1, Krist 0-1, Hearn 1-3), Oklahoma St. 10-20 (Mason 1-4, Alexander 2-5, Peterson 4-5, Dorsey 2-4, Adkins 1-2). Fouled out—Roberts. Rebounds—So. Methodist 32 (Poerner 7), Oklahoma St. 37 (Roberts 9). Assists—So. Methodist 12 (Woods 3), Oklahoma St. 22 (Roberts 7). Total fouls—So. Methodist 13, Oklahoma St. 18. A—6,052.

Baylor 66, UT-Pan American 57
Texas-Pan American (2-5): Jackson 5-12 5-7 15, Salomao 3-5 0-0 6, Ostarcevic 9-15 4-4 22, Allen 0-2 0-1 0, Rios 4-10 0-0 12, Thompson 0-1 2-2 2, Molina 0-2 0-0 0, Palmquist 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-47 11-14 57.
Baylor (9-1): Brandt 3-4 2-2 8, Morris 4-6 0-0 9, Skinner 8-11 2-4 18, Hunter 5-10 4-4 16, Miller 0-4 0-1 0, D. Jones 0-1 0-0 0, Mannon 3-5 1-2 9, R. Jones 2-4 0-0 4, Perkins 1-3 0-1 2, Ramirez 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-48 9-14 66.
Halftime—Texas-Pan American 34, Baylor 28. 3-Point goals—Texas-Pan American 4-12 (Allen 0-1, Rios 4-9, Molina 0-2), Baylor 5-18 (Morris 1-3, Huter 2-5, Miller 0-4, Jones 0-1, Mannon 2-3, Perkins 0-2). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Texas-Pan American 26 (Salomao 8), Baylor 24 (Skinner, Jones 6). Assists—Texas-Pan American 13 (Thompson 6), Baylor 19 (Hunter 7). Total fouls—Texas-Pan American 16, Baylor 14. A—1,610.

Houston 74, Creighton 73
CREIGHTON (5-4): Johnson 5-9 4-5 14, Loudermilk 2-9 0-2 4, Reid 0-2 2-4 2, St. Fleur 3-7 0-1 7, Buford 10-24 1-4 27, Templeman 0-1 0-0 0, Chestnut 0-6 0-0 0, Wharton 1-2 0-0 3, Crutcher 3-9 2-4 8, Mungin 3-3 2-2 8. Totals 27-72 11-22 73.
HOUSTON (6-3): Robinson 1-5 2-6 4, Byrd 3-5 0-0 6, Knox 8-13 3-3 19, McBride 2-6 4-4 8, Jones 11-20 4-5 29, Pratts 1-2 0-0 2, Braxton 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 1-2 4-4 6, Grant 0-0 0-1 0. Totals 27-54 17-23 74.
Halftime—Creighton 35, Houston 28. 3-Point goals—Creighton 8-19 (Loudermilk 0-1, St. Fleur 1-2, Buford 6-11, Chestnut 0-3, Wharton 1-2), Houston 3-12 (Byrd 0-1, McBride 0-2, Jones 3-8, Pratts 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Creighton 42 (Johnson 9), Houston 39 (Knox 13). Assists—Creighton 13 (St. Fleur 7), Houston 15 (Jones 5). Total fouls—Creighton 19, Houston 15.

NHL Results

Standings
All Times CST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division						
Florida	19	7	7	45	101	73
Philadelphia	21	12	2	44	108	94
New Jersey	19	11	3	40	89	77
N.Y. Rangers	17	14	5	39	124	97
Washington	14	18	2	30	91	95
N.Y. Islanders	11	14	8	30	87	92
Tampa Bay	11	18	3	25	91	103
Northeast Division						
Buffalo	18	14	2	38	103	95
Hartford	16	11	6	38	104	100
Pittsburgh	16	15	3	35	119	112
Boston	13	15	5	31	94	114
Montreal	12	17	5	29	111	118
Ottawa	9	15	7	25	81	97
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
Dallas	21	10	3	45	99	76
Detroit	17	11	6	40	96	86
Phoenix	14	15	4	32	87	100
St. Louis	15	19	1	31	94	116
Chicago	14	18	3	31	86	90
Toronto	13	21	0	26	98	121
Pacific Division						
Colorado	19	9	5	43	117	76
Vancouver	16	15	1	33	100	95
Edmonton	14	17	4	32	112	109
Anaheim	12	18	5	29	97	105
Calgary	12	18	5	29	83	100
Los Angeles	12	18	4	28	89	113
San Jose	11	18	4	26	81	109

Saturday's Games
Late Game Not Included
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 0
Boston 4, Washington 3
Hartford 6, Tampa Bay 5, OT
Dallas 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
Pittsburgh 3, San Jose 1
Buffalo 3, Ottawa 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 2, OT
Toronto at Colorado (n)

Sunday's Games
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Edmonton, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Phoenix, 8 p.m.

Flyers 4, Blues 0

St. Louis	0	0	0	— 0
Philadelphia	0	2	2	— 4

First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Klatt 10 (Desjardins, Brind'Amour), 7:13. 2, Philadelphia, Otto 5, 15:23.
Third Period—3, Philadelphia, LeClair 20 (Lindros), 15:19. 4, Philadelphia, Samuelsson 3 (Lindros), 17:11.
Shots on goal—St. Louis 10-7-7—24. Philadelphia 6-5-4—15. Power-play Opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 3; Philadelphia 0 of 3. Goalies—St. Louis, Casey 1-6-0 (15 shots-11 saves). Philadelphia, Hextall 16-7-1 (24-24). A—19,378 (19,511).

Bruins 4, Capitals 3

Washington	0	1	2	— 3
Boston	0	3	1	— 4

First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Boston, Staios 1 (Oates, Stumpel), :46. 2, Boston, DiMaio 7 (Elik, Rohloff), 4:33. 3, Washington, Brunette 2 (Cote), 8:33. 4, Boston, Kennedy 3 (Harkins), 17:17.
Third Period—5, Washington, Gonchar 9 (Brunette, Juneau), 2:12. 6, Washington, Hunter 7 (Pivonka, Klee), 6:38. 7, Boston, DiMaio 8 (Stumpel, Oates), 19:04.

Jaguars set to make history with expansion cousins from Carolina

By TIMOTHY W. SMITH
N.Y. Times News Service

■ NFL Roundup

The link between Jacksonville and Carolina was forged when the two franchises became expansion teams last year. They will be inextricably tied for the next couple of years until they create stronger individual identities.

That link will become greater if the Jaguars (8-7), who play the Falcons Sunday afternoon at Jacksonville, make it to the playoffs and join the Panthers (11-4), who two weeks ago became the first expansion team to reach the playoffs in just its second year. The Jaguars will advance if they beat Atlanta and if the Kansas City-Buffalo game doesn't end in a tie.

Some people believe the accomplishments of the two teams should come with an asterisk, because they were able to take advantage of free agency and extra draft picks.

Michael Huyghue, the Jaguars' senior vice president of football operations, said people can say that, but it does not change the fact that the team had to succeed on the field.

"I don't think we have to be apologetic for our success," Huyghue said. "We were using the same system that was available to all the teams. It's like comparing apples to apples. All the teams could have thrown all their cards in and started over if they wanted to.

"But as far as free agency is concerned, we had a disadvantage that other teams didn't that first year. We never had our full allotment under the salary cap. In the first year, $15 million was tied up in the veteran allocation draft. And in the draft teams unloaded all the guys with the huge salaries that they didn't want. And if you want to talk about free-agent spending, Atlanta and the Jets spent more money on free agents in the last two years than both Carolina and Jacksonville."

At one point this season the Jaguars were 4-7 and going nowhere. Defensive end Jeff Lageman said that caused the fans' expectations to disappear. Then, the Jaguars relaxed and took a fun approach to the games. They have won four straight. It has also helped that Jags Coach Tom Coughlin has somewhat relaxed.

"We used to practice in pads on Friday, but we don't do that anymore," Lageman said. "We also used to have to come in on Mondays and put in a full day of work, from 9 until 4. After the bye week, he had an opportunity to re-evaluate things, and one of them was coming in on Monday.

"Now when we come in on Monday, unless you have to go in for treatment, you watch film and go home."

WALSH'S ROLE GROWS

All 49ers quarterback Steve Young wanted to talk about after the team's 25-15 victory over Pittsburgh last week was how the team had returned to the classy attitude it displayed back in the 1980s and early 1990s.

What the game showed was that Bill Walsh, the 49ers coach from that era who was hired this past off season as a team consultant, has taken on a larger role in the offense. Besides showing the team a motivational video the night before the game, Walsh also had a major hand in putting together the offensive game plan and will continue to do so through the playoffs.

In Pittsburgh, Walsh sat in the front row of the Three Rivers Stadium press box with reporters and statisticians, and not in the coaches box looking over the shoulder of the beleaguered offensive coordinator, Mark Trestman.

The Niners' president, Carmen Policy, has told Walsh to forget about stepping on the toes of those who may feel uncomfortable with his presence, like Trestman, and get the 49ers back to doing the types of things that made them a formidable team.

Trestman may be on his way out. But where he will land is anyone's guess. He recently failed to get the head coaching job at Minnesota, after interviewing for it. Then, last week the 49ers quarterbacks coach, Matt Cavanaugh, turned down the head coaching job at the University of Pittsburgh, citing personal and professional reasons. Could Cavanaugh become the 49ers' offensive coordinator next year?

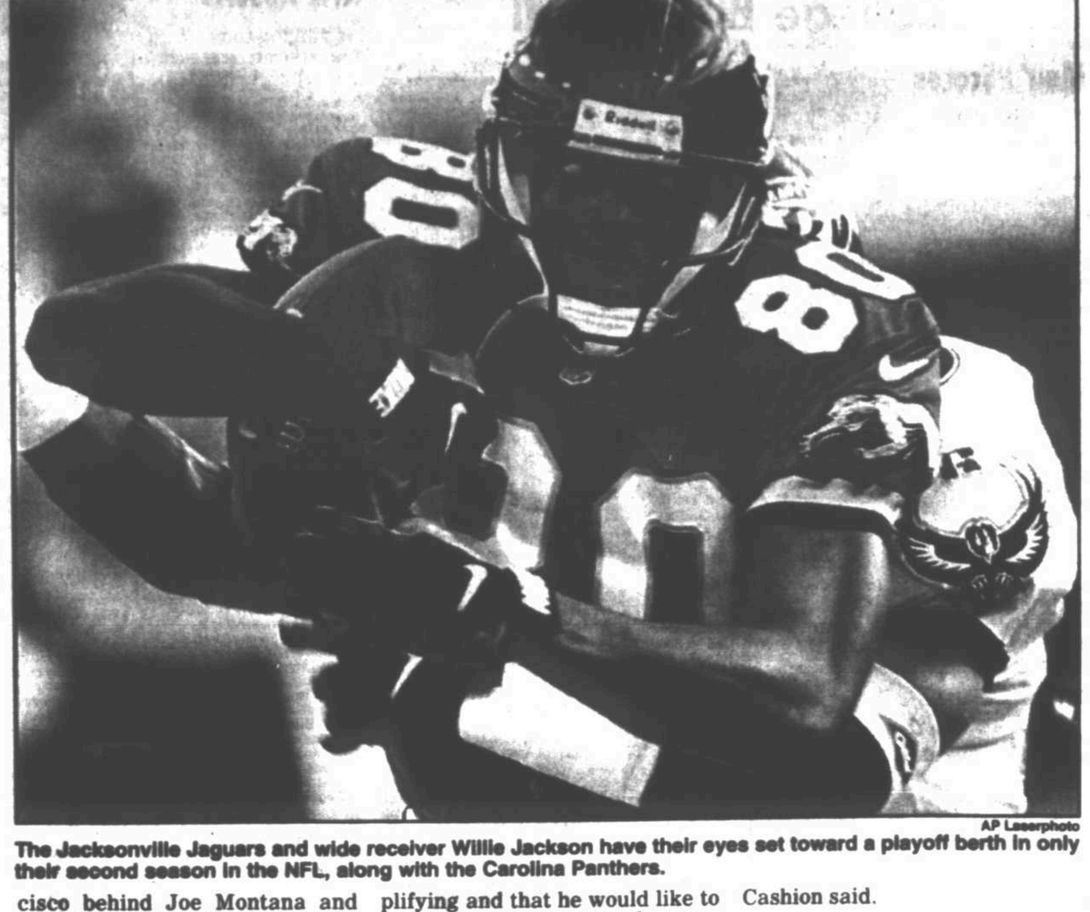
BONO'S BIG CHANCE

With the Chiefs playing Buffalo in a game crucial to both teams' playoff hopes, Kansas City quarterback Steve Bono has a chance to raise his stock on the free-agent market for next year. Bono will be getting his first start in place of an injured Rich Gannon (hamstring) since being benched by Coach Marty Schottenheimer a month ago.

If he can lead the Chiefs into the playoffs and have a solid performance once they are there, Bono can start to rebuild some of the status he lost with his dismal performance in the playoffs last year.

He struggled this season and fell out of favor with some of his teammates. Eventually Bono forced Schottenheimer's hand by constantly asking the coach if his starting job was in jeopardy.

In a free-agent market that will include such quarterbacks as Scott Mitchell of Detroit, the former Falcon Jeff George and the 49ers backup Elvis Grbac, Bono might not command top dollar based on his tenure in Kansas City. If the 49ers can't find a way to keep Grbac they might make a move to bring Bono back. Bono was once the No. 3 quarterback in San Francisco behind Joe Montana and Steve Young.



AP Laserphoto

The Jacksonville Jaguars and wide receiver Willie Jackson have their eyes set toward a playoff berth in only their second season in the NFL, along with the Carolina Panthers.

THE FINAL 'FIRST DOWN'

Red Cashion, the National Football League referee whose ebullient call of "first down" gained him attention, is retiring after 25 years in the league. In a candid telephone interview this week, Cashion said the rules were too complicated and needed simplifying and that he would like to improve communications between the referees and the public.

The NFL does not allow reporters to interview officials after games, but it does allow for a single reporter to interview the referee for a pool report on controversial calls.

"As far as I'm concerned I could answer questions after the game," Cashion said.

He said the one mistake he made in a game that still bothers him happened in Super Bowl XX between the Bears and the Patriots.

"I allowed a field goal to be kicked at the end of the half that should not have been kicked," he said.

Mirer can only stand and watch in what is likely his last Seahawk game

By CLARE FARNSWORTH
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SEATTLE — Rick Mirer will spend his final game for the Seahawks on the sideline at Oakland Coliseum.

Mirer's bruised left knee is still so stiff that Stan Gelbaugh will start at quarterback in Sunday's season finale against the Raiders, coach Dennis Erickson announced Friday.

"This isn't really what I planned on at all," Mirer said.

Mirer could be Gelbaugh's backup. Or the inactive No. 3 quarterback. Or in street clothes, with Central Washington University rookie Jon Kitna possibly being signed off the practice squad to fill the third spot. It all depends on how Mirer's knee is feeling Saturday.

Somehow, it is grotesquely fitting that Mirer's status is in flux and his left knee is tender to the touch.

This entire season has been a painful nightmare for the player the Seahawks selected in the first round of the 1993 draft. Benched. Dangled in a trade. Back as the starter because of an injury to John Friesz. Now injured himself.

And soon to be gone.

No one in the organization will come right out and say it, but Mirer knows. The Philadelphia Eagles and Chicago Bears offered draft picks for Mirer when the Seahawks were attempting to trade him to Atlanta for Jeff George. The Bears are expected to be the first team to call the Seahawks after the season.

"It's got to happen, you know," Mirer said.

Mirer just hopes it is sooner, rather than later. He anticipates something happening in the three weeks between the Super Bowl and the start of free agency in mid-February.

"I'd just like to know something. It's been a long, drawn-out season as far as knowing what is my future," he said. "Anything's possible. So whatever happens, the sooner I find out, you can get mentally right and get to work and plan a few things, instead of waiting until training camp to find out what's going to happen."

Mirer's situation, and the uncertainty over whether Paul Allen will exercise his option to buy the team from Ken Behring, overshadow Sunday's game pitting two longtime rivals who are left to play for pride.

Adding a dash of macabre intrigue is Gelbaugh, who is 0-11 as an NFL starter, going against the Raiders' Billy Joe Hobert, the former Washington Husky who is 0-4 as a starter.

Little incentive left for playoff-bound Cowboys or floundering Redskins in RFK Stadium's last game

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NFL's last game at RFK Stadium will be an event sure to stir the emotions of fans, dignitaries and the throng of former Redskins players and coaches expected to attend.

As for the game itself, well, that's another matter. For opposite reasons, the Redskins and Dallas Cowboys just don't have the usual motivation.

"Honestly, it's going to be hard," Redskins linebacker Marvcus Patton said. "Once the whistle blows and the game starts, the ball's kicked, we'll probably be into it, but it's going to be difficult."

The Redskins are dealing with the humiliation of one of the worst collapses in recent sports history. Knocked out of playoff contention last week, they have a chance to become the first team since the NFL went to a 16-game regular season in 1979 to finish 8-8 after starting 7-1.

The Cowboys, meanwhile, went in the opposite direction, winning nine of their last 11 to clinch their fifth consecutive NFC East title. With no realistic chance of improving their playoff seeding, the Cowboys will rest several of their injured starters and coast into the postseason.

"I think it's wonderful; I'm glad we don't have to come there and win," coach Barry Switzer said. "We got that accomplished last week, and that was our goal. Our attitude is excellent in regard that there are certain players that are happy because they won't have to be extended this week, because they can take that opportunity to get ready to play the playoffs."

That includes tackle Mark Tuinei, defensive end Tony Tolbert and tight end Eric Bjornson, and probably running back Emmitt Smith and safety Bill Bates. Quarterback Troy Aikman could have a short night as well.

Switzer even called this a "bye" week for the Cowboys. Though he later called that a "poor choice of words," the comment didn't seem to rile the Redskins. Most of the team's usual tough-talkers, including Patton, Tre Johnson and Rich Owens, offered little or no reaction.

"They've got to do what's best for them," was coach Norv Turner's shoulder-shrugging response.

While the line between victory and defeat may be blurred Sunday, it's also true that an NFL game is never meaningless. For the Redskins, there are a number of players who have one last chance to prove they shouldn't be put on the chopping block for their performances in the second half of the season.

"A lot of guys may not think they don't have much to play for, but you've got a job you want to keep next year," return specialist Brian Mitchell said. "People whose contracts are up, you want to be able to come back to this team or have another team look at you. We don't have a chance to go to the playoffs, but a lot more is at stake. Your career is at stake."

For the Cowboys, it's not next year, but next week they have to worry about. The offense hasn't scored a touchdown in three of the past five games, a trend that doesn't bode well for the playoffs.

Even Smith, who wasn't exactly enthusiastic over the prospect of playing, admitted the offense probably should use Sunday's game to rediscover its rhythm.

"Personally, I think we need to go out there and establish some good things, work on the running game, work on the passing game, try to get the ball in the end zone when we're in the red zone. That's the key," Smith said. "Not only that, but also try to maintain some guys' health also."

Houston, Baltimore just playing out rough seasons

BALTIMORE (AP) — No matter what happened in Baltimore, those Cleveland Browns players who became Ravens figured this season would have to be better than last.

Even if the league didn't recognize them as former Browns, the Ravens were, for the most part, the same team that made the playoffs in 1994. Of course, they were the same players who fell to 5-11 in 1995 after the public announcement the team was leaving Cleveland. They were 1-7 in the second half of that season.

After going 2-8 in the last 10 games, and holding a second-half lead in each of them, the Ravens can do no better than last year. They will be worse should an underachieving Houston team beat them in Baltimore on Sunday.

"It's more frustrating than last year," said quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who is having the best year of his career leading an offense ranked second in yardage passing. "We've come so close in so many of our games."

The Ravens hope the Oilers will continue their late-game woes. Against San Francisco and Miami, Houston gave up leads in the fourth quarter and lost.

Clinging to a slim playoff hope against Cincinnati, the Oilers last week gave up a 6-0 halftime edge and fell 21-13, leaving Houston seeking nothing more than a .500 record in the finale.

The Oilers will start Steve McNair at quarterback, replacing Chris Chandler, who threw three interceptions against the Bengals.

At 4-11, with all its wins coming at home, Baltimore is glad to be getting Houston (7-8) at Memorial Stadium. There's also the motive of revenge against the Oilers, who beat the Racens 29-13 on Sept. 15.

"It's a division game and that's always an extra incentive," said Ravens coach Ted Marchibroda. "Plus, we have the chance to go 5-3 at home and do something for all those fans at Memorial."

The prospect of matching the Browns' record of a year ago does not affect him.

"It's not the record. It's the reason why (they lost games)," he said.

With 350 points, fifth in the league, the Ravens offense remains the team's surprising strong point, led by running back Bam Morris and Testaverde, who was elected to the Pro Bowl.

The defense, meanwhile, has struggled mightily, ranked at or near the bottom in most categories, including third-down efficiency, total yards per game and yards passing per game.

Not surprisingly, Houston coach Jeff Fisher is less concerned with the Ravens' injured defense than with the Baltimore offense, which clicked after a three-interception performance by Testaverde against the Oilers in Week 3. After that game, Testaverde promised he wouldn't turn in such a poor performance for the rest of the year.

For the most part, he has delivered.

"Vinny's doing what he is capable of doing," Fisher said. "He has played much better."

Last week, Baltimore lost 27-16 to Carolina, despite holding a 13-10 lead at halftime. For Houston, the second half of the season has been one of missed opportunities and lost balls. In an eight-game stretch, the Oilers have had 18 turnovers, compared with 10 takeaways.

Against the Bengals, Houston turned over the ball four times, while gaining 341 yards to Cincinnati's 205. The Oilers also outgained Jacksonville 361-279 the previous week, but four turnovers resulted in a 23-17 loss.

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Sunsh Marsh

The Associated Pre

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By MURRAY CHA
N.Y. Times News S

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Athletic Direc announced McG ment as head fo urday.

"Stan is a think mind for athletic "He understands ball in the over mission."

McGarvey di

Sunshine State transfers pace Marshall to Division I-AA crown

The Associated Press

■ College Playoffs

Marshall, a perennial NCAA Division I-AA runner-up, imported receiver Randy Moss from Florida State and Eric Kresser from Florida to get it over the championship hump this season.

Mission accomplished.

Moss caught nine passes for 220 yards and four touchdowns and Kresser was 18-of-28 for 324 yards and four touchdowns Saturday as the Thundering Herd beat Montana 49-29 for the title.

"I'm not sure anybody in our division could beat Marshall University today," Montana coach Mick Dennehy said. "They are to be commended. Marshall has too many weapons. Nobody during the season had an answer for Moss. We didn't have an answer for Moss today."

Marshall avenged a 22-20 loss to Montana (14-1) in last year's championship game, broke the Grizzlies' 21-game winning streak, and became only the second I-AA team — Georgia Southern was the first in 1989 — to win the title with a 15-0 record.

Second-seeded Marshall, of the Southern Conference, and top-seeded Montana, of the Big Sky, seemed only separated by a couple time zones entering the game at Marshall Stadium. Both teams had drubbed opponents regularly and had eerily similar statistics. For instance, each had scored 609 points.

But the Herd quickly asserted superiority.

On the first play of the game, Kresser lofted a ball deep for Moss. Montana cornerback Billy Ivey, about six inches shorter than Moss, could do nothing but hang onto the receiver, getting whistled for interference.

Seven plays later, Moss shielded Ivey from the ball in the end zone for a 19-yard reception and a 7-0 lead.

Moss added a 70-yard touchdown later in the half, blowing by two Montana defensive backs and taking Kresser's spiral for a 20-0 lead. A play earlier, linebacker Larry McCloud had stripped the ball away from Montana quarterback Brian Ah Yat and linebacker John Grace recovered at the Herd 30, killing a promising Grizzlies drive.

Montana did have one flicker of hope, scoring on 40- and 27-yard field goals just prior to halftime to cut it to 23-6 at intermission.

On the second play of the third quarter, Kresser, a senior, read blitz and threw a short pass to Moss. Moss weaved across the field, down the sideline and broke a tackle at the 5 for a 54-yard score.

"They were determined," Marshall first-year coach Bob Pruett said of his players. "They felt they let an opportunity slip away a year ago. They weren't going to let it happen today."

The game put the finishing touches on a brilliant first year for Moss, who set school records for points (174), touchdowns (29) and career touchdown receptions (28). He also set a playoff record for touchdowns (nine) and receiving yardage (636) and tied the title-game record for touchdown catches (four). Moss also tied the Southern Conference record for career touchdown receptions, matching the 28 by Furman's Chas Fox from 1982 through 1985.

"I thank God for my ability to play and a chance to get on the gridiron again," Moss said.

Ah Yat, who had thrown for 4,677 yards and 51 touchdowns, finished 36-of-55 for 335 yards and two touchdowns, but 169 yards came in the final quarter.

Montana's Joe Douglass caught 13 passes for 117 yards, giving him a record 41 receptions in the playoffs.

Sioux Falls wins NAIA-II title

Not many people gave Sioux Falls a chance of winning a national championship when the season started.

The Cougars had never won a title in any sport. And with an enrollment of just under 1,000, Sioux Falls didn't seem to have enough of anything to even get into a championship game.

Until Saturday.

Sioux Falls (14-0) won its first national title Saturday by downing Western Washington 47-25 in the NAIA Division II Championship.

"We had so much support from our state," said quarterback Kurtiss Riggs, who led the Cougars by throwing for 431 yards and five touchdowns. "Our school is so tiny compared with other schools that they tend to overlook us."

The Cougars finished the regular season ranked No. 2 in the NAIA poll but never received a first-place vote. They remembered that slight in a season in which they played 11 road games.

Coach Bob Young said winning the championship eases the hours spent on buses this year.

"It's fun going somewhere, seeing the scenery. This will be a much easier trip home," he said.

The Cougars (14-0) concluded their best season ever in their first appearance in the NAIA title game .

Western Washington (11-2) also was in its first championship game after finishing the regular season ranked sixth.

AP Laserphoto

Marshall running back Doug Chapman (22) is hugged by wide receiver Randy Moss (88) after scoring a touchdown against Montana.

Paterno's 70th not a huge deal

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Penn State football coach Joe Paterno turned 70 Saturday and, for the fifth straight year, he celebrated on the road without much fanfare.

The coach who has led the Nittany Lions to two national championships spent his birthday with a whistle in hand, holding two practices at Scottsdale Community College.

Paterno is leading No. 7 Penn State (10-2) to a New Year's Day date with No. 20 Texas (8-4) in the Fiesta Bowl, and blowing out candles is not tops on his priority list.

"What does it matter? It can be 70, 60, 50, they're all the same and I try to take all of them low key," Paterno said.

Try as he may, the Nittany Lions have presented Paterno with a cake in each of the past four years on the road. The team was planning to present a cake Saturday at their hotel.

Because of a change in the university's academic calendar that made students take final exams in early December, Penn State has gone to the site of a New Year's Day Bowl game before Christmas since 1992-93, it took on Stanford in the Blockbuster Bowl.

Penn State arrived in Arizona on Thursday, 13 days before its date with Texas.

Connery, Irwin bond for Lexus win

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Hale Irwin and actor Sean Connery fired a 10-under par 62 to capture the Lexus Challenge on Saturday.

Their 21-under par two-day total of 123 shattered the 17-under record set by host Raymond Floyd and Michael Chiklis in last year's inaugural event.

Actor Kevin Costner and Lee Trevino's closing round 62 pulled them into a three-way tie for second at 17-under par with the teams of Chi Chi Rodriguez and actor Robert Wuhl, and John Brodie and baseball star Ken Griffey Jr.

Rodriguez and Wuhl shot a 9-under par 63 as did Brodie and Griffey.

The Lexus field consists of 12 players off the PGA's Senior tour and 12 celebrities from the fields of entertainment and sports. The celebrities play with their full handicaps.

Connery recorded 13 net birdies to nine natural birdies by Irwin. The pair had only one bogey in the two-day event.

"I played much more consistent today," Connery said. "I was only three over par on the front nine."

Connery came into the tournament well prepared.

"I played 14 straight days at St. Andrews (Scotland) in the Autumm meeting," said the 65-year old Connery. "The meeting lasts for 21 days and consists of 36 holes a day. I've played in the event every year since I became a member at St. Andrews over 20 years ago."

Connery carries his own bag in the Autumm meeting and has every year he has played.

"There are no buggies (golf carts) allowed on the course except for medical reasons," the actor said. "The course is relatively flat but it's the wind and rain that gives you the most difficulty along with some pretty tough bunkers."

Irwin earned $180,000 for his share of the $1 million purse.

"It was great fun to play with Sean," Irwin said. "And now I know why we won. He is the ironman of golf. This weekend was just a walk in the park for him."

Costner had two net eagles on the back nine Saturday to go with 10 net birdies over the two days.

"I am as good as I am right now," Costner said. "I knew I was going to make some awful shots but today I shot an 81, the second best I've ever played. I broke 80 in Japan for my best round ever."

Costner had some experience with golf as a youngster but seldom played before his latest movie, "Tin Cup," about a driving range pro playing in the U.S. Open.

"I was trained to look like a golfer," the 14-handicapper Costner said. "Not play like one. I knew I couldn't play like a pro in such a short amount of time. Yet there's not a shot I hit poorly that I'm not angry about."

The Lexus Challenge is the only PGA event that uses the amateurs score in determining the distribution of the $1 million purse to the Senior pros.

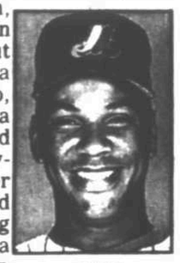
The 36 hole tournament was played at the Citrus Course at La Quinta's Resort and Club.

One Alou takes root, one takes cash

By MURRAY CHASS
N.Y. Times News Service

■ Pro Baseball

The children's toe-tweaking game about how many piggies went to market and how many piggies stayed home can be applied to developments with certain managers. A couple of months ago, Jim Leyland went to market and, leaving Pittsburgh, wound up in Florida for about $1.5 million a year. A year ago, Tony La Russa figuratively had roast beef, leaving Oakland for St. Louis and maintaining what was then a rare $1.5 million salary for managers.



Alou

But more recently, Felipe Alou stayed home. Considered in the same class of managerial brilliance as La Russa and Leyland, Alou has found himself every bit as strapped for experienced, talented players in Montreal as his colleagues in their previous outposts. But instead of going elsewhere for better players and more money, Alou accepted a contract extension that will keep him with the Expos through 2000.

"Whether he could have made more money or would have been in a better situation with a winning team," Moises Alou said, "my dad, he's such a good manager he thinks he can compete with anybody no matter who he has on his team."

Moises played for his father for five years. Now, as a suddenly wealthy free agent, he will play for Leyland in Florida. Meanwhile, the elder Alou, who earlier this year exercised his option for next season, has agreed to a contract that includes two additional years of managing and one year for personal services. The package is worth slightly more than $1.5 million.

"I don't know exactly how much money he got, but from what I read in the paper, I'm sure he could have gotten more money somewhere else," Moises Alou said. "Money's not everything to my dad. I think he was being loyal to the Expos. He worked for them for over 20 years. That had a lot to do with it, I think. That's my feeling. His wife is from Montreal. They love him in Montreal. He loves Montreal. It took only that for him to re-sign."

The Expos develop good young players, then trade them or let them leave as free agents when they reach the stage of their careers when they can command lucrative contracts.

Two years ago, they lost Larry Walker and Marquis Grissom, two-thirds of a good outfield; John Wetteland, their closer, and Ken Hill, their No.1 starter. This winter they have lost Moises Alou, their best outfielder; Mel Rojas, their closer and Felipe's nephew, and Jeff Fassero, their No.1 starter.

"You develop and develop and get good and then you're set back," the patient manager said. "That happened three out of my five years. Every once in a while you look around and say, 'I'd like to win some games and go to the World Series.' But then you say, 'We haven't been too bad.' Other than 1995, we've been first or second. We haven't been hurting that much. I know it's going to be tougher in 1997."

As far as Moises Alou is concerned, the Expos remain competitive in spite of their economic practices because of their manager.

"Not because he's my dad, but I'll put him any time up to No.1, without a doubt, because he does it with or without great players," Moises Alou said. "There are a lot of good managers, the so-called best managers, as soon as they take two or three stars from their team, they finish last. My dad always competes."

RANGER TICKET SALES UP

The Texas Rangers will be host to the first interleague game. It will be June 12 against San Francisco. The Rangers plan to make it a special event. But since the Rangers won their first division championship and reached the playoffs for the first time, everything has been special. Ticket sales reflect that.

In the first three days after they signed John Wetteland last week, the Rangers sold 1,141 mini season-ticket plans and 72 full plans. In the first three weeks of ticket sales a year ago, the Rangers had sold only 45 full plans. Total sales in the first three weeks this year were 959 full plans and 3,592 mini plans. The Rangers sold 3,100 mini plans for all of last season.

Coach from Show-Me state takes over at WTA&M

CANYON (AP) — After leading Missouri Western State to more wins in the past four years than any other college or university in the state, Stan McGarvey will take the reigns of West Texas A&M's football program.

Athletic Director Ed Harris announced McGarvey's appointment as head football coach Saturday.

"Stan is a thinker, he has a great mind for athletics," Harris said. "He understands the role of football in the overall institutional mission."

McGarvey directed Missouri Western State for six years, leading the Griffons to a 39-25-2 record, 30-12-2 during the past four years.

Prior to McGarvey, Missouri Western State remained without a winning season for a decade.

"We want to bring a national championship to West Texas A&M and the Texas Panhandle," McGarvey said. "I want to develop a great deal of pride in Buffalo football. The program can bring regional and national recognition to the school and the community, and foremost we want to graduate young men."

McGarvey graduated from William Jewell College in 1972 and earned a master's degree in physical education in 1974 from the University of Illinois.

McGarvey coached at William Jewell from 1978-1981, returning for two years in 1987.

He also spent a year at Austin College in 1983 and has made stops at the Montreal Allouettes, a Canadian Football League team, Sam Houston State, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Tulsa, the University of Kentucky, the University of Illinois and Pattonville High School.

DEC 22 1996

Cavan takes over SMU

DALLAS (AP) — Mike Cavan accepted the reins Saturday as football coach at Southern Methodist, saying, "This is what I've dreamed of."

Cavan was hired as the Mustangs' 14th coach Friday, succeeding Tom Rossley, who was fired Nov. 25 after a 15-48-3 record in six seasons.

"When I got the call to come to SMU, I was intrigued by the possibilities," Cavan said. "SMU is a great academic university, and as far as recruiting is concerned, the school will be a great asset. I won't have to sell SMU — it will sell itself."

It's his first NCAA Division I-A job after 17 years as an assistant at Georgia and 11 years as a head coach at the Division I-AA and Division II levels.

In both of his head coaching jobs — at Valdosta State in 1986 and at East Tennessee State in 1992 — Cavan took over downtrodden programs and turned them into winners. East Tennessee State made the NCAA playoffs this year for the first time in 72 years, and Cavan was runner-up in voting for Division I-AA coach of the year.

And it's a downtrodden program that Cavan now inherits.

SMU has a rich athletic history, but the program is still smarting from being shut down a decade ago by the NCAA's first death penalty because of a pay-for-play scandal. Since resuming football in 1989, the Mustangs are 18-67-3.

"We were looking for someone who had gone to a program and had to struggle and had been successful," SMU president Gerald Turner said Saturday, shortly before Cavan was introduced at a news conference.

Cavan said there will be a three-part effort to turn around SMU's program.

"We must instill discipline on the team — make the guys understand what it is to be committed," Cavan said. "I am going to be committed to them, and they are going to be committed to me. ... Family is everything to me, and that's what a good team is — a family."

Cavan was asked how he will sell recruits on playing in the Western Athletic Conference, not considered one of the nation's top leagues.

"... I don't worry about what has happened in the past," Cavan said. "When we get this program where it should be, we'll be in bowl games."

Cavan said the school is such a great selling point that he doesn't see a disadvantage in having to recruit against Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor — which were with SMU in the old Southwest Conference before joining Big Eight schools this year in the new Big 12 Conference.

"Eventually, our football program will get to the point that it rivals the university as a selling point," he said.

"But we are going to do it the right way. We're not going to break any rules. What I've got to do now is to recruit the quality type of guys who will not only excel in the classroom and graduate, but will be winners on the football field."

AP Laserphoto

Mike Cavan, the new football coach at SMU, was introduced to the Dallas media Saturday. He replaces Tom Rossley, who had a 15-48-3 record.

Ghedina beats Alphand in downhill

VAL GARDENA, Italy (AP) — Kristian Ghedina of Italy scored his first victory of the season by winning Saturday's World Cup downhill, finishing 0.23 seconds ahead of Frenchman Luc Alphand, winner of Friday's downhill.

Ghedina is the first Italian to win a Cup downhill in Val Gardena since Herbert Plank in 1977.

Ghedina, third behind Alphand and Atle Skaardal in Friday's race, clocked a winning time of two minutes, 00.28 seconds down the 3,446-meter Saslong course.

Alphand, the defending World Cup downhill champion, was second in 2: 00.51.

Austrian Josef Strobl placed third, 0.37 seconds behind the winner, as the powerful Austrian team improved from the previous day but still failed to restore its early season dominance.

"I think I produced an outstanding performance today. I skied better than expected. I'm really happy," said Ghedina, whose previous downhill victory was at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia, last year.

Austrian World Cup leader Hans Kanuss strengthened his overall position bu placing fifth, ahead of Italy's Pietro Vitalini.

American A.J. Kitt, a distant 26th Friday, finished eighth today, 1.23 seconds slower than Ghedina.

Americans do it again

KONIGSSEE, Germany (AP) — Chris Thorpe and Gordy Sheer finished a torrid opening month of the season Saturday by winning their third World Cup doubles luge event in four tries and extending their lead in the overall standings to 19 points.

Thorpe, of Marquette, Mich., and Sheer, of Croton, N.Y., had the two fastest times of the day down Konigssee's technically difficult track. Their total time of 1 minute, 30.060 seconds was 0.14 seconds clear of Italians Gerhard Plankensteiner and Oswald Haselreider, who finished second to the Americans for the second straight week.

Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt of Germany took third in 1: 30.243.

Thorpe and Sheer lead the overall World Cup doubles standings with 137 points after three golds and a silver. Krausse and Behrendt, winners of Olympic medals of each metal, are second with 118 points. Plankensteiner and Haselreider are tied for third with Germany's Steffen Skel and Steffen Woller at 110. Skel and Woller were fourth Saturday.

German women, paced again by Silke Kraushaar, swept the top three places. Kraushaar came from behind to win her third gold in four starts in 1: 29.889 for the two heats. Susi Erdmann was second in 1: 30.008, with Barbara Niederhuber third in 1: 30.023.

Kraushaar remains first overall with 137 points. Andrea Tagwerker of Austria, fifth on Saturday, is in second place with 116. Angelika Neuner, also of Austria, is tied for third with Germany's Jana Bode at 112. Neuner was seventh in the race after leading the opening leg, while Bode, the defending world champion, wound up sixth.

Cammy Myler of Lake Placid, N.Y., was a half-second off the pace in eighth place. Myler is ranked sixth overall.

Longtime basketball official dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Lou Eisenstein, who officiated NBA games for nearly 30 years and also worked 14 consecutive NIT finals, is dead at 83.

Eisenstein, who still worked scouting officials for the Atlantic Coast Conference, died at home of a heart attack Friday, said his son-in-law, Steve Shapiro.

Evans, Bell were Penn's black trailblazers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — This is the story of two football players who came to the University of Pennsylvania a lifetime ago, two friends who would travel a lonely road together.

Ed Bell was an end; Bob Evans was a guard.

And both of them were black, something almost unheard of in 1949, especially at Ivy League Penn.

Remember the time. This was two years after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color line, three years after Woody Strode and Kenny Washington integrated the NFL, a year before Chuck Cooper became the first black player drafted by the NBA.

There were few blacks in college football then, almost none on the Penn campus or on the teams Penn played. Four years later, when they were seniors, there were just five other black players in the entire Ivy League. Cornell had none. Princeton had none. Yale had none. So Ed Bell and Bob Evans were thrust into a unique situation. They would be trailblazers.

"I kidded Bob," Bell said. "I told him they recruited me to keep him company. We faced some racism. One time, we scrimmaged at Maryland. We ate on campus. Some of the players went into a drug store for sodas. When we walked in, they said they couldn't serve us. The whole team left."

In 1950, the first varsity season for the two sophomores, Evans lined up next to Sam Greenawalt, Penn's senior center. In the single wing set that Penn played, no one was more important to the center than the guard.

"He protected my buns," Greenawalt said. "He saved me and I did the same for him. We were wearing the same colors. He made it so I could snap properly. On punts, they'd line up right over the center and rip him. I used to say, 'Bobby, give me two seconds, just two seconds.' He'd hit like a cobra. All you'd hear is the air going out of the guy he blocked. He was built like a bull and he was fearless."

Off the field, Evans was quiet and reserved. And he stayed close to his buddy, Bell.

"Eddie was a little more outgoing," Greenawalt said. "They hung together. They were these two black guys with a bunch of raucous, white studs from all over the place. We didn't know how to treat them."

Neither did some of the assistants on coach George Munger's staff. Sometimes, they'd put on a pseudo-Southern accent when they talked to the pair. Bell chuckles over that today.

"We grew up in Philadelphia," he said.

Penn was playing high-pressure football, a national schedule against powerhouse teams from all over the country. It faced Wisconsin with Alan Ameche, Notre Dame with Johnny Lattner, Georgia with Zeke Bratkowski. And the team did it at a time when the Ivy League was starting to de-emphasize football, eliminating spring practice.

In his senior season, 1952, Evans was elected captain of the team, the first black to earn that honor.

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Manny Puga, President and CEO of Medical Community Credit Union, is pleased to announce the following additions or promotions to the staff.

Tammy Armstrong has been promoted to Vice President of Loans and Operations. Tammy has been with the Credit Union for 5 years and has worked her way up from teller, to Loan Officer, to Assistant Vice President and now to Vice President.

Shari R. Thomas has been promoted to Vice President of Accounting. She has been with the Credit Union and has seen the changes and growth it has experienced over the past several years. When she began her career with the Credit Union, there were only three employees and they had to do everything, from teller work to bookkeeping responsibilities.

The new Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Member Services is Cathy David. Hired to be the Administrative Assistant/Human Resource Director and Marketing Director, Cathy has only been with the Credit Union for 18 months, but has contributed much to our marketing and administrative efforts.

Ivanna Gomez has been promoted to the position of Loan Officer. She began with the Credit Union as a part time VOE student in August of 1993, and has held the position of teller, teller supervisor, and loan processor. We hope her promotion to Loan Officer will better serve our members and their needs.

Letty Ayala was added to our staff as Administrative Assistant and helps keep the Credit Union management and staff running smoothly.

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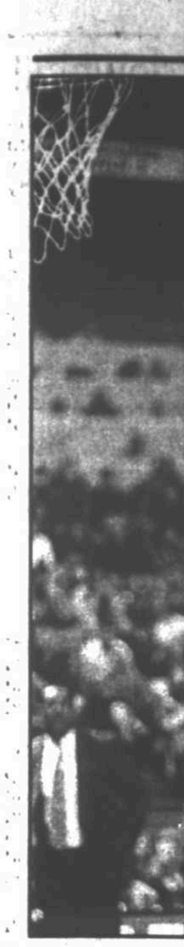

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AP Laserphoto

New Jersey's Kendall Gill (13) puts up a shot as he runs into Boston's Greg Minor, proving that charging can be called in the NBA.

No. 1 Kansas takes apart N.C. State

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Paul Pierce scored 21 points with a variety of inside moves and jump shots to help top-ranked Kansas take apart the nation's best defense and lead the Jayhawks to their 10th straight win, a 84-56 victory over North Carolina State on Saturday night.

When it was not Pierce, the Jayhawks (10-0) turned inside to Scot Pollard and Raef LaFrentz to build a 39-25 halftime lead as Kansas beat North Carolina State for the 10th straight time and won their 33rd consecutive game in Allen Field House.

No. 2 W. Forest 90, Campbell 53

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Tim Duncan extended his double-double streak to 17 straight games and Loren Woods scored 10 points during a decisive first-half run as No. 2 Wake Forest rolled over undersized Campbell.

The Demon Deacons (8-0), holding their eighth straight opponent under 35 percent shooting, remained unbeaten heading into their Dec. 31 showdown with No. 9 Utah. Seven of Wake Forest's eight wins have been by 24 points or more.

No. 3 Kentucky 88, Ga. Tech 59

ATLANTA — Kentucky's 1-2 punch of Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer got plenty of help from the rest of the Wildcats in dominating Georgia Tech for their eighth consecutive victory.

Kentucky (8-1) hasn't lost in more than five weeks, since a 79-71 overtime decision to Clemson in its opener, Nov. 15. Georgia Tech (4-3) dropped its third straight.

No. 4 Michigan 73, No. 6 Arizona 71, OT

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Maceo Baston and Robert Traylor each scored four points in overtime as No. 4 Michigan defeated No. 6 Arizona, giving coach Steve Fisher his first win in five tries against the Wildcats.

The game was tied at 64 at the end of regulation, but the Wolverines (8-0), off to their best start since the 1988-89 club won its first 11 on the way to a national championship, jumped to a four-point lead on a basket and two free throws by Baston.

No. 13 Indiana 75, Evansville 57

INDIANAPOLIS — Andrae Patterson scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead No. 13 Indianaover Evansville.

Charlie Miller added 15 points and six rebounds to help the Hoosiers (10-1) win their fourth straight game.

No. 10 Villanova 91, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 66

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Jason Lawson had 15 points and 13 rebounds, leading five Villanova scorers in double figures and the 10th-ranked Wildcats beat Mount St. Mary's.

Howard Brown had 14 points and Rafal Bigus 12, both career highs, as the Wildcats (7-1) played without their leading scorer, freshman Tim Thomas, who was sidelined with a bruised left calf.

No. 17 Xavier 113, Akron 111, 3 OT

AKRON, Ohio — Xavier escaped with a triple-overtime victory and the 17th-ranked Musketeers also got to watch an amazing clutch shooting performance — by a guy on the other team.

Xavier survived 44 points by Akron freshman point guard Jimmal Ball, whose baskets forced each of the overtimes.

James Posey scored five of his 17 points in the third overtime as the Musketeers (8-0), 26-for-42 at the free throw line for the game, made five of six in the third extra period.

No. 25 Maryland 81, American 74

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Mentally drained from a week of exams and perhaps looking ahead to a trip to Hawaii, No. 25 Maryland turned in its sloppiest performance of the season.

No. 18 Louisville 91, No. 19 Arkansas 88, OT

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — DeJuan Wheat, held scoreless in the first half because of foul trouble, scored 10 points in overtime and Nate Johnson made three free throws in the final 24 seconds as No. 18 Louisville beat No. 19 Arkansas.

Wheat's 3-pointers in overtime put the Cardinals (8-0) ahead 80-77 and 83-80. His baseline jumper made it 85-84 and his two free throws made it 87-86 with 1:25 left. Johnson's free throws with 24 seconds left gave Louisville an 89-86 lead.

No. 20 Alabama 72, Va. Commonwealth 69

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Brian Williams sparked a late run to lead No. 20 Alabama over Virginia Commonwealth, giving the Crimson Tide a 10-0 record for the first time in 20 seasons.

Williams made seven of eight free throws and a 3-pointer over the last three minutes as Alabama closed the game with a 13-5 run.

Illinois 79, No. 24 UCLA 63

CHICAGO — Matt Heldman scored 19 points, including five 3-pointers, and Bryant Notree played tough defense on UCLA star Charles O'Bannon as Illinois beat the 24th-ranked Bruins.

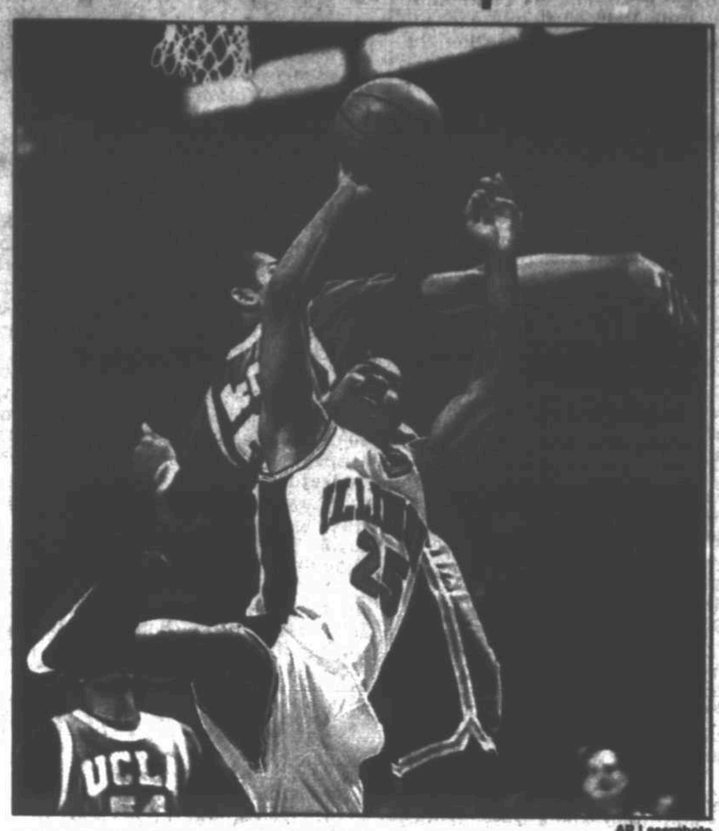
O'Bannon, the Bruins' leading scorer at 17.8 points per game, managed just 12 on 4-for-13 shooting. UCLA (3-3), led by Toby Bailey's 17 points, had 23 turnovers in its first road game of the season.

No. 5 Iowa State 77, East Tennessee State 49

AMES, Iowa — Kelvin Cato scored 16 points and blocked six shots and Shawn Bankhead added 15 points as No. 5 Iowa State overcame a slow start to beat East Tennessee State.

Down by eight points early to its lightly regarded foe, Iowa Sate (7-0) outscored the Buccaneers (4-4) 37-9 during the middle portion of the game to end any thoughts of an upset.

The Cyclones advanced to Sunday night's championship game against Nevada or Texas-El Paso with leading scorer Dedric Willoughby on the bench nursing a tender hamstring, sprained ankle and sprained wrist. Willoughby is averaging 17.6 points a game and is the Cyclones' top 3-point shot.



AP Laserphoto

Illinois' Bryant Notrees shoots off balance while being defended by UCLA's Jelani McCoy Saturday.

■ Top 25 Men

Spurs club Suns behind Elliott, Wilkins scoring

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Sean Elliott scored a season-high 29 points, including five 3-pointers, as San Antonio won its third straight.

Dominique Wilkins added 24 points for the Spurs, who opened the third quarter with a 13-5 run that gave them a 60-49 lead.

David Robinson had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, while Will Perdue added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Heat 86, Rockets 66

HOUSTON — Miami held Houston to its lowest point total and won their 11th straight road game with a victory over the undermanned Rockets.

Voshon Lenard came off the bench to score 22 points for the Heat, which limited Houston, the NBA's top scoring team, to just eight points in the fourth quarter.

The Rockets played without Clyde Drexler and Charles Barkley — both serving suspensions — and without the two forwards they struggled offensively. Houston shot only 23-of-71 from the floor in breaking their previous scoring low for a game, 69 points against Detroit on Dec. 4, 1974.

Timberwolves 103, Lakers 88

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett keyed a second-half run with six points and three blocked shots as Minnesota defeated Los Angeles.

Garnett scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Wolves, who won for just the second time in 11 games. Nick Van Exel scored 22 points for the Lakers, who also got 21 points and 17 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal.

Eddie Jones scored five points in a 13-5 run as the Lakers went ahead 72-71, their only lead of the second half, with four minutes left in the third quarter.

Knicks 95, Pistons 92

NEW YORK — Patrick Ewing scored 30 points and the Knicks followed coach Jeff Van Gundy's verbal trashing of the Pistons with one of their most spirited games of the year.

New York led for the final 47 minutes and avenged its worst defeat in 10 seasons, a 112-78 loss last Wednesday in Allan Houston's first game against his former teammates.

Houston was booed every time he touched the ball in that game and scored only two points — a statistic the Pistons left on the scoreboard after the rest of the lights had been turned off.

"I could not believe the lack of class shown by the Detroit organization at the end of the game, leaving Allan's points on the scoreboard. They showed as little class as they possibly could," Van Gundy said in a pregame talk with reporters, who were summoned to the arena early by the team's publicity staff.

Hornets 98, Hawks 93

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dell Curry had 19 points and Charlotte held Atlanta scoreless for 8 1/2 minutes before holding on for a victory.

Anthony Mason added 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who had a 25-point lead cut to four before they sealed their sixth victory in eight games. Their only losses in that span were to the defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls.

The Hawks, who had their five-game winning streak snapped, missed 15 consecutive field-goal attempts bridging the second and third quarters.

Bulls 111, 76ers 105

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Jordan scored 31 points and Chicago survived a scare from lowly Philadelphia to win its sixth straight game.

The Bulls led by only one point with just under three minutes left, but then went on a 7-0 run to send the 76ers to their 10th loss in a row.

Scottie Pippen added 22 for Chicago, while Dennis Rodman had 12 points and 18 rebounds.

Philadelphia rookie Allen Iverson led all scorers with 32 points.

Nets 101, Celtics 100

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kendall Gill sank a pullup 12-foot jumper with 1.5 seconds remaining to give New Jersey a victory over Boston.

Gill scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as New Jersey snapped a five-game losing streak and kept Boston winless on the road in 10 games this season.

Texas Tech beats ranked team

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Cory Carr scored 36 points to help No. 23 Texas Tech spoil Jerry Tarkanian's homecoming Saturday night with a 111-101 win over No. 21 Fresno State in the Las Vegas Shootout.

Texas Tech (7-1) led most of the game and was never really threatened after opening up a 16-point lead midway through the second half that had Tarkanian chewing on his courtside towel.

It was the first time Tarkanian returned as a coach to UNLV's campus arena since March 3, 1992, when UNLV beat Utah State in Tarkanian's last game as coach of the Runnin' Rebels.

But Tarkanian, who was 130-6 in the Thomas & Mack Center as UNLV's coach, wasn't as successful in his return as the Red Raiders shot 66 percent in the first half to take a 58-53 lead, then broke open the game in the second half.

The final score was the closest the Bulldogs (6-3) got to Texas Tech since closing the margin to 89-77 on a 3-pointer by Dominick Young with 8:05 left in the game.

No. 9 Utah 80, No. 14 Texas 68

SALT LAKE CITY — Keith Van Horn scored 23 of his 34 points in the second half as ninth-ranked Utah pulled away from No. 14 Texas over the last seven minutes.

Van Horn hit 11-of-18 shots, including 3-of-6 3-point attempts, and also had 12 rebounds.

Mike Doleac, despite battling a virus, added 17 points, seven rebounds and a blocked shot for

■ Texas Basketball

Utah (6-1). Andre Miller had 13 points and five assists and was a key to breaking a Texas press that forced 18 Utah turnovers in the first half.

The Utes shot 52 percent (24-of-46) and made 29 of 37 foul shots.

Oklahoma St. 73, SMU 54

STILLWATER, Okla. — Adrian Peterson scored 22 points and Oklahoma State held S MU to just 15 points in the first half as the Cowboys defeated the Mustangs.

Peterson sank 9 of 13 shots from the field to lead Oklahoma State (6-2) as the Cowboys extended to 68 their home non-conference winning streak, the longest in the nation.

Peterson made 5 of 6 from the floor in scoring 13 of his points in the second half. He was 4-of-5 from three-point range for the Cowboys, who converted 10 of 20 treys and shot 52.6 percent from the field.

Baylor 66, Pan American 57

WACO — Brian Skinner's dunk midway through the second-half gave Baylor a lead it would not relinquish as the Bears rallied to beat Texas-Pan American 66-57 on Saturday.

The victory gives Baylor (9-1) it's best start since the 1945-46 season and equals the Bears' 1995-96 win total, when they went 9-18.

Baylor trailed the Broncs 34-28 at halftime after Pan Am used a full court defense and a ball-control offense to force Bear errors.

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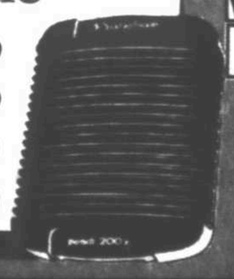

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NAMES IN THE GAME

Watters speaks

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ricky Watters, the Philadelphia Eagles' star running back, has broken a seven-week media silence with a soliloquy that touched on his relationship with his teammates and the media, and his sideline whereabouts during last week's one-point win over the Jets.

"I've just got some things I have to say," Watters announced Friday during team practice.

He went on to address reports that he could not be found on the sidelines at the Meadowlands. He denied that he did not want to go back into the game because he was angry that backup running back Charlie Garner had replaced him for a series.

Watters also said his teammates sided with him in what is seen as an ongoing battle with reporters.

After speaking his piece, Watters did not answer questions.

Coach Ray Rhodes said he had talked with Watters about making a statement.

"Ricky talked about it to several players, that he was going to do this just to relax things around here," Rhodes said, adding that it wasn't just reporters who have trouble understanding Watters.

"There are a lot of people who don't," he said.

Take it down?

ATLANTA — The designer of the 1996 Olympic cauldron says it should stay where it is, despite reluctance of the Atlanta Braves to take it as part of the revamped Olympic stadium.

"If they want to move it, they should take it down, absolutely," said Siah Armajani. "It was meant for the neighborhood. It was a symbolic act to bridge people together."

The president of the Summerhill Neighborhood Development Inc., Douglas Dean, said residents want the cauldron to stay where it is, too.

The stadium will be turned over to the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority when the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games finishes converting it into a baseball park for the Braves.

So far, the Braves have wanted nothing to do with the cauldron. Among the issues are the unknown costs of maintenance, security and insurance if the tower sculpture is accessible to the public.

ACOG president Billy Payne once suggested the cauldron could be moved to Centennial Olympic Park. Officials who will run the park for the state thought it would be too large for the park.

Missing the date

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Feb. 13 is the next date for God Shammgod to remember.

The Providence point guard appeared in a Attleboro, Mass., court Friday after an arrest warrant was issued when he missed the first scheduled date regarding a charge of driving to endanger.

Shammgod was charged after he struck three parked cars while trying to park his car at the mall just before 7 p.m. on Nov. 13, according to police. He told police he thought his car was in reverse when it actually was in drive. Nobody was hurt.

The charge carries up to a year in prison, but "99 percent of the time it's a fine," Sgt. Dave Dawes said.

An arrest warrant was issued Wednesday when Shammgod did not appear as scheduled. Coach Pete Gillen said Shammgod's absence was inadvertent and no disciplinary action was planned.

The case was continued to Feb. 13 for review.

Shammgod is a 20-year-old sophomore.

Heart vaulting

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The woman who vaulted off a sprained ankle into America's hearts will be performing in a gymnastics exhibition at the University of Michigan.

Kerri Strug, a member of the gold-medal U.S. women's gymnastics team at the 1996 Olympics, will perform Feb. 6 when the Wolverines meet Ohio State at Crisler Arena.

Jair Lynch, winner of the only American men's Olympic gymnastics medal this year — a silver on the pommel horse — also will perform.

Olympic champion Bart Conner, who won a gold medal at the 1984 Games, will be master of ceremonies at the event.

Goodman back

NEW YORK — Bobby Goodman is back with Don King, in the promoter's boxing operations department.

Goodman, who left Don King Productions in 1985, formerly was president of Madison Square Garden Boxing.

Goodman's late father was one of boxing's top publicists.

Fry expects hostile environment

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa Hawkeyes and their fans probably will find themselves in the same straits as the defenders of the Alamo mission 160 years ago: outnumbered.

That disparity may be even greater now that Texas Tech, Iowa's Alamo Bowl opponent on Dec. 29, has dropped ticket prices for the game at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Texas Tech is located in Lubbock, a 5 1/2-hour drive from San Antonio. Iowa coach Hayden Fry expected Red Raider fans to make the trip in droves even before the school announced it was knocking $15.50 off the price of upper level sideline tickets.

"They're going to outnumber us greatly," Fry said. "The people of west Texas are a lot like the people of Iowa. They don't have a whole lot going for them in regards to professional football in that area. The entertainment dollar is spent watching the Red Raiders, whether it's basketball, football or whatever.

"They take great pride. They're a whole lot like the farmers here in Iowa. They really are loyal. They support their athletic teams. So they'll be en masse."

The alliance bowl arrangements turned many teams' bowl aspirations topsy-turvy. Iowa, ranked 21st, thought it might get picked for the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1 in Tampa, Fla., while Texas Tech thought it might be going to Aloha Bowl in Hawaii.

"A lot of (Tech fans) couldn't have gone to Hawaii," Fry said. "It's pretty hard to get a pickup truck over there from Lubbock. But they'll be in San Antonio, I guarantee."

Iowa (8-3 overall, 6-2 Big Ten), scheduled to arrive in San Antonio on Sunday, has 17 Texans on its roster. Many will be going back to their home state for the second straight year because Iowa played in the Sun Bowl in El Paso last December, beating Washington 38-18.

"That's real good for us," Fry said. "But you realize, too, the disadvantage of going down there in that the news media, the fans, et cetera, are going to support the team from Texas, obviously, as opposed to a team from Iowa."

The main attraction for the Red Raiders (7-4 overall, 5-3 Big 12) is Byron Hanspard, who ran for a school record 2,084 yards this year. He won the Doak Walker Award, given to the nation's best college running back.

Hanspard beat out some pretty good competition for the award, including Northwestern's Darnell Autry and Iowa State's Troy Davis, who became the first college player to run for more than 2,000 yards twice.

"He's faster than Troy. He's taller than Troy. He's an elusive runner," Fry said.

Hanspard's running has helped open up the passing game for quarterback Zebbie Lethridge, who threw for 1,686 yards and 11 touchdowns this season but also is a good scrambler.

His favorite target was Donnie Hart, who averages nearly 23 yards a catch.

"In having a 2,000-yard rusher, they surprisingly threw the ball for around 160 yards a game," Fry said. "They're more diversified with their offense than say, Troy Davis being the whole ball of wax. They come at you from every way."

Coach Spike Dykes is taking the Red Raiders to their fourth straight bowl, a school record. It's the Hawkeyes 13th bowl trip in Fry's 18 years at Iowa, including a repeat appearance in San Antonio.

The Hawkeyes played in the inaugural Alamo Bowl in 1993, when they were manhandled 37-3 by California.

"The only thing disappointing about it is we had a very young, inexperienced football team," Fry said. "We were extremely fortunate to get an invitation to play in a bowl game, and we played against an extremely fine California football team.

"In fact, just checking, there's six of them still playing in the NFL that were on that ballclub."

Tyrone Hill returns to form

CLEVELAND (AP) — There were times last season when Tyrone Hill would tell his body to jump, and it wouldn't. He would tell himself to get to the basket, and he couldn't.

Now, a year after suffering a potentially career-ending spinal injury, Hill is back with the Cleveland Cavaliers, maybe better than ever.

Hill missed 38 games last season after bruising his spinal cord in a car accident. He was warned that his basketball days might be over.

"The pain was last year, watching him suffer," Cavs coach Mike Fratello said, after Hill had 21 points and 13 rebounds in Cleveland's 91-82 victory over the Toronto Raptors Friday night. "It was eating him up that he could not do the things he was capable of doing."

With a season-high in points against the Raptors, Hill continued a comeback that seems to amaze everyone but him.

"I'm just glad I can walk and I'm able to play again," Hill said.

Hill's game never has been dazzling, going back to his days at Xavier and with the Golden State Warriors. In his best season, he averaged 13.8 points and 10.9 rebounds with the Cavs in 1994-95, when he made the All-Star team for the first time.

He doesn't have the bulk of Charles Barkley, the grace of Karl Malone or the rebounding prowess of Dennis Rodman, not to mention Barkley's gift for gab or Rodman's penchant to accessorize. He doesn't have the numbers to match any of them.

Hill does have a knack for grabbing loose balls and getting to the basket through even the worst traffic jams. He is averaging 12.8 points and 9.8 rebounds.

"I think there are a lot of players like Tyrone who are just hard workers," center Mark West said. "Moses Malone was probably the best of them, just working and getting to all the garbage balls. A.C. Green was like that. Otis Thorpe. I think Horace Grant is that type of player.

"They're not superstars, but they're definitely up there."

Hill specializes in the double-double, which says something in itself. It's a statistic that the NBA has outgrown. Everyone gets them. Against Toronto, Hill reached double-digits in points and rebounds for the 11th time this season and 100th time in his career.

In truth, there is no statistic to measure what players like Hill do. No basket is pretty, bodies collide on every miss. Sometimes Hill gets the ball on the block and pushes toward the basket like he's hitting a tackling dummy. When Fratello motions that it's time for Hill to come to the bench, the power forward removes his mouthpiece and retreats to the sideline.

Since the back injury, Hill treats every game like it's his last.

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C&H Comics — 1028-D Andrews Hwy
Terry's — 306 E. Wall
Tall City Snack Shop — 200 E. Wall
Susies Place — Illinois & Marienfeld
Wilco Daily Newstand — 400 W. Wall
Jo's Eatery — 201 W. Texas Ave

GMFL Superbowl Champions

1996 GMFL Varsity Colts

The Varsity Colts would like to thank Coaches Mike Stevens, Butch Seeker, and Bill Fair for a winning season.

Pictured, Back Row L-R: Coaches Mike Stevens, Butch Seeker, and Bill Fair
Second Row (standing) L-R: Cody Crossland, Eric Lara, Nathan Billingsley, Ryan Snell, J. Tom Snelson, Jacoby Hartley, Richard Hirth, and J. B. Crume.
Third Row (kneeling) L-R: Justin Kuethe, Ty Seeker, Brandon Fuller, Brett Stevens, Tyler Davis, Rudy Stone and Joseph Molina.
Front Row L-R: Zachary Gill, Ben Fair, Keith Vest, Drew Winston and Brooks Jay.
Not Pictured-Joshua Coffman

LIFESTYLE

Have You Heard?/2D
Weddings/4D
Club News/3E

This festive home at 4208 Irvin is bedecked with lights and sound for passersby enjoyment. Several readers called the *Reporter-Telegram* to make sure this house would be featured in the Christmas lights tour.

'Tis the Lights Before Christmas

Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
This beautiful manger scene at 4906 Island Drive reminds visitors of the reason for the season.

As Christmas Eve draws near, many families in the Permian Basin will begin to plan their annual expedition to see the Christmas lights in the area.

For some, this outing is as much a part of their Christmas tradition as decorating the tree or opening presents. It is a bright spot in their holiday season that is the perfect launching pad into Christmas Day.

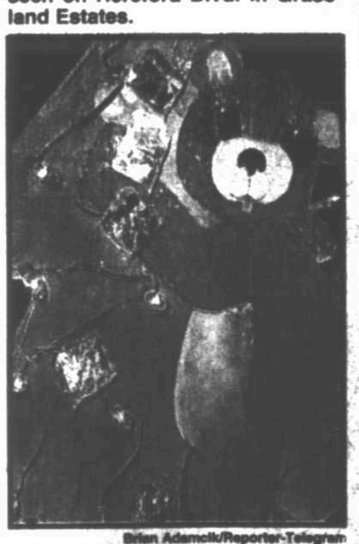
And Midland residents have cooperated in amazing numbers this year. Almost every street has at least one home that is bedecked in twinkling lights and festive decorations.

Many of the main-stays are still in place such as Candy Cane Lane in the 1700 block of Bristol Court and the boat pulled by Santa's reindeer on St. Andrews. But there are many other areas to explore.

If you love reindeer, don't miss the displays on Chatham Court (off Ward St.), where reindeer tryouts are taking place. And if decorations in grand style are your love, don't miss the overflowing yard at 4208 Irvin, past Christian Stadium off Loop 250, where passers-by are treated to Christmas music and sometimes even a candy cane. And where you get back home, be sure to look for the twinkle in your eye.

Curt Wilcott/Reporter-Telegram
This inspirational window can be seen on Hereford Blvd. in Grassland Estates.

Curt Wilcott/Reporter-Telegram
This lawn decoration at 1700 Cuthbert goes smoothly from Halloween to Christmas with just a few seasonal accessories.

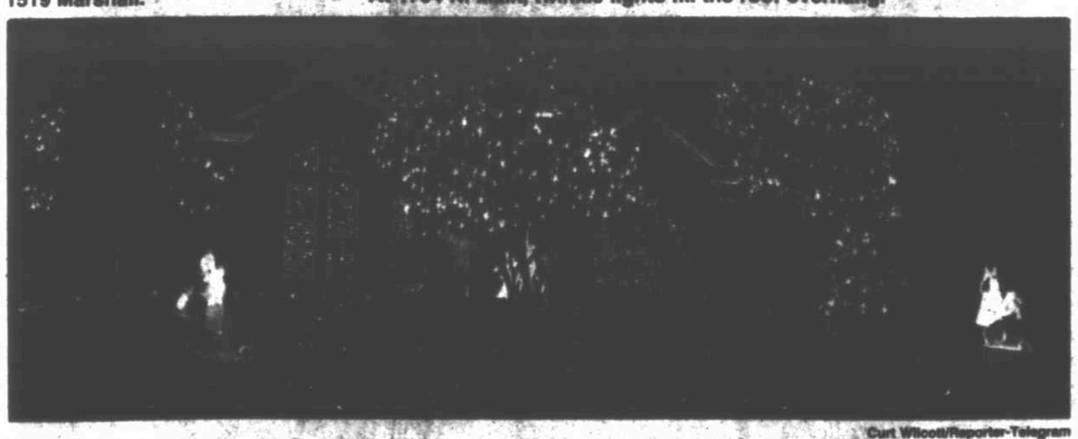


Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
This cute bear and Christmas tree cutout is one of a set of critters at 1519 Marshall.

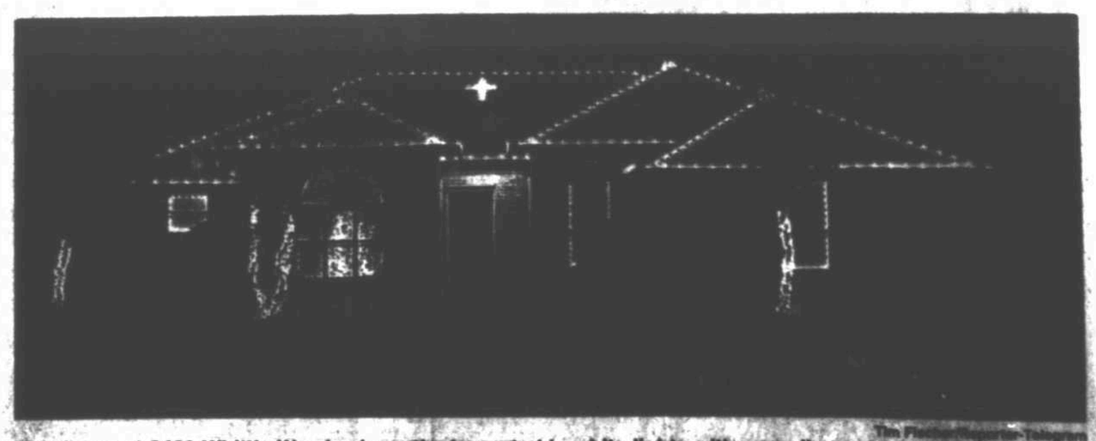
Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
At 1704 N. Main, twinkle lights fill the roof overhang.

Using resoursces available here in the Permian Basin, this tumbleweed snowman has taken up residence in the 800 Block of Michigan.
Curt Wilcott/ Reporter-Telegram

Design by Elizabeth Edwin



Curt Wilcott/Reporter-Telegram
This home on Stonecrest in Grassland Estates features wood cutouts of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.



This home at 3409 Whittle Way is elegantly decorated in white lights with a small cross adorning the roof.

DEC 22 1996

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Minuet Club hosts Presentation Ball for 11 local debutantes

By Marilyn McKnight Harrison

The Minuet Club hosted its Presentation Ball for the season's debutantes Friday evening at the Petroleum Club. Dancing followed after Kelly Boldrick, Elizabeth Britton, Lucia Lea Crump, Melia Fitz-Gerald, Benning Gau, Sheridan Gilkerson, Kristen Kimsey, Susan Leibrock, Veronica Poage, Michel Ann Thompson and Elizabeth Wade made their bows.

McKnight-Harrison

On Saturday evening, the debs' parents honored them with a party, also held at the Petroleum Club. It was followed by a candlelight breakfast for the debs and escorts at the home of Pat and Dan Black. Co-hosts were Nancy and Barry Beal.

The holiday festivities for the debs began on Thursday as they returned home from college for the semester break. A "Deb and Dad Brunch" was hosted at Midland Country Club by Norma Jean and Bud Boles, Betty and Don Ewan, Kaye and Bill Franklin, Caroline and Perry Bolger, Judith and Jim Devenport, Joann and John Foster, Bonnie and Orman Hubbard and Joy and Bill Seltzer.

That afternoon, Elizabeth was honored with a caricature party at the home of her parents, Margaret and Burgess Wade. The hostesses were Nancy Jo Houston and Frances Wade. The day ended with a waltz dinner at the Petroleum Club hosted by the club's board of directors for the debs, their parents, escorts and sponsors.

On the day of the presentation, the girls were feted with a manicure party at Bella Gente. Hostesses were Sandra (Mrs. George) Staley, Gloria (Mrs. Bill) McGavran, Susie (Mrs. Gary) Burnett, Denna (Mrs. Allen) McGuire, Jan (Mrs. Joseph, III) O'Neill, Donna (Mrs. Ted) Ferguson, and Mary Emma (Mrs. Rob) Bennett.

A luncheon followed at La Bodega Restaurant to honor Benning, Kelly and Kristen. Host couples were Pat and Brent Blonkvist, Paula and Frank Calhoon and Karen and Roy Williamson.

Saturday's events included a luncheon to honor Kelly. Held in the home of Louan (Mrs. Glenn) Rogers, the party also was hosted by Barbara Jowell, Mary Jane (Mrs. Bob) Young, Sara (Mrs. Norman) Fry, Betty (Mrs. Bill) Sumner, Rhonda (Mrs. Lynn) Durham and Donnette (Mrs. Ron) Schwisow.

A celebration dinner that evening at the home of Karen and Spencer Beal honored all the debs. Co-hosting were Kathy and David Childress, Polly and Ferrell Davis, Rhonda and Lynn Durham, Patty and Tevis Herd, Bettye and Don Jones and Patti and Chuck Wallace.

More parties will be held later this week before the 1996 deb season comes to a close.

MARION (MRS. SIKES) JOHNSON teamed up with Sharla (Mrs. Bart) Hotchkiss this year to continue a long-standing Christmas tradition, which no one wanted to see end. A Cookie and Candy Swap had its origins over 16 years ago when Sharla and former Midlander Eleanor (Mrs. Mike) Morse of Fort Collins, Colo., began entertaining together.

This year's party was held at Marion's home, and Eleanor was a special guest.

As the expression goes, guests know the drill. They are asked to bring six dozen goodies. A few are placed on the serving table, and the rest are set out for the guests to exchange and take home to their families.

Among those seen at this year's event were Liz Young, Anne (Mrs. George) Hover, Lettie (Mrs. Bob) Dutton, Carole (Mrs. Steve) Betton, Cece (Mrs. A.J.) Brune, Susie (Mrs. Hollis) Brice, Millie (Mrs. Bill) Crozier and Betty Lou (Mrs. Bob) Grace.

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, a Christmas coffee with a purpose was held at the home of Janet (Mrs. Bob) Pollard.

Guests were asked to bring shoeboxes filled with toys, which will be distributed at the Midland Soup Kitchen's annual Christmas dinner.

One of the hostesses, Peggy (Mrs. Gene) Schafer, made a gigantic "Christmas tree" out of the festively wrapped packages, which were then presented to Mary and Yolanda Rendon, special guests at the party. They serve as directors of the Soup Kitchen ministry, along with Mariano Rendon.

Guests also participated in the spirit of the season by singing Christmas carols, accompanied by Jim Ross at the piano and occasionally by Janet when she wasn't greeting guests.

Another hostess , Karen (Mrs. Roy) Williamson, reports that 275 boxes were collected at the party, with more expected to arrive this past week.

Among the participants were Lee (Mrs. George) Harley, Beverly Pevehouse, Diane Claiborne, Robbie (Mrs. Roy) Davidson, Nadine (Mrs. Tom) Craddick, Penny (Mrs. Ernest) Angelo and Mary (Mrs. Jerry) Hilton.

Nancy (Mrs. Barry) Beal also hosted the very special event.

JAZZ LOVERS flocked to the Yucca Theatre last weekend for a great ending to the West Texas Jazz Society's 1996 concert year.

The John Pizzarelli Trio, with John as guitarist/singer, his brother, Martin Pizzarelli, on bass and Ray Kennedy at the piano brought the audience members to their feet and asking for more after a two-and-a-half hour program of jazz at its finest.

Among those seen in the crowd were former Midlander Lisa DiLeoe of San Angelo, Georgia and Bobby Crues with guest Bill Mason of Ozona, Barbara and Bill Sumners, Mary Jo and Jack Darden, Gretchen and Frank Bell, Sue Mullins and Rudy Berg.

The trio members were quite generous with their time while in the Permian Basin. Arriving on a Thursday night, they dined at Jazz Restaurant and graciously agreed to play for the crowd. The next day, they made two appearances in Odessa schools as part of the Junior League's Child's Play concert series. On the morning of their concert, John was a guest on Max Howard's "Breakfast in Jazz" program on KMND Radio.

Rounding out the weekend's activities was a dinner at the home of Camille and Bill Leifeste for the trio and WTJS board members after the concert.

Marilyn McKnight Harrison is social columnist for the Reporter-Telegram.

French tradition moves to Texas

By Tim Delaney
Associated Press

AP Laserphoto

Nolween Meaney, left, shows Chelsey, center, and Julie Delaney how to create a traditional yule log in Bayside in this November file photo. Meaney is from Guipry, France, a town in the western state of Brittany. She is an exchange student staying with the Delaney family. The French celebration of Noel begins Dec. 1. A yule log is a thin cake topped with cream, rolled into a log and topped with — the baker's choice — a wide variety of icings, with chocolate being the favorite.

VICTORIA, Texas — A couple of size 12 or 13 shoes would pay off in France during Christmas, or Noel as the French call the holiday.

I've learned that the French tradition at Noel is to place shoes under a decorated fir tree, not hang stockings on the fireplace mantel as is the American custom.

Pere Noel, or Father Christmas (Santa Claus), puts gifts in the shoes of good little (big ones, too) boys and girls during the night of Dec. 25. And they are placed under or by a Christmas tree very similar to the American ones.

But don't think that's the extent of the presents you might get. If the French Santa Claus runs out of space in the shoes, he places the gifts under them.

Sometimes, really good French children on the morning of Noel find a mountain of presents topped with their pair of shoes. The simple advantage of this tradition is being able to identify presents by the shoes.

I know all of this because of my 16-year-old French foreign exchange student, Nolwenn Mesny. This year, with Nolwenn's guidance, the Delaney family plans on having a "Joyeux Noel" (Merry Christmas) in the French tradition.

Unfortunately, I wear a size 10 1/2 shoe so I hope that mountain of goodies will be there Christmas morning.

That wish is shared by my wife, Juli, and 9-year-old daughter Chelsey, too, since their shoe sizes are much smaller than mine.

Nolwenn assures me Pere Noel will come down the chimney and bestow presents if we've been good this year.

Nolwenn came to my family from France in August and will be in our home through May. As her mastery of English improves, we in turn are picking up a lot of French terms and learning many new customs, including the Christmas traditions.

I suppose the greatest thing about having a foreign exchange student, is a chance to realize your own customs and idioms, the things about us we all take for granted, like stockings on the mantel — something the French don't do.

Nolwenn says back at her home in Guipry, a small city in the French western state of Brittany, Noel begins Dec. 1.

Every day thereafter the French follow the "calendrier de l'avant."

"It's a calendar of events preceding Christmas. This calendar is a little bit peculiar, requiring special attention. Each day a sweet, chocolate or little gift is given," Nolwenn says.

Of course the calendar is very similar to our Advent calendar tradition, following daily the 24 days preceding Christmas.

And the commercial aspect of Noel rivals Christmas in America. "We hear about Noel at least two months before on the TV and in the stores. Everywhere, the streets, stores and houses are decorated. And the stores are replete with toys," Nolwenn says.

The homes, as well as the fir trees, are decorated with garland. "Outside there are electric garlands," Nolwenn says.

When Noel eve arrives, a midnight Mass is said, but Nolwenn says the commercial aspect of the holiday overshadows the real significance of the event — the birth of Christ.

The Noel feast is preceded with French champagne to celebrate Noel and the new year, as well.

The dinner includes turkey, but Nolwenn says main courses of salmon also are common. "Often, people eat a lot of seafood. And for dessert we have a yule log," she says.

A yule log is a thin cake topped with cream, rolled into a log and topped with — the baker's choice — a wide variety of icing, or toppings. But Nolwenn says anything chocolate is the preference in France.

"The meal is spread out before the family and lasts several hours. It's very long," Nolwenn says.

"The chronology between the meal and the arrival of the gifts are different according to each family. But all of these things are during the morning, evening and night of Dec. 25," she says.

As Nolwenn wishes us a "bon appetit!" for the merry holidays, it looks like the Delaney family is going on a vigorous exercise program beginning Jan. 2.

NOLWENN'S YULE LOG

5 eggs set to room temperature, separated
2/3 cup of sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
FILLING:
2-1/2 tablespoons of all-purpose flour
1/2 cup of milk
1/2 cup of sugar
1/2 cup of softened butter
1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
FROSTING:
11 tablespoons butter
8 tablespoons cocoa
4-1/2 cups powdered sugar
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1/2 cup cream
1/2 cup of chopped nuts (your choice but usually walnuts)

Beat egg yokes in a large mixing bowl at a fast speed until they are light and feathery. Add sugar slowly while beating the mixture until it becomes thick and light-colored. Add the flour and cocoa mixing at a slow speed.

In a second bowl beat egg whites until soft peaks form; fold into a batter. Mix until streaks of white disappear.

Grease a 15 1/2-inch x 10 1/2-inch x 1 1/8-inch pan, and line it with waxed paper, also greased and floured. Spread the batter evenly in the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, or until the cake springs back when lightly touched. Cover with waxed paper and cool on a wire rack. Remove paper, invert cake onto an 18-inch long strip of waxed paper dusted with confectioners' sugar. Trim edges from all four sides of the cake.

For the filling combine flour and milk in a saucepan. Cook over low heat while stirring until thickness is achieved. Cool. In a mixing bowl, cream sugar, butter and vanilla. Add flour mixture, then beat until fluffy. Fold in nuts if desired. Spread on the cake, then roll it up like a jelly-roll, starting from one short end.

For frosting, beat butter until fluffy. Gradually mix cocoa and sugar into the butter alternately with cream. Beat in the vanilla extract. The icing should be of spreading consistency. If it is too thin, beat in a little more sugar; too thick, beat in a little more cream.

Add nuts to provide a tree-bark appearance.

Christmas cards still aren't mailed? No sweat

By Dan Neal
N.Y. Times News Service

If Christmas cards are on your mind but still not in the mail, don't sweat it.

To help you get holiday greetings out on time, Palm Beach Post staff artists have put six Christmas images on our Internet home page.

At no charge, you can send them as e-mail Christmas cards, or you can save them on your computer's hard drive to use with a card-making program such as Broderbund's Print Shop Ensemble III or Microsoft's Greetings Workshop.

Even if you've already mailed your Christmas cards, you might want to download these pictures for next year. They will make a great addition to your print program's library.

Here's how it works:

Log onto the Internet and point your browser to http://www.pbpost.com/christmas/pc2.htm.

When the site comes up, you'll see small versions of each of the holiday images.

To send one as an e-mail card, or to see the full-size image, click on the picture. On the next page, fill in the blanks that ask for your name and e-mail address, and the name and e-mail address of the person you're sending the card to. You can give the card a heading, choose a holiday e-mail stamp and type in a personal message. If you make a mistake or want to choose a different picture, click "Oops, start over."

To see the finished card, click "Build my card." The page that appears is what the recipient will see. If you're happy with it, click "Send this card." The site will send e-mail to the recipient saying you've created a card at The Post's site. The message will include a password the recipient can use to view the card.

To download one of the images to use with a print program, click on the link below the picture you want.

What happens when you click on one of these links depends on what browser you have and how it is configured. If you're using Netscape's Navigator, a box will pop up that says "Unknown File Type." It will ask what you want to do with the file you've chosen to download. Click "Save." Microsoft's Internet Explorer also will give you a box that asks what you want to do with the file. Choose "Save to disk."

A screen will appear asking what you want to call the image and where on your computer you want to save it. Jot down the name and location that you assign the file so you'll know where to find it later.

Now click "Save" and kick back. It will take a few minutes to download the image. It took about three minutes to download one using a 28.8 bps modem. If you have a 14.4 modem, it will take roughly twice as long. Both Navigator and Explorer provide a screen that shows the progress of the download.

When the file transfer is complete, you can log off the Web and launch your print program. The steps you need to follow to use the downloaded image in a card will vary depending on what program you have, so you may need to check the program's user guide. In Print Shop Ensemble, use the "Import" function to bring in the image. In Greetings Workshop, select "Add a photo picture from somewhere else on my computer."

The rest is up to you. Once you have the image in your print program, you can adjust its size, place it where you wish, add text and borders or personalize it however you like.

Parents often are last ones to recognize literary talent in offspring

Associated Press

NOTTINGHAM, England — Parents can often be the last to recognize literary talent in their offspring.

David Herbert Lawrence (1885-1930), brilliant and controversial literary figure who wrote "Lady Chatterley's Lover" (1928), was the son of an impoverished and unschooled coal miner.

When D.H. Lawrence had his first novel, "The White Peacock," published in 1911 he gave a copy to his father.

The elder Lawrence, after struggling through half a page, asked his son how much he'd been paid for the book.

"Fifty pounds, father," said Lawrence.

Lawrence senior was incredulous. "Fifty pounds!" he repeated. "And you've never done a day's hard work in your life."

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AP Laserphoto

Morna Woods adjusts her husband's beard prior to his starting work as Santa Claus Dec. 16 in a mall in Arlington, Va. Her husband, Clifford Woods Jr. has become the most popular Santa in the Washington area.

AP Laserphoto

Clifford Woods Jr., dressed as Santa Claus, listens to Charlene Malloy, 6, of Washington as she tells him her Christmas wishes on Dec. 16 in a mall in Arlington, Va. Woods, of Crossville, Tenn., has become the most popular Santa in the Washington area. Pentagon Mall hired him again this year because he was such a hit last Christmas.

'Santa Claus' has come to town

By Donna Abu-Nasr

AP Laserphoto

Morna and Clifford Woods Jr. eat dinner after a day at work on Dec. 16. Woods is Santa Claus at an Arlington, Va., mall. He has become the most popular Santa in the Washington area.

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Johanna Moore jumped on Santa's knee and squealed with laughter when he nuzzled her cheek with his white beard.

"He said, 'Ho, ho, ho,' " the 4-year-old told her mother, who couldn't believe her daughter had sat down willingly on Santa's lap.

"I'd believe he was Santa," said Karen Moore of Fairfax Station, Va. "Just look at his nose, his mustache and his beard.

"And the fact that he's married to Mrs. Claus makes him even more realistic."

Indeed, with his long, white natural beard and mustache, his pot belly and his throaty "Ho, ho, ho," Clifford Woods has become the most popular Santa in the Washington area. Virginia's Pentagon City mall hired him again this year because he was such a hit last year.

To complete the picture is Mrs. Claus, Santa's genial, gray-haired wife of 42 years, in her red dress decorated with holly leaf prints, a white lace apron and a Santa watch on her wrist.

And just like the real Santa, Woods has come from far away to be with the children — a little town called Crossville in Tennessee. While he didn't exactly glide in on a sleigh, he did drive his mobile home 575 miles.

"He's more special than the Santas at other malls. He hugs the children. He talks to them. The others are fast, fast, fast," said Barbara Bartoszewicz, who brought in her two grandchildren for a repeat photo session.

The children leave with a big hug, a booming "I love you" and tiny packets of dried cranberries. In this age of political correctness, Woods was told by the mall managers he couldn't kiss the kids because their parents might not like it.

"But certainly if they offer to kiss me on the cheek, I do it," he said.

Woods said Barbie dolls and Power Rangers top the list of requests from children this year. But one wish made him sad.

"One boy told me he just wanted a good life. He looked like a very unhappy child," said Woods, 61.

It was his love for children that made Woods play — oops — become Santa 12 years ago.

He was so successful when his brother asked him to fill in for the usual Santa at his wife's kindergarten that he kept on doing it every year.

Five years ago, he adopted his year-round Santa persona. He grew a beard — which was speckled with so much dark hair then that his wife, Morna, had to bleach it — and started wearing a red T-shirt whenever he went out.

"If a child sees my beard and a red T-shirt in the summer ... he says, 'Oh that looks like Santa,' " said Woods, with a "ho ho ho."

"The parents — some of them are kind of embarrassed about it — say, 'Be quiet. That's not Santa.' And then I would say: 'Ho ho ho ho.' "

Santa admits that "love takes a lot of energy." At the end of a day, he feels drained. At night, he often gets up to stretch off the cramps he gets in his lower legs from having so many kids on his knees.

But Mrs. Claus is always on hand to make sure her husband is well-groomed: She curls the ends of his beard, sprays it with white hair coloring to take out the yellow tinge, and makes sure he's got all parts of his uniform together.

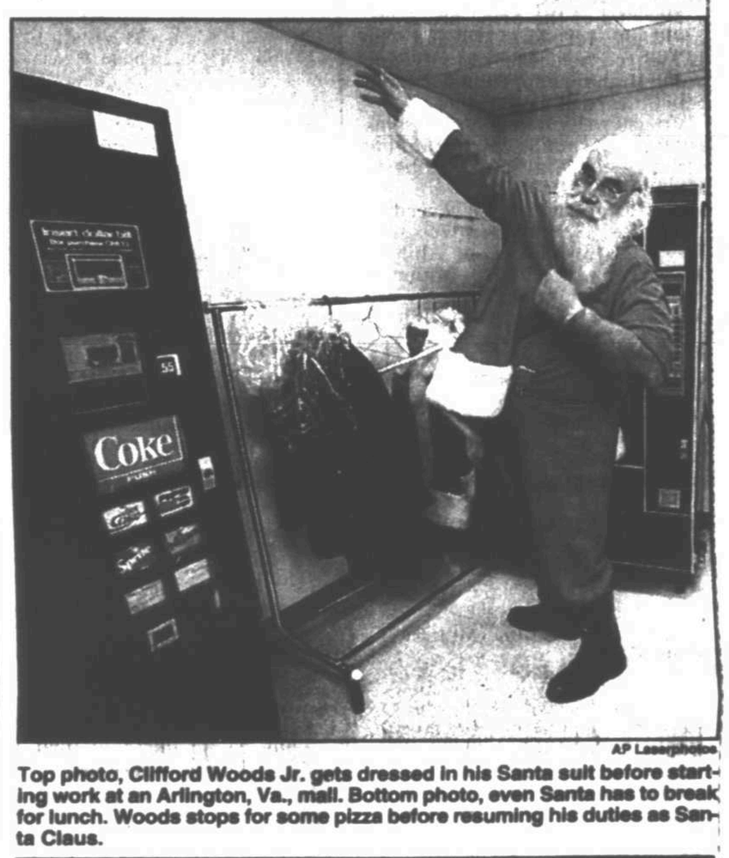
Will Santa return next year?

Maybe yes. Maybe no.

You see, Santa doesn't get to celebrate his own holiday with his own blood kin — seven children and 16 grandchildren. When everybody is celebrating Christmas, he's trudging back home.

"By the time we get finished here, I'm a little tired of it and my 'ho ho' is sort of 'ho hum,' " Woods said.

"Last year, we decided when we left here we weren't coming back. But 50 miles down the road we looked at each and said, 'You know, it wasn't that bad.' "



AP Laserphoto

Top photo, Clifford Woods Jr. gets dressed in his Santa suit before starting work at an Arlington, Va., mall. Bottom photo, even Santa has to break for lunch. Woods stops for some pizza before resuming his duties as Santa Claus.

AP Laserphoto

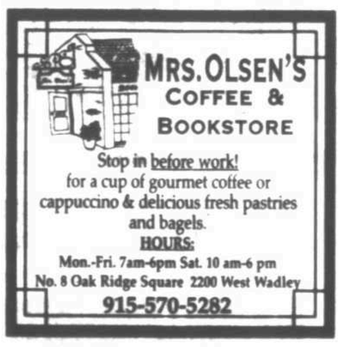
Clifford Woods Jr. walks to work Dec. 17. Woods is Santa Claus this year at a mall in Arlington, Va. He is the most popular Santa in the Washington area.

Songwriter helped make America sing

NEW YORK (AP) — Songwriter Johnny Mercer (1909-1976) wrote more than 1,000 lyrics for Broadway and television shows, movies and records.

Among his hits were "Lazy Bones," "Hooray for Hollywood," "Blues in the Night," "That Old Black Magic," "Laura" and "Days of Wine and Roses."

Mercer was the first president of the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.



DEC 22 1996

WEDDINGS

KING-NORVELL

Mrs. Wood Bradley Norvell

AMARILLO — April Dawn King of Amarillo became the bride of Wood Bradley Norvell, also of Amarillo, 2 p.m. Nov. 23 at First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo. The Rev. Murray Gossett officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Ralph and Charla King of Midland, and the granddaughter of Howard and Charlene Cosby of Midland. Parents of the bridegroom are Scott and Nancee Gilmour of Amarillo and Bob and Ann Norvell of Dallas. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Parker of Amarillo.

Crystal King was maid of honor for her sister. Best men were Todd Norvell and Robert Norvell, brothers of the bridegroom. Ushers were Brad Dorsing of Eugene, Ore., and Russ DeVore of Amarillo.

The bride is a graduate of Andrews High School and Texas Tech University. She is employed with Corporate Systems in Amarillo. Her husband graduated from the University of Oregon in Eugene and is employed with K Kleen Company in Dallas.

After a wedding trip to Durango, Colo., the couple lives in Amarillo.

SIMMONS-STEPHENS

Mrs. Teddy J. Stephens

DUMAS — First Baptist Church in Dumas was the setting for the 4 p.m. Dec. 21 wedding of Melissa Dawn Simmons of Dumas and Teddy J. Stephens of Channing. The Rev. Scott Willingham of Dumas and the Rev. Charlie Dodd of Midland officiated.

Parents of the bride are Lu Parker of Midland and Mr. and Mrs. Dana Simmons of Albuquerque, N.M. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Stephens of Meadow and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hunt of Dumas.

Barbara Miller of Chico was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Brenda Anderson and Brenda Fuller of Fort Worth, and Kim Garner of Sharpsburg, Ga. Patty Simmons of Albuquerque, sister of the bride, was junior bridesmaid. Flower girl was Brittany Burson of Channing.

Kent Stephens of Temple was best man for his brother. Groomsmen were Frank Davis of Channing, Steve DeLoach of Jacksonville, Fla.; Ron Reynolds of Dumas and Jeff Milburn of Levelland. Jordan Dodd of Midland was ring bearer.

After a honeymoon at Wolf Creek, Colo., the couple will live in Channing.

LOWERY-ACREE

Mrs. James Felix Acree

HOUSTON— Andrea Michelle Lowery and former Midlander James Felix Acree were married 6 p.m. Nov. 16 at Bethany Christian Church in Houston. The Rev. Brad Stagg officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lowery of Kingwood, and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Purswell of Cleveland. Parents of the bridegroom are Rosemary Acree of Corsicana and the late James Dewitt Acree. His grandparents are Maisie Morphew of Corsicana and Vera Acree of Maud, Okla.

Nancy Lowery was matron of honor for her daughter. Robert P. McNutt of Corsicana was best man. Ushers were Jeff Kane, Blaine Johnson, nephew of the bridegroom, and Lance Lowery, brother of the bride.

Other attendants were Emilie-Ann Partain, Tyler Partain, Bethany Partain, Eric Warren and Kelly Fish.

The bride graduated from Kingwood High School and Texas A&M University. She is employed with Southwest Airlines. Her husband is a graduate of Lee High School in Midland and Texas Tech University. He is employed with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the couple lives in Houston.

McPEAK-HIGHTOWER

Mrs. Allen Ross Hightower III

Wilshire Park Baptist Church in Midland was the setting for the 2 p.m. Dec. 21 wedding of Kristin Renee McPeak of Midland and Allen Ross Hightower III of Livingston. The Rev. Chris Osborne of Bryan officiated.

Parents of the bride are Jerry and Judy McPeak of Midland. The bridegroom is the son of Rep. Allen Hightower of Huntsville and Sue Coward of Livingston.

Christina Hutton of Abilene was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Becky Slay and Kimberly Breeding of Midland.

Shawn Bell of Odessa served as best man. Groomsmen were Dr. Loyd F. Hawthorne of Abilene and Jeremy McPeak of Midland, brother of the bride. Ushers were James Franklin and Michael Green of Odessa.

Other attendants were Joy Lovell and Nicole Kenley.

The bride is a student teacher in Waco. Her husband is working on his master's degree in orchestral conducting at Baylor University.

Following a wedding trip to New York City, the couple will live in Waco.

McCOWN-MARKGRAF

Mrs. James Michael Markgraf

ABILENE — Stephanie Lynn McCown and James (Jim) Michael Markgraf, both of Midland, were married 7 p.m. Dec. 21 at First Baptist Church in Abilene. The Rev. Palmer McCown, father of the bride, and Dr. A. Jase Jones, grandfather of the bride, officiated.

Parents of the bride are the Rev. and Mrs. Palmer McCown of Abilene. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Markgraf of Midland.

Giva Conner of Louisville, Ky., was matron of honor. Sandy Ballard of Midland was bridesmaid, Alison Jones of Plano was junior bridesmaid, and Julie Collins of Pampa was bridesmatron.

Charles Rogers of Midland served as best man. Groomsmen were Scott Cramer of Midland, Michael McCown of Abilene and Travis Jones of Plano. Ushers were Brian Cramer and Jeff Cramer of Midland.

After a wedding trip to New York City, the couple will live in Midland.

HEJL-BENAVIDES

Mrs. Brian David Benavides

ABILENE — Former Midlander Brandye Alison Hejl of Abilene became the bride of Brian David Benavides of Coppell 6 p.m. Nov. 30 at Abilene Christian University Chapel on the Hill. Israel Lewis, family minister of Mayfair Church of Christ in of Huntsville, Ala., officiated.

The bride is the daughter of David and Barbara Hejl of Abilene, and the granddaughter of Goodrich and Louise Hejl of Midland. Parents of the bridegroom are Benny and Norma Benavides of Abilene.

Amanda Connally of California was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Brooke Hejl of Houston, Bethany Hejl of Abilene, Heather Thomesen of Abilene, April Prescott of Iowa, B.J. Roberts of Denton and Carrie Trusler of Oklahoma. Junior bridesmaids were Kelley Hejl of Austin, Laura-Ann Weber of Abilene and Ashley Morris of The Woodlands. Suzanne Zeller of Abilene was flower girl.

Steven Benavides of Las Colinas and Kevin Benavides of Abilene were best men for their brother. Groomsmen were Brad Hejl of Abilene, Koy Roberts of Denton, Dave Hancock and Greg Wilson of Abilene, and Paul Watts of Bedford. Junior groomsman was Hunter Hejl of Houston. Grant Zeller of Abilene was ringbearer.

After a wedding trip to Ruidoso, N.M., the couple lives in Coppell.

ENGAGEMENTS

OAKES-MILES

Kelly Oakes and Jeremy Miles

Kelly Oakes and Jeremy Miles are planning to be married July 5, 1997, at the Anaheim Hills, Calif., home of Jim Oakes, father of the bride-elect. The future bridegroom is the son of Terry and Linda Miles of Midland.

Miss Oakes is a 1995 graduate of Bolsa Grande High School in Garden Grove, Calif., and is a student at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif. Her fiance graduated from Midland High School in 1993 and is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

LIFESTYLE POLICIES

Information for Sunday pages must be in the Lifestyle Department office by 5 p.m. the preceding Monday. For publication in a weekday paper, we must receive the information by noon two days before the information is to be published.

Engagement announcements must appear at least two weeks before the wedding date. Wedding announcements must appear within six weeks of the event. Anniversary announcements — 25th or higher — must be published within six weeks of the anniversary date or celebration.

Announcements of pageant winners will only be published for teenage pageants and older. Photographs will be published only of winners, not runners-up or contestants. These announcements will be published on a space available basis.

All articles must be submitted in writing. Forms for weddings, engagements and anniversaries, only published Sundays, are available in the Lifestyle office. All materials must include the signature and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Photographs may be submitted with wedding and engagement announcements, and with anniversary announcements of 50 years or more, but are not required.

A portrait of the bride-elect or of the future bride and bridegroom together may be submitted with engagement announcements.

Portrait photographs of the bride only or photos of the wedding couple may be submitted with wedding announcements.

A different photo must be submitted for engagement and wedding announcements. Anniversary photos should be current.

Photos should be vertical, black and white, glossy finish, studio portraits. Color pictures may be submitted, but quality reproduction cannot be assured. Snapshots generally are not acceptable and Polaroid shots are not accepted.

Photos can be picked up in the Lifestyle Department after publication, or a self-addressed, stamped envelope can be enclosed for the photo to be returned by mail.

Elmo available for a price

By Ray Delgado
Hearst News Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Call him "Ransom Me Elmo."

If you spent the weekend shopping for the sold-out Tickle Me Elmo doll your child must have for Christmas, don't worry. Elmo can be yours — if you've got an extra $500. Just check the classifieds.

Parents all over the Bay Area are holding their children's Elmo dolls for the bounty you're willing to pay. They know that thanks to your desperation, they'll be able to afford 10 Tickle Me Elmos after Christmas, when the toys are back on the shelves.

"He's got plenty of gifts," said John Wiversoll of Pacifica, referring to his 27-month-old son Blake. "We'll get him Elmo after Christmas if he needs one."

Wiversoll said his wife, Sandra, bought Elmo at Target last weekend for $27 with the intention of giving it to their son. But with news that Elmo demand was reaching Cabbage Patch proportions, she put Elmo on the auction block for $900, or the best offer.

By Sunday night, the Wiversolls had an offer of $200 but were holding out, counting on a better offer as Christmas draws closer. As for guilt, John Wiversoll said he feels bad his kid is getting short-changed, then added, "It's my wife's idea.

"I'm the middle man here. I'm just taking all the telephone calls," he said.

With only nine days of Christmas shopping left, Tickle Me Elmo and other popular items like Nintendo 64 are almost nowhere to be found.

Tickle Me Elmo is a plush doll based on a Sesame Street character, that giggles when you press its tummy. It sells for about $30 at toy stores, but in the classifieds it lists at anywhere from $75 to $1,000 or more.

Tyco Toys Inc. is flying the dolls from factories in China to the United States rather than shipping them, to get them here faster.

Rhonda Henien of Livermore said she called three stores daily until she was able to buy two Elmo dolls for her 16-month-old daughter and her niece. She decided to put her niece's doll up for sale last week.

Her ad in the Ledger Dispatch in Antioch listed Elmo for $75, prompting about 25 people to call her in a matter of days. She got the bidding up to $130.

"I was going to give him to my niece but my husband said he wanted to try to get some money back for all our Christmas expenses," Henien said. "I feel pretty bad, even though my sister didn't have a clue."

Even some kids got in the act, selling their own stuff for top dollar.

Twin brothers Christopher and Jeffrey Raschko, 15, had their father put their Nintendo 64 up for sale when they heard news reports that the popular game system had fetched $3,000 from a desperate father.

"They can buy it two months after Christmas," said dad Mike Raschko. "They've already beaten Mario (a popular game). They don't care about not having it for two months."

Robert Benzler, a retiree from Concord, had only one reason for buying his Elmo: to make a quick buck off its popularity. But he was surprised to see such a demand.

"We didn't realize it was going to be that big of a thing," said Benzler. "I wouldn't pay (the $500 asking price). To me, nothing's worth that."

Courts' rule-making body meet twice a year

Associated Press

The Judicial Conference of the United States is the rule-making body for the courts of the judicial branch and meets twice a year. Its 25 members are the chief justice, the chief justices of the 11 circuit courts, one district judge from each of the circuits, and the chief judges of the U.S. Court of Claims and the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals.

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Sharon Hale, owner
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AP Laserphotos

Three alternative Barbie dolls (above) are displayed inside In-Jean-ious, a store on Castro Street in San Francisco Tuesday. The store sells popular line of alternative Barbie and Ken dolls. Store employee Laura Federico (right) displays a pair of Drag Queen Barbies for sale at In-Jean-ious. Among other alternative Barbies are Trailer Trash Barbie and Hooker Barbie. The unauthorized dolls are being marketed as an alternative to the traditional versions of Barbie.

San Francisco store offer alternative Barbies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — While shoppers nationwide plead for Holiday Barbies, stores here are offering a more eclectic assortment, including Trailer Trash Barbie, Hooker Barbie and Drag Queen Barbie.

At least until the Mattel people find out.

The alternative dolls are retooled and decidedly unauthorized versions of the Mattel dolls. At In-jean-ious, on Castro Street, shoppers can even pay a premium to specify the precise number and location of body piercings.

"These Barbies are wildly popular — we've sold 50 this month," said store owner Bill Tull. "And Trailer Trash Barbie is on back order with a waiting list."

The anti-Barbie dolls tap into a segment that loves nothing more than to loathe the wildly popular toy, enthusiasts say.

"I'm in good company — lots of people have this obsession with torturing Barbie," said Sue Wandell, who as a child idolized Barbie but now collects Anti-Barbies and relishes creating her own.

Trailer Trash Barbie is as plastic and anatomically impossible as the real thing, but the similarities end there. A cigarette dangles from her lips, her platinum hair shows black roots, she has a baby slung over her hip and a quote bubble that says, "My Daddy Swears I'm the Best Kisser in the County!"

There's also Big Dyke Barbie, sporting a pierced nose and a quote bubble that says, "Want to shoot some pool?" Carrie Barbie is decked out in a blood-drenched prom dress. Hooker Barbie is replete with negligee and condom.

Then there's Drag Queen Barbie — actually a refurbished Ken doll, resplendent in evening gown and wig.

As for Tull, he advised customers to act quickly because "I'm not sure Mattel would share our sense of humor."

At the El Segundo headquarters of Mattel, which makes the 100-plus mainstream Barbies that sell worldwide at a rate of two per second, executives say they do have a sense of humor — up to a point.

"The reality is that Barbie has become a cultural icon and she has been adapted to all different aspects of society," said Sean Fitzgerald, Mattel vice president for corporate communications. "We're a very diverse society — Barbie respects that."

He said Mattel doesn't object to people re-dressing or re-accessorizing mainstream Barbies.

"But if somebody's marketing repackaged Barbies, selling them as a 'Barbie,' that's trademark infringement," he said. "Our lawyers will ask them to please stop using the Barbie name."

AP Laserphoto

In the last few weeks before Christmas, Happy Holidays® Barbie® doll is once again selling out. In order to not disappoint little girls or collectors who are looking for 1996 Happy Holidays Barbie for their collection, Mattel, Inc. is issuing redemption certificates for the elusive doll. Starting Dec. 18, the redemption certificates are available nationwide at participating stores that carry the 1996 Happy Holidays Barbie.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mitchells celebrate 63 years together

Thomas Henry and Marcella Mitchell of Midland celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Nov. 24 at their home. Hosts were their children.

Mitchell and the former Marcella Gamble were married Nov. 23, 1933, at the Baptist Church in Ryan, Okla. They have six children — Jimmie J. Mitchell of Midland; Roddie W. Mitchell of Albuquerque, N.M.; Jerald D. Mitchell and Michael D. Mitchell of Crane; Mrs. Mickey Taylor of Midland; and the late Edwin L. Mitchell — eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

They have lived in Ryan, Okla.; Grand Prairie; Addington, Okla.; Withita Falls; Odessa and, since 1953, Midland. Mitchell was a machinist in a war plant during World War II. He worked in farming and ranching in Oklahoma (1933-47), pipeline and related construction for Shell Oil Co. (1948-49); Texas Pipeline Co., Basin Division (1950-56), and for pipeline consructions companies (1956-82). He retired in 1982. His wife was employed with Exxon from 1956 until she retired in 1984.

Mitchell is a member of the Masonic Lodge and active in the Republican Party. He worked with Southern Little League in the mid-1950s. Mrs. Mitchell is a member of the Church of Christ, Eastern Star, was a Cub Scout leader in the 1950s, and was a founder of Southern League of Midland League in the 1950s. Both are members of Friends of the Library, donors to the Genealogy Department of Midland County Public Library and the building fund for the library, members of Midland Genealogy Society and active in primary and general elections.

Thomas Henry and Marcella Mitchell

Owens observe golden anniversary

James and Ruth Owens of Midland will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today with a visit from their daughter, Kathryn Weaver, and her family. Last summer the couple were guests of honor at a reception at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, followed by a family dinner at Cattleman's Restaurant, in celebration of the event. Hosts were Kathryn and Don Weaver, Claire and Jay Priester, Diane and Steve Weaver, Ben Weaver, Jesse Priester, Sarah Priester and John Priester.

Owens and the former Ruth McKay were married Dec. 22, 1946, at First Methodist Church in Denton. The couple has two children — Kathryn Weaver of Brenham and Claire Priester of Newark, Del. — and five grandchildren.

Owens served in the U.S. Marines during World War II in the Battle of Iwo Jima and the occupation of Japan.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in animal science in 1947 and a master of science degree in soil science in 1950 from Texas A&M University. Mrs. Owens graduated from Tarleton College in Stephenville in 1941 and taught two years in a one-teacher country school in Mason County. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from North State Teachers College in Denton in 1946, and earned a master of education degree from McMurry College in Abilene in 1964.

The couple lived in College Station, Cameron, Palacios, Caldwell, Brenham, Roby and Abilene before moving to Midland in 1964. Owens taught science and agriculture at Howard College in Big Spring. He retired in 1978. His wife retired in 1984 after teaching English at Lee Freshman High School.

They are members of St. Paul United Methodist Church and its Friendship Class.

James and Ruth Owens

Farris' mark 50th wedding anniversary

Gene and Doris Farris of Midland celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a reception Dec. 14 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Hosts were E.C. Farris, R.G. and Jackie Farris, Fonda Lesley, Lori Farris, Aaron Lesley, Leah Lesley, Chris Farris and Tim Farris.

Farris and the former Doris Wilson were married Dec. 24, 1946, in Midland. They are the parents of four — E.C. Farris of Odessa, R.G. Farris of Midland, Fonda Lesley of Greenwood and the late Ronnie Farris — and the grandparents of five.

Farris is a retired fireman. His wife was formerly employed with Sears. She is a homemaker.

Gene and Doris Farris

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Holidays not complete without desserts

By Beverly Bundy
N.Y. Times News Service

Several readers sent in the recipe for the fruitcake made with preserves. This particular version was sent by Phyllis Williams, of Boyd.

GERMAN FRUITCAKE
Serves 16-20

1/4 cup margarine
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
3 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup cherry preserves
1/2 cup apricot preserves
1/2 cup pineapple preserves
2 cups chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream margarine, sugar and eggs until light. Sift dry ingredients together. Add to creamed mixture, alternately with buttermilk to which soda has been added. Fold in remaining ingredients. Bake in greased and floured tube pan at 325 degrees for 1-1/2 hours.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 334 calories, 16 grams fat, 45 grams carbohydrates, 4 grams protein, 43 milligrams cholesterol, 152 milligrams sodium, 43 percent of calories from fat.

RICH FARE

Debbie Heid of Arlington, wrote to request the recipe for Neiman Marcus cake. This cake is really more like a brownie, and certainly got its name from its consistency.

NEIMAN MARCUS CAKE I
Serves 14-18

18-ounce cake mix, any flavor
1 stick butter, melted
2 eggs
8-ounce package cream cheese
2 eggs
1-pound box powdered sugar

Combine mix, butter and 2 eggs. Press into 13x9x2-inch pan.

Combine remaining ingredients with mixer and spread on top of cake layer. Don't mix the 2 batters. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly brown, about 30 minutes.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 326 calories, 14 grams fat, 48 grams carbohydrates, 4 grams protein, 48 milligrams cholesterol, 290 milligrams sodium, 38 percent of calories from fat.

NEIMAN MARCUS CAKE II
Serves 14-18

18-ounce box chocolate cake mix
2 eggs, beaten
1 stick margarine, melted
1 cup chopped pecans
6 ounces chocolate chips
8-ounce package cream cheese
3 eggs, beaten
1-pound box powdered sugar
1/2 cup pecans

Combine cake mix, 2 eggs and margarine. Spread into 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with 1 cup chopped pecans and chips.

Combine remaining ingredients and spread on top of first mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 442 calories, 24 grams fat, 55 grams carbohydrates, 5 grams protein, 73 milligrams cholesterol, 310 milligrams sodium, 49 percent of calories from fat.

HISTORICAL AMERICANA

Carol Betzner, Fort Worth, wrote in search of the recipes for Lady Baltimore cake. Here's an updated version of this Colonial cake from "Good Old-Fashioned Cakes" by Susan Kosoff (St. Martin's Press, $9.95).

LADY BALTIMORE CAKE
Serves 8-10

CAKE:
3-1/2 cups sifted cake flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon almond extract
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup milk

Position 2 racks to divide oven into thirds; preheat to 350 degrees. Grease three 9-inch round cake pans; line each with wax paper; grease paper; dust with flour.

In medium bowl, whisk or stir together cake flour, baking powder and salt; set aside.

In large bowl, and using electric beaters, cream butter until light and smooth. Add sugar in several additions, beating until mixture is light and fluffy. Gradually add eggs, beating until mixture has consistency of lightly whipped cream. Stir in almond and vanilla extracts.

Using a large rubber spatula, alternately stir in dry ingredients and milk, beginning and ending with dry ingredients and blending well after each addition. Pour batter into prepared pans, dividing equally.

Bake 25 minutes or until cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. Remove pans to wire racks and cool for 10 minutes. Run tip of a sharp knife between cake and pan to loosen. Invert pans onto other racks; gently peel off wax paper. Place paper loosely on layers and invert onto other racks; finish cooling on racks.

Place one layer wrong side up on inverted cake pan; spread with half of the filling, recipe follows. Place second layer right side up; spread with remaining filling. Place third layer wrong side up; frost top and sides with 7-minute icing. Transfer to serving platter.

FILLING:
1 cup chopped raisins
1 cup chopped dried figs
1/2 cup sweet sherry OR brandy
1 recipe 7-minute icing, recipe follows
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans
Chopped pecans, for garnish

Soak raisins and figs in sherry for at least 2 hours or up to 3 days.

On day you plan to fill and frost the cake, prepare 7-minute frosting. When cool, divide frosting in half. Fold marinated fruit and pecans into one half; fill layers with this mixture. Frost top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Sprinkle top of cake with additional chopped nuts, if desired.

7-MINUTE ICING:
3 egg whites
1-1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup water
Pinch salt
1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar
2 teaspoons light corn syrup
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In top part of a double boiler, combine egg whites, sugar, water, salt, cream of tartar and corn syrup; beat until blended, about 1 minute.

Place over boiling water, beating constantly for 7 minutes, or until soft peaks form when beater is slowly lifted. Remove pan from boiling water; add vanilla and continue beating until frosting is cool and thick enough to spread, about 7 minutes.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 821 calories, 33 grams fat, 127 grams carbohydrates, 9 grams protein, 135 milligrams cholesterol, 649 milligrams sodium, 37 percent of calories from fat.

Beverly Bundy is food editor at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Send recipes and requests to her via snail mail in care of the newspaper at Box 1870, Fort Worth, Texas 76101-1870; or via e-mail at bbundy@startext.net Include a daytime phone number. Responses to requests will be made only through this column.

Christmas lights designed to be tangle-free! No, really!

By Charles Boisseau
Hearst News Service

HOUSTON — Two engineers think they've come up with the perfect gift for any Christmas tree — tangle-free lights. Steve Mengle, a petroleum engineer, teamed up with a neighbor and electrical engineer, Baker Mitchell, to market WonderLights, which Mengle claims are the "world's only tangle-proof Christmas lights."

Mengle said he spent more than two years perfecting the lights, initially working in the garage of his Houston home splicing together store-bought lights. He recruited Mitchell, who had time on his hands after selling his hospital computer software company.

"In the end, we came up with a design that when you look at it, you say, 'Why didn't I think of that?' " Mengle said.

He said the design fits the natural shape of the tree, with four 25-bulb clusters connecting to a 4-1/2-foot main cable. Lay the small clusters on a branch and fan out the bulbs. It takes about 30 minutes to decorate an 8-foot tree with the clusters, which limit unsightly and tangle-prone crisscrossed wires, Mengle said.

The product so far is being sold in only a few stories in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. Starting in January, Mengle and Mitchell plan to hit big trade shows in New York, Las Vegas and Dallas to line up orders for next year.

Mengle admits the cost is far more than that of imported linear strings of bulbs, which sell for as low as $2.99 for 100 bulbs at discount stores. One 100-bulb package of his lights costs about $12. A box of six packages costs about $64.

Mengle believes there's a segment of the market that will pay more for a product that promises less hassle. But he said his research shows that 140 million strings of lights are imported annually into the United States. "The market is there. We're only interested in a little piece of that."

So far, the initial results seem bright. "They're selling really, really well," said Carol Young, head floral designer for one of two Cornelius Nurseries that offer the lights. "I think people are intrigued that they are tangle-free. It's easy to put them on and to take off, especially for a live tree."

Mengle and Mitchell, who have formed a company called Holiday Innovations, are pleased they were able to get the product on the market only 11 months after perfecting the design.

They applied for a patent in April, achieved the crucial seal of approval from Underwriters Laboratory, lined up bank financing and contracted the manufacturing to a Chinese company.

They faced a big obstacle this year: By the time they finalized marketing details, most retailers had already placed orders for Christmas.

But Mengle, 43, hopes the business eventually fulfills his dream of running his own company. "It's pretty exciting, and I think it's a good product and think we have a good future ahead of us."

Wardrobe basics take worry from holiday dressing

By Linda Gillian Griffin
Hearst News Service

With everything that needs doing during the holidays, who has time to worry about what to wear? The secret to quick and easy holiday dressing — indeed, the secret to quick and easy dressing any time — lies in building a wardrobe of basics. This principle works for men as well as women.

By definition, a basic is a versatile piece of clothing that works two or preferably more ways with other items in your wardrobe.

With as few as five or six basics, a wardrobe can take the wearer from casual times at home with the family, out to work or dinner and even on to a New Year's Eve party. If you add only one basic piece to your wardrobe each season, in a few years you should be able to walk into your closet and find something to wear for every occasion.

If you set out to purchase all the pieces of a basic wardrobe at once, stick to a formula. Women should buy a dress, jacket, pants or a skirt, a sweater or sweater set, and a dressy white shirt or colored shirt that matches the jacket. Make sure the dress coordinates with the jacket or with a jacket or coat already in your wardrobe. Accessories might include black velvet shoes and bag, pearl necklace and earrings, and a velvet scarf.

Men should buy a black sport coat with black buttons, gray or black trousers, a white or cream shirt or sweater, a black polo shirt and a sweater vest, preferably not one that comes to points at center front. Longer vests may be tucked into trousers for a different look.

Basic wardrobes should add color for women but stick mostly to neutrals for men. And each piece should work with other piece.

Stick with solid colors since prints tend to go out of style more quickly than solid colors or weaves. Basic wardrobes should not include clothing with holiday motifs, even though these clothes can look festive with the addition of holiday accessories.

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DEAR ABBY
Serv

By Abigail Van B

DEAR ABBY: I you for Operation was in the Navy fo

Holidays were a miserable time for me until I received the Operation Dear Abby letters. Not having a close family, I truly appreciated the heartfelt gestures from everyone. It made me feel very proud to receive the love an you and the caring country.

I cried real tear with the encourage from so many whos know.

I am now medica I still remember the So now I send lette are stationed over

I can't thank y remembering the and women who giv ilies to give strength to our greater famil God bless you and have ever sent the gifts. I will be forev NAVY PRIDE, CALIF.

DEAR NAVY P you for a beautifu I'm sharing with have worked so Operation Dear A May the holiday happy for all of yo

DEAR ABBY: I in regard to the let on the Home Fron da mother whose y had returned to the

For one thing, b own has to be hell old. She is fresh ou with no experience what life is about bilities entailed. I a and being on my task.

The daughter n out for guidance a ship. Instead, her ing at her daughte and distraction destroyer of her m mother should tak speak with her dau

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DEAR ABBY

Serviceman is grateful for holiday letters from home

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I want to thank you for Operation Dear Abby. I was in the Navy for five years.

Van Buren

Holidays were a miserable time for me until I received the Operation Dear Abby letters. Not having a close family, I truly appreciated the heartfelt gestures from everyone. It made me feel very proud to receive the love and support from you and the caring citizens of our country.

I cried real tears of happiness with the encouragement I received from so many whose faces I did not know.

I am now medically retired, but I still remember the joy I received. So now I send letters to those who are stationed overseas.

I can't thank you enough for remembering the military men and women who give up their families to give strength and protection to our greater family — our nation. God bless you and all of those who have ever sent those letters and gifts. I will be forever grateful. — NAVY PRIDE, RIVERDALE, CALIF.

DEAR NAVY PRIDE: Thank you for a beautiful letter, which I'm sharing with all those who have worked so hard to make Operation Dear Abby a success. May the holiday be healthy and happy for all of you.

DEAR ABBY: I must comment in regard to the letter from "Hell on the Home Front" — the Florida mother whose young daughter had returned to the nest.

For one thing, being out on her own has to be hell on the 18-year-old. She is fresh out of high school with no experience or realization of what life is about or the responsibilities entailed. I am 28 years old, and being on my own is no easy task.

The daughter may be crying out for guidance and companionship. Instead, her mother is looking at her daughter as a burden and distraction — and even a destroyer of her marriage. That mother should take the time to speak with her daughter instead of telling her what to do or acting as if she were 18 years old herself. Obviously, they did not get along in the first place.

Older teen-agers (or should we call them young adults?) need their self-esteem and confidence bolstered. They do not need to be pushed out the door. Please sign me ... HAPPY TO HAVE HAD A MOTHER WHO SAT AND TALKED TO ME IN L.A.

DEAR HAPPY: I agree with you that there are fences that need mending in the household. The daughter may be immature and cannot be expected to know what she hasn't been taught.

DEAR ABBY: I have a Christmas story I would like to share with you:

Just about 14 years ago, our family spent the Christmas holiday skiing at Keystone, Colo. On Christmas morning, as is our custom, we were all gathered in the living room, opening our presents as the radio played lovely carols. Our grandson Peter, age 6, struggled up to me with a large box he'd obviously wrapped himself with many pieces of Christmas wrap and lots of Scotch tape! Placing it in my lap, he said, "This is for you, Granddaddy."

I, of course, showed great excitement to be receiving anything so large. With great ceremony, I carefully unwrapped it. I looked inside and said, "Well, Peter, what a joke you've played on your old grandfather — you forgot to put anything in this box!"

With a startled look, he raised on his tiptoes, looked in the box and then looked at me, saying, "Oh, no, Granddaddy, I didn't give you an empty present. I filled it with love!" In that moment, our 6-year-old grandson gave us a gift we shall never forget and taught us the true meaning of Christmas. — DAVID B. PICKFORD, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

DEAR MR. PICKFORD: Thank you for sharing your priceless gift. You should be very proud of your grandson.

CONFIDENTIAL TO EDWARD PHILLIPS IN MINNEAPOLIS: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON. YOU WERE WELL WORTH THE LABOR PAINS!

DEAR ABBY: My heart went out to the woman who wrote about her panic disorder and inability to drive. However, I was even more troubled about her isolation and shame over having an illness — panic disorder — that is no more a sign of "weakness" than is diabetes, heart disease or any other ailment.

While I heartily echo your encouragement that she seek help from a mental health professional, and while her personal physician is an excellent place to start, please tell your readers about a wonderful service sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). It's a 24-hour toll-free line: 1-800-647-2642, which provides free literature about panic disorder.

Too many people who need treatment are unable to seek professional help due to financial limitations, geographical restrictions and fear of being thought "crazy." Straightforward information not only can prove useful, it also can give sufferers the reassurance they may need to seek help. Although panic attacks are agonizing to experience, they are usually treatable — and often by understanding them, relief can be gained.

You do people a world of good with your sound, sympathetic and commonsense advice, Abby. As a mental health professional for the past 20 years, I'm a huge fan and never miss your column. — SYMPATHETIC TO PANIC SUFFERERS

DEAR SYMPATHETIC: I am pleased to publicize the National Institute of Mental Health toll-free number, because an estimated 24 million Americans suffer from one or another of the anxiety disorders. As you pointed out, panic disorders are treatable with education and medication. Thank you for making the effort to inform my readers.

Order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

The business & advertising departments of the Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas. The following deadlines will be observed.

EDITION	DEADLINE
Mon. 12/23	Thurs. 12/19 Noon
Tues. 12/24	Fri. 12/20 Noon
Wed. 12/25	Mon. 12/23 Noon
Thursday 12/26	Mon. 12/23 Noon
Friday 12/27	Tues. 12/24 Noon
Sunday Early 12/29	Tues. 12/24 Noon
Saturday 12/28	Tues. 12/24 5 PM
Sunday 12/29	Thurs. 12/26 5 PM

The circulation department will be open Christmas Day from 7 am until 11 am and can be reached at 688-2700

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Stains are Christmas tradition too

By Peter C. Hotton
N.Y. Times News Service

There may be 12 days of Christmas, but there are a lot more than 12 stains of Christmas.

In fact, there are 61 stains at latest count. And that doesn't include sap dripping from the Christmas tree, whether it's a fir, pine of any other live conifer. The sap is the same that sometimes drips from an exposed beam in the house.

Sap doesn't drip from a fake tree, but that's no reason to have a phony tree. So, first things first: If the sap is soft and sticky, dissolve it with rubbing alcohol. If the sap has hardened, scrape it up with a wood or non-metal scraper.

Another stain is not really a stain but equally vexing: labels on toys and other products and gifts. Rubbing alcohol or dry-cleaning fluid usually takes care of these labels. Labels on cloth can usually be scraped off with a fingernail; use dry-cleaning fluid to clean any stain that's left.

Another super label remover is oil. Any kind will do; it softens the material so it can be scraped or wiped off. Don't use oil on cloth, rugs or uhpholstery.

YES, BUT what about all those other stains? There are many products on the market designed to handle stains, but home-made remedies are at hand, in your kitchen or bathroom.

The treatment is basic and simple: For non-greasy stains, mild detergent and water, or just water, is your best ally. For greasy stains, dry-cleaning fluid will cut the grease and the detergent and water will finish up.

One way to fight stains is to set up a line of defense: Spray your prized linen tablecloth with spray starch or fabric protector. It will make spills easier to remove but won't affect the cloth.

To fight stains, be prepared. Speed is one of the musts for dealing with stains, so make up a SREK — a Stain Removal Emergency Kit — fill a box or carton, with a good tote handle, with these ingredients: Cloths, sponges, paper towels, liquid and powdered detergent, baking soda, cornstarch, dry-cleaning fluid salt, white vinegar, ammonia and rubbing alcohol. Baking soda, cornstarch and salt are absorbents, particularly useful when you have one humongous spill. The baking soda is a cleaner, as well.

AVOID COMBINING any of these materials; some could combine to make a more toxic substance. Water can be safely mixed with any of these substances.

We have eliminated liquid chlorine bleach from the SREK because it can easily bleach materials that you don't want bleached. Correcting a bleached item is simply impossible, except by dyeing.

In case you do get bleach on a rug, for instance, there are rug dyers in the Yellow Pages ready to come to the rescue.

Well, dyeing is really not the only fix. V.L. of Marshfield had problems with a bleach-marked carpet and wrote to tell us how she solved the problem.

"No markers or dyes seemed to cover the bleach marks. I finally took scissors to it and found the spots were not as deep as I had thought. I clipped off the surface to elminate the bleach spots, but I was left with some discoloring.

"So I mixed up some artist's oil paint to the nearest color, diluting well with turpentine. This worked and will be permanent. Mix white with the paint to make it a lighter color. Oil is about the ony thing that works on synthetics."

Armed with your SREK, how you treat a stain is as important as what you use. These tips are from Maids International, a cleaning service:

- Be fast. A spill becomes a stain when it's allowed to set. Blot spills immediately. Scoop up solids.
- Be gentle. Blot, don't rub. If you have to rub or wipe, do so from outside the stain toward the middle to prevent spreading.
- Be cautious. Test any solution in an inconspicuous spot before you use it.
- Be patient. If the solution is safe to use, let it stand for 30 to 60 seconds so it can do its work.
- Be cool. Use cool, cold or tepid water, and/or solutions.

AS FOR the general run of stains, Scotchgard, makers of anti-stain upholstery sprays and treatment, has created the "Easy as 1-2-3" method for cleaning stains, mainly on carpets, but it will work on upholstery and other cloth items. Oily stains require the use of a dry-cleaning solvent before using the 1-2-3 method.

- Step 1. Detergent solution: Mix one teaspoon mild laundry detergent with two cups water. Dampen the stain with a white cloth. Rewet stain with water.

Cover with an absorbent, white towel, and apply pressure to blot. Repeat rinsing/blotting until all traces of detergent have been removed. Keep blotting with towels to wick up remaining liquid.

If stains remain (unless they are from coffee, tea or urine) go to step 2. For coffee, tea and urine stains, skip Step 2 and go to Step 3.

- Step 2. Mix one tablespoon of ammonia with one cup water. Apply as outlined in Step 1, rinsing in the same manner.

Even if stains disappear after using the ammonia solution, it is necessary to use Step 3 — the vinegar solution — to neutralize the ammonia solution.

- Step 3. Mix equal parts white vinegar and water. Apply as outlined in Steps 1 and 2. Rinse and blot. You must use Step 3 if you first used Step 2.

NOW FOR the culprits, conveniently in alphabetical order:

Alcohol, beer, blood, candy, catsup, chocolate, chocolate milk, clay, coffee, cola, cologne, cranberry juice, fruit juice, fruit punch, water-based furniture polish, grape juice, graphite, gravy, ice cream, jelly, latex paint, liquor, milk, soft drinks, soil, syrup, tea, tomato juice, urine, vomit, water (water?), water colors, whiskey and wine.

Oily stains include butter, calamine lotion, cooking oil, comsetics, crayon, felt tip marker, furniture dye, oil-based furniture polish, glue, black grease, gum, hand cream, ink, lipstick, margarine, mascara, mayonnaise, nail polish, ointment, oil, oil paint, rouge, salad dressing, tar, varnish and wax.

And speaking of wax, scrape off as much as possible, dissolve the rest with dry-cleaning fluid or rubbing alcohol. On a flat surface, place brown paper over the wax and run a warm oven over it. The wax will melt and be absorbed by the paper. Repeat as necessary. Dissolve remaining wax with dry-cleaning fluid.

For crayons, scrape off most, then dissolve with dry-cleaning fluid. You can use the ironing method for crayons, too, but not on cloth or non-coated wall paper.

AND GUM: Ah yes, gum! Here is what the handyman learned from Keith O. Huge of Houston, who got the information from a fellow worker who used to work at TOPPS. That's the outfit that makes chewing gum with the famous baseball trading cards.

"Most chewing gum is latex rubber, and oil will destroy it if given enough time. The best way to remove gum from a kid's hair is to put a slab of creamy peanut butter on the spot and in a few hours it will dissolve the gum. Obviously the peanut oil does the work."

Thank you, Keith Huge.

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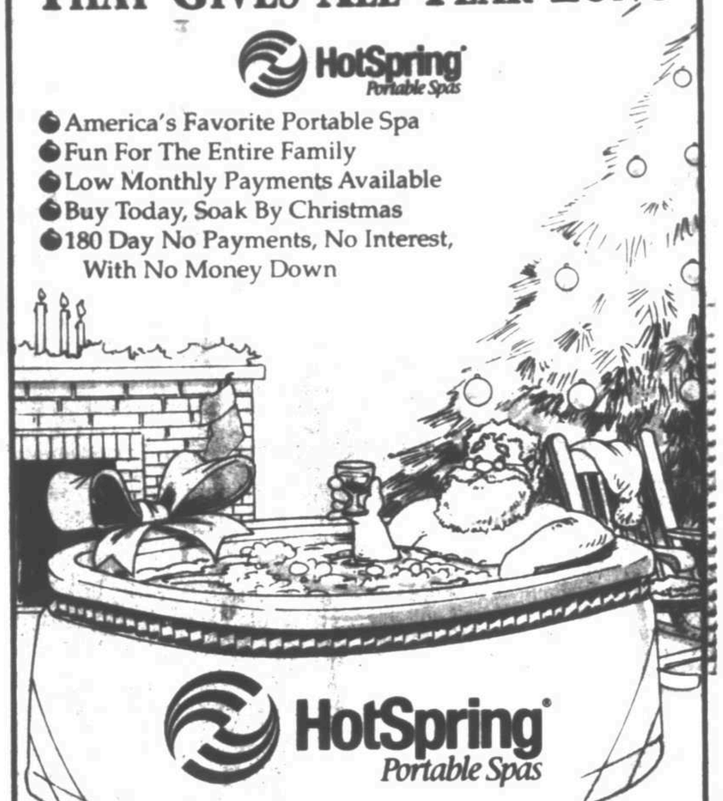

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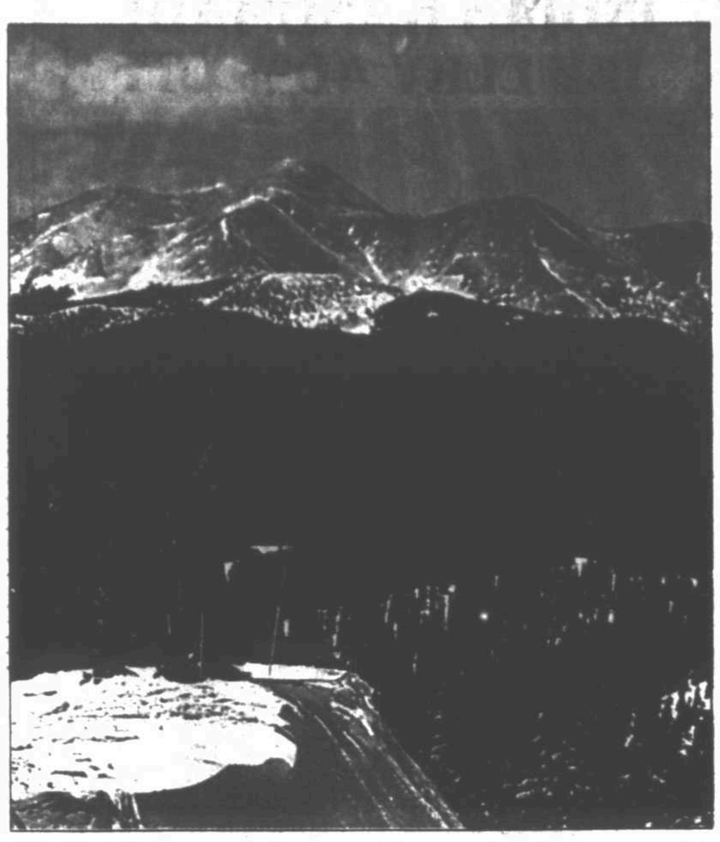

Skiing is just part of the fun at Ski Rio

COSTILLA, NM -- SKI RIO, with miles and miles of terrain is the only resort in the southern rockies to offer a total winter experience. "Anything you want, we've got it," says General Manager, Denise Smith. "RIO's a place where the whole family can come out and enjoy some form of winter recreation, either on the slopes or off."

SKI RIO has 83 trails carved out of 810 skiable acres. An annual average snowfall blankets the 2150' vertical in 260" of pristine powder. The mountain is a skiing favorite among intermediates who enjoy cruising in comfort down uncrowded slopes.

Unspoiled, RIO's the place for outdoor adventure. Slopes are groomed and ready for traditional downhill skiing or for high-flying snowboarders making clear turns and soft landings on big terrain. Park Sled Dogs beckons snow skaters to slide in style through 40-acres of trails and challenging railings and stair step obstacles. Those in search of wildlife sighting and serenity can be found winding their way through the solitude of towering groves of trees either snow shoeing or cross-country skiing.

Wilderness skiing, sheer vertical, untouched powder and double black diamond runs await in pristine silence at Carmello Peak. Take a snowcat (on selected dates) and then blast your way down the exhilarating steeps and deep of *Payback*, make a dramatic escape *Down the Hatch* or savor daring defiance of *Free Fall*.

But that's not all. Putting skis aside, there's always the thrill of snowmobiling through high country meadows or a rollicking dog sled ride snuggled under a sheep skin rug. The handmade wooden sled is pulled by twelve Alaskan Huskies who live to run.

Appetites are always up when skiers are off the slopes. To satisfy those ravenous cravings there's plenty of down-home cooking to fill the bill. The Day Lodge serves up a cafeteria-style breakfast and lunch for skiers on the run. Their burgers are hot off the grille and the menu includes soups, salads and mouthwatering Mexican, American and Italian dishes.

The SilverTree Restaurant located at the base of Bravo lift and built in traditional southwestern style with two kiva fireplaces and large vigas is open for lunch and dinner. The extensive menu consists of favorite standards including tasty fajitas and tender barbeque ribs and its famous half-pound Costilla burger, as well as a variety of appetizers, soups, salads and the ever-popular, Cinnamon Bear Bowl dessert.

For snacks and a round of favorite libations, there's always room for one more at Piñata's Bar located in the loft of the Day Lodge.

When you just can't say no to a day of skiing, there's no need to stand in line at the Ticket Counter. By joining the *Powder Hound Club*, you bypass the ticket window and go directly to the slopes from your car. Membership is activated through registration with a valid credit card.

Powder Hound Club members enjoy lots of extras too, including: skiing for $2 off the full-day rate throughout the season (plus $5 discounts on selected weekdays), frequent skier rewards such as one free day of skiing for every six days skied, as will as other ski-free-days "frequency benefits." Additionally, membership provides eligibility for discounts at RIO's Perfect Turn® Skier Development Center, Bear Thread Sports Shop and winter recreational sports.

Regardless of skiing experience it's always a good idea to tune-up your turns seasonally. The Perfect Turn® Skier Development program is your ticket to ski all you can see. Skiing technique and ability is improved in all ten levels whether you're barely a beginner just mastering the art of snowplowing or a wannabe mogul master taking the hill in a plume of powder. Additionally, clinics provide a perfect opportunity to try out the seriously outrageous SCX shaped skis. These are the hot new skis designed to carve one perfect turn after another.

With Internet fever running rampant throughout the resort and travel industry, RIO couldn't help but catch the bug. With an eye for the future, Smith believes very strongly that "the Internet is the future way of doing business, especially for a small-town business like us. A Web site and E-mail address allow us to be a part of the world."

For snow reports and information, call (505) 758-7707. For reservations, call (800) 2-ASK-PRO. You can reach SKI RIO on the World Wide Web at www.laplaza.org/tp/skirio.

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Up here you'll also find food, fun, fabulous skiing, and a great 30th Anniversary Ski Package - 3 days/4 nights lodging, special skiers' breakfast, lift tickets, plus the 4th day of skiing is free. - $259 per person (some restrictions may apply).
For more information on what's up here, call Angel Fire Resort at 1-800-633-7463.
ANGEL FIRE RESORT

Angel Fire Resort offers "extreme rewards" for Furr's Frequent Shopper card holders

ANGEL FIRE, NM -- Angel Fire Resort and Furr's Supermarkets, Inc. have agreed to offer "extreme savings" in time and money to holders of the Furr's Frequent Shopper card, starting today and continuing throughout the 1996-97 ski season.

The exclusive discount arrangement will permit Furr's Frequent Shopper card holders to purchase an Angel Fire Resort Club Card for $15, providing an immediate savings of $10 off the standard $25 price.

Winter benefits of the Angel Fire Club Card include a $5 discount off every daily lift ticket purchased throughout the season. Club card holders will ski free the first day and every seventh day thereafter (i.e. ski free on days 1, 8, 15, 22, etc.)

Another benefit is that members will not need to wait in line at the ticket window, but will proceed directly to the lift line. Their photo-ID Club Card will be scanned in the lift line and charged to their major credit card on file with the Resort.

Additionally, the card allows them a cashless debit-card arrangement that provides a measure of security for members who want to avoid carrying cash or personal credit cards while skiing.

Furr's Frequent Shopper Card "extreme savings" program is designed to offer significant savings and rewards to Furr's Supermarket shoppers on thousands of items throughout the store.

Located along the Southern Rocky Mountains, Angel Fire Resort sits in the Moreno Valley of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The Resort boasts an average annual snowfall of 210 inches and an average 300 days of sunshine per year. Started in 1966, Angel Fire Resort is celebrating its 30th season.

Skiing is just part of the fun at Ski Rio

TAOS SKI VALLEY, NM -- All skiers are encouraged to enjoy a tradition of superior skiing, unforgettable snow and fabulous terrain. With some of the best early season snow conditions in the Rockies, Taos Ski Valley is the place to ski this winter.

In the winter of 1955, Ernie Blake came to the abandoned mining town of Twining and turned it into his dream – a mountain dedicated to skiing. Ernie chose Twining's valley for the incredible terrain it offers skiers and for the immense amount of snow that accumulates each winter – 302"+ annually. Through the years. Taos Ski Valley has evolved from a single surface lift up Al's Run into a world-class ski resort.

At the heart of a Taos Ski Valley experience is the Ernie Blake Ski School, which was again rated the "Best in the West" by *Snow Country Magazine*.

The instructors at Taos combine creativity and spirit with the latest techniques and technology to successfully give skiers of all abilities the tools they need to thoroughly enjoy each turn and Taos' varied terrain.

Daily lessons begin at 9:45 and 1:45 on Strawberry Hill. For beginner skiers, a day or two in the Yellowbird Program is recommended, for it is designed to help new skiers ski with confidence. In addition, private lessons, learn-to-ski-better-weeks and special programs are available. Masters Ski Weeks turn senior skiers, ages 50+, into master skiers, while Women's Weekends and Weeks cater to female skiers who want to expand their skiing and athletic potential. The SUPER Ski Week is an intensive week of morning and afternoon lessons that focus intermediate and advanced skiers on moguls, racing and adventure skiing, and Mogul Mastery Clinics will inspire skiers to carve gracefully down our toughest mogul runs. No matter what your ability or skiing goals are, The Ernie Blake Ski School will help you enjoy and love your every minute of your skiing time. For more information on prices and dates, call (505) 776-2291.

For kids under 12, the 18.000 square-foot Kinderkåfig Children's Center makes Taos Ski Valley the perfect place for families. Parents can ski worry-free while their children are in the expert care of the children's ski school staff.

Junior Elite (ages 3-12 years) emphasizes fun while turning kids of all ages into life-long skiers. Kinderkare (ages 6 weeks to 2 years) ensures pre-skiers lots of attention with a variety of age-appropriate activities. The Kinderkåfig also houses a rental shop, an accessory shop and a ticket office all geared to serve junior skiers and to make life easier for parents. It's a wonderful place for kids. Reservations are required for all children's programs so please call (505) 776-2291.

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DEC 22 1996

Teachers grade holiday toys

By Barbara F. Meltz
N.Y. Times News Service

Three-year-old to preschool teacher: "Look! I got a new 'Toy Story' character!"

Teacher: "I thought you already had one ..."

Child: "Yeah, but you had to pull a string to make it talk. This one, you just push a button."

This real-life toy story took place recently at the Open Center for Children, a child-care center in Somerville, Mass., and prompted Honey Schnapp, the school's director of education, to shake her head in dismay.

"The notion that it was too much work for this child to play with the toy, that he needed something that was easier and quicker, that's sad for me," she says.

"Saddest of all is his imagination didn't show him some other way to play with it."

WITH THE HOLIDAY season upon us, Schnapp says this is but one example of why parents need to pay close attention to the toys we give our children.

"Creative play is what enables them to master their world. It's how they learn. But kids today aren't getting enough of that kind of play because their toys don't encourage it," she says.

To enable parents to make good toy choices, Schnapp helped compile the second annual "Toys to Avoid, Toys that Encourage Healthy Play" buying guide, published by TRUCE (Teachers for Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment). A national organization based in Cambridge, Mass., TRUCE recommends toys that are open-ended; can be played with in many ways; promote nonviolent, nonstereotyped peer interactions; and stay away from scripted play that follows a movie, TV or comic book plot.

TRUCE cochairwoman Diane Levin of Wheelock College say that every toy carries two messages. The first and most obvious one comes from the toy itself: This is what I am, this is how to play with me. The second and more important comes from you: Because I give this to you, it has my stamp of approval.

THIS VALUE that parents lend to a toy is an aspect of gift-giving TRUCE wishes more parents would pay attention to. Levin says, "When you give a toy to a 4-year-old that says, 'Play with me by blowing up the World Trade Center, Empire State Building or Statue of Liberty,' you are passing on a parental value that says, 'Killing is fun, it's OK, it's how you entertain yourself.'" (The toy she refers to is one of the season's big sellers, "Independence Day Micro Battle Playset.") Levin is co-author of several books on media violence and children.

TRUCE tells parents to avoid toys that, like this one, glamorize violence and promote aggressive behavior, as well as toys that:

- Promote stereotypes. "Melanie's Mall," another hot item this year, not only tells girls that shopping is what they are supposed to do but also glamorizes consumerism. Says Levin: "If two children playing together create a mall with blocks and dolls, that's creative play. When the toy's theme is shopping, and the various shops are sexually stereotyped — 'Marry Me,' 'The Beauty Shop' — the message they get is that looking sexy and pretty is what counts. That's scripted play."
- Can be played with only in one way.
- Appeal mostly to a single age or stage of development.
- Encourage imitation of (mostly violent) scripts kids see on TV, etc.

These "psychological hazards" of toys can be just as debilitating as physical safety hazards but take more effort to spot, says Daphne White, founder of the Lion & Lamb Project of Bethesda, Md., a grass-roots organization to promote nonviolent, healthy toys. "Like our kids, we've become desensitized," she says.

SHE SAYS engaging children in discussions about the problems with these toys can go a long way to alleviate their disappointment at not getting them, although she admits to having a hard time when she first took a hard line with her son, David, now 8. "I felt like he lost status with his friends. Now the opposite is true — all his friends want to come here to play because we have so many toys that are different and unusual, compared to what they have. When you start to pay attention, there are a lot of interesting toys on the market," she says.

In addition to the good and bad toy list, TRUCE also recommends Shoe Box Gift Ideas: Decorate a box and fill it with items organized around a theme. For instance: a Detective Box (magnifying glass, small pad and pen, a map, sticky labels to identify clues, small containers for storing them in); or Office Box (stapler, hole punch, tape, message pad, receipt book, clipboard, etc).

TOYS FOR HEALTHY AND CREATIVE PLAY
Compiled by TRUCE

- Toobers and Zots and Oobles (by Hands-on), starts at $17.95, ages 3 and up. Encourages creativity, dramatic play.
- InterStar Links (Tip Top Toys), starts at $19.95, ages 3 to 6. Construction toy with endless possibilities.
- Russian Set Master Building Blocks (TC Timber), $36.95, ages 3 to 7. All children need blocks, this is a multicultural variation.
- Plastic Animals (Safari Limited), $1.59 to $19.95, ages 3 to 5. Endless play possibilities.
- Medical Care Kit (Cultural Toys), $17.95, ages 3 to 6. Helps with mastery of real issues through dramatic play.
- Kitchen Play Set and Fruits and Vegetables (both Battat), $14.95 each, also, Supermarket Play Food Set (Kiddie Mart), $8.50. All three for ages 3 to 5. Promotes healthy development through dramatic play.
- Stellaluna Memory Game and The Very Hungry Caterpillar Game (both Briar Patch), $17.95 each, ages 3 to 6. Cooperative memory games based on quality story books.
- Tick Tock Design a Clock (Creative Arts Activities), $17.95, ages 4 to 8. A craft project with no right or wrong way to do it.
- Colored Craft Sticks (Roylco), $3.50, ages 3 to 8. Quality variation on a classic art material.
- Multicultural Markers (Crayola), $4.40, all ages. Colors represent skin tones, helping children understand differences.
- Super Soft Dart Set (Talicor), $19.95, ages 5 to 8. Develops motor skills, hand-eye coordination, cooperative play.
- Terraculta (TEIFOC) $45.95, ages 6 to 13. Construction toy with realistic bricks and mortar that can be disassembled.
- Balzac (Milton-Bradley), $8, all ages. Fun variation on classic play.
- 3 Mini Kooshes with the Official Koosh Book (Klutz), $10, all ages. For indoors or out, good for kids who don't like rough large motor activities.

Toys to Avoid

- Nerf Chainblazer Blaster (Kenner/Hasbro), $15, ages 6 and up. Can cause injury, focuses children on play fighting.
- Independence Day Micro Battle Playset (Trendmasters Inc.), $8, ages 4 and up. Promotes violent, imitative play. Use of real places makes it hard to sort out fantasy from reality.
- Spiderman Venom Planet of the Symbiotes Series: Scream (Toy Biz Inc.), $8, ages 5 and up. Encourages imitative violent play, dehumanizes the female body, sends confusing gender messages.
- Bride Surprise (Kenner/Hasbro), $4, ages 3 and up. Focuses on limited stereotypical girls' play.
- Melanie's Mall (Cap), $13-$20, ages 4 and up. Encourages consumerism, stereotypes women as shoppers.
- Spawn Ultra Action Figure: Tremor II (McFarland Toys), $8, ages 5 and up. Blood circulating outside the body perverts children's natural interest in how the body works. Imitative play focusing on violence and sex.
- Goosebumps Dread Head (Kenner/Hasbro), $7, ages 5 and up. A marketing gimmick with racial overtones.
- Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame, "Quasimodo's Busy Day, My First Read-Along" (Disney), $6, ages 6 months to 4 years. Content and characters inappropriate for this age.
- Young Lady So Beautiful (Playmates Toys Inc.), $30, ages 3 and up. Stereotypical image of beauty, promotes sexualized behavior.
- Doctor Dreadful Radioactive Experiment: Nuclear Freeze Mix (Tyco), $5, ages 6 and up. A scary concept from the real world perverts a natural interest.
- Dragon Flyz: Poseable Action Warriors (Galoob), $12 to $25, ages 5 and up. Promotes violent play, physically unsafe.
- Barbie "So Much to Do" Toy Line (Mattel), $10 to $15, ages 4 and up. Promotes stereotypical female roles, scripted play.
- Tinkerbell Nail Dryer (Redbox), $15, ages 4 and up. Focuses on physical appearance only.
- GI Joe Extreme Deluxe Figure Series (Kenner/Hasbro), $8, ages 5 and up. Imitative play glorifies pain and violence.

* * *

Prices may vary from store to store.

Ages recommended by TRUCE may differ slightly from manufacturer's recommendation.

Since TRUCE doesn't suggest these toys for anyone, ages are manufacturer's recommendations.

Barbara Meltz's e-mail address is meltz@nws.globe.com. Her columns are now on line at Boston.Com, keyword "parenting." For photocopies of past columns, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Barbara F. Meltz, The Boston Globe, Box 2378, Boston, Mass. 02107-2378. Please specify the column.

For holiday gifts, get crafty

By Kelly Degarmo
N.Y. Times News Service

With a little imagination and basic instructions, you too can be as crafty as one of Santa's elves this holiday season.

Embellished picture frames, embossed note cards, decorated wooden boxes and handmade birdhouses are just some of the gifts you can make for relatives, teachers and friends. They take just minutes and a few dollars to make.

The materials can be found at local craft stores. Who knows? You might be so impressed with the results that you may want to make one for yourself, too.

Personalize an inexpensive picture frame with miniature trinkets to create a special gift. Vanessa Sykes, a student at Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center in Fort Worth, glued miniature apples and pencils onto a $3, prevarnished wooden frame, designed with a teacher in mind.

Acrylic and plastic frames also can be embellished with beads, fishing lures, buttons or other items. Be sure to use the proper glue for the kind of materials you select.

Adam Gross, a middle school student, assembled a birdhouse kit (designed for ages 8 and older), using a few pieces of precut wood, nails and a hammer. The house, which cost less than $5 to make, can be left plain, varnished or painted. For a personal touch, write a message on the house.

Create your own embossed note cards. Elementary student Elisa Sykes glued an embossed snowman onto a piece of colored paper to create a special note card. To emboss the snowman, you need a metal embossing plate (they cost $4-$10, depending on the design). Put the metal embossing plate behind the paper and hold it up to a light source. Then trace around the edges of the plate with a $2 tool called a stylus. The embossed paper can be left plain, colored with pencils or cut out and glued onto a note card. The embossing tools work on most paper, including construction paper.

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Small fish help reduce mosquito populations

FAIRHOPE, Ala. (AP) — Mosquito fish, including the small blue-green gambusia, are helpful to man because they feed on mosquito larvae in lakes, ponds and streams.

The gambusia, which reaches a length of about 3 inches, is found mainly in Southern states and part of central America, where they help reduce the size of mosquito swarms.

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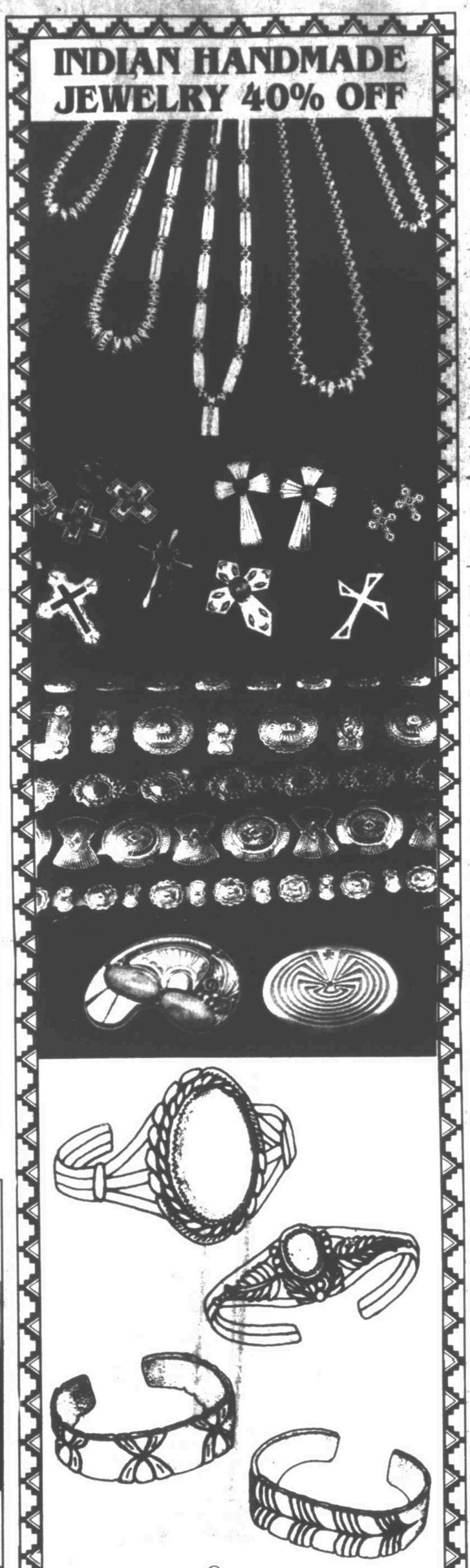

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By Jane P. Marsh
Hearst News Service

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Club News

PRECEPTOR NU PHI CHAPTER, BSP

Preceptor Nu Phi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in the home of Karyn Wood.

Margo Hill discussed insurance. Ms. Wood talked about cookbook sales. Paula Millhollon reported on socials.

Diane Grenvik was chosen to be chapter's Valentine Sweetheart. Ms. Wood gave a program on pumpkin carving. June Weldon won the hostess gift. Ms. Millhollon read from the Book of Beta Sigma Phi, Article VII.

Also attending were Beverly Bristow, JoAnn Cambron, Marinell Glidewell and Sandra Hayes.

YUCCA GARDEN CLUB

Yucca Garden Club met at the home of Neta Dill for Christmas tea. Co-hostesses were Dorothy Foster, Roberta Bain and Joy Marcum.

Mildred Burkett presided, and reported that she, Bettye Jones and Mickey Hewitt had participated in the Dress-A-Live-Doll program.

Marilyn Allen gave a program on Christmas traditions and the origin of the poinsettia.

ALTRUSA

Altrusa International Inc. of Midland met for a Christmas party at Ranchland Hills Country Club.

After the social hour, Linda K. Smith presided and welcomed members and guests.

Suzanne Butler introduced Kevin Lane, director of Midland High School's choral group, "Legend," who gave a program of Christmas music. Members of the group are Shelby Berry, Kim Breeding, Randy Chambers, Nona Davis, Kris Ridgely and Zach Young.

Guests at the meeting were emeritus member Mona Shofner of Austin and Monte Kay Cross; also, Margaret Steele, Bertha Starks, Weldon Butler, George Haynes, Lloyd Gildon, Henry Wurtz, Porter Wallis, Pat McMullan, Bob Price and Jim Moore.

DOZEN DAMES SOCIAL AND CIVIC CLUB

Six members of the Dozen Dames Social and Civic Club met at Rockwood Manor retirement center to present assorted fruits to the residents as the club's Christmas service project.

The fruits were given to the dietary consultant at the center so they could be properly distributed according to residents needs.

EN AMIE REVIEW CLUB

En Amie Review Club met for Christmas luncheon at the Woman's Club. Judy Pike introduced guests Fern Donnelly, Ruth Manus, Bessie Collins, Betsy Austin, Wilma Maley, Lota Wiley, Patsy Harris, Nada Loper, Sara Logan, Fay Smith, Loreta McReynolds, Wanda Ramsey and Glenda Phillips.

Madge Wallis introduced Ty Morris Jr. and the Master's Ringers of Crestview Baptist Church, who gave a musical program on "Christmas Joy."

Hostesses were Theta Redding, chairman; Minnie German, Blanch Shank, Betty Cotton, Marge Neely and Florene Smith.

MIDLAND FEDERATION OF BLACK WOMEN'S CLUBS

Midland Federation of Black Women's Clubs met at 1703 E. Wall. Clubs represented were Black Image, Dozen Dames, Rainbow, Social-Lites and Women of Color. Two representatives of Bingo Idea spoke on sponsorship.

New officers are Maurice Hudson, president; Shella Young, vice president; Margie McCoy, secretary; Ivell Webb, financial secretary; Gwendolyn Carter, treasurer; Audrey Merritt and Essie Moore, business managers; Maurine Dickens, parliamentarian; and Mary Burks, chaplain.

Topics of discussion included debutantes and work with youth. Black Image hosted the meeting.

CHAPTER GD, P.E.O. SISTERHOOD

Chapter GD of the P.E.O. Sisterhood met in the home of Cathy Stump. Christmas book review by Mary Beck featured her review of "Christmas at the Canyon de Belen," an original story written by her father.

Patti Di Scioli is a new member and Kathy Clavin was a guest.

MIDLAND PORCELAIN ART CLUB

Midland Porcelain Art Club had its Christmas party in the home of Mrs. Robert Edwards.

Wanda Philips entertained with piano selections and the group sang Christmas carols.

Ornaments and mugs painted by members were exchanged. Joyce Anderson won the Christmas wreath.

Hostesses were Shirley Edwards and Ahlene Lane. Also attending were Evalena Simmons, Louise Jones, Ferrol Voliva, Imogene Cook, Nancy Pipkin, Kay LaForge, Betty Locklar, Edythe Talley, Lois Collier and Marlyn Malone.

PERMIAN BASIN GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL AUXILIARY

Permian Basin Geological and Geophysical Auxiliary met in the home of Mary Lou Wilson for a membership tea. Ann Roberts was chairman; Colleen Scury was co-chairman.

Hostesses were Joan Henry, Tanya Godfrey, Mary Jo Darden, Jackie Gaertner, Pat Stanton, Patty Fuller, Hazel Sommerville and Leslie Rogers.

KAPPA KAPPA IOTA, UPSILON CONCLAVE

Upsilon conclave of Kappa Kappa Iota met for a Christmas party at the home of Billie David with 12 members attending.

Christmas contributions for Permian Basin Center for Battered Women and Their Children were collected. Minutes were read and approved. Fund raiser report was given.

WEST TEXAS SINGLES ASSOCIATION

West Texas Singles Association went Christmas caroling at The Parks-Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Odessa and Terrace West Nursing Home in Midland.

The group is helping three families with Christmas this year.

PROGRESSIVE STUDY CLUB

Progressive Study Club met at the home of Shirley Gist for Christmas luncheon, with 26 members attending.

Co-hostesses were Mary Bechner, Charlene Younger, Margaret Terry and Jane Hargrave. Guests were Kitty Cummins, Gretchen Bell, Mae Pearl Ernst, Margaret Cerf, Fran Harrington, Mary Mann, Martha Kallus, Patsy Hinchey and Virginia Rachal.

Children's books make good Christmas gifts

By Jane P. Marshall
Hearst News Service

Bookstores in December overflow with treasures. From hundreds of books published for children this fall and winter, these are worthy of a ride in Santa's sleigh. Like the Aisling's voyage (in the book, "Voyage of the Basset"), they will impress young minds and imaginations with their stories, their art and their magic.

Two people sat side by side on a Scottish hillside staring at the lake. They waited, hoping Nessie would surface.

"I have to see it to believe it," said the man. "Oh, no," said the tiny Irish lass beside him. "You have to believe it to see it."

The little girl captured the soul of good children's literature.

She had the same spirit as the storybook character Cassandra Aislings, the heroine of "Voyage of the Basset" (Artisan, $29.95), one of the most fanciful new children's books of the season.

She and her sister, Miranda, are the daughters of Professor Algernon Aisling. The professor teaches mythology and legends at the university and has been told by crotchety Mr. Bilgewallow that "anything that can't be weighed or measured or dissected is just nonsense. ... Too bad you chaps can't find a dragon or a dryad because it would take just such an astounding miracle to save your department."

"Imagination is where science begins," the professor thumps. "Does progress mean that we must discard our ancient myths? If we forget our legends, I fear that we shall close an important door to the imagination."

THE THREE BOARD the H.M.S. Basset in search of ancient legends and "proof." They set off to a land of fairies and trolls, to the College of Magical Knowledge.

James C. Christensen, with Renwick St. James and Alan Dean Foster, has created a world as stunning as James Gurney's "Dinatopia" or Jules Verne's "Center of the Earth."

His paintings take readers to magical places, where dragons tell stories, where trolls are "smelly, dirty, clumsy, nasty, impolite" and where fairies make gowns of moonbeams.

"The magic," said Cassandra, "just goes on and on."

BOOKSTORES IN December overflow with treasures. From hundreds of books published for children this fall and winter, these are worthy of a ride in Santa's sleigh. Like the Aisling's voyage, they will impress young minds and imaginations with their stories, their art and their magic.

■ "Kofi and His Magic" (Clarkson Potter, $17) follows author Maya Angelou's story last year on "My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me." Meet 7-year-old Kofi, who makes kente cloth by wiggling strings tied to his toes.

Captured vividly by Margaret Courtney-Clarke's photography, this engaging West African lad introduces us to his world and his magic. He can close his eyes and open his mind and visit many places — the ocean, a festival, his capital in northern Ghana.

"I told you at first that I was a magician. Well I have been thinking in my language, Ashanti, and you have been hearing me in English. So I think you must be a magician, too. If you ever want to meet me, just sit down, close your eyes, open your mind ..." he says at the book's end.

■ Paul Bunyan has been around since W.B. Laughead published stories for the Red River Lumber Co. in Minnesota in 1914. Can we stand another retelling of Paul and Babe, his blue ox? We sure can.

"The Bunyans" (Blue Sky/Scholastic, $15.95) goes where no one has gone before, which is where author Audrey Wood usually goes. We meet Paul's pickaxwielding wife, Carrie, and their children, Little Jean and Teeny, as they trail across the country and create Big Sur, Old Faithful, Niagara Falls and more.

David Shannon illustrates with warmth and wackiness.

■ Drawing from colonial New England folklore, Robert D. San Souci has written an original and engaging story about magic and love.

In "The Red Heels" (Dial, $15.99), a young traveling shoemaker loses his way deep in the forest. Inside a cottage there he finds a beautiful young woman who needs the red heels on her shoes restored.

THE COBBLER falls in love with the mysterious Rebecca. But do the red heels mean she's a witch? And why are the shoes' heels so worn? San Souci weaves a story in language worthy of Washington Irving.

Paintings by Gary Kelley, who has illustrated "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle, are perfect.

■ Jack and Skinny Bones of Prickly Pear aren't folk legends. But they should be. This tall tale by M.C. Helldorfer, illustrated by Elise Primavera with whim and vigor, pits evil against orneriness. Ornery is Granny Trick, "a sneaky old woman and hot-tempered as a pepper."

Each gets what is deserved, and the dog and his boy live happily ever after.

Helldorfer borrows from Grimm, Chaucer and others for her hilarious yarn of "Jack, Skinny Bones and the Golden Pancakes" (Viking, $14.99).

COOL TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY

It's easy to save energy and money in winter.

■ Lower the thermostat setting while sleeping.
■ Open the draperies or shades during sunny days.

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AT WIT'S END

Columnist's work, words live on in new book

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following columns are some of 195 included in "Forever, Erma" (Andrews and McMeel), a recently published collection of the best-loved writing from America's favorite humorist, Erma Bombeck. The first column originally appeared Dec. 22, 1983.

By Erma Bombeck

We call our Christmas tree a memory tree. Each and every ornament on it has a special meaning to someone in our family, and every year we unwrap them one by one and together gather these precious moments around us like spirited fireflies.

Bombeck

As we lovingly placed each bauble on the tree recently, we could again remember.

"Look at this," I said, holding a miniature pie tin with a picture of the Christ child done in crayons with the message OH, COME HOLY SPIT on it. "How old was Andy when he did this? Three? Four?"

"He was 15 years old, Mom. He didn't spell 'spirit' until the year he learned how to drive."

"And look at this dear little snowman with the crocheted hat and scarf. I made that when I was in the hospital with Matt."

"You bought that at a half-price sale at Penney's after Christmas. I was with you. Besides, you don't crochet."

"No matter," I said. "Oh, and look at this little Mexican hat with 'Feliz Navidad.' Call your father. This will stir up a lot of memories for him."

My husband appeared.

"I won't say anything," I teased. "Just tell me what this reminds you of."

He looked blank.

"Mazatlan, 1976. Remember, I wanted something for my memory tree?"

"That's right," he said. "And you had the green apple two-step so bad you couldn't get out of bed."

"I got that Mexican hat at a restaurant in LA," my son said. "It used to have a swizzle stick on it."

As I rummaged through the tissue, I carefully unwrapped a little rag doll. "Get Betsy," I shouted. "She'll never believe this."

"That's cute," she said. "Where did you get it?"

"Surely you jest," I said. "Why, that's one of the first dolls I bought you."

"Couldn't be. It has all the eyes, and there's no fear on its face. All of mine ran away from home."

It took me a couple of hours to put on the little sleds, the mice dressed in red, the bread-dough figures, the wreaths made of leaves and berries, and to recall the stories behind each and every one.

Memories: They can't take that away from me.

Or can they?

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column originally appeared Dec. 10, 1992.

I know the symptoms well. My husband looks up from the paper and says, "Good grief, it's the middle of December already. I've got to start shopping."

With that pronouncement, he pushes himself away from the table and goes on his annual buying spree — for himself.

He discards from his drawer all the boxer shorts where the elastic has died in the waistband and buys new ones. He renews his TV Guide subscription and buys a new warm-up suit on sale and a book he wants to read. He tracks down his favorite ski pajamas and buys three pairs. He carts in new sweaters and replaces his old billfold that is falling apart.

He shops for a coffee cup holder for his car, new luggage tags and a pen to replace the one he lost.

Boxes and tissue fill his room as he pulls out shirts that were too cheap to pass up and a pair of glasses he's always wanted that you wear to tie flies.

If I were Santa Claus, I'd smack him right across the mouth.

Men at best are impossible to buy for. The styles of their clothes rarely change. Their hobbies are limited. They don't succumb to cosmetic promises to take years off their lives, nor do they do busywork like needlepointing or knitting. Their jewelry is limited.

What they don't have they don't need, and what they don't need they don't want.

We have the same argument every year. "I suppose you bought yourself a flu shot."

"Actually, I did. Why?" he says.

"I was going to surprise you with it."

"You know me; I don't need anything."

"You need someone to put you under sedation until Christmas," I snap. "How would you like it if two weeks before Christmas I went out and bought everything I wanted and left you with nothing to buy? You'd be devastated."

"Try me," he says.

I thought my father was hard to buy for. He didn't like to read and he had only one hobby: golf. We golfed him to death. When he could no longer play the game, we were stuck with his other passion: peanut brittle. One year, he got five cans of peanut brittle, including one made with jalapeno peppers.

I told my husband, "Do you realize I am the only shopper in town who returns gifts before Christmas?"

He said, "I'll do it for you. I have to go out again this afternoon. I have my eye on a tie for my brown suit."

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column originally appeared Dec. 20, 1984.

This is the time of year when the box savers of the world have their finest hour.

You know who they are. They're the ones who squirrel away every box and carton they ever receive and bestow the gift of immortality upon it.

There is something arrogant about people who save boxes. They remind me of the sanctimonious people who always have their ticket and the right change at the parking garage, or whose car is always in gear when the traffic light changes.

The carton queen in our family is my mother. There is nothing you can name that she does not have an empty box for. Want to wrap a piano? Go to Mother's. Want to surprise someone with a load of firewood? Mother has the carton for it. Buying a goal post for your grandson? Mother can wrap it.

Box savers are not only arrogant about their habit, they are downright evangelistic. I remember the first time I gave my mother a pair of earrings wrapped in a rectal thermometer box. I thought she'd be choked up that I found a box with cotton. Instead, she gave me the God-knows-I-did-the-best-I-could look and said, "Why didn't you come to me for a box?"

I've watched her at birthday celebrations and Christmases. She is like a minesweeper. No sooner is the paper off the present than she is winding the ribbon around her fingers and smoothing the creases out of the wrapping paper. As soon as the recipient holds the gift up for everyone to see, the box disappears to be recycled. It will appear again for the next 35 years ... somewhere ... holding something.

This week when I discovered a jogging suit would not fit into a shoe box, I did something I do not take lightly. I went to Mother's for a box.

She flipped on the light in her closet, and I thought, If Tutankhamen's mother had a tomb, this would have been it. I had never seen such a box glut. There were boxes in boxes, boxes for folding chairs, lampshades, tubes for posters and cartons for mattresses. There were boxes singed with black where she had pulled them from the fire.

She turned to me. "What are you putting in this box? Where are you sending it? How much did the item cost? Is there a chance you can get it back after it's used? How important is it to you?"

"I'm not adopting it, Mother, I'm only borrowing it."

"You're the one who makes fun of me every year for saving boxes, aren't you, missy?"

"That's true, Mother, but you know what a rotten person I am."

"You don't treat boxes nicely. I saw you jam an afghan in one one year, and it broke down the sides."

"Mother! I'm begging!"

She handed me a box off the shelf. "Tell me what time it is to be opened, and I'll be there."

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column originally appeared Dec. 9, 1971.

I regard the family Christmas newsletter with a mixture of nausea and jealousy — nausea because I could never abide by anyone organized enough to chronicle a year of activities; jealousy because our family never does anything that I can talk about on a religious holiday.

For years I have been assaulted with Frieda and Fred's camping adventures, Marcia and Willard's bright children (their 3-year-old has a hit record), and Ginny and Jesse's kitchen table version of "The Night Before Christmas."

"You know something?" I announced at dinner the other night. "We're a pretty exciting family. This year, instead of the usual traditional Christmas card, why don't we make up a newsletter?"

"What would we say on it?" asked a son.

"What everyone else says. We could put down all the interesting things we did last year. For instance, you kids tell me anything you did in school that was memorable." Silence. "This is no time for modesty. Just spit out any award or recognition you received throughout the school year."

Finally, after five minutes, one son said, "I passed my eye examination."

"See?" I said excitedly. "I knew if we just thought about it a bit — now, where have we been that's exciting?"

"We got lost that Sunday and went by the Industrial School where you told us one of your uncles made license plates."

"I don't think our Christmas list wants to read about that," I said. "Let's see, have I been anyplace?"

"You went to that Sarah Coventry jewelry party last spring."

"How about that?" I said. "Now, keep going. Anyone get promoted? Married? Divorced? Hospitalized? Retired? Give birth?" Silence. "Anyone say anything clever last year? How about the year before that? Did anyone compose a song? Write a letter? Belch after dinner?" Silence.

"Anyone lick a stamp? Kick the dog? Wash their gym suit? Sit up straight in class? Replace a light bulb? Breathe in and out?"

They all sat there silently contemplating their year. Finally, I brought out a box of Christmas cards.

"What are you doing? We thought you were going to send out a family newsletter for Christmas."

"No sense antagonizing the poor devils who sit around and do nothing all year."

BRIDGE WINNERS

The following are bridge winners for Dec. 3-9.

TUESDAY
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
CHRISTMAS PARTY
OVERALL WINNERS:
1. Wyoma Whitlow, Janet Stoltz
2. Gloria Crites, Marie Morris
3. Helen Owen, Jimmie Penn
4. Flo Curry, Betty Sheeler
NORTH-SOUTH:
1. Gloria Crites, Marie Morris
2. Flo Curry, Betty Sheeler
3. Ricki Perry, Jerry Williamson
4. Midge Taylor, Betty Reeves
EAST-WEST:
1. Wyoma Whitlow, Janet Stoltz
2. Helen Owen, Jimmie Penn
3. Frances Levin, Laura Williams
4. Mary Anne Ochs, Bob Baker

WEDNESDAY
1. and 2. Tie: Jimmie Penn, Clarence Marley, Gloria Crites, Joe Brittain
3. Marian Sims, Jimmy Cox
4. Leonora Slusher, Jimmie Branch

THURSDAY
NORTH-SOUTH:
1. Peggy Leeton, Mary Anne Ochs
2. Billie Ruppe, Joe Salman
3. Fena Berry, Lydia Wilkinson
EAST-WEST:
1. Charlene DeLaune, Carolyn Hancock
2. Ellinor Cleckler, Beverly Holmberg
3. Debbie Kemp, Eleanor Kimberlin

FRIDAY
1. Janet Stoltz, Wyoma Whitlow
2. Mary Hammond, Beulah Prichard
3. Laura Williams, Frances Levin
4. Gloria Crites, Betty Reeves

SATURDAY
1. Sue Gardiner, Becky Kinsey
2. Dixie Gifford, Joe Brittain
3. Billie Ruppe, Babe Griffin
4. Jane Johnson, Sally Whitely

SUNDAY
1. and 2. Tie: Ann Servatius, Marian Sims, Belle Harris, Ruth Fahrig

MONDAY
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
CHRISTMAS PARTY
NORTH-SOUTH:
1. Marian Sims, Linda Warden
2. Linda Jerman, Jerry Crooker
3. Bob Baker, Richard Grady
4. Midge Taylor, Jimmie Penn
EAST-WEST:
1. B.J. Filley, Herb Wales
2. Nancy Andrews, Clarence Marley
3. Ruth Fahrig, Tip Branch
4. Becky Kinsey, Gloria Crites
OVERALL WINNERS:
1. Marian Sims, Linda Warden
2. B.J. Filley, Herb Wales
3. Linda Jerman, Jerry Crooker
4. Nancy Andrews, Clarence Marley
5. Bob Baker, Richard Grady
6. Midge Taylor, Jimmie Penn

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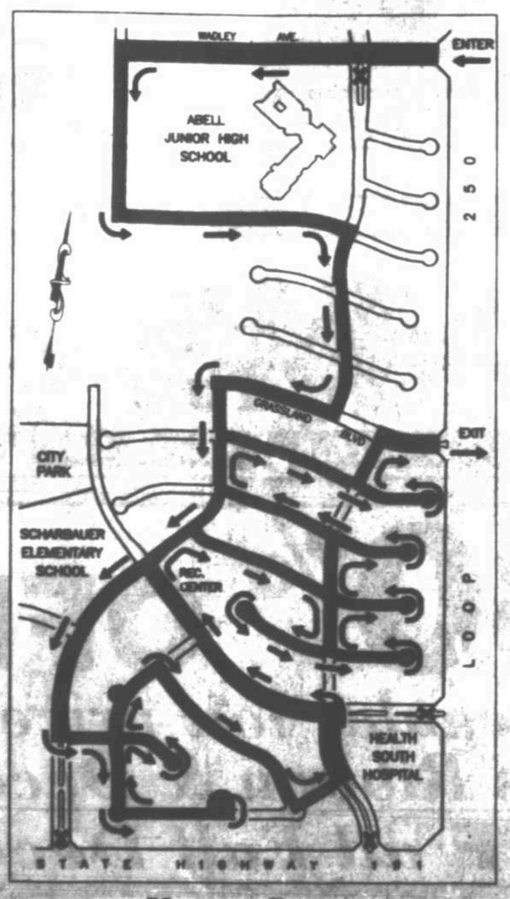

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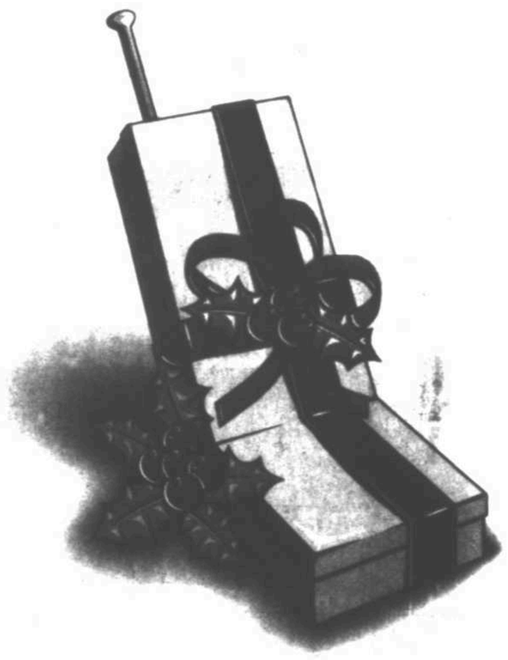

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If you've been looking for the perfect gift this holiday, your search is over. Because now you can give the security and convenience of cellular service from Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems without the commitment. In fact, we'll even waive the activation fee. All you have to do is visit your local Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems location and sign up for cellular service. And in the spirit of the season, with every new activation we'll donate $10 to the Salvation Army of Midland. So stop by your local Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems location. And give the perfect gift this holiday. Even if it's to yourself. Yes, it's that simple.

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Dillard's, 4511 N. Midkiff Dr., 697-7911
McDuff Electronics, 4511 N. Midkiff Dr., 520-0092
Office Depot, Loop 250 N, 684-5084
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Radio Shack, 4511 N. Midkiff Dr., 697-7971
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Cellular City, 2508 Grandview, 366-2489
Chapa Communications, 1539 S. Grant St., 337-6901
Communication Center, Sam's Club, 4230 John Ben Shephard Pkwy., 362-6106
Dillard's, 4101 E. 42nd St., 362-1986
Pack And Mail, 3952 E. 42nd St., 367-8525
Radio Shack, 3301 Andrews Hwy., 367-7111
Radio Shack, 4101 E. 42nd St., 362-6348
Radio Shack, 901 N. Grandview, 332-9322
Roadrunner, 4961 N. Cypress, 550-3031
The Telephone Store, 3177 E. University, 550-8700
Wal-Mart, 4210 John Ben Shephard Pkwy., 559-5945

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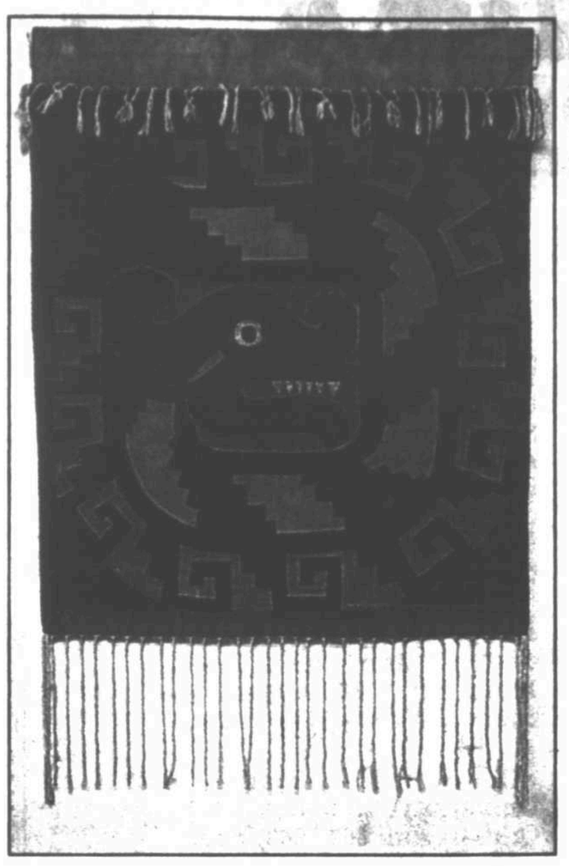
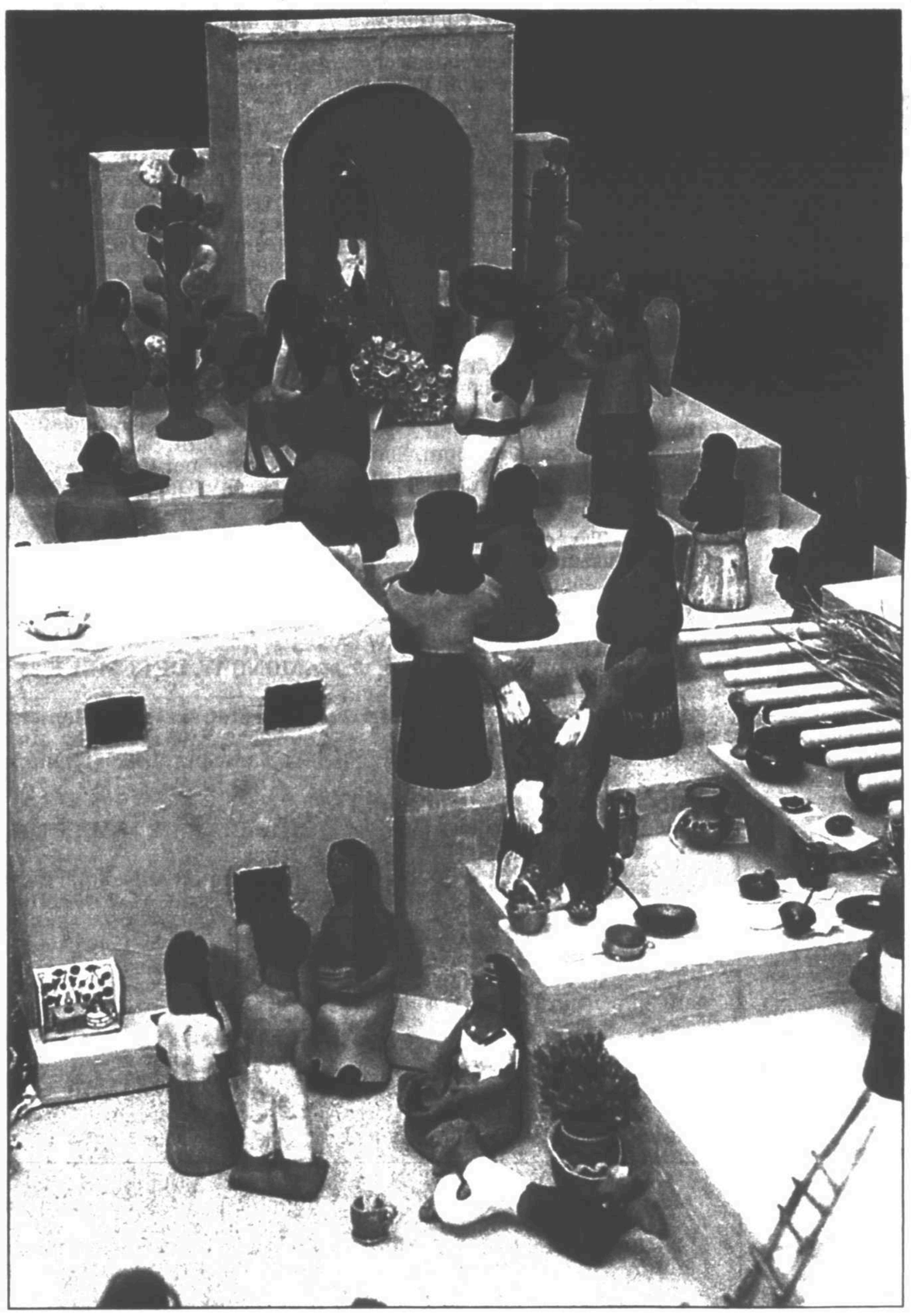
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Crossword Puzzle/2F
Midland Marquee/2F





LIVING TRADITIONS:

Mexican Popular Arts

Bright colors burst forth from the walls of the Museum of the Southwest this holiday season in the exhibition, "Living Traditions: Mexican Popular Arts." "We try to bring in a fun, colorful family-oriented type of exhibition for the holidays because we like to see a lot of visitors at the museum during the holiday season," said director Tom Jones. "People have guests over the holidays. We hope they would want to bring people here and show off their fine museum. And we like to have something special and fun, and something everybody can appreciate."

Imaginative tableaus, tapestries, pottery, wood carvings, paintings on canvas and tin, carved animals and ceremonial masks by Mexican folk artists form the bulk of the exhibition that remains through Jan. 12.

"They're going to love this," Jones said. "It's a real fiesta. All of Mexico really comes together in this show."

Personally, Jones, a relative newcomer to Texas and the Southwest, has found the exhibition "a fantastic introduction to Mexican culture. The exhibit includes objects that "range the gamut from utilitarian to ceremonial to ritual objects. They are all very, very beautiful forms.

"I am learning something about the crafts, traditions, and the various festivals and celebrations, and religious ceremonies that they have."

It includes objects relative to Mexican celebrations including the Day of the Dead, which is a day to honor ancestors. "We have a fantastic section on the Day of the Dead celebration — which I didn't know about — when the dead souls return to earth to celebrate with their friends and families. If you're not familiar with what's going on there, it's almost macabre because of all the skeletons.

"The (skeletal) shapes are very traditional but demonstrate so much imagination. We have skeletons in every possible situation. They are engaged in everyday activities with the living. For those who are unaware of the culture coming in cold, it's kind of macabre. You don't understand what's going on with these skeletons engaged in daily activities. The stuff is very imaginative. A lot of fun."

The exhibition, from the collection of Annie O'Neill, former advisor to the Nelson A. Rockefeller Mexican Folk Art Collection, and curated

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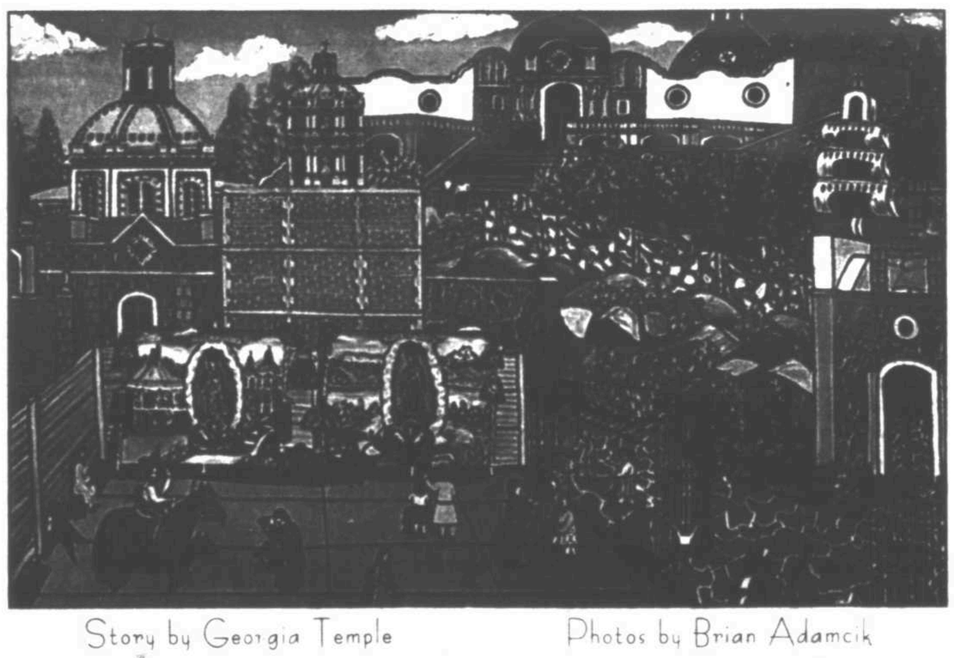


Above left is Village life tableau by Josefina Aguilar and family, which is hand-painted, single-fired and painted earthenware, straw, pottery and wood. At left is Cathedral, by Jacinto Rojas, which is oil on canvas. At top right, detail from an untitled tapestry by Otomi women. At top center, Dragon, 1994, by Antonio Joel Garcia. At top left, Serpent, by Isaac Vasquez, 1972. At far left, Santa made an appearance at the open house.

Story by Georgia Temple Photos by Brian Adamcik

Design by Missy Hallmark

DEC 22 1996

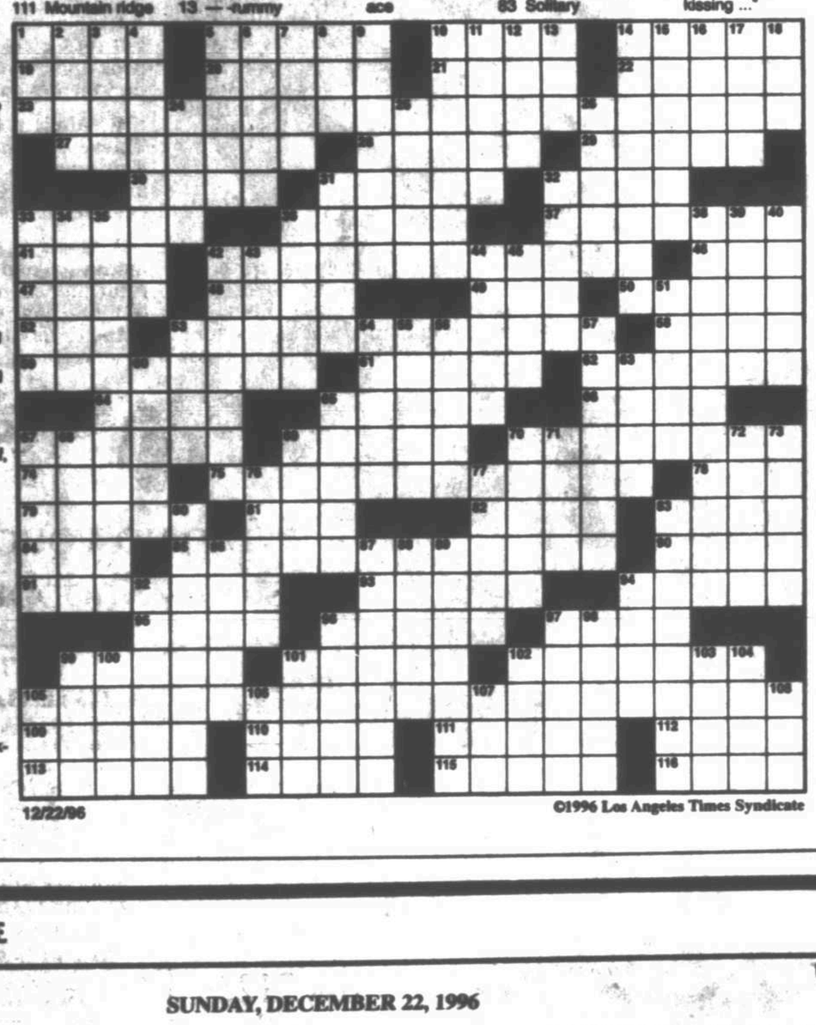
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Joyce Nichols Lewis

"REGIONAL ARTS" By LEVINA LISTON ACROSS
1 Greenish-yellow print
5 Dress — etc.
10 Prudish one
14 One of the bases
19 Consumer
20 Lotte of "Three Penny Opera"
21 Hindu princess
22 Minneapolis suburb
23 Song also called "Jingle Bells"
27 Munitions store
28 Persian lyric poet
29 Borden's bossy
30 Observed
31 Protected from floods
32 Houston and Nunn
33 Three, in an adage
36 Certain dogs, for short
37 Gratifies
41 Gam or Moreno
42 Christmas carol
46 Anger
47 "Call it —"
48 Lively dance
49 Astaire's "Flying down to —"
50 Bush in Whitman's dooryard
52 Marsh
53 Christmas carol
58 "— ça pas?"
59 Tree parts used in leather processing
61 Business VIP's
62 Repeats oneself, in a way
64 Mozart's "— kleine Nachtmusik"
65 Blaze up suddenly
66 Carry on
67 Large coastal seabird
69 — Selassie
70 Foodstuffs
74 Singer Lane
75 Old Latin carol
78 A Gershwin
79 Butcher's stock-in-trade
81 Keats's was Grecian
82 Sofa
83 Stravinsky
84 Double this for a Kenyan terrorist
85 Irving Berlin opus
90 Close the door
91 Place for a sleeve
93 What to do when the cock crows
94 "In God We Trust," e.g.
95 Leatherworkers' tools
96 Dollops
97 "— the Son of Righteousness!"
99 — Romana: papal court
101 Dress style
102 Actor Eli
105 Seasonal song
109 King of ancient Crete
110 Lady Chaplin
111 Mountain ridge
112 Writer Ferber
113 Separated
114 Flirtatious type
115 Summer fabric
116 Tie

DOWN
1 Word of objection
2 Workers' watchdog agcy.
3 Crystal-gazer
4 Road intersection
5 Coeur d'—, Idaho
6 "Bonsai Boy" playwright
7 Organic compound
8 Scottish seaport
9 Loose African garment
10 Avow, often insincerely
11 Type of transit
12 Don Juan's mother
13 — -rummy
14 Headlong haste
15 Ukrainian city
16 Hall of CVI
17 Arba chamb
18 Brief cheer
24 Require
25 WWII air force commander
26 Black Panther Bobby
31 Remove the gust
32 Bobbin
33 Cunning
34 "— cockhorse to Banbury ..."
35 Christmas carol
36 Exece extras
38 Christmas carol
39 Wipe out
40 Factions
42 To that end
43 Pawn, in the parlance
44 Vestige
45 Lagerlof classic children's hero
51 Hole —: golfing ace
53 Bohr or Borge, e.g.
54 Spirit: Prefix
55 More than praise
56 "— Go Again"
57 Parsimonious
60 IQ test developer
63 The priest, not the beast
65 Brice
67 Kind of ray
68 Cross as —
69 Heavenly music-maker
70 Stage whisper
71 One of the beans
72 Rainbow fish
73 Painter Andrea del —
76 Theater extras, informally
77 Steak or cheese choice
80 Most ostentatious
83 Solitary
86 Muhammad's God
87 Nova Scotia capital
88 University of Maine town
89 Generous
92 Ship's refuge
94 Wire measurements
96 Close of stage fame
97 Writer Brat
98 Mork from Ork, e.g.
99 Kind of joint
100 Forearm bone
101 Mine, in Metz
102 Reporter's query
103 Part of CIC
104 Mandlikova of tennis
105 Philanthropist Hogg
106 "— Paul" Kruger
107 Dernier —
108 "I — Mommy kissing ..."



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HOROSCOPE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1996

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! IN THE NEXT YEAR OF YOUR LIFE: A real estate deal could bring long-term financial security. Be civic-minded. A donation of time or money will both improve your community and bring a wonderful honor. A partnership you form in March could be the answer to your prayers. Work hard throughout the summer, then take a fabulous fall vacation. The employment picture looks especially bright for those in the health field. Emphasize your versatility when going on job interviews.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: journalist Diane Sawyer, golfer Jan Stephenson, actress Barbara Billingsley, composer Giacomo Puccini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A religious service or heart-to-heart conversation gives you fresh hope for the future. Let loved ones know that they can always count on you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take family members along when you go to distribute holiday goodies to the less fortunate. Young people will learn from your example. Put your mate's wishes ahead of your own this evening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get an early start if traveling by car or train today. Someone at a distance will worry until you arrive! Be extra considerate of a grandparent or elderly in-law.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A thoughtful act helps bridge a generation gap. A friend could introduce you to someone who will play a big role in your future. Heed your first impressions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Renewing old acquaintances makes this a happy day. Show your surprised delight at receiving a thoughtful gift. Kind deeds mean more than fancy promises. Pitch in and help a stressed out parent entertain youngsters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your special efforts on someone's behalf will produce a big pay-off. Young people are giving you a vote of confidence by respecting your judgment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your wit and wisdom make you an admired host and popular guest. Keep the dinner table conversation light; avoid sensitive subjects. Watching children at play brings back memories.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The unexpected is the rule today. A mystifying event will work to your advantage. Go slow in romance. You must not make a commitment unless certain that it is one you will want to keep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone from out of town deserves a warm welcome. If necessary, change previously made plans. Dining at a fine restaurant may be a nice change for you usually do the cooking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Knowledge of someone's affection for you puts a sparkle in your eyes. Work cheerfully with others to complete last-minute decorating or cooking chores.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A dicey situation takes a turn for the better. You see a family member's efforts with new eyes. Drop-in visitors are possible this evening. Confide your hopes to an old and dear friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A relative's request may seem silly. Try to help out anyway. Getting more rest will help prevent post-holiday exhaustion. Eat and drink moderately at parties; it is much easier to gain weight than lose it.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

EASY, ISN'T IT

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠A864
10 9 5
K 8 6
♣Q 5 4

WEST
♠10 3
A Q J 8 4
A Q J 5
♣8 3

EAST
♠J 7 5
7 6 3 2
9 3 2
♣A J 6

SOUTH
♠K Q 9 2
K
10 7 4
♣K 10 9 7 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1	Pass	2
2♠	4	4♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Eight of ♣

After a game of bridge at the club, the Great Detective was relaxing at 221B Baker Street, playing "The Girl With the Flaxen Hair" on the violin while Dr. Watson was hard at work making notes on some of the hands.

"Dash it, Holmes," Watson broke into his friend's reverie, "I still can't understand why you shifted to a diamond instead of leading the suit I had bid." This was the hand to which the doctor was referring.

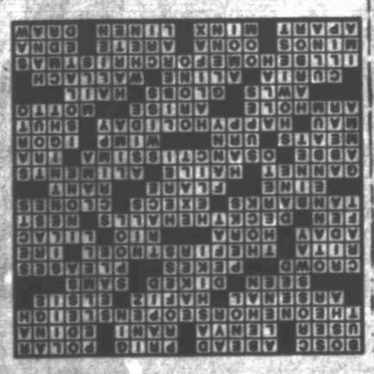
There is no sane explanation for South's decision to enter the auction with two spades when a take-out double would have described the holding nicely. With his usual bravado, Watson had bounced into game on a hand where most would have been content with a game try of three diamonds. Expecting more in high cards from partner, Holmes had chosen to double four spades rather than risk having Watson compete further.

Watson led the eight of clubs, and Sherlock Holmes ducked, allowing declarer to win with the ten. After drawing trumps in three rounds, declarer led a club to the queen, Holmes withholding the ace one more time, and continued with a club to East's ace. With no thought whatsoever East shifted to a diamond.

West rose with the ace of diamonds (playing the jack would have been better technique) and continued with the queen, taken by dummy's king. Having no quick entry back to hand, declarer led a heart to the king and ace, and the jack of diamonds completed a one-trick defeat.

"It was elementary, my dear Watson. The bidding and three hearts in dummy marked declarer with at most one heart. Before South could discard a diamond from dummy on a good club, it was essential that we got our tricks in the suit. The shift was obvious."

PUZZLE ANSWER



MIDLAND MARQUEE

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THE ARTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
A project of
Arts Assembly of Midland
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(915) 687-1149
FAX 687-1600

DECEMBER 22 - 28

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

American Airpower Heritage Museum: EXHIBITION: The American Airpower Heritage Museum is internationally recognized for its collection of authentic World War II artifacts and memorabilia. The museum currently has five permanent exhibits, highlighting five different phases of World War II, in the main gallery and two permanent exhibits in the hanger as well as many traveling exhibits on display. Those enjoying an adventure may take a ride in the simulator, located in the museum gift shop, and experience a ride in a World War I airplane; FILM SERIES: "Lest We Forget - A Video Journey Through World War II," shown through the end of 1996, 10am & 2pm, museum docent will moderate, Free, take an online tour of the museum at HTTP://WWW.AVDigest.COM/AAHM/AAHM.HTML, 9600 Wright Dr., Midland International Airport, Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 12-5pm, call 563-1000, Admission charged.

Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum: 1705 W. Missouri, Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm, call 683-2882.

Gallery 1114: EXHIBITION: "Members Show, with Friends", Kitt Beck, Travis Beckham, Olivia Hill and many more, 1114 N. Big Spring, Thurs.-Sun. 1-5pm, 682-9303, Free.

McCormick Gallery, Midland College: 3600 N. Garfield, Mon.-Thurs. 8am-10pm, Fri. 8am-5pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm, call 685-4556, Free.

Midland Arts Association: EXHIBITION: Executone Building, 112 S. Loraine, Suite 119, Tues. 8am-3pm, Thurs. - Fri. 11-3pm, Free.

Midland Community Theatre: COMEDY: "A Christmas Carol," 2pm, MCT Theatre I, 2000 W. Wadley, call 682-4111, Admission charged.

Museum of the Southwest: EXHIBITION: Living Traditions: Mexican Popular Arts, , folk art paintings, textiles, weavings, ceramics, yarn paintings, etc., through January 12, EXHIBITION: "Under Starry Skies: Defining the Southwest," permanent collection; EXHIBITION: "The Search or Ancient Plainsmen: An Archaeological Experience", ongoing; EXHIBITION: The Collection, ongoing, 1705 W. Missouri, Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm, call 683-2882, Free.

Odessa College: LRC, 201 W. University, Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am-10pm, Fri. 7:30am-5pm, Sat.& Sun. 2-5pm, call 335-6646, Free.

Odessa Art Association: 4909 E. University, San Miquel Square, Odessa, call 362-7988, Free.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum: 1500 W. I-20 West, Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 2-5., call 683-4403, Admission Charged.

The Ellen Noel Art Museum of the Permian Basin: EXHIBITION: Transparencies: Glass by Robert Wilson and Watercolors by Margaret Pace Wilson, through Jan. 5, EXHIBITION: More Ancient Myths From The Modern Suburbs, Ceramics by Chris Stanley, through Jan. 5, 4909 E. University, Odessa, Tues-Sat., 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm, call 550-3811, Free.

University of Texas of the Permian Basin: Mon.-Thurs. 8am-10pm, Fri. 8am-5pm, Sat. 1-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm, 3rd Floor Gallery, 4901 E. University, Odessa, call 552-2806, Free.

White Pool House: 112 E Murphy St., Tues. 12pm-3pm, Wed.-Fri. 10am-3pm, Sun. 2pm-5pm, call 1-333-4072, Free.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library: EXHIBITION: Mon.-Fri.,9am-5pm, 1805 W. Indiana, call 682-5785, Free.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Presidential Museum: EXHIBITION: "Presidential Kitsch 'N Art", through January 4, Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm, 622 N. Lee, Odessa, call 1-332-7123, Admission charged..

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Arts Assembly of Midland maintains a calendar of all arts-related activities. To avoid conflicts with other organizations, please call 687-1149, P.O. Box 3494.

EXHIBIT: Local museum displays 'Mexican Popular Arts' for holidays

(From 1F)

by Marta Turok, president of the Mexican Association of Art and Popular Culture, also includes a selection of retablos or religious paintings.

"That magical time in my life — 14 years of taripa to Mexico to collect all things Mexican," writes Ms. O'Neill in the book "Living Traditions: Mexican Popular Arts," which complements the exhibition. "I will never forget the elaborate yet ephemeral home altars for the 'Day of the Dead,' the cactus fences of Zapotec villages, the ruins of Palenque and Monte Alban, the monumental sculpture of la Venta, stone courtyards choked by age-old vines with flowers in colors I only dreamed existed. But most of all, imprinted forever on my mind, and still warm in my heart, are the artisans and the markets!"

The exhibition investigates how economic and social modernization in Mexico and an influx of tourists from Europe and the Americas affected folk art production since 1950. The more than 500 individual two- and three-dimensional objects range in size from 6x4x4 inches to 26x32x16 inches.

Artists include Dona Teodora Blanco, who was inspired by animals and figural ceramics at the archaeological museums in Oaxaca. Oil paintings by Alfonso Jimenez depict pastoral landscapes of an idealized Olinala, and bark paintings by Teleforo Rodriquez illustrate ceremonial, agricultural and utilitarian elements of village life.

"There's a really interesting assortment of milagros, literally miracles, from the 19th and 20th century," Jones said. "In silver and assorted metals. All hand-crafted. They were hung in churches as offerings to saints."

Jones has found he's most drawn to the carved gourds. "They are painted and lacquered." The designs are "beautifully. intricately carved. It's hard to believe they are gourds.

"I think the show is fascinating in the sense that many objects are utilitarian objects, from clothing to water urns to utensils one would use in the kitchen. They're just very beautiful, embellished in some aesthetic way."

The exhibition was organized by the University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York. The tour is sponsored by ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance, a nonprofit regional arts organization sponsored by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. Additional support is provided to ExhibitsUSA by the H&R Block Foundation, the John S. and James K. Knight Foundation, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Phillips Petroleum Foundation, and the Union Pacific Foundation.

Also on display at the Museum of the Southwest during the holidays are Christmas trees decorated by individuals and businesses in the community, including A-1 Floral, Cynthia Wolfe, Dan Haller of Antiques, Etc., Lamar Coats/Allstate Insurance, Sharon Spear-Smith/Permian Interiors, Lynn Layman's fifth-grade class at Greathouse Elementary and Flowerland's "Visions of Sugar Plums" in the Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum. The door decorations and a display are by Miss Cayce's Christmas Store.

"The decorators who do the trees, do their own thing," Jones said. "Some are inspired by the exhibit, but others have a more traditional holiday imagery and themes. The public can vote on their favorite tree by tying a little ribbon on a pole by the tree."

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The facility will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For more information call 683-2882.

"We encourage everybody to come out during this holiday season to visit the museum not only to see the Mexican exhibit, which is a fantastic show, but to visit the Children's Museum, where we have a fantastic maze," Jones said, referring to the giant walk-through "Amazing Science Maze" — escape from which tests logic and memory.

"We want people not to forget about us as a leisure time option. This is a great place to bring out-of-town guests."

Georgia Temple is the Arts & Entertainment writer for the Reporter-Telegram.

Videos make great stocking stuffers for all ages

Hearst News Service

Stocking stuffers used to be tiny things — sweet treats, cards with cash, Tonka toys.

But the item most often labeled a stocking stuffer today is a bit bigger: a videocassette.

Video is hot at this time of year, both for consumers and for movie studios. Hollywood historically has reaped its biggest profits in theaters at year's end but now enjoys a double whammy via video.

In the early days of the video era, sales were an anomaly. Rentals ruled. That changed as more movies were priced lower for the so-called "sell-through" market and more people got VCRs. (More than 90 percent of U.S. homes now have at least one.) Today the market is shifting toward sales. Video rentals slipped by 4 percent last year, while sales increased from 580 million units in '94 to 682 million units in '95.

This year, sales should increase by 10 percent to 15 percent, according to the New York marketing firm Alexander & Associates.

Leading the way will be a slew of new titles geared to holiday buying.

Whether you stuff them in stockings or tuck them under trees, here are some prominent sell-through titles for the season.

■ "Toy Story," Disney, G, $26.99 — Created by Pixar and released by Disney, this holds appeal for young and old alike. The first film with entirely computer-generated animation, it redefines the state of that art. But its comical characters and its story of a boy's toys come to life are what make the movie soar.

■ "James and the Giant Peach," Disney, PG, $22.99 — Then again, old-fashioned stop-motion animation still can be wondrous. This fable about an orphaned boy and his bug buddies going to New York is even more charming and fanciful than "Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas."

■ "The Wallace & Gromit Gift Set," BBC Video, NR, $24.98 — Stop-motion animation doesn't get much better than these Oscar-winning shorts by director Nick Parks featuring an English inventor and his resourceful dog. The three-tape set includes "A Close Shave," "The Wrong Trousers" and "A Grand Day Out." They're also available separately for $9.98 each.

■ "The Adventures of Pinocchio," New Line, G, $19.98 — Computer animation graces this largely live-action retelling of the classic tale of a puppet longing to be a real boy. Jonathan Taylor Thomas appears briefly as Pinocchio, but special effects do most of the job. Strong in support are Martin Landau as the fatherly Geppetto, Bebe Neuwirth and Rob Schneider as amusing crooks, and Udo Kier as a natty villain.

■ "The Nutty Professor," MCA/Universal, PG-13, $22.98 — Though not suitable for all kids (note the rating), this Eddie Murphy vehicle should be a hoot for adults, as it remakes Jerry Lewis' 1963 original with more guffaws and gusto. Murphy is best in disguise, playing multiple roles.

■ "Independence Day," FoxVideo, PG-13, $22.98 — Sure, it loses some impact on the small screen. But this remains the best disaster flick since "The Poseidon Adventure" — and it's not bad sci-fi, either. As Earth battles alien invaders, the effects are magical, the excitement is palpable, and heroes Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum steal the show in a big way.

■ "Twister," Warner, PG-13, $22.95 — If vivid special effects mean more to you than absorbing plots and characters, this is for you. In the best tornado film since "The Wizard of Oz," scientists Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt chase flying cows across rural Oklahoma.

■ "Flipper," MCA/Universal, PG, $19.98 — Dalmatians aren't the only critters worth savoring on screen. The dolphin star of this update of the '60s series and movie has more smarts and charm than many human actors. But Elijah Wood and Paul Hogan are likable enough as his biped co-stars.

■ "The Beatles Anthology," Turner, NR, $159.98 — The Fab Four tell their tale across the years in this eight-tape, 10-hour boxed set (no tapes are sold separately) that doubles the length of the TV documentary. With far more musical performances than on TV, this is a fitting companion to the three "Anthology" albums. Check stores for substantial discounts.

■ "Giant," Warner, G, $24.98 — In this 40th-anniversary edition of director George Stevens' classic, novelist Edna Ferber's Texas tale proves surprisingly durable. Partly letterboxed and packaged with an hour's worth of extras (trailers, interviews, TV specials), the film shows young Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean in their prime.

It's also available in a boxed gift set for $49.98, including a book and a two-hour documentary on Stevens.

■ "Aladdin and the King of Thieves," Disney, NR, $24.99 — This biggest-ever movie made expressly for video is a funny, eventful winner.

With strong songs, handsome animation and Robin Williams returning as the voice of the Genie — now in a beefed-up role — the "Aladdin" trilogy deserves a big group hug.

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We are Cooking for Christmas
Relax and Enjoy The Holiday Spirit

Chef Andrew Edwards is preparing a Holiday feast of true Christmas Favorites, brimming with the bounty of the season. To include...six different salads, and elaborate display of Smoked Salmon, Assorted Pate Mirrors, Peel and Eat Shrimp, Whole Decorated Salmon.

Carving station with Roast Turkey, Prime Rib of Beef.
Chef cooking stations for Pastas, Omelettes and Waffles
Selection of hot entrees and vegetables.
A wonderful array of Cakes, Pies to include pumpkin pie, mincemeat pie and banana fosters.

Set among our holiday Gingerbread House and towering palm trees in our atrium lobby, creating a truly spectacular setting for a sumptuous holiday dining experience.

For reservations call 915-683-0423 Serving 11am-2pm
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DEC 22 1996

ENTERTAINMENT IN BRIEF

Books released

The Southern Methodist University Press is releasing 11 books this season, ranging from novels to short-story collections to the historical account of a presidential assassination.

Midland native Tracy Daugherty the author of "The Woman in the Oil Field" is one such book.

From the sometimes humorous predicaments of gender wars and domestic change to class conflicts, the horrors of the Stalinist period and the more recent Middle Eastern wars, the 20th century's violence haunts Daugherty's stories. With a compassionate eye on human frailties and needs, he creates a contemporary kaleidoscope of the forces that shape us.

These books are available in most retail bookstores, or they may be purchased through the publishing company by calling 1-800-826-8911.

Special appearance

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Whoopie Goldberg will make a special appearance on Rolanda along with Yolanda King, daughter of Martin Luther King, to promote their starring roles in the soon-to-be released movie, "Ghosts of Mississippi."

Co-stars Alec Baldwin and James Woods will also appear via satellite. Rolanda will air the same day (Friday, Jan. 3) that "Ghosts of Mississippi" opens nationwide.

Dance to be held

ODESSA — A New Year's Eve Dance featuring Jerry Dugan and West Wind will be held Tuesday, Dec. 31st from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Holiday Inn Centre in Odessa. Tickets are $10 per person and are available at Luskey's. Tables will not be held after 9 p.m.

Call 915-362-2311 for reservations.

Paintings displayed

Lula Belle Klinger is displaying her oil and watercolor paintings during the month of December at Midland American Bank. The artist has taken workshops from Bud Biggs, Harold Roney, Ronald Thomason, and LaWanda Calton, among others. Her paintings are of West Texas and New Mexico landscapes.

She is a member of Midland Arts Association, Palette Club, Porcelain Art Club and many other organizations. The paintings can be viewed in the bank lobby during regular banking hours.

Auction planned

Museum of the Southwest presents Auction '97 on Feb. 13, 1997.

Every three years, dedicated volunteers organize Auction, a formal event that includes cocktails and dinner along with the posted, sealed and live auction of donated items from individuals and local and national businesses. Proceeds benefit the Museum's operating, acquisitions, and endowment funds.

Now a major fundraising event, the first Auction was held in Dec. 1970 and netted over $35,000. Auction 94 netted over $290,000.

For more information call the Museum of the Southwest.

Ball to be held

Midland Symphony Guild presents February Fantastique, our ninth gala weekend.

The special date for the Ball will be Friday, Feb. 14, 1997. The Ball, which for the first time will be an alcohol-free event, will feature the returning New York entertainment sensation La Masquerade, an elaborate Senior Belle Presentation, a fabulous Dinner Buffet, and a Symphony Surprise Package. The Brunch, with our Freshman Belle Introduction and a unique fun-filled Style Show presented by Skibell's, will conclude the "Fantastique" festivities on Saturday, Feb. 15, 1997.

This magical weekend filled with fantasy, feast, and fun is the major Guild Fundraiser for our excellent Symphony and Chorale. Also, many outstanding young ladies, who have participated in the four year Belle Program of the Guild, will be honored.

Seating is limited. Your contribution is tax deductible and will benefit the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale and your community.

Competiton open

HOUSTON — The 30th Annual WorldFest, April 4-13, 1997 has opened the competition for entries to all categories with an entry deadline of Friday, Feb. 14th. WorldFest-Houston will send out more than 50,000 entry kits and full-color 24x36 posters world-wide that commemorate the 30th year of WorldFest and the 100th Year of Japanese Cinema, which began in Tokyo, Japan in 1897. The posters are designed by Norm Kohn, Art Director for WorldFest since its beginning 30 years ago.

For a free copy of the 1997 Collectors Edition WorldFest poster and entry kit, send your name and address to: Entry Director, WorldFest-Houston, P.O. Box 56566, Houston, Texas 77256-6566 or fax: 713-965-9960. In the USA 1-800-501-1011 or call 713-965-9955 or e-mail: Worldfest@aol.com or visit our web site: http://www.vannevar.com/worldfest.

Midlander performs

ABILENE — Abilene Christian University student Hillary Evitt, freshman theater major from Midland, played the role of Susan in the ACU Children's Theater production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" earlier this month.

Based on the first book in the children's series, "The Chronicles of Narnia," by C.S. Lewis, the take is of four children who find their way to the magical land of Narnia through a wardrobe. There they meet talking animals, mystical creatures, and the evil White Witch, ruler of Narnia. With the help of a great lion, Aslan, the children defeat the witch and become the kinds and queens of Narnia. The work was dramatized by Joseph Robinette.

Choir to perform

The Sanctuary Choir of West Kentucky Baptist Church will present a Christmas cantata "The Story of Christmas" at 11 a.m. today. (Dec. 22)

In addition to the cantata, the Children's Church will present the musical "Joy to the World" during the 6:30 p.m. services today.

The public is invited to attend both. A nursery will be provided for both. the church is located at 1507 W. Kentucky Ave.

Scripts accepted

Midland Community Theatre is accepting scripts for its annual McLaren Comedy Playwriting Competition.

The winning playwright will receive a $400 cash prize and his or her play will be produced as part of the next MCT season. MCT is seeking only unproduced comedy scripts. length, number of characters and setting is not limited. Scripts will be accepted until Jan. 31. a $5 entry fee per script is required.

Send typed scripts and entry fee to McLaren Comedy Playwriting competition, Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave., Midland, Texas 79705.

Meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the West Texas Writers Club is set for 2 p.m. Jan. 4 in the second floor meeting room of Midland County Public Library, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Meetings are open to all interested in writing in any form whether for pay or for self-satisfaction. Guests are invited. There is no charge. Annual memberships are available at $5.

A special feature of this meeting will be a presentation by Nancy Robinson Masters, writer, teacher and lecturer. She will speak on "Hot to Not Get Burned in the Hot Market of Self-Publishing."

For more information call John Comeaux, president, 682-5370.

Class to be taught

Mary Frances Beverley will teach a class, "Write Your memories!," at First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave., Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. beginning Jan. 8 and lasting for nine weeks. participants do not have to be members of the church.

Ms. Beverley will lead informal discussions of family memories, school days, early jobs, romances, World War II, memorable places and other life experiences. She will show participants how they can preserve their memories in several book forms.

"All of us wish we had written records of the stories our own parents told us over and over," Ms. Beverley said. "these recorded memories will be treasured forever by our children, grandchildren and all those who come after us."

Ms. Beverley taught English for 23 years and is a freelance nonfiction writer.

Those wishing to register need to mail or deliver their fee to First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave., Midland, Texas 79701. Fee for the class is $45. For more information call 684-6122.

Works on display

An exhibition of works by "Members and Friends" is on display through Jan. 5 at Gallery 1114.

Gallery members include Kitt Beck, Travis Beckham, Rosa Clark, Paula Babb Cox, Karen Hembree, Olivia Hill, Joyce Howell, Janet Whitman, Betsey Wiesenfeld and Lee Wiesenfeld.

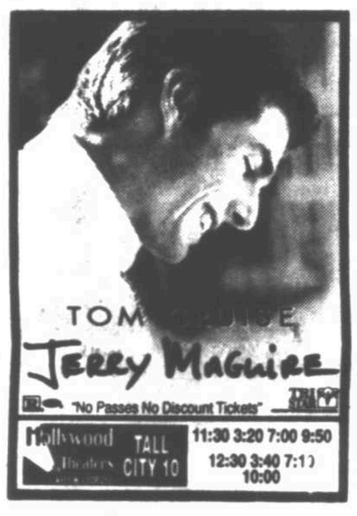
Artist "friends" joining the show this year are Steve Goff, instructor of photography at Odessa College; Carla Poindexter, instructor of painting at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin; and Warren Taylor, who teaches painting at Midland College.

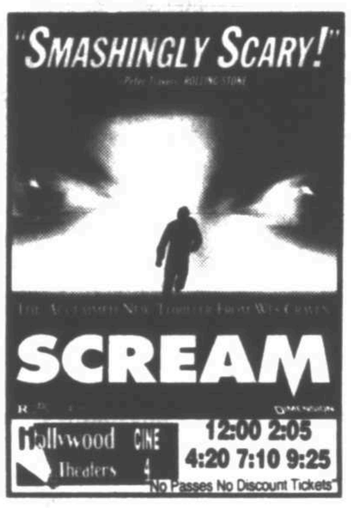
This show features work in paint, graphics, ceramics, photography, and mixed media.

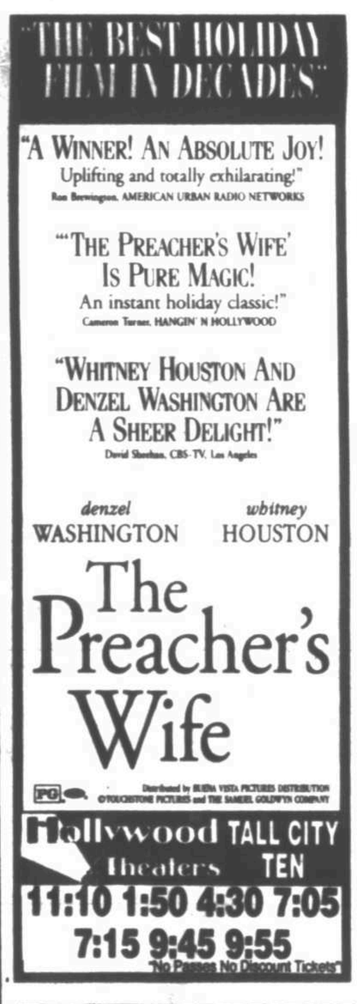
New small works also are being shown in the craft and gift galleries.

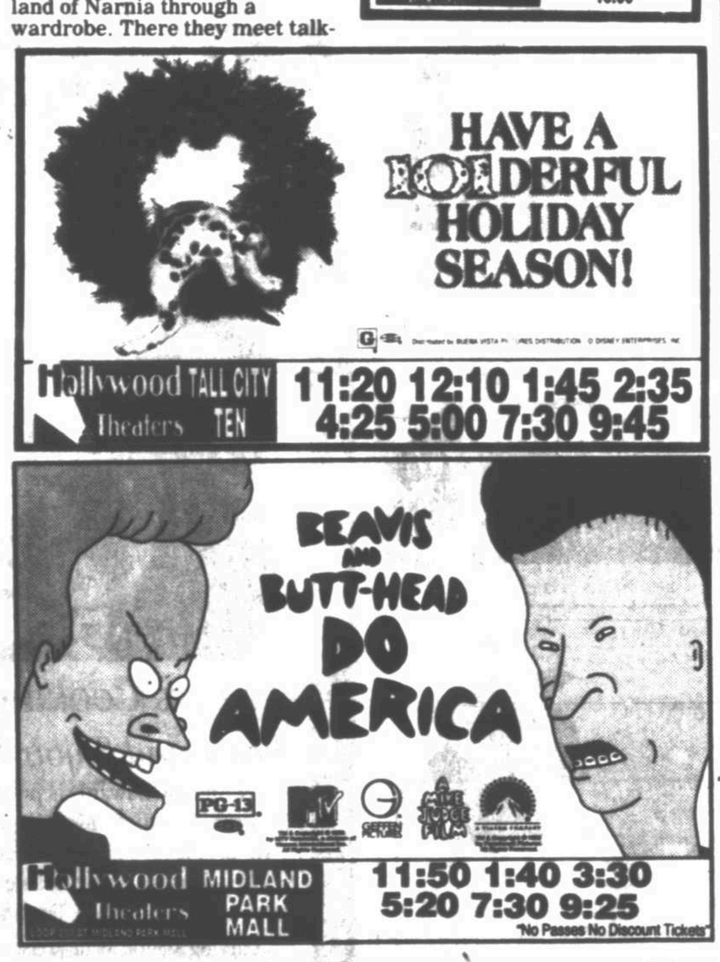
Gallery 1114 is an artists cooperative located at 1114 N. Big Spring St. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

Please see BRIEFS/5F









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Free Entertainment Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 19
Zuma 6 to 9 pm (Mastercuts)
Teddy Seals 5:45 to 7:15 pm (Express)
Take Two 5, 6:30 & 8 pm (Payless)
Dishling Divas 7 pm (Regis)
Harlem Rhodes Balloon Sculpture 4 to 8 pm (Sears)
Johnny Blaine 6 to 8 pm (Footlocker)

Friday, Dec. 20
Ryan Anderson 7 to 9 pm (Mastercuts)
Teddy Seals 6 & 8 pm (Express)
Shylo & Mylo Balloons 6 to 8 pm (Payless)
Rose Seals 4:30 to 5:30 pm (Regis)
Joe Love 6 to 8 pm (Regis)
Melissa Sanders 7 pm (Corn Dog)

Saturday, Dec. 21
Dusty & Jose 3, 5, & 7 pm (Mastercuts)
Dixie Hall 2, 5:30 & 7:30 pm (Express)
Tina Contreras 4 pm (County Seat)
Harlem Rhodes 10 to 2 pm (Payless)
Dusty Dollies noon (Regis)
Dena Pettit 1, 3, 5 & 7 pm (Regis)
Teddy Seals 2, 4 & 6 pm (Corn Dog)
The Seed 1, 3, 5 & 7 pm (Footlocker)
Hispanic Heritage 2 & 4 pm (Gordon)

Sunday, Dec. 22
Rena McHaney 2 to 6 pm (JCPenney)
Dena Pettit 1, 3:30 & 5 pm (Regis)
Barbara Bass 2 to 3:30 pm (Regis)
La-La Clown 2 to 6 pm (Express)
Shylo & Mylo 2 to 6 pm (Payless)
Teddy Seals 6, 3 & 6 pm (Express)
Lone Star Divas 4 to 5 pm (Express)
Electric Gypsies 12, 2, 4 & 6 pm (Footlocker)
Jennifer Mason 5 pm (Footlocker)
Hanneman Christmas Baritone 3 pm (Footlocker)
Hispanic Mission 2 to 4 pm (Sears)
Dixie Hall 1 & 7 pm (Footlocker)

ENTERTAINMENT IN BRIEF

(From 4F)

Live broadcast set

Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" will be broadcast live from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 1:30 p.m., eastern time, over the Texaco-Metropolitan Opera International radio Network. It will be heard locally on KCRS.

Jennifer Larmore and Dawn Upshaw will perform as Hansel and Gretel, Merilyn Zschau as the Witch, and Ruth Falcon and Timothy Noble as Hansel and Gretel's parents, Gertrude and Peter.

The announcer will be Peter Allen.

The 1996-97 broadcast season continues through April 26 with 20 consecutive Saturday broadcasts planned.

Musical presented

Midland Community Theatre is presenting a musical version of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" through today. (Dec. 22.)

The show, which is sponsored by Parker & Parsley, is onstage in Davis Theatre One, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. Curtain is at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for children 12 and younger. The box office is open to the general public. For reservations call 682-4111.

Artwork exhibited

The artwork of Dolleye Neal Ballenger is on exhibit in the Green Room and the dining area of Midland Country Club through Jan. 1.

A self-taught artist, Ms. Ballenger is a member of a pioneer ranch family. Flowers and still lifes are her primary subjects.

Ms. Ballenger is a patron member of the Midland Arts Association. She has been a member since the club began.

Exhibit remains

ODESSA — The exhibition, "Drawing and Design" remains through Jan. 3 in the Third Floor Gallery at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

The show features works by freshman and sophomore drawing and design students.

Admission charged

ODESSA — The Presidential Museum, corner of 7th and Lee streets, started charging a nominal admission fee Dec. 1.

Those fees are $2 for adults ages 18-64, $1 for ages 65 and older and free to students and preschoolers.

Museum members will be allowed an allocated number of free admission tickets dictated by the selected membership category.

For more information on the charges or the museum call 1-915-332-7123. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Scripts wanted

The Summer Mummers of Midland Community Theatre is looking for an original Melodrama to be performed during the summer of 1997. Scripts should contain the traditional heroes and villains, with good triumphing over the evil in the end.

Authors are requested to send scripts to Summer Mummers, c/o MCT, 2000 W. Wadley, Midland, Texas 79705.

Tickets sold out

ODESSA — Tickets for a Jan. 9 Larry Gatlin concert being held in conjunction with Odessa College's 50th anniversary are now sold out according to Susan Hammonds at Odessa College.

Works displayed

Nancy Klingler is displaying her drybrush watercolor and oil paintings in the lobby of Midland American Bank this month.

The subject matter ranges from wildlife, Southwestern still lifes, West Texas and New Mexico landscapes, florals, and scenes from the historic Lambshead Ranch in Shackelford County. Ms. Klingler is a member of the Midland Arts Association. Her work may be viewed during banking hours.

Exhibit on display

ODESSA — An exhibition "Bugs and Dreams & Other Things" is on display at Proteus Gallery, 112 W. Fifth, here, through Feb. 1.

Works in the exhibit are by Carol Bailey, Kathleen Kuchar and Susan Randle.

Live entertainment

ODESSA — Chelsea Street Pub and Grill, located in the Music City Mall here, features live entertainment beginning at 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Also, Karaoke is on Sundays from 8 to 11 p.m.

Those attending are asked to use the outside entrance after mall hours.

December performances include Street Talk, Dec. 26-28 and 30-31. Dec. 24 and 25 there will be no entertainment. Dec. 16-17 has not been announced yet.

Maze open

The Amazing Science Maze is open at the Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. This giant walk-through maze will challenge and entertain children and adults alike as logic and memory are tested to find a way out.

Also, classes are available for ages 3 through 5 and for kindergartners through age 12 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Classes have the same theme for each age group, but instruction is age appropriate.

"Short Takes" activities for preschoolers are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. while Art in Action for grade school students are form 3:30 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration is required and may be made by calling 683-2882 or 570-7770. Fees of $8 per child for museum members or $10 per child for non-members should be paid four days prior to the class.

Other activities at the Children's Museum include storytelling, puppet theater and the Maze. For information about classes and other activities call 683-2882 or 570-7770.

Hours for the Maze are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Exhibit featured

The MAA Art Gallery is featuring the "Small Works" exhibit.

The gallery, run by the Midland Arts Association, is located in the Executone Building, 112 S. Loraine St., across from the Hilton.

The show features art work 12 inches by 16 inches or smaller. Each is priced for under $100.

The gallery will be closed the week of Thanksgiving. Call the business office, 685-5050, for more information.

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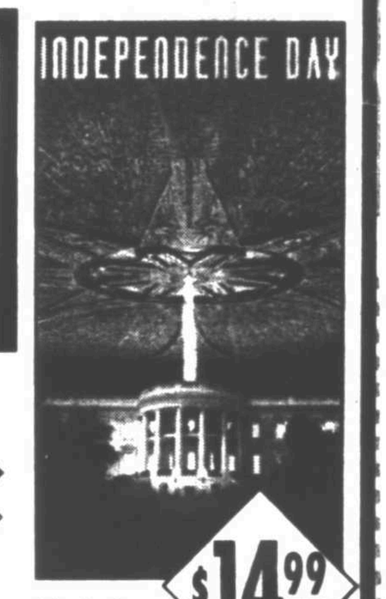

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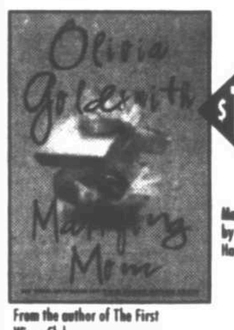

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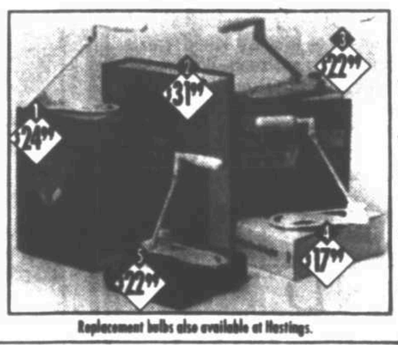

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Almost 60 percent of teens volunteer time, study finds

By Eunice Moscoso
N.Y. Times News Service

On average, teenagers donated 3.5 hours a week, for a total of 2.4 billion hours in 1995. That's equal to having 1.1 million fulltime employees.

WASHINGTON — Millions of U.S. teenagers are scraping graffiti off park benches, picking up groceries for the elderly, rocking AIDS babies to sleep and performing other volunteer services, according to a survey released Tuesday.

Young people "are more compassionate and giving than adults," said Virginia Hodgkinson of Independent Sector, a research group that funded the survey.

Almost 60 percent of U.S. youths aged 12 to 17 volunteered their time in 1995 compared to about 48 percent of adults, the survey found.

On average, teenagers donated 3.5 hours a week, for a total of 2.4 billion hours in 1995. That's equal to having 1.1 million fulltime employees, Hodgkinson said.

While the overall number of teenage volunteers increased 7 percent from 1991 to 1995, the survey found an 11 percent drop among black teenagers.

The report didn't detail specific reasons for this decline, but it did note one obvious problem — black teenagers simply are not asked to volunteer as much as other groups.

And asking is the key, said Hodgkinson.

Teens reported they were four times more likely to volunteer if they were asked than if they were not asked.

"The young people of our minority populations are an untapped resource," said Sara Melendez, president of the Washington-based Independent Sector, a coalition of nearly 800 voluntary organizations, foundations and corporate giving programs.

Part of the problem stems from minority groups' disproportionately lower incomes, said Melendez.

There's a misconception that lower income groups aren't interested in volunteering, she said.

In addition, lower-income groups are less likely to be members of formal organizations such as religious and community service groups where most of teen volunteering occurred in 1995.

The nationwide survey — conducted from July 20 to Aug. 14 by the Gallup Organization — consisted of in-home personal interviews with 1,007 youths aged 12 to 17.

(Story can end here. Optional add follows.)

Steven Culbertson, CEO of Youth Service America, an alliance of community service organizations, said communities will be "forced" to rely more heavily on volunteers in the face of government cutbacks and the "devolution" from federal to state and local problem-solving.

In particular, they will look to young volunteers who are "committed, energetic and idealistic," he said.

One of these volunteers, Sarah From, a senior at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Md., has been problem-solving since preschool — when she frequently assisted her parents who delivered food to those less fortunate.

During high school, From has helped clean up the Anacostia River, raise money for battered women's shelters, accompany the elderly and rebuild the bond between African American and Jewish youth in her community.

The 17 year-old — who belongs to eight service-oriented groups — said her friends not only support her efforts but are even somewhat impressed.

"It's looked at as almost cool," she said.

Remains of fame: Author recalls Beatlemania

By Steve Morse
N.Y. times News Service

The Beatles have been marched before our eyes and ears frequently this year. Sometimes the marketing has been aggressive, but now comes a more relaxed look at the Fab Four. It's a breezy journal written by Barry Tashian — former leader of New England's Barry & the Remains, which opened for the Beatles on their last tour in 1966.

That tour brought them to Suffolk Downs in East Boston, Shea Stadium, Dodger Stadium and 11 other sites across the country. It was destined to be the last hurrah of Beatlemania, but don't look for any gory details in Tashian's "Ticket to Ride" (Dowling Press of Nashville).

"This isn't a dirt-on-the-Beatles book," he says "It's just a fun book."

It's a collection of journal excerpts, photos, news tidbits, fan comments, song lists and reviews of the shows. The Globe's review of the Suffolk Downs show commented on the "noise and tumult," adding that Joe Kennedy (now Senator Joe Kennedy) drove up from Hyannisport for it and exclaimed that John Lennon was his favorite Beatle.

"The book is meant as a celebration," says Tashian, who formed the garage-rocking Barry & the Remains in 1964. Their big hit was "Diddy Wah Diddy" and their first gig was at Myles Standish Hall at Boston University. They then became one of the first bands to play the now-legendary Rathskellar in Kenmore Square. "The Rathskellar at the time was just cleancut kids drinking beer," he says.

The Remains shared the same US agent as the Beatles, Bob Bonis, who arranged the opening slot along with the Ronettes and Bobby Hebb. The Remains also backed those two acts on stage. "We didn't want to back anyone, but it took us about 60 seconds to say yes to the tour anyway," says Tashian, who later spent 10 years as singer-guitarist in Emmylou Harris' Hot Band and today has a folk-country duo with his wife called Barry & Holly Tashian, which records for Rounder in Cambridge.

Tashian's journal entries run from what he ate on tour (steak was a favorite) to memories of hanging out with George Harrison (who jammed on Tashian's Epiphone guitar) and Lennon. The one risque note is of partying with Lennon (and listening to a Tim Hardin album) in the Hotel Warwick in New York, where manager Brian Epstein, at Lennon's request, "produced a gold cigarette case, opened it up and handed John a pre-rolled, filter-tipped joint. I've never seen such a perfectly rolled joint."

Alas, the Remains broke up shortly after the tour. "It was purely an emotional reaction," says Tashian. "I was not well-versed in the way the music business worked. I was expecting some instant results from going on a three-week tour. ... Plus, I didn't want to jump around on stage like a monkey anymore."

He had kept a journal at his dad's suggestion. He then put it in his attic for 28 years before an English-teacher friend advised turning it into a book. "I also found it was very therapeutic to go back to that time again. It had all been lost in the murky past. To actually redo it was incredibly liberating."

Boston singer Peter Wolf says of the book: "It will warm the cockles of your coffee table." And a final note: Tashian will appear tomorrow at the Collectibles Extravaganza at the Central Valley Expo Center in Methuen, 10 to 5 p.m. It's a pop-culture event also featuring Pete Best, onetime drummer for the Beatles.

• • •

Radio-sponsored concerts: The wave of recent radio-sponsored holiday concerts coincides with a cover piece in Performance magazine that asks whether these concerts are good or bad for business. Many traditional promoters are upset by them, saying that stations put pressure on record labels to deliver the acts in an implied exchange for airplay.

Dave Marsden of the Don Law Agency in Cambridge, Mass. says that "stations promise acts wine and roses, have their night with them and won't pick up their call the next morning."

Arny Granat of JAM Productions in the Midwest says that "acts on these shows that return to play solo concerts are stiffing and the radio stations do not promote their solo dates after their radio station date has played." Says Larry Magid of Electric Factory Concerts in Philadelphia: "It's payola." Other observers say the phenomenon is just something they'll have to accept.

Says Jack Boyle of Cellar Door Productions in Washington: "The times are changing and we as promoters need to change with them." Conspicuously absent are quotes from radio programmers, who love these shows because they help boost ratings.

• • •

Saying no to Jacko: Former Aerosmith manager Tim Collins, who is mulling his options while taking time off from the business, has turned down an offer to manage Michael Jackson. "I just didn't feel right about it," he said. "My experience has been with harder rock bands and that's where I'm more comfortable." Collins has been vacationing in California and Arizona as he ponders his next move, but also has been working on drug prevention programs for the National Academy of Arts & Sciences, which puts on the Grammy Awards.

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Women's Care Update

by Michael S. Phillips, M.D.
Diplomate, American Board Obstetrics & Gynecology

PREMATURE INDICATOR

Obstetricians who are concerned that a patient may be at risk for premature delivery can use a simple test to help forecast preterm labor. The test, which is similar to a Pap smear, can be preformed in the doctor's office after 23 weeks of pregnancy and involves screening for fetal fibronectin(fFN). Detection of fFN in the vagina may be an indication that the placenta and fetal sac are starting to separate from the uterus and that early labor is likely. According to one study at Ohio State University, 44% of the women who delivered prematurely tested positive for fFN, while 86% of those who delivered at term tested negative. At the moment, this test for fFN is the best predictor for who is likely to develop preterm labor. Women who test positive can be monitored and, if necessary, be put on bed rest or given medication to prolong their pregnancies.

Even though medical understanding to the causes of preterm labor remains limited, there is new hope for babies at risk of being born too soon. With today's technology, it may be possible to delay as many as 50% of all preterm births. I would be happy to discuss with you the risk factors for preterm labor, its early signs, and the ways in which you and your doctor can assure you baby the time it needs to prepare foe a healthy life. For an appointment, please call us at 522-2222, conveniently located at the Primary Medical Clinic-Westwood, 4214 Andrews Highway, Suite#100, in Midland.

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Community Health Services	8112
Support Groups	8113 & 8114
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Hearing Concerns	
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Photog

By Vicki Goldb
N.Y. Times News

NEW YORK — French official in Daguerre's inven Chamber of Dep ed that the new n be immensely us and sciences, but time describing i painting and scul of the benefits to painters, he said:

"The process w a quick and easy forming collectio and drawings, wh not be able to pro they were to spen and trouble in dol their own hand, a they would be far

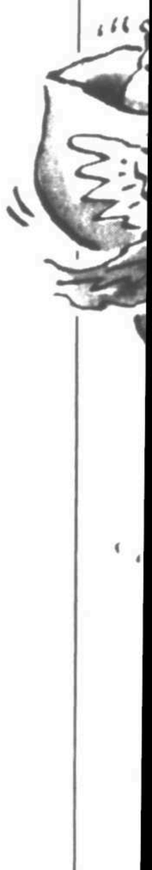
Events proved correct. Photogra expected to be a h art, and artists us place of models, and trips into the for most of the la one admitted it.

When Corot die photographs were studio. Frederick the American pai scape as spectacl than 4,000 photogr Lawrence Alma-T English painter w Greeks on canvas than 5,000.

We now know h Delacroix, Ingres Courbet and many artists were with "Studies After Na tury Photographs show of 61 photogr Julie Saul Gallery more comprehens by Ken Jacobson, d'Apres Nature," business of makin artists and glance realms of interpla tography and art.

The more consi ful images in this photographs modi hand of an amateu craftsman. Two p photographs from the tradition of ha graphics had raise ing to a high level robust delicacy. T tographs made sp artists are genera known and more t ty, ranging from l prising, charming

They include ex nudes carefully po nothing more dan artistic studies in past the hyperacti There are also ph art, which made a



Photography was expected to be handmaid to art, providing artists with reference system

By Vicki Goldberg
N.Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — In 1839, when a French official introduced Daguerre's invention in the Chamber of Deputies, he predicted that the new medium would be immensely useful to the arts and sciences, but he spent more time describing its effect on painting and sculpture. Speaking of the benefits to draftsmen and painters, he said:

"The process will afford them a quick and easy method of forming collections of sketches and drawings, which they would not be able to procure, unless they were to spend much time and trouble in doing them with their own hand, and even then they would be far less perfect."

Events proved his predictions correct. Photography was expected to be a handmaid to art, and artists used it heavily in place of models, portrait sittings and trips into the field, though for most of the last century no one admitted it.

When Corot died, some 200 photographs were found in his studio. Frederick Edwin Church, the American painter of landscape as spectacle, owned more than 4,000 photographs; Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, the English painter who revived the Greeks on canvas, had more than 5,000.

We now know how involved Delacroix, Ingres, Corot, Courbet and many another artists were with photography. "Studies After Nature: 19th-Century Photographs for Artists," a show of 61 photographs at the Julie Saul Gallery in SoHo, and a more comprehensive catalogue by Ken Jacobson, "Etude d'Apres Nature," address the business of making images for artists and glance at some other realms of interplay between photography and art.

The more consistently delightful images in this show are a few photographs modified by the hand of an amateur artist or a craftsman. Two partially painted photographs from Japan, where the tradition of hand-colored graphics had raised hand-coloring to a high level, have a kind of robust delicacy. The photographs made specifically for artists are generally less well known and more uneven in quality, ranging from lovely to surprising, charming to forgettable.

They include explicit female nudes carefully posed to look like nothing more dangerous than artistic studies in order to slip past the hyperactive censors. There are also photographs of art, which made artistic copying easier, and pictures of peasants, farm animals, landscapes and bits of architecture. Some of these are so casual they come as a revelation, others so minor they threaten to bring on a yawn.

After all, the photographers were compiling a sort of mail-order catalogue of the world. Atget, a late practitioner of the profession loosely defined in this show (and the only exemplar ever given extensive attention by museums), was a truly remarkable photographer whose work includes some truly boring records of his corner of France. (A small but good selection of Atgets is on view at the Yancey Richardson Gallery down the hall from Julie Saul.)

One of the more fascinating aspects of photographic studies for artists (an aspect more evident in the catalogue than the show) is that they sometimes strayed into styles that were outside or beyond the reach of 19th-century esthetics. They could run off into extreme casualness or oddly cropped compositions of a type that did not become prevalent until the hand camera was marketed in the last quarter of the century. Some photographers even came up with something akin to an all-over composition by looking down at a field of flowers or standing close to a spreading tree so the branches stretched beyond the surface of the plate.

Such approaches may strike us as proto-modern, but without written evidence that someone at the time was dismayed, we have to assume people did not think them odd. As a fish would be hard pressed to define water, so the 19th century would have had a certain difficulty defining its own style, and it was not very interested in formulating an overview of photography.

Besides, photographic studies were documents — the sign by Atget's door said "Documents Pour Artistes" — and documents would have been under less compulsion to obey esthetic dictates than "artistic" photographs. If they were merely studies, even more would be permitted. Studies, and especially details, are just that, and do not have to follow the codes of fine painting. Twentieth-century eyes can detect tiny 20th-century moments hundreds of years too early: if isolated, a ruff painted by Franz Hals or a piece of drapery by Velazquez would make a puzzling abstraction a la Willem de Kooning and company.

> **'The process will afford them (artists) a quick and easy method of forming collections of sketches and drawings, which they would not be able to procure, unless they were to spend much time and trouble in doing them with their own hand, and even then they would be far less perfect.'**
>
> —French official

The more artistic nudes were no doubt made for artists and no doubt also bought by many men who were not. Other images may well have been intended as aids to art, but determining what they were made for frequently involves a certain amount of guesswork. A group of pictures in "Studies After Nature" are mounted and labeled "Etude d'Apres Nature," making their intentions perfectly clear. A part of one photograph is even covered by a grid drawn in by the artist to assist in transferring a drawing of it to paper or canvas.

But both intention and use can be multiple, both can be hard to discover, and photographic categories are slippery and imprecise to begin with. Photographers might have hoped their pictures were artistic enough to sell as studies and also as art.

And some art photographs that were not "etudes" at all served as study matter for painters. Eugene Cuvelier, whose work is currently on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is not known to have been a commercial photographer, yet his work doubtless influenced his artist-friends as theirs did him.

According to the catalogue, Paris in the 1860s, 70s and 80s had several shops that catered to the needs of artists, so at least for a while supplying artists with photographic studies was a brisk business. "Etude d'Apres Nature" was the term originally used for artists' sketches and later for engravings produced commercially to supplement and supplant such preliminary drawings. Artists have always needed sketches and long had assistance in obtaining them; artists' sketchbooks meant to serve other artists can be found as early as the 13th century.

Photography in the 19th century provided not only a newly comprehensive reference system, but also a splendid time-and-labor-saving device: no need to travel to Italy to see the Venus de Milo, no need to zip out to Barbizon to see the forest. This is one way the Industrial Revolution came to artists. The encyclopedic potential of the camera confirmed and abetted the century's penchant for enormous compendia of knowledge. Organizations, professions, governments geared up to compile catalogues, lists, maps, records, comparative materials, archives. The camera contributed heavily to new referencing systems in criminology, medicine, botany, astronomy, physiology, anthropology, sociology, art history, and the minor area of artists' studies.

Artists have always learned by looking at and copying works of art, and photographs of art made many more available to them. The public wanted such pictures, too: an essay by Anthony Hamber in the Jacobson catalogue points out that in the 1850s and 60s, about 30 percent of photographs on exhibit were of works of art and were considered works of art in their own right.

What's more, the Industrial Revolution was already producing such excesses of bad taste that a movement was under way to educate both industrialists and the public at large in the rules of good esthetic behavior. Art, made portable by the camera, was the obvious way to save society from sins of bad taste.

Some museums were already recording their collections by the 1840's and selling the photographs to an eager public. Soon companies were set up to feed the hunger of the tourist trade with images by the masters. The foundations for Andre Malraux's museum without walls were already being laid.

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Special Music: Debra Patchell, Soloist

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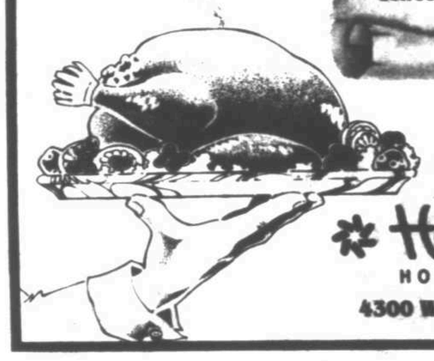

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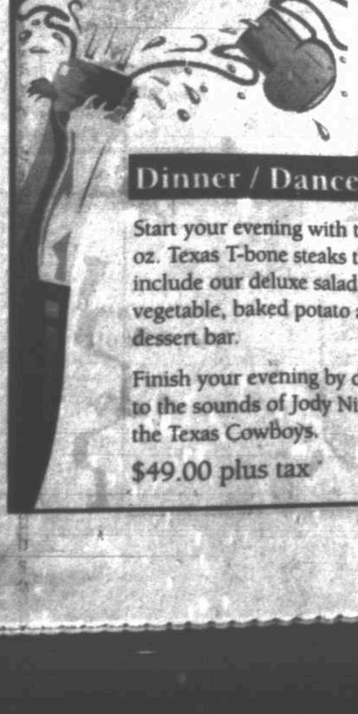

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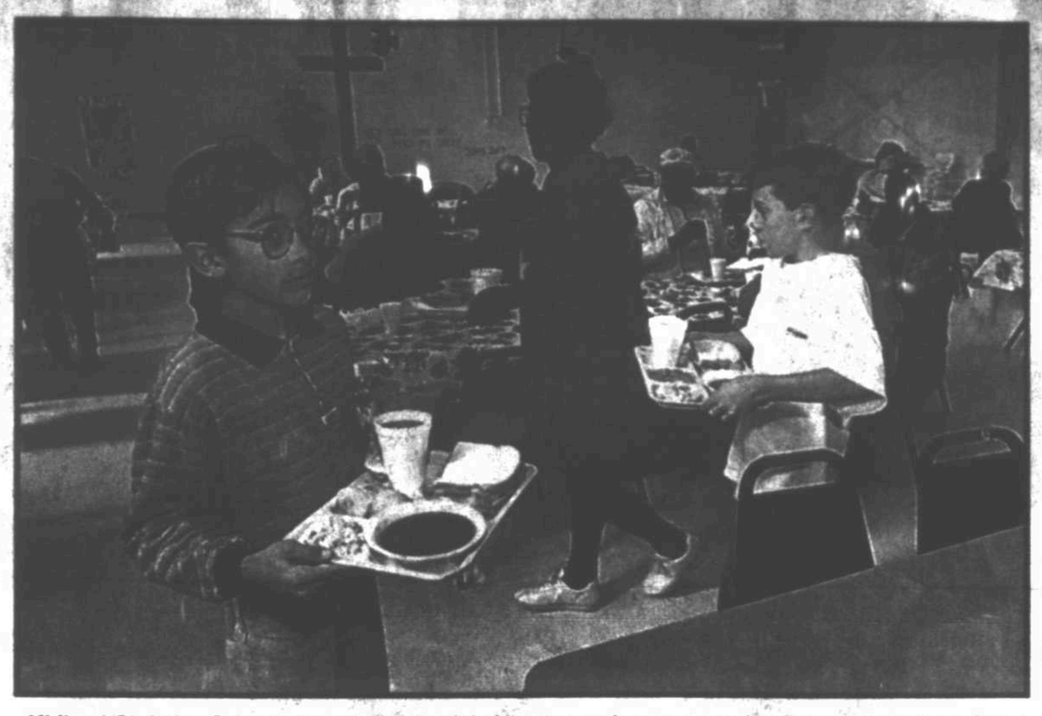
EDUCATION



Midland Christian School sixth-grader Patrick Albertson, above, scans the dining room of the Soup Kitchen for a diner in need of lunch. The student spent a couple of hours serving lunch with his peers recently in a classroom project to provide service to the community.

Midland Chrisitan School student Chelsea Commagere, above, serves tea to visitors at the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministries.

Students serve up holiday cheer

By Myra Lee Salcedo
Staff Writer

The holiday season means Santa, Christmas trees, shopping, lighting candles in homes and places of worship, and for one group of sixth-grade students, it meant a chance to give of themselves.

Rather than exchange gifts in the classroom, some Midland Christian School students in Carol Willis' classroom collected money to donate to Midland Soup Kitchen Ministries. The class made two gingerbread houses to donate to the kitchen. Then they also decided to give of themselves by serving lunch to Midland's people in need.

"The students talked about doing a lot of other things, but this was one way they could see the end result of where their money goes," Ms. Willis said. "And I wanted to emphasize service."

Holding a pitcher of iced tea, Chelsea Commagere, 11, said she and her peers considered volunteering for various charitable programs in town, including collecting toys for children. "We also thought about adopting a family. But we voted on this," she said.

Bianca Caraveo, 12, spread mayonnaise on a mountain of bologna sandwiches. "I feel good about what I'm doing. It's helping other people," she said.

Fellow student Mark Treat helped to keep food stocked in the serving line. "It's pretty neat to do this," he said.

Mary Rendon, founder and director of the Soup kitchen, said the establishment serves lunch five days a week to anyone who wants to come. "We average about 100-150 people a day — adults, children and families. At Christmas last year we had 750 for dinner, and we gave gifts to everyone," she said.

Melissa Patton, above, gives out bags of sunflower seeds to diners as they leave the soup kitchen. Melissa is a sixth-grade student at Midland Christian School. Students served lunch, delivered gingerbread houses they made, and donated $175 of their money they would have spent on a classroom Christmas gift exchange.

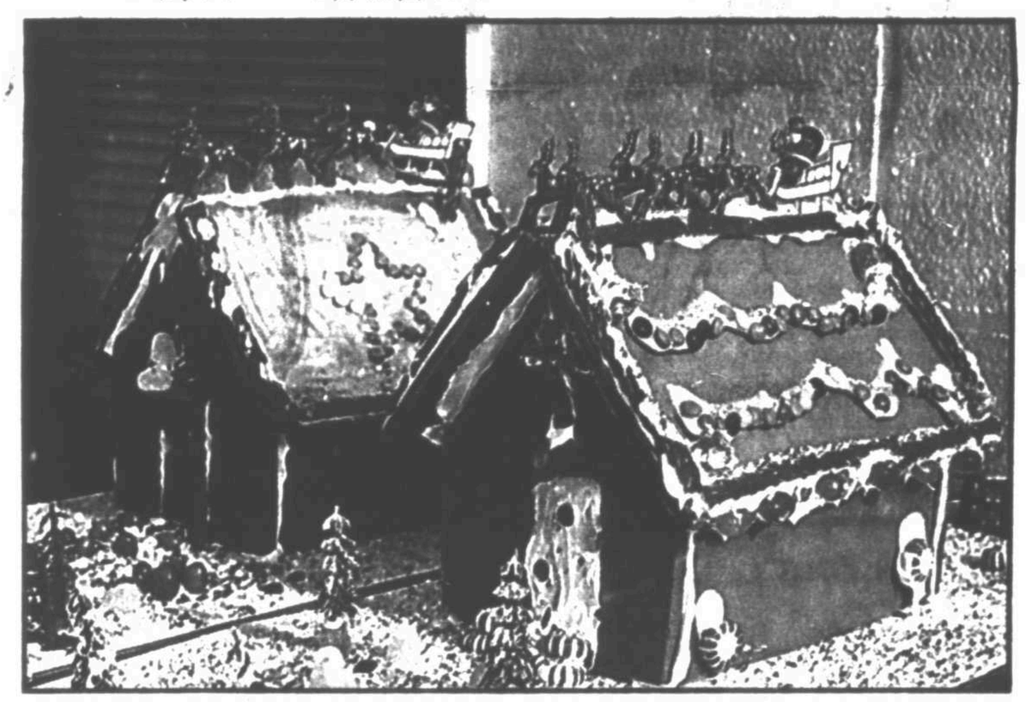
Evaughn Taylor, a soup kitchen volunteer for 9 years, said, "I try to come here every day that I am in town. I have a relationship with some of the people who come in regularly. I felt called to come visit with people. I find out what their troubles are and let them know that somebody cares."

MS. TAYLOR said the kitchen is open to anyone who needs the meal. "I don't try to judge whether someone needs a meal or not. We have people sign in just to keep track of how many we are serving. But if someone needs a meal it's between them and the Lord."

The longtime soup kitchen volunteer said another example of giving comes from four Midland women hosting the Midland Soup Kitchen Coffee. Janet Pollard, Nancy Beal, Karen Williamson and Peggy Schaffer hosted the coffee this year. "The entrance to the house hosting the coffee is a gift," Ms. Taylor said. "Last year, the Midland Soup Coffee collected 400 gifts."

Ms. Rendon said the soup kitchen "is blessed with so many people coming to work here and giving up their lunch time." She said the Midland Christian School students were also a blessing to the kitchen.

However, Midland Christian School student Kristin Creech, 12, said it was the students who were blessed to be of service. "I feel really grateful that I am doing something really special for the city today. I may not have another chance to do this. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."



Students from Carol Willis' class at the private Christian school made gingerbread houses, above, and donated them to the soup kitchen. The boys made the house on the left and the girls, who used candies for more detail work, made the house on the right.

Midland Christian School students Erin Vandivort, above, Crystal Cooper, and fellow students make a mountain of bologna sandwiches while Mark Treat (center) looks on.

Photos by Curt Wilcott

Midland schools close for holidays

Midland Independent School District is closed for the Christmas holidays. Classes will resume Jan. 6

Growing number of preschools offer Spanish lessons

By Berta Delgado
Associated Press

DALLAS — Nicholas Hoover rolls his r's like a native Spanish speaker.

To hear him say "el carro," the car, with just the right trill, it's clear years of Spanish lessons have had something to do with it. Nicholas has learned the language at school for more than half his life. He is 5.

Nicholas and his younger schoolmates at Northway Christian Church Preschool in northeast Dallas take Spanish lessons as often as three times a week. The preschool is one of a growing number in the Dallas area that teach the language on a regular basis.

Providing Spanish teachers is a growing trend for such centers, said Teri Raterman, director of a company that helps parents find suitable child care.

"It's really up and coming," said Ms. Raterman, whose company, Resource and Referral, is a division of The Child Care Group. "We're seeing more and more parents who speak Spanish only and more and more caregivers who are bilingual. Places are looking for bilingual caregivers because many are striving to have a diverse program that reflects the community."

OF 3,500 providers in the company's referral network, 113 have Spanish as part of a program or have Spanish-speaking caregivers, Ms. Raterman said. She said numbers have increased in the past three to five years.

Ken Hill, owner of Creative Learning Services of Plano, agreed that numbers have grown recently. His company contracts with child-care centers to teach Spanish, music, art and martial arts.

Mr. Hill's company teaches Spanish in about 20 centers, to children as young as 18 months old. He said center officials see the language lessons as a need for the children and as an asset for the school.

"I think that in the D-FW area, child care is very competitive," he said, so schools try to do different things to distinguish themselves. "As a result, parents in this area get more for their money."

Parents definitely see Spanish lessons as an enhancement, said Kim Schaffer, director of Children's World in far north Dallas.

"They like the fact that the kids come home singing songs and saying words in Spanish," said Ms. Schaffer, whose school contracts with Hill's company to teach the 3- to 5-year-olds once a week.

"YOU CAN tell the day after Spanish, any word that comes up, they'll say it in Spanish, 'Oh, that's an 'elefante' elephant,'" said Ms. Schaffer, whose 5-year-old daughter, Sarah, has been learning the language for a year. "They probably come away with a little more than they realize, or we realize."

At Northway, learning a second language is something the children enjoy and their parents encourage.

"I think it's wonderful," said Nicholas' mom, Mary Ann Hoover. "Learning so young comes more natural and children are able to comprehend more in the long run. I'm hoping he'll have an advantage in elementary school because they teach Spanish now, and hopefully he'll be able to retain it."

Sarah Hardin, whose 3-year-old daughter, Caroline, attends the school, said it's important for her child to learn a language that is spoken so extensively in Dallas. Right now, Caroline is learning the basics, only as much as 10-minute sessions will allow before the 2- and 3-year-olds get restless.

Caroline can count to six in Spanish and knows all of her colors. She knows her 8-month-old brother, Spencer, is her "hermano." And when she talks on the phone with her grandmother, she greets her with, "Hola, Grandma."

THIS IS good news for Carmen Flores, the Spanish teacher at Northway. If the little ones are speaking it at home, then she knows she's doing a good job.

"We've gotten to the point where kids will come to me and ask, 'How do you say such and such in Spanish?'" Ms. Flores said.

On a recent windy November morning, she was teaching Cindy Dowell's class of 4- and 5-year-olds the seasons of the year and weather that occurs during the seasons.

"Es otono," she said. "It is autumn."

"Es otono," the children repeated.

"Who can tell me what the weather is outside?" she asked.

AP Laserphoto

Carmen Flores, left, sounds a word in Spanish as pre-Kindergarten student Curran Kelly raises his hand during a Spanish lesson at the Northway Christian Church Preschool in Dallas last month. The preschool is one of a number in the Dallas area that teach the language on a regular basis.

And though the children are good at following along, Ms. Flores, the mother of a 6-year-old, knew to expect the unexpected.

"It's snowing in Santa Fe and Colorado," answered Parker Brown, 5.

"Thank you, Parker," Ms. Flores answered with a smile. "But what is the weather here in Dallas? It is windy. "Hace viento."

"HACE VIENTO," shouted the 10 kids.

After reviewing the seasons, Ms. Flores pulled out flash cards featuring pictures identified in Spanish.

She flashed a picture of a butter knife and the kids screamed, "Cuchillo!" It was followed by a picture of a spoon. Ms. Flores knew what would happen next.

"Cuchara!" Nicholas said.

His classmates repeated after him. Then they all started laughing. Something about the sound of that word always keeps them in stitches, Ms. Flores said later.

Ms. Dowell said she is amazed at how well her students pick up the language.

"They seem to pronounce everything correctly. They have good brains," she said. "And their memories are incredible; they're not cluttered yet."

Nicholas doesn't think Spanish is so tough to learn.

"All you do is just memorize," he said matter-of-factly. "It's good to learn Spanish so we can show our parents. I told my parents one word that I learned, just one. 'Abuelo.' That's my favorite."

He doesn't know exactly why he likes the word, which means grandfather, except that he likes the sound of it, he said.

"Oh, yeah, I also like cuchara," he said, laughing. "Cuchara. Cuchara."

Chairman announces safe school proposals

AUSTIN (AP) — A state law empowering teachers to remove disruptive students from their classrooms would be broadened in some areas and pupils would be ensured due process under proposals by Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins.

"The purpose of this package of bills ... is to further the cause of safe schools," Bivins, R-Amarillo, said in filing legislation Monday for consideration when lawmakers convene in regular session in January.

The safe schools provision in the 1995 education reform law allows teachers to remove violent or disruptive students from their classrooms for placement in alternative education programs. It also calls for automatic removal of students who commit violent or drug-related offenses.

Bivins' package includes bills to:

■ Give schools the discretion to expel students for misdemeanor drug offenses. Bivins said current law only allows schools to expel students for felony drug, alcohol and controlled substance violations.

■ Ensure students are informed of the allegations against them and have a chance to respond. A federal judge in May ruled part of the safe schools law unconstitutional, saying it denies students due process by moving them to alternative education programs without formal hearings.

■ Require alternative education programs run by juvenile justice authorities to serve all students who are expelled, not just those declared delinquent by a court. This would allow students who continue to be disruptive when placed in a school-run alternative education program to be sent to a program run by juvenile justice authorities.

■ Require schools to place students in alternative education programs for off-campus felonies only if the student has been charged and the school has been notified. Current law says school personnel must send students to an alternative program if the student "engages in conduct punishable as a felony."

House Public Education Committee Chairman Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, agreed that changes are needed in the safe schools law.

Like Bivins, Sadler said he doesn't want to back away from the law but said he believes clarification is needed in areas such as due process.

"What I'm going to take a look at is to see if we can rewrite the entire chapter (on safe schools) as a whole and make it a little easier to understand," Sadler said.

A major proponent of the safe schools law was the Texas Federation of Teachers. Its secretary-treasurer, John O'Sullivan, said the group still must review details of Bivins' bills but that they don't appear to change core provisions of the law.

"There is always a risk that presenting any list of changes to a fundamentally sound law invites others to submit their less well-intended changes as a result. So we certainly hope the short list of measures announced by Senator Bivins will not open the door to many more," O'Sullivan said.

Also Monday, Bivins said he plans to file a proposal for a pilot program to allow public money to be used for private school tuition for disadvantaged students. Such a program was backed by the Senate as part of the 1995 education measure but was negotiated out of the law in a House-Senate conference committee.

EDUCATION POLICY

The Midland Reporter-Telegram publishes information on upcoming school-related events in the Education in Brief section and announces high and college academic achievements in the Making the Grade section.

All articles are edited to Associated Press style. Deadline for any articles is Monday at noon for publication in the following Sunday education edition. Items will be published on a first-come-first-serve basis as space permits.

The Making the Grade section honors local students, and former area students attending universities. Head-and-shoulder photographs may be submitted with articles for Making the Grade honorees. Photos are not used for dean's list announcements.

Band and cheerleader competition results are published as they are received. Photos are published of All-State students and cheerleaders winning sweepstakes trophies, or state or national awards.

Academic district and regional awards, and state-qualifiers are published. Photos and stories are published for state and national award winners only, as space and time permits.

High school end-of-the-year award night honorees, junior high school honor roll lists, and high school National Honor Society inductees and Duke Talent Identification honorees are published as they are provided by local schools. Who's Who Among American High School students are published twice a year as a group, and are not published individually. The Reporter-Telegram does not publish United States Achievement Academy recipients.

EDUCATION IN BRIEF

AUSTIN — Gov. George W. Bush has proclaimed January 1997 as School Board Recognition Month. Districts across the state will host various events to introduce school board members to the public.

"We encourage school board members to set high standards of academic excellence for all our children," Bush said.

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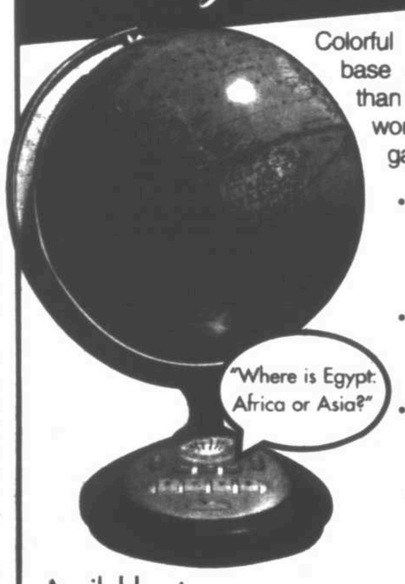

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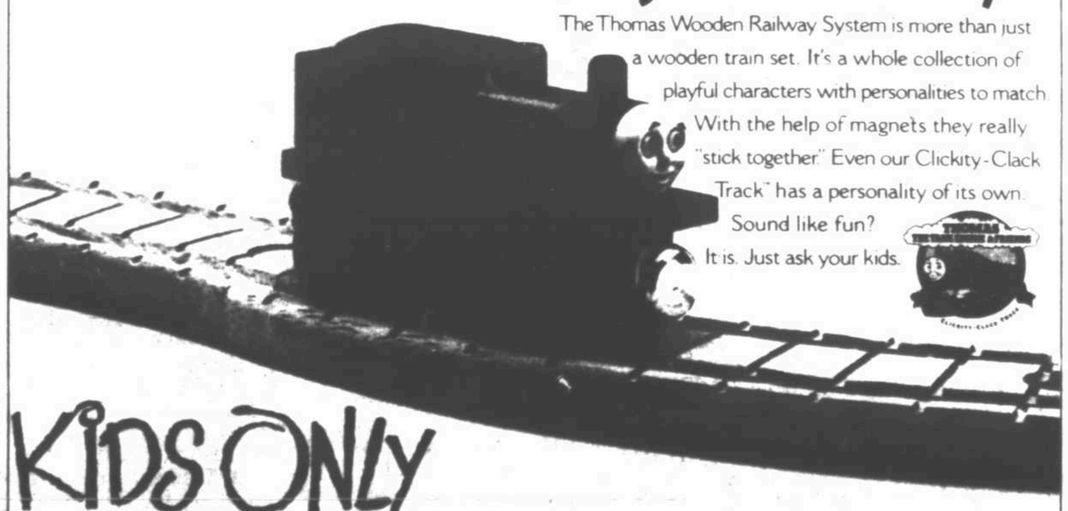
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MAKING THE GRADE

Liza Chen, daughter of George and Madeline Chen and a senior at Lee High School has been named Student Guest of the Week by Midland West Rotary Club.

She is active in UIL Math, Science, Computer Science and Spelling, Industrial Technology Club, Latin Club, Student Council, National Engineering Design Challenge, Academic Decathlon Team, Peer Assistance Leadership, West Texas Best, and Midland Teen Court. She has received the Optimist Club Award, Rotary Youth Leadership Award and is an All American Scholar.

Miss Chen plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in electrical engineering.

* * *

Darcy Covington, daughter of Pamela Covington and Neil Covington and a senior at Lee High School, has been named Junior Lion of the Week by Midland Downtown Lions Club.

She is active in computer science, German Club, National Honor Society, Drug Free Youth in Texas, German Honor Society, Senior Girls, Texas Scholars, UIL Spelling, Friends of the Library and Trinity Presbyterian Church. She has received academic awards/letters, Outstanding Student Awards, All-American Scholar, United States Achievement Academy Award Winner, National Merit Commended Scholar and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Miss Covington plans to attend a dance program at a university. She has auditioned for and was accepted by Jordan College of Fine Arts at Butler University and hopes to one day become a professional dancer.

* * *

Katherine Geib, daughter of Marsha Jimerson Geib and a student at Midland High School has been named Junior Lion of the Week by Midland Downtown Lions Club.

She is active in Student Council, Senior class treasurer, varsity tennis team, Student Council, National Honor Society, Drug Free Youth In Texas, Texas Scholars, First Baptist Church youth group and youth council, choir, ensemble, Community Bible Study, Young Life, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Symphony Deb, Gazebo Teen Board, Tennis Association of Midland and Salvation Army Youth Board. She has received the Leadership Award for the Optimist Club, Leadership Award for Student Council, Outstanding Senior for Rotary Club, is a four year academic letterman and is a Student Council letterman.

Miss Geib plans to attend Baylor University and major in government and law.

* * *

Melvin Schroeder of Midland has been named to the President's Honor Roll for the Fall 1996 Quarter at Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater.

He is a electronics technology major.

* * *

Niraj Khandelwal, son of Bal Krishna and Krishna Khandelwal of Midland and a senior at Lee High School, has been named Student Guest of the Week by Midland West Rotary Club.

He is active in speech and debate teams, UIL Math and Science, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Texas Instruments Texas' Best Robotic Challenge, National Engineering Design Challenge, Meals on Wheels and Grocery Express. He has received the Presidential Fitness Award, qualified for National Forsenic League Nationals in Congress and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Khandelwal plans to major in pre-med and become a doctor.

* * *

The Lee Freshman High School percussionist and drum majors traveled to Lubbock to take part in the West Texas Auxiliary Championships. The percussion line brought home a First Place, and the drum majors (Jeanie Eads and Kristi Morris) received "Excellent" ratings for both routines they performed at the competition.

Later, the band participated in the Tall City Marching Festival. The contestants included bands from all around the area, from Class 1A through Class 5A. The Lee Freshman High School Band was First Runner-up out of all the bands participating in the festival.

The band also traveled to Odessa for the 1996 Region VI U.I.L. Marching Contest, where each band's performance is evaluated by three judges. The Lee Freshman High School Band received "1's" from all three judges, being the best score which can be achieved. For this accomplishment, the band received a Sweepstakes Trophy.

Five members of the Lee Freshman High School Band are now members of the TMEA All-Region Band. The All-Region contest was held on Dec. 9th, and the band members who placed are: Matt Chase, trombone; Edmundo Montoya, trombone; Kelli Johannesen, french horn; Anthony Vaughn, french horn, Christ Fierro, flute.

Edmundo Montoya and Anthony Vaughn also qualified for the TMEA Area Band audition to be on Jan. 11th.

* * *

Alissa Sutton, daughter of Don and Lisa Sutton, has been named student of the week by the Midland Morning Lions Club. She is a senior at Midland High School where she has earned awards in many activities including academics, cheerleading, art, modeling, and ballet.

As a cheerleader she performed in the Peach Bowl on New Years Day, performed in the Foley's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Houston, received Optimist Award for cheerleading, and was on the All-Star Cheerleading team for five years, as well as having been a judge for GMFL cheerleading tryouts and a coach teaching cheerleading to younger girls. She received First Place award in Celebration of the Arts contest, is a Science Fair Award winner, was named Sweetheart of the Midland Morning Lions Club, and was a participant in the Midland Morning Lions Club entry in the Shriner's Annual Children's Christmas Parade.

She is a Symphony Belle, member of POSSE, Student Council, Junior Classical League, Teen Court, a Texas Scholar and a member of the school newspaper staff, Senior Girls and PALS.

* * *

Shayne Marzol, a 17 year old Lions Youth Exchange student from Australia will visit the Midland Morning Lions Club and spend the Christmas holidays in the home of Jerry and Metta Preas.

Part of his visit has been with the Suburban Lions Shirley and Leanord Hanson.

* * *

Marty Kang, daughter of Joe and Sue Kang and a senior, has been selected the outstanding girl from Lee High School for the month of Decemher by the University Graduate Women of Midland.

Kang

Guenthner

Sutton

Chen

Anderson

Geib

Marzol

Khandelwal

She is active in National Honor Society, Latin Club, Texas Scholars, literary magazine, Academic Decathlon, Permian Basin Academic Challenge Team, U.I.L. Readywriting, Korean Baptist Church and Teen Court. She has won several academic achievement awards and letters, was a National Merit Semifinalist, received the Presidential Academic Fitness Award, National Forensics League Triple Ruby and speech and debate awards.

* * *

Sara Guenthner, daughter of Orson and Judy Guenthner, has been selected outstanding senior girl from Midland High School for the month of December by The University Graduate Women of Midland.

She is active in Student Council, Science Club, Choir, swimming, ballet, drama, United Methodist Church youth group and council, Emmaus Community, Emmaus Chrysalis Board Representative, Teen Challenge, camp counselor, mission trips to Mexico and spent a summer with People to People in Europe. She has received several science fair awards including 3rd in Senior Division Chemistry, Engineering Application Award for the Trans-Pecos Section for the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Eastman Kodak Companies Kodak Photographic Award and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Miss Guenthner plans to study psychology and receive her Ph.D. in the field.

* * *

Christopher Lauritzen of Midland received a master of health services management degree during December commencement at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at the Bell County Expo Center.

Yale plans to save beloved chapel by 'cutting out its soul'

By Paul Goldberger
N.Y. Times News Service

■ **News analysis**

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — This is a story about the power of institutions and the meaning of buildings — or perhaps about the meaning of institutions and the power of buildings.

Either way, it seems right to ponder at Christmas, for it involves the divinity school of one of the world's finest universities and the question of how much the values of great architecture and a splendid setting could have to do with a religious and educational mission. What price architectural glory?

Earlier this month, the news pages reported that Yale University had decided, after long deliberation, to keep its divinity school in the quarters it has occupied since 1932, the magnificent Sterling Divinity Quadrangle designed by the architects Delano & Aldrich on a hill about a mile from the main campus.

The decision was presented as good news for admirers of the quadrangle, since the university, which also announced its intention to reduce the size of the school, had come close to abandoning the hilltop complex in favor of putting up a smaller building adjacent to the main campus downtown.

Hold the applause. It turned out that Yale, determined as it was to downsize the divinity school, announced at the same time that it intended to downsize the landmark complex as well. The university hired the New York architectural firm of R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects to study the divinity school buildings and figure out a way to adapt them to the new, modified school of the future.

The architects' solution? Lop off the back third of the place, which they argued wasn't so good anyway, and then add some strangely shaped new construction in the midsections.

Yale has committed $30 million to finance this act, which is all the more troubling since it is being presented as a gesture of landmark preservation and "adaptive reuse." Like the village that had to be destroyed to be saved, the divinity school is being "saved" by having a whole chunk of its essence ripped apart.

This brand of salvation is no bargain. What is most troubling is how disingenuous it is — how it presents itself as an act of rescue, when it is, in fact, an act of destruction. For the reality of the Yale Divinity School's architectural design is that its back end is hardly irrelevant.

It is a fundamental part of the architectural concept that underlies this exquisite quadrangle, and to think it can be chopped off without damaging the rest of the place is to misunderstand everything that Delano & Aldrich were trying to do back in 1932 — and to misunderstand the nature of great architecture in general. For it assumes that what matters in architecture is only the front.

Here, high on Prospect Street overlooking New Haven, is lovely proof that this is not so. The Sterling Divinity Quadrangle was designed by one of New York City's most eminent, if occasionally genteel, architectural firms, whose Knickerbocker Club, Union Club, Pratt mansion and Marine Air Terminal at La Guardia Airport still stand as evidence of its versatility and skill.

At Yale, Delano & Aldrich took as their inspiration the greatest campus plan in the history of American architecture, Thomas Jefferson's design for the University of Virginia, in which two rows of small pavilions, each a variation on themes of classical architecture, are placed parallel to each other across a wide lawn, with the university's library, modeled on the Pantheon in Rome, presiding at the end.

The first important thing Delano & Aldrich did in transferring this model from Charlottesville to New Haven was, logically enough, to replace the library with a chapel. The architects turned Jefferson's "academical village," his community of scholars arrayed beside a temple of learning, into a kind of "clergical village," a community of clerics arrayed beside their chapel.

The Georgian pavilions are beautifully detailed in brick, and with the Wren-like chapel at their head, the front section of Sterling Quadrangle has both the picturesqueness of a New England village and the tough, blunt certainty of Jefferson's campus. This is a place of romantic yearning but of realism too, an architecture that brilliantly manages to combine innocence with rigor.

And then the surprise comes. Jefferson's campus had no real back; everything opened up to the view of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and what lay behind the Rotunda, as the library was called, mattered not at all. But Delano & Aldrich kept going, showing us that in their minds Jefferson's model was only the beginning.

For the divinity quadrangle opens up to a forecourt before the chapel and then contains a spatially intricate, two-part quadrangle behind the chapel, defined by sumptuous Georgian brick buildings that contain the major public spaces of the school.

It is at this point, where the complex moves behind the chapel, that it falls over the crest of the hill and the site begins to slope downward. The architects turned this into an impressive spatial drama, designing stairs covered by brick vaults beside the chapel and a formal stair from below the complex into this lower quadrangle. That stair makes the entrance from the rear nearly as powerful an exercise in ordered grandeur as the complex's front, the classic Jeffersonian view.

All of this, of course, is what would disappear under the proposed plan. It is as if Yale and its architects had decided that, yes, this place really wasn't anything more than a carbon copy of Jefferson, and just to make sure that no one missed that point, they would tear down everything that showed that Delano & Aldrich had some ideas of their own.

Away go the common rooms and refectory and the Institute for Sacred Music's Great Hall, to be replaced by newer "downsized" spaces in the rehabilitated pavilions in the front.

To give them their due, Kliment and Ms. Halsband have come up with an admirable plan to redesign the pavilions, which have always contained student housing, into new classroom, office, meeting and chapel space, moving the main teaching functions of the school from the back to the front of the quadrangle.

The renovations planned for these sections are excellent, respectful of the original architecture, and they stand as a reminder that when the will to rehabilitate an older building for a new use is there, a way can be found.

Somehow, there is no such will so far as the rest of this complex is concerned, or perhaps it's just that there's a greater will to believe that demolition is a healthy way to symbolize a new beginning.

But that would be the saddest thing of all, since the greatest gift that buildings of this quality can give us is to represent at once the values of continuity and change — to demonstrate that a work of architecture can give us both the sustenance of the past and the challenge of the future at the same time.

Architecture is not value-neutral; these buildings are not empty vessels into which anything can be poured. But neither are they absolute and rigid representations of the Yale Divinity School as it existed in 1932. Saving these buildings hardly has to be a statement of conservatism of theological and educational values.

The buildings of the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle represent quality and seriousness of aspiration; each generation is free to interpret this in its own way, supported by the knowledge that the noble surroundings of this beautiful architecture have provided the same freedom for previous generations.

Treated well, these buildings can be an inspiration for a reconceived, redirected Yale Divinity School, not a roadblock to it. There is no reason that the interiors of the threatened sections of this complex cannot be significantly reconfigured for new uses.

While this is not easy, no one ever said that rehabilitation was any less demanding of creativity than any other aspect of architecture. But when a government downsizes, does it tear down one-third of city hall? When a company downsizes, does it knock down part of its headquarters?

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Sunday, December 22, 1996
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MIDLAND COLLEGE

BRIEFLY

Cogdell honored

Bill Cogdell, the Midland businessman whose contributions helped Midland College establish a presence in South Midland, was honored last month with a reception and plaque at the Cogdell South Facility on Florida Street. The Cogdell South Facility, which houses MC's Business and Economic Development Center, continuing education classes and GED and English as a Second Language classes, opened in 1994 after Cogdell donated the buildings.

MC offers classes via computer modem

The concept of "distance learning" and "time independent learning" is new and exciting ground for Midland College as classes implement the Bulletin Board Service (BBS), a system that allows students to take college classes without being in the classroom.

Dennis Sever, director of instructional information systems, explains that after an initial class meeting on campus to review the technical aspects of accessing the system, the instructor and students communicate via modem.

Accessing a BBS class is as easy as enrolling and paying regular fees and tuition. Equipment needed for these classes include access to a computer and modem and software.

Classes being offered this spring through the BBS are Computer Organization and Programming, taught by Lydia McCaulay; Composition and Rhetoric taught by Pamela Howell; Composition and Literature taught by Howell; Introduction to Legal Writing taught by Nancy Hart; Legal Drafting and Office Procedure taught by Hart, and Techniques of Legal Practice taught by Hart.

For more information, call 685-4671.

This page is produced by Midland College

Winter Interim session lets students earn three hours credit in 11 days

Earn three hours of college credit in just 11 days—that's what students can accomplish during Midland College's Winter Interim session beginning tomorrow.

The session offers more than 10 classes, allowing students to earn three hours of credit in courses such as history, English and public speaking.

"We are offering these classes to meet the needs of our currently enrolled MC students as well as students from other colleges and universities who are home for the holiday," Dr. Stan Jacobs, associate vice president of instruction, said.

Most of the classes will transfer to upper level institutions, but students should check with a counselor to insure that specific classes are transferable, Jacobs said.

Classes will run for four and a half hours each day sometime between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the instructor's discretion.

Registration for the interim session is 8:30 a.m., Monday, Dec. 23 in the Roadrunner Room of the Scharbauer Student Center. Classes begin immediately following registration.

Holidays during the Winter Interim session are Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1.

Scheduled classes are: Seminar in Substance Abuse, Business Law I, Composition and Rhetoric, Composition and Literature, Survey of American Literature II, Technical Writing, State and Federal Government I, Rock Music in American History, Medical Office Procedures, Special Topic: Sociology West Indies Travel, and Public Speaking.

All TASP requirements apply to courses taken during the interim session.

English 1302, Composition and Literature, requires a pre-requisite of English 1301 or a first-semester English class.

For information about winter interim classes, call 685-4501.

> **'We are offering these classes to meet the needs of our. . .students as well as students from other colleges home for the holidays.'**
>
> **—Dr. Stan Jacobs**
> **associate vice president**

MC offers free job placement help to employers

Employers who want to save time and money looking for qualified employees to fill full-time, part-time or temporary positions have two free resources at Midland College.

Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) is a way for employers to get employees and contribute to students' career development by hiring candidates training to work in a specific career field, according to Workforce Education coordinator Terry Dummer.

The CWE program combines classroom learning with work experience in a field related to a student's academic or career goals.

The student and the employer work as a team through CWE to achieve on-the-job learning for the student while providing the employer with qualified help.

Students work a minimum of 20 hours a week in temporary or permanent positions. They also receive course credit for their work

For more information, contact Dummer at 685-6469.

Midland College's Job Placement Office is another free resource for employers looking for qualified workers.

Employers can list their positions with the Job Placement Office and receive the same services provided by temporary agencies and placement offices.

"We take the search out of the job search for the student," Connie Howard, Job Placement coordinator said.

Howard said that she is now better able to serve the needs of the business community as well as the needs of the more than 100 students with applications on file in her office.

Students looking for employment file resumes with the Job Placement Office, and then those resumes are matched with the needs of the employer.

"We want to help students secure jobs and experience that will benefit them while helping local businesses find qualified employees to fill their needs," Howard said.

For more information, contact Howard at 685-4716. Both services are offered free to both the employer and the applicant.

All Star Cheerleaders plan for national competition

The Midland All-Star Cheerleading squad, made up of 20 girls from local high schools, recently placed second in the Mavericks/NCA Cheerleading competition at Reunion Arena in Dallas. The squad will next compete in the National Cheerleading competition Feb. 16 and 17 in Dallas. Coaches for the team are Tommy Ramos, MC cheerleading sponsor, and MC students Terrance Anders and Jaime Baeza.

ELISE COOMBES

Spring, summer classes offer course credit for travel

Students will have a chance to earn class credit for travel to Mexico, Costa Rica, Italy and Greece or Washington D.C. this spring and summer. Interested students should contact instructors now to begin making travel plans.

Mexico City

A trip to Mexico City will be part of a three-week humanities and honors course, "Mexico: Art and Revolution." The course will be taught during the spring interim session in May.

Government and philosophy instructor Jerry Franks promises the course will be packed with opportunities to gain a better appreciation of Mexican history and art.

For more information about the trip, contact Franks at 685-4607.

Washington D.C.

A travel/study course to Washington D.C. will be offered by MC's Social and Behavioral Sciences division during the Spring Interim session, May 12-29.

Students can receive course credit for one of the following: Government 2302, History 1301 or History 1302.

The course will consist of the trip followed by classroom instruction. Cost, which includes airfare and hotel, is $685. For more information, call 685-4739.

Costa Rica

The Midland College Language Department, in conjunction with the Costa Rican Culture and Language Institute, is offering Spanish 1412, 2311, or 2312 in Alajuela, Costa Rica, this spring interim session.

The dates for the study/travel program are May 10-May 24, 1997. However, to get the best price for airline tickets, interested students should immediately contact Heidi Goebel (685-4562) or Dr. Jim Jones (685-4629) for details, brochure, or information packets.

The cost of the program include: $600 for home stay with a Costa Rican family, two meals a daily, laundry service and pick-up at airport; $111 for Midland College tuition; About $600 for the airline ticket; and $55 for a passport.

Greece and Italy

A study/travel course to Greece and Italy could help students earn up to six hours of class credit.

English instructor Dr. Pamela Howell, and art instructor Carol Bailey are conducting the trip.

Anyone interested in taking the trip can also audit one of the courses for non-credit and join the group. Course credit will be offered for Western World Literature 2332 or Carol Bailey, Art Appreciation 1301.

The course will be offered the second summer session, July 1997. An introduction to the trip will be July 10, 14-15. The trip will be July 16-24.

Interested students should call Dr. Howell (685-4628) or Bailey (685-4652).

Elise Coombes is public relations director for Midland College.

ACCESS MC

Accessing MC is easy ... just call **CITYLINE** at **560-2400**, and enter any of the following categories below for additional information on the following topics:

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√ Spring Registration.....2803
√ What is the TASP test and do I have to take it to enroll at Midland College?.....2804
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LOST: ladies diamond engagement ring with gold band. Reward. 570-8899 or 580-0476.

FOUND: Black male puppy on Bluebird lane. Please call to identify at 684-7046.

FOUND keys, 200 E. Wall. Contact Court Security at the Federal Building, Marshals Office 683-4694.

REWARD! Lost: Black female Lab with red collar, English Springer Spaniel with blue collar. If found, please call 694-6858 or 520-0684.

FOUND: Female German Shepherd. Close to Hastings. Call Dianne 682-6820.

LOST: Great grandmother's gold wedding band at either PetsMart, Walmart, or Pier One. Call 697-7564.

FOUND: Dachshund, neutered male belonging to Roger Emory. Persian neutered male grey with pink nylon collar. Call Midland Animal Control, 685-7420.

LOST SET OF keys with remote, in The Pet Store or the parking lot. Call Cindy 682-2337, or 684-9825.

LOST: tan Boxer mix "Ursula", black miniature Dachshund "Spud", Saddle Club Ranch Estates. 694-4031 or 520-6340.

LOST female Rat Terrier, white with black and brown markings. Dellwood Mall area. Reward. 689-7354.

LOST large gray cat, neutered male. White V on chest. From 2400 block Cimmaron. No collar. 685-1294. Recently moved from 3700 block of Roosevelt.

LOST Golden Retriever. Very friendly, 3 year old neutered male. Wearing green collar. Kansas/ Broadway area. Please call 684-4626 or call collect (505) 757-2186.

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Attention Readers

Occasionally ads found in this section come from distant points and the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract.

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FORD 1988 MUSTANG. 2.3 Liter engine, good condition. 520-9203 after 6 pm, anytime weekends.

FORD 1995 MUSTANG. V6, power windows, locks, automatic, 30,000 miles. Call Shawn, pager 561-6259.

CADILLAC 1993 Fleetwood Brougham. Champagne color, grey leather. New tires, always garaged, custom top. 50K. Like new. $16,500. Call 561-5010.

CLASSIFIED CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

We will be closed Christmas Day December 25th, so that we may observe this special holiday with our families.

If you would like to place ***an ad to begin Wednesday, Dec. 25th,*** *please call before noon on Tue., Dec. 24th.*

If you would like to place ***an ad to begin Thursday, Dec. 26th,*** *please call before 2 pm on Tue., Dec. 24th.*

We will be open for business at 8 am, on Thursday, Dec. 26th.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 682-6222.

Thank you for advertising with us.

Please have a safe and happy holiday!

Midland Reporter-Telegram

109 Legal Notices

NEW INFORMATION!
Legal Notices are now under class **590** & **Public Notices** are now under class **595.**

110 Lodge Notices

CENTENNIAL LODGE #1448
1000 Upland
Reg.stated meeting, 1st & 3rd Sat. 8:30 am.
Breakfast 7:30 am.
Rusty Hill, W.M.
Bob Ellwood, Secty.

Midland Masonic Lodge #623
1600 W. Wall
Reg. stated meetings 2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:30 pm.
Dinner 6:30 P.M.
Kip Beeson, W.M.
Robert G. Kiker, Sec.

110 Lodge Notices

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1000 Upland.
Will be DARK 12-24. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
Dale Ivie, W.M.
Al Talbot, Sec.

Midland Shrine Club, 2019 Trade Dr. 683-1707
Reg. mtng. 3rd Thurs. each mo.
Hosp. 6:30 pm, dine 7 pm., Bus. mtng. 8 pm.
Bob Cain, Pres.
Michael Pipes, Secty.

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Jack Sherman Chevrolet is the

HURRY LAST ONE!

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'96 Geo Tracker 2-Door
$2,500 OFF Sticker Price

$298.86 PER MO.

'97 Chevy Camaro
Stk#97-099, MSRP $17,630.00, Sale Price $17,144.66
Low Mileage Plan

$240.72 PER MO.

'97 Geo Prizm
Low Mileage Plan, $750.00 Rebate, MSRP $14,962.00, Sale Price $14,760.00, stk#97-095

$177.22 PER MO.

'97 Geo Metro 2-Dr
Low Mileage Plan, $300.00 Rebate, MSRP $10,473.00, Sale Price $10,356.98, stk#97-099

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3.9% APR Up To 60mo. on '96 & '97 Chevy S10 & Astro Vans W.A.C.

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95 MERCURY COUGAR AC., PS., PB., P-Seat., Airbag $13,997 stk.#91332	96 FORD TAURUS AC., Auto., Pwr. PL., Tilt/Cruise $14,997 stk.#91363	94 LINCOLN TOWN CAR Luxury at It's Finest! $15,997 stk.#27109A	95 FORD WINDSTAR 7-Passenger People Mover $16,997 stk.#91241	96 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONV. It's Got It All! Extra Nice! $16,997 stk.#91463	

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'93 Nissan 240 SX Must see	$13,995	$11,895
'92 Mazda MPV 4x4 Van Great for Winter travel	$14,995	$12,995
'92 Cadillac Sedan DeVille Loaded. Carriage roof	$14,995	$12,995
'95 Chevy S-10 Ext. Cab Great truck	$13,995	$12,995
'94 BMW 318i 4 Dr. Beautiful red car	$17,995	$16,750

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FAMILY CARS
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2 1994 BUICK LE SABRE
2 1996 PONTIAC BONNEVILLES
2 1996 OLDSMOBILE DELTA 88

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1 1995 FORD ESCORT
1 1995 PONTIAC SUNFIRES

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Thanks to all of our customers and friends for our best year ever!
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OLDSMOBILE 1995 Aurora. Loaded with all options including CD. Under warranty- very low mileage. Always garaged- well maintained. 684-9060 days, 684-8458 evenings.

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CADILLAC 1993 Seville STS. Pearl white/ neutral leather. Bose CD, moon roof, chrome wheels, $19,900. 520-4304 weekdays after 6/ weekends.

CHEVROLET 1985 Pickup. 1983 Olds Cutlass, 1949 Willis Jeep. Call 652-3688 or 652-3324 McCamey.

CHEVROLET 1981 CAMARO Z-28. Fully restored! Burgundy exterior, gray interior. $8,000. Call 697-2486.

CHEVROLET 1998 Iroc. Black, excellent condition, $4,200. Call 570-7335 or pager 567-4502.

CHEVROLET 1992 Cavalier. 4 door, red, automatic, air, power locks, Sony stereo, 66K miles, clean. $5,700. Call 697-5843.

CHEVROLET 1994 Corsica LT. 4 Door, V6, power windows/ locks. $8,400. 689-6761.

CHRYSLER 1989 New Yorker, 59,000 miles, V-6 engine, power windows/ locks, AM/ FM cassette, $5,950. call 684-6809, ask for Benita.

DODGE 1992 Dynasty. 88,000 Miles, 4 door, loaded, all power, one owner, immaculate condition. $5,000. 697-1240.

FORD 1986 MUSTANG. $2,950. 1990 Crown Victoria $2,950; 1990 Aerostar Mini Van $3,250. Call 332-7425.

FORD 1988 Crown Victoria, Power locks, power windows, V-8, low mileage, $6,500. Weekdays, between 9-6, call 684-6809, ask for Benita.

FORD1987 Crown Victoria. Only 44K miles, always garaged, all power: locks, windows, seat, brakes, steering, etc.; Mint condition inside-out, still smells new. V-8 engine, good MPG-19 city, 26 hwy., $7,500 & worth more. You'll see if you call original owner at 684-0980.

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FORD 1994 Mustang GT. Automatic, adult owner, garage kept, low miles. Call 550-9105.

GEO 1995 Metro LSI. 44,000 miles, 49 mpg. $5,500. Call 570-1870.

CADILLAC 1989 Sedan Deville. White with blue leather, 63,000 miles. Excellent condition, $11,500. (915) 586-6240.

CHEVROLET 1996 Cavalier Z24. Sun roof, CD player, all electric, automatic, keyless entry, etc! Less than 7,000K, $12,500. (915) 586-6250.

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OLDSMOBILE 1993 Cutlass Ciera. V-6, 12,000 miles, extended warranty. One owner, new tires, alternator, battery, struts, shocks, $7,400. Call 333-1444.

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CHEVROLET 1984 Camaro. Excellent condition! Ground effects, Weld aluminum wheels. New: tires, carpet, seats, headliner, transmission, shocks, paint. $5,000. 689-0540.

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BUICK 1989 Regal Grand Sport. Loaded, extra clean, well maintained, runs good, new tires. White/ maroon interior, $5,300. Call 689-9804.

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PLYMOUTH 1991 Laser. 38,500 miles. Alarm system, new tires, tinted windows, teal blue, automatic transmission, 30 mpg. $7,850. Call 520-8049.

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PONTIAC 1989 Grand Am. Quad 4 engine, 5 speed, 2 door wine coupe. One owner. Days, 685-1964, Evenings, 694-5952.

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OLDSMOBILE 1994 Achieva. 4 door, gray silver, great condition. Asking $8,200 or pickup payments. Call 570-9361.

CHEVROLET 1993 Corsica LT. Excellent condition, 38,500 miles, 4 door, new tires, good gas mileage. $6,900. Call 699-0493.

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Teal green exterior/ Gray interior, V6 engine, 5 speed, plenty of go!
7,240 miles
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1985 JEEP CHEROKEE
Red exterior/ Beige interior
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Great hunting vehicle!
MINIMUM BID $1,900

1994 MERCURY COUGAR XR7
Teal green exterior/ Beige leather interior, POWER Sunroof/ doors/ windows/ seats/ cruise/ custom wheel covers/ theft deterrent system.
49,036 miles- Needs some body work
MINIMUM BID $10,950

1990 FORD PROBE
White exterior/ Red interior
2 Door, Hatchback
80,000 miles
MINIMUM BID $10,950

Please submit sealed bids to Permian Telco FCU no later than 5:00 pm on January 3, 1997. Include your name, day phone number, vehicle and bid amount. The Board opens bids at their monthly meetings. Permian Telco FCU reserves the right to accept or refuse any bid at any time during the process. All cars sold "as is".

205 Classic Cars

CHEVROLET 1981 Corvette. Excellent condition. Mirrored T-tops plus Targa top, car cover, custom plus factory wheels. $8,500 or best offer. 520-7304 after 5pm.

BUICK 1940 61 Series. 4 door, dual sidemounts, good running condition, needs restoration. $5,000. Call 915-683-7336.

CHEVROLET 1965 Malibu SS. Everything original, automatic, power steering, $10,000 o.b.o. 580-4779 or 557-2762.

FORD 1959 Galaxy. Must sacrifaice for Christmas cash. Street legal, runs, Project Car. $500. 697-7549 between 6 -9 pm.

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FORD 1964 1/2 Mustang. Maroon, black interior, 289 automatic, air, excellent condition. $9,000. Excellent first car for student. 682-1966, 683-7268.

FORD 1965 Mustang. Red, black interior, 302 V-8 automatic, new paint, excellent condition. $5,500. Excellent car for student. 682-1966, 683-7268.

MGB 1963. Excellent condition. Red with black interior & top. Always garaged, smooth running. $8,500. Call 697-5000.

MERCEDES 1975 450SL. Excellent condition, 62,600 documented miles, both tops, light green. $15,000. Call 697-7550 9- 7 pm.

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210 Automobiles Imports

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HONDA 1993 Accord LX, 4 door, Charcoal/ gray, automatic, A/ C, 29K, loaded! Complete maintenance records. Immaculate! $13,900. Kim 694-1394.

HONDA 1993 CIVIC DX. 5 Speed, AM/ FM, air conditioning, priced to sell. $6,500. Rigged to tow behind motorhome. 332-0694, 1715 Alameda, Odessa.

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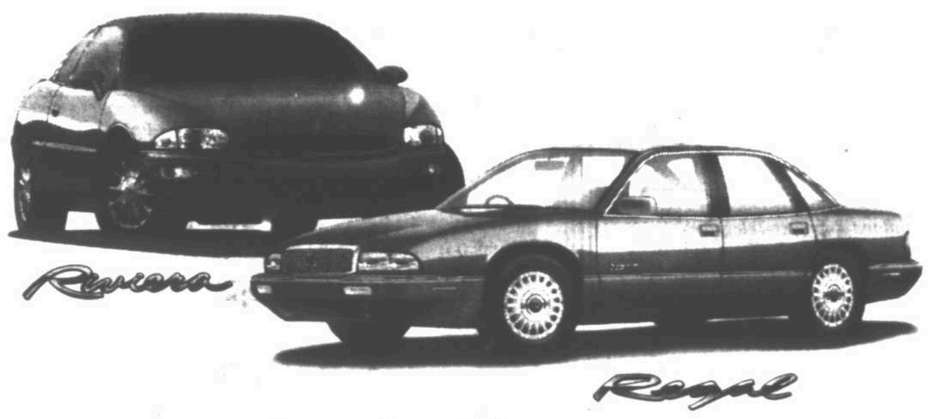

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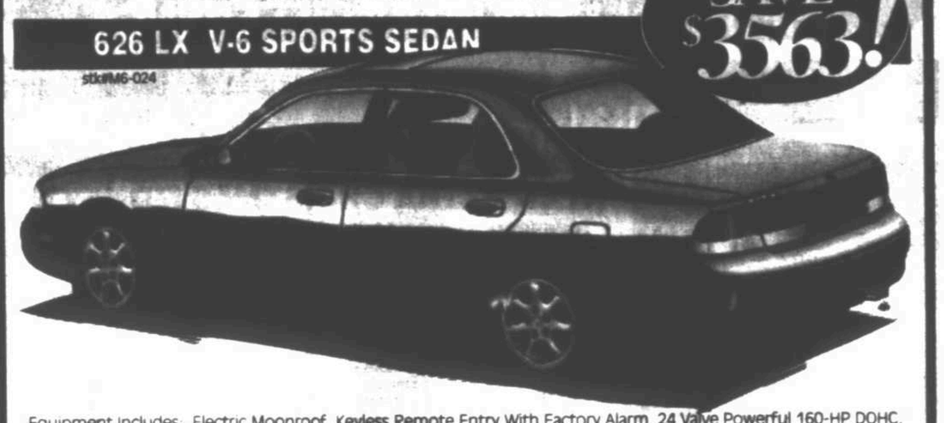

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1996 Chev. S10 Extra Cab V6	$16,995
1996 Nissan Sentra GXE	$12,995
1995 Ford Ranger Super Cab	$12,995
1995 GEO Prizm	$10,995
1994 Nissan Sentra LE 4 Dr.	$9,995
1994 Mercury Sable GS	$10,995
1994 Toyota PU 5 Sp	$10,995
1994 Chev. C1500 Sport Side	$14,995
1994 Ford Aerostar XLT Van Green	$13,995
1994 Ford Aerostar XLT Van Beige	$13,995
1994 Dodge Dakota XCab SLT	$13,995
1994 Ford Explorer 4x4	$18,995
1994 Jeep 4x4 Wrangler	$12,995
1993 Nissan Maxima GXE	$12,995
1993 Chevy S-10 Blazer Tahoe	$15,495
1992 Olds 88 Low Mileage	$11,495
1992 Nissan Maxima SE	$12,995
1992 Nissan 240SX Hatchback	$9,995
1992 Toyota 4 Runner SR5 V6	$18,995
1985 Pontiac	Reduced
1978 Datsun Pickup Only 60,000 Miles	$3,995

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TOYOTA 1993 Tercel. 2 door, 4 speed, AM/ FM cassette, air, low miles, looks and runs great. $6,150. 685–4034.

VOLKSWAGEN 1986 Jetta GL. 4 door, automatic. FOR PARTS ONLY bill of sale. Body & sign & interior & AM/ FM cassette & tires like new. You tow. Best cash offer. 694-2576 ext. 38.

210 Automobiles Imports

VOLKSWAGEN 1995 Jetta. 5 Speed, 18,000 miles, suede beige inside /out, CD player, sun roof, loaded, alarm system. $14,000. 570-8860.

VOLVO 1995 940. Emerald green with camel leather interior, loaded, 51K miles. Asking $22,000 o.b.o. 688-4166, Day. 697–5313, after 5.

VOLVO 1995 TURBO WAGON. Red, loaded, 12K, excellent condition, $28,000. 688-3212, 8 am- 5 pm or 697-0498 after 5 pm.

215 Sport/Utility Vehicles

FORD 1992 EXPLORER. 2 Door, sport. Loaded, 5 Speed. $12,800. 689–8732.

GMC 1992 Jimmy SLE 4 door. Loaded, Vortec V-6, new tires, hidden hitch, scotchguarded interior, excellent condition, 84K. $12,500. 694–4112.

JEEP 1992 Cherokee Laredo. 4 Door, red/ grey, auto, power windows, cassette, 72K, perfect condition. $10,650. 6- 9 pm, 682-2740.

FORD 1992 Explorer XLT. Power, air, automatic, 4 door, 46,000 actual miles. Excellent condition. $11,750. 682–1966 days. 683-7268 evenings.

215 Sport/Utility Vehicles

JEEP 1989 M151A Military style. 4 Wheel independent suspension. New body. Extra tires & rims. Excellent condition. $4,500. 335-9304/ 367–7505.

CHEVROLET 1991 Tahoe Blazer S-10. 4 Door, 89K miles. $9,500. Call 689–7313.

ISUZU 1991 Trooper- Special Edition. Automatic, V6, new tires, 73,000 miles, 4 WD. 1 owner. Below book. $11,695. 687–5566.

TOYOTA 1992 4-Runner. 4 x 4, 5 speed, loaded, 89K miles, warranty, excellent. $14,200. Call 682-4222, 682-4414.

215 Sport/Utility Vehicles

FORD 1993 Explorer XLT. Blue with blue leather, new tires, loaded, 93K. Excellent condition. Asking $12,500 or best offer. 685–0882.

FORD 1992 Explorer 4x4. 5 speed, highway miles. Great school car! $10,900. 697–1377.

220 Trucks & Vans

MAZDA 1991 Minivan. One owner. Excellent condition. Low mileage. Power windows, doors, Am- Fm cassette, rear air. $10,000. 686–9550.

220 Trucks & Vans

CHEVROLET 1994 Extended Cab longbed with liner. 350 V8, 63K, $15,000. 689–8453.

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GMC 1995 Sierra Ext Cab. V8, Am-Fm cassette, tinted windows, cruise. Only 13,500 miles. Still under factory warranty. Pager 561-6222.

220 Trucks & Vans

JEEP 1993 WRANGLER. 4 Cylinder, 5 Speed, 38K miles. Sony stereo system, soft top, running lights, beautiful blue. Call Hannabel pager 499-5679.

GMC 1991 SLE Z-71. Silver, 5 speed, 350 V-8, excellent condition, 20 mpg/ hwy, original owner. $11,000. After 6, 683–9407.

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FORD 1991 Aerostar Wagon Extended. Eddie Bauer, 7 passenger, excellent condition. $8,995. 699-4351.

CHEVROLET 1993 Suburban Silverado, Regency conversion, dual air, custom wheels, leather. 63K miles. Excellent condition! Must see! $21,500. 697-0801.

JEEP 1994 Cherokee. 6 cylinder, 2 door, 38,345 miles, cruise, tilt, A/ C, 1 owner, $12,000. 912 N. Midkiff 9 am- 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

325 4x4 Vehicles

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JEEP 1981 Scrambler. Rigged for hunting. Custom high seat, 16" 10 ply tires, heavy duty bumpers & tow bar. Extra nice! $6,500. Can be seen at 1403 Garden City Hwy. 557-6789.

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CHEVROLET 1991 Suburban Cowboy Conversion, 80,000 miles, one owner, very clean, $9,999. 366-9390 or 367-7743.

CHEVROLET 1993 1 Ton Single Wheel Silverado, Crew Cab, Turbo Diesel, loaded. $15,500. Will consider trade. 694-6714.

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DODGE 1994 1 Ton with 11' service body with canopy 72" inside height, many extras. $18,000. 367-4966, after 5 pm 366-2400.

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FORD 1989 Ranger. Gas saver, good shape, automatic, 6 cylinder. $4,495. 915-362-5580.

FORD 1993 F-450 Diesel. 5 Speed with utility bed & 43' bucket lift, double insulated, outriggers. $26,000. 367-4966, after 5 pm. 366-2400.

FORD 1994 F-250 XLT Extended Cab. Power stroke, 73,000 miles, lots of extras. Nice. 915-694-1986.

GMC 1988 1/2 Ton Work Pickup, needs some work good able truck. $800 O. B. O. 362-2985.

GMC 1976 Suburban 3/4 Ton. Runs good. Can be seen at 1719 Douglas or 683-2358.

GMC 1992 SLE. 1/2 Ton. 350 V8, 5 speed, regular cab, red, 80,000 miles. $10,000. 682-1734.

GMC 1995 Yukon 4x4. 4 door, leather, CD player, loaded, 20,000 miles. A steal at $27,500! 570-0492.

MITSUBISHI 1990 Mighty Max truck. Red, good condition, CD player. Great school car. $4,800. 694-7949 after 5.

NISSAN 1985 300ZX, loaded, runs good, new paint job. Must see. $2,700. 580-3344.

CHEVROLET 1981 Conversion Van. New tires, new battery, excellent interior, hook up for TV, Captains chairs. $3,500. 694-9763, leave message.

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FORD 1995 RANGER Extended Cab. XLT, white, all options, V6, low miles, Fiberglass shell with lights. $15,850 o.b.o. 697-5608.

CHEVROLET 1987 Suburban. White, engine in good shape, 350 ci. Can be seen at 4613 Rankin Hwy. $3,500.

CHEVROLET 1988 Suburban. Silverado, 1 owner, fully loaded. Must See!! $5,500. Call 682-0949.

CHEVROLET 1995 Lumina Van. Excellent condition. 24K miles. Power sliding door, remote locks, all the extras! $15,950. 694-8514 or 520-0377.

FORD 1991 Extended cab, 50K. Best looking, best running pickup in town! Automatic, cruise, air, tilt, V8. $10,700. 686-6035/ 694-0508.

CHEVROLET 1989 Astro Van. Cruise control, am fm cassette, power locks & windows. $4,550 or best offer. Pager 563-7615.

CHEVROLET 1990 Extended Cab Scottsdale. White, 350, 5 speed, bed liner, 89K. Excellent condition, $8,800. Call 697-6778, after 5 pm.

FORD 1982 Custom GoodTimes Van. Very clean, plush blue interior, raised roof, 68,000 original miles. $4,500 best offer. 699-5815, 699-5457.

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Located in the Heart of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, McAllen's tropical climate, rich culture and proximity to the beaches of South Padre Island offer unlimited opportunities for relaxation and recreation. One of the fastest growing areas in the country, McAllen was recently recognized as an "All-America City" and offers a great quality of life for everyone!

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HOME HEALTH AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

If you are a dynamic, energetic person with an entrepreneurial spirit, check out this tremendous opportunity. You will have full administrative and clinical responsibility for this hospital-based home health agency. Working closely with hospital staff, physicians and agency personnel, you will assure quality patient care and enhance our market position as the valley's high tech home care provider.

Position requires a skilled R.N. with previous home health nursing and administrative experience.

Qualified candidates should submit resume and salary requirements to: Paul Selivanoff, C.P.A., Vice President/Chief Financial Officer at the address below.

MCALLEN HEART HOSPITAL
REGISTERED NURSES

Positions available in Coronary Care Unit (Day or Night shifts), and Progressive Coronary Care Unit (Night Shifts).
Hospital R.N. positions require a minimum of 2 years cardiac experience. Scheduling options available.

Qualified candidates should submit resume and salary requirements to: Beverly Washington, R.N., M.S., CCRN at the address below.

If you're ready for an exciting career experience, submit your resume or call us for additional information or to discuss these opportunities.
Leave us a voice mail message at 210-994-2315.
Send us your resume by fax: 210-994-2058 or mail to McAllen Heart Hospital, P.O. Box 2857, McAllen, Texas 78502-2857.
Don't pass up this great opportunity! EOE

McAllen Heart Hospital

Registered Nurses

Pool Your Talents With Us!

Hendrick Medical Center is seeking experienced RNs for Resource Pool positions in the following areas:

Operating Room
Medical Telemetry
Medical/Surgical

Qualifications:
- TX RN license
- 3-4 years recent OR, Med/Surg or Medical Telemetry experience
- Able to work two 12-hour shifts per week

Benefits:
- $28/hr + $3.50/hr shift & weekend differential
- Housing & Mileage reimbursement available

Qualified candidates, please call or fax resume to:

HENDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

ATTN: Pam Eason, Human Resources
1242 North 19th Street
Abilene, Texas 79601
(915) 670-3181
(800) 933-2289
FAX (915) 670-4417

Equal Opportunity Employer
Smoke-Free & Drug-Free Environment

DIALYSIS RN

Hendrick Medical Center is seeking an experienced Registered Nurse for the position of Staff RN, Renal Dialysis.

Qualifications Include:
current TX licensure
1-2 years Critical Care experience preferred
dialysis exposure preferred
CHN, ACLS, CCRN preferred

Hendrick Medical Center offers competitive salaries and excellent benefits package.

To join our progressive healthcare team, call or fax resume to:
Hendrick Medical Center
ATTN: Pam Eason
1242 North 19th
Abilene, Texas 79601
(915) 670-3181
(800) 933-2289
FAX (915) 670-4417

HENDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

Equal Opportunity Employer
Smoke-Free & Drug-Free Environment

TOMCAT

STAGING, LIGHTING AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Manufacturing company specializing in design and fabrication of products in the entertainment industry is seeking.

HUMAN RESOURCE/ PAYROLL DIRECTOR

Highly motivated individual to direct payroll, company benefit plans and employment department. Must have good interpersonal skills, be flexible and have experience in personnel/payroll department. Send resume to TOMCAT USA, Inc., 2160 Commerce Drive, Midland, Texas 79703, Attn: Executive Vice President

Equal Opportunity Employer

FWA DRILLING COMPANY

is looking for
Experienced

Drillers	$14.75
Derrickmen	$12.05
Motormen	$11.85
Floorhands	$11.70
Truck Drivers	$11.30

Incentives include: gloves, quarterly cash drawings, up to $40.00 per day safety incentive for drillers, $6.00 per day for hands. Benefits: Insurance, vacations, 401k. EOE

Apply at:
640 N. Loop 250 W. Midland, Tx.

ORH

Registered Pharmacists

- Full-Time, Staff Relief
- Texas Licensed
- Experience Required

Odessa Regional Hospital

Odessa Regional Hospital is a progressive 100-bed hospital providing West Texas with high-quality family centered care.

We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits. Qualified candidates may send resumes or apply in person to our Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 4859, Odessa, Texas 79760. EOE 915/ 334-8397.

NURSE MANAGERS

Hendrick Medical Center is seeking experienced Nurse Managers for Pediatrics, Labor & Delivery, and in-Patient Hospice.

Qualifications include:
current TX licensure
2-4 years clinical experience
management experience preferred

Hendrick offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package.

For immediate consideration, call or send resume to:

HENDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

ATTN: Pam Eason
1242 North 19th Street
Abilene, Texas 79601
(915) 670-3181
(800) 933-2289
FAX (915) 670-4417
E-mail: peason@hendrick.org

Equal Opportunity Employer
Smoke-free & Drug-free Environement

Home Health Director

Bachelor's Degree in clinical or administrative field. Clinical or home health supervisory experience required. Plans, implements and oversees operations of agency.

For more information, contact Human Resources Department at 806/743-3355
602 Indiana Ave. • Lubbock, TX 79415 • EOE

University Medical Center

SEMINOLE HOSPITAL DISTRICT OF GAINES COUNTY

Accepting applications for the following positions:

Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant
Rural Health Care Clinic
Great opportunity for FNP or PA. Two physician clinic. Concentrating on family practice (including obstetrics).

Registered Nurses - Memorial Hospital
RN Positions available in our hospital. Must have current Texas license. OB experience preferred.

LVN's - Memorial Health Care Center
Long term care experience preferred, but not necessary. Must have a current Texas License.

Seminole Hospital District offers competitive salaries and generous benefit packages. Interested individuals should contact:

Shirley McCoy, Personnel Director
Seminole Memorial Hospital
209 N.W. 8th Street, Seminole, Texas 79360
(915) 758-4986

Applications will be accepted until positions are filed.
E.O.E.

Land Secretary

Position available for Independent O&G Exploration Company. Must have knowledge of land documents, Lease administration and contracts. PetroComp Land System. Mail resume to:

Box F-23
Midland Reporter-Telegram
P.O. Box 1650
Midland, TX 79702

SYSTEM SUPPORT SPECIALIST III

Texas Department of Health is recruiting for a System Support Specialist III to be headquartered in Midland. Duties will include assisting in the development, maintenance and monitoring of the regional local area and wide area networks; be responsible for installation, testing and maintenance of network hardware, software and related equipment; plus providing training to end users throughout the regions. Requires Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, plus three (3) years of full-time experience performing network or telecommunications maintenance, security, and hardware or software installation. Requires ability to climb a 10 ft. ladder, ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs., ability to perform functions requiring overhead reaching, plus 20% overnight travel. May require working hours other than 8-5, Monday-Friday. Salary: $2,095.00/month plus excellent benefits. No resumes accepted. For applications, additional qualifying options or information, contact: Phil Dolbow, (915) 683-9492. PRN #97-R09-0017. Closing date: 01-10-97. EEO/ADA.

The Texas Department of Human Services is accepting applications for a Community Care Worker I-Trainee in Midland. Salary is $1,612.00 per month. Minimum qualifications require a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. OR One year of full-time experience in direct social service work or in clerical or Community Service Aide work in the TDHS Community Care program may be substituted for each year (30 semester hours) of the required education.

Pick-up application and a copy of the job announcement at Dept. of Human Service office in your area. Resumes may be attached to a completed application for additional information only but not in place of the application. To ensure consideration, applications must be in the Abilene Human Resource Services office no later than Monday, November 25, 1996. Mail your applications to P.O. Box 6635, Abilene, Texas 79608. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Human Resource Services, (915) 69[illegible]2216. We are a EOE.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

Position is responsible for providing Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Duties involve services leading toward successful employment of the vocationally handicapped. Travel is required. A degree from an accredited College/University is required. Related work experience varies by degree, monthly salary $2,236.00. Closes 5:00 p.m., January 3, 1997.

Apply At:
Texas Rehabilitation Commission
419 W. 4th Street, Suite 701
Odessa, Texas

EEO/AA Employer

REGIONAL CONSULTANT DIETITIAN

Horizon Facilities Management, Inc., is seeking a Registered Dietitian to provide consultant dietary services for our facilities. Duties include training dietary staff, completion of nutritional assessments for residents, monitoring food costs and all aspects of Dietary Services. Travel within the region is required. If you are a person who can evaluate, teach, and develop plans, please send a current resume to:

Horizon Facilities Management, Inc.
401 North Elm
Denton, TX 76201
817-387-4388 Fax: 817-380-2423

RECEPTIONIST - SCHEDULER

Busy out patient facility has full time opening for a versatile medical receptionist. Must be able to work flexible hours including some weekends. Duties include-data entry, phones, filing, insurance verification. Must enjoy working with people. Medical background helpful. Excellent benefits.

PRIMARY MEDICAL CLINIC

Resumes Attention:
Human Resources
4800 E. 42nd Street
Suite 300
Odessa, Texas 79762

310 General Help Wanted

RESTAURANT

SUBWAY SANDWICHES

Now hiring Store Manager for the Midland Mall location. 45 hour schedule, paid vacation, 4 week training program. Salary + monthly bonus, profit sharing plan. Free meals- No grease. Aggressive promotions. Send resume to: 601 Slaton Hwy., Lubbock, TX 79404.

RESTAURANT- Sonic Drive- In, Midkiff Road, now hiring part-time cooks, car hops. Day or evening shifts. No experience necessary, we will train. Please apply in person.

RESTUARANT- DINO'S PIZZA is now hiring. Apply in person, 4322 Andrews Hwy, Midland.

SALON- Hairstylist station for lease. Also, private room for either Massage Therapist or Estetian. Growing, team- oriented fun salon with excellent location. Call 694-6966 ask for Shaila.

SALON- Under New Management!!! 5 Hairstylists and a Nail Technician needed to lease chairs in very busy salon. Call Kimberly for immediate interviews, 689–0110.

SITE DIRECTOR- Experienced child care provider. 3 year minimum, $6.75 per hour, working hours Monday- Friday, 2:45- 6 pm. Apply in person: 4500 W. Illinois, Suite 112. Campfire Boys & Girls. E. O. E.

STORE MANAGER- Jamie's Hallmark is now filling the position of Store Manager. The person should have enthusiasm, a high energy level, excellent interpersonal skills, retail experience and strong supervisory and leadership skills. We offer: competitive salary, benefits, generous discounts, pleasant work environment and advancement opportunities. Qualified persons should apply at: Jamie's Hallmark, Midland Park Mall, 520–2805.

SWIMMING POOL Maintenance /Repair person with experience needed immediately. References helpful. Days 683-4731. After 5, 699-0779.

TRUCK DRIVER needed for thrift store. Must have commercial drivers license and good driving record. Must be able to work Tuesday thru Saturday, 9- 4. Apply in person Salvation Army, 300 S. Baird.

WAITSTAFF wanted for downtown area. Apply in person: The Bar, 606 W. Missouri. Monday-Thursday, 2- 4 pm. Best tips in town!

WAITSTAFF- Hiring immediately. Apply in person Monday- Thursday, 2:30- 4:00. No current experience necessary. Offers immediate insurance benefits. Black- Eyed Pea, 2609 W. Loop 250 N.

HOTEL- Best Western Midland now accepting applications for full time Maintenance and part time cook. Apply in person, 3100 W. Wall, Midland.

*MEDICAL

GLENWOOD HOSPITAL

NURSE EXECUTIVE

Qualified applicants must have a Masters Degree in psychiatric or mental health nursing, psychology, or nursing education with two years psychiatric experience. Knowledge of JCAHO, TDPRS, TDH regulations and supervisory experience required. The successful candidate will be an active member of our Senior Management Team.

NURSE PRACTITIONER

PRN on-call position currently available. Duties will include performing H&PA, psychiatric evaluation, discharge planning and inter-disciplinary team participation.

CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST

Contract position available for 20 hours per week. Must be a certified recreation therapist. Duties include directing operation of Experiential and Recreational programs including in-patient, out-patient and contractual clients. Minimum of one year experience facilitating Experiential Programs; requires two years experience in Mental Health.

Glenwood provides an excellent environment that is supportive, progressive, stimulating and conducive to professional development. We offer an attractive benefit package and competitive salaries. If interested, please submit resume to:

West Texas Behavioral Health System, 3300 South FM 1788, Midland, TX 79706, Attn: Human Resources. EOE Salary DOE.

Licensed Nursing Home Administrator

Progressive, respected long term care organization is seeking a dynamic professional for its facility in Kermit. Candidates must possess a minimum of five years successful experience in a for profit" environment, have solid knowledge of Federal/State Survey processes- including a positive working relationship with state survey teams. Excellent salary and benefits will be offered to the chosen candidate. If you are interest in this opportunity, please fax your resume in confidence to:

Healthcare Centers of Texas, Inc.
2100 Highway 360, Suite 502
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
Attn: Ellie Ziegler
fax: (972)484-6111
EOE

311 Medical Help Wanted

★★★★★★★★★★

*MEDICAL

GLENWOOD HOSPITAL

RN and LVN positions, both full-time and part-time, currently available on our Adult Unit. Psychiatric experience a plus; Texas licensure required. Call Nancy Scarpa at (915) 563-1200 or send resumes to Glenwood Hospital, 3300 S. FM 1788, Midland, TX 79706, Attn: Human Resources. Application deadline January 3, 1997.

EOE

★★★★★★★★★★

311 Medical Help Wanted

RN's/LVN's NURSEFINDERS 580-3535

We need your experience for short term staffing and staff relief. Med-Surg; ER, Critical Care; Oncology; Labor & Delivery; Orthopedics.

Daily Pay; Weekly Pay
BONUS PAY

ARRT- Mitchell County Hospital now accepting applications. Full time position available, experience preferred. Contact Mary Paul Proctor, Director of X-ray, Mitchell County Hospital, 1543 Chestnut St., Colorado City, (915) 728-3431, ext. 200.

CERTIFIED NURSING Assistants. All shifts. Apply in person at Courtyard Care Center, 3203 Sage. 683–5403.

COME GROW WITH US!

CLIENT CARE COORDINATOR

Qualifications include High School Diploma and three years related experience in Health Care Delivery or Business. Prior scheduling experience in customer service service preferred. Data Entry or Word Processing required.

NURSE/RN

Qualifications include Licensed RN, current CPR and one year Clinical experience. Prior Home Care experience is preferred.

915-563-1111

Olsten Health Services℠

EEO/AA

311 Medical Help Wanted

PHARMACY Technician- Fast paced pharmacy needs experienced, customer oriented technician. No Sunday's. Apply in person: Graham Pharmacy, 319 Dodson.

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Memorial Hospital has an immediate opening for a part-time Program Coordinator. This person will provide support for our Community Clinic Manager. The ideal candidate will possess strong computer skills (Microsoft Word), and strong secretarial skills. Health agency experience and an accounting background a plus. Attention to detail and professional attitude a must. Flexible hours. Please send resume to Memorial Hospital, 2200 W. Illinois, Midland, Texas 79701 or apply in Human Resources. EOE.

▲▲▲▲▲▲▲

311 Medical Help Wanted

DENTAL

☆☆☆☆☆

GREAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL GROWTH:

Treatment Coordinator

Self-starter who can manage time and resources to liaison between doctors and patients. Retail and professional sales/marketing experience helpful. People skills a must.

Doctor's Assistant

Full-time or Part-time. Experience preferred. Need upbeat, energetic individual; quick to learn, interested in enriching both patient's lives and their own.

Experience preferred, but not mandatory for all positions. Submit resumes in confidence at Dental America, 2101 North Midland Drive. E.O.E.

☆☆☆☆☆

311 Medical Help Wanted

FULL-TIME STAFF NURSE, RN

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Internal Medicine is seeking an R.N. Must have current Texas RN license. Prefer individual with nursing experience with patient teaching in a clinic setting. Working Monday-Friday. Excellent benefits. Apply at 800 W. 4th Street, Odessa, TX 79763. For additional information call 915/335-5112. TTUHSC is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

MEDICAL- Interim Healthcare now hiring an RN for Branch Manager position. Experience preferred, but not required. Please call 1-800-791-7007.

OFFICE NURSE for internist. Experienced RN or LVN. Typing and computer skills desired. Call 683–5631.

LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
MIDLAND AREA.
Associates of Science & State License required.
HOSPITAL SETTING-
GREAT FOR NEW GRAD
Great Salaries!
800-378-6825
Texas Therapy Management

LVN NEEDED for very busy medical clinic. Experience preferred. Send resumes to: Box F-18, Midland Reporter- Telegram, P. O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

311 Medical Help Wanted

LVNs

If you are dedicated to providing quality care and enjoy working in a progressive atmosphere with a caring, team-oriented staff, check out the opportunities at Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation. In return for your expertise we offer excellent pay and comprehensive benefits. Contact:

Cheryl Cummins, DNS,
Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation
1100 W. Broadway,
Stanton, TX 79782
(915) 756-2841. EOE

MEDICAL- NOW TAKING applications for sitters and LVNs. Apply at Seelin Home Health Care, 405 Kent.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, REGISTERED
MIDLAND AREA.
Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy & State License positively required.
BEAUTIFUL, DIVERSE HOSPITAL SETTING
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES/
OUTSTANDING SALARIES
New grads welcome to apply
800-378-6825
Texas Therapy Management

Let "Sure Sell" Work For You! Call 682-6222

311 Medical Help Wanted

X -RAY TECHNOLOGIST

Nestled in the foot hills of the Rockies, Big Bend Regional Hospital is now accepting applications for full time X-Ray Technologists. ARRT Registry or Registry eligible required. C.T. and Ultrasound experience a plus. No phone calls. Send resume to Big Bend Regional Medical Center, 801 East Brown Street, Alpine, TX 79830, ATT: Laurie Sellers or Fax to (915) 837-3870.

PTA- Full- Time & part- time opening; neuro & ortho pt load, private practice. Benefits including paid APTA dues, license fees, CEU's, holidays, vacation, medical & dental insurance & more. Sign on bonus. Send resume to: Box F-16, c/o The Midland Reporter-Telegram, P. O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

RECEPTIONIST

Fast paced physician office. Computer experience preferred; VERSYSS Mends II or Medical Manager software a plus. Health, life and retirement benefits. Personnel, P.O. Box 4846, Midland 79704.

RN NEEDED for Home Health Agency. Minimum of 2 years experience in home care delivery required. Also needed experienced MSW for a per visit contract work. Please send resume to: Nurse-In-Home Inc., 2104 W. Michigan, Midland, Texas 79701.

ADMINISTRATOR

for West Texas Nursing Home Facility. Experience & license required. Benefit package. Send resumes to Box E-80, C/O The Midland Reporter- Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

311 Medical Help Wanted

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/ CERTIFIED

MIDLAND/ODESSA AREA

Hospital setting-Diverse patient load CFY'S welcome to apply.

OUTSTANDING SALARIES!

800-378-6825
Texas Therapy Management

312 Professional Help Wanted

EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Very active, expanding oil and gas company has an immediate opening in their corporate office for a seasoned Rocky Mountain explorationist. M.S. plus 10-15 years of experience is preferred. You should be currently or very recently corporately employed and able to demonstrate a successful track record of exploration activity. Company offers excellent working conditions, competitive salary and a full range of benefits including incentives. Respond in confidence to:

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTANTS
P.O. 10501
Enid, OK 73706
TEL/FAX 405-242-3500

Sell it in 10 or we'll run it again!*
Classified 682-6222
*Anything on wheels, $5 per line, 3 lines minimum. Call today for complete details.

DEC 22 1996

The Texas Department of Human Services is accepting applications for a Systems Support Specialist III (Regional Systems Specialist) position in Brownwood. This is a full-time position and salary is $2,095 per month. Minimum qualifications require two years of full-time experience in a distributed systems* environment in computer terminal operation or in troubleshooting computer systems problems. OR Three years of full-time experience in a distributed systems* environment in clerical work which computer terminal operation or troubleshooting computer systems problems. OR Fifteen semester hours (with three semester hours in computer science) form an accredited college or university or 300 clock hours (with 60 clock hours in computer science) from a licensed vocational, technical, or business school, plus one year of full-time experience in a distributed systems* environment in computer terminal operation or in troubleshooting computer systems problems. OR Fifteen semester hours in a computer science from an accredited college or university, or 300 clock hours in computer science from a licensed vocational, technical or business school. OR One year of full-time experience in TDHS as a Regional Systems Specialist I. *Distributed systems is the concept of supplementing a main computer system (main frame) with field office terminals that are used for local data processing operations and for data communications with the main computer system. Travel required 60-75% of the time.

Pick up application and copy of the job application at your local DHS office. You may attach a copy of your resume to a completed application but not in place of the application. To ensure consideration, applications must be in the Abilene Human Resource Services office no later than December 31, 1996. Mail your applications to P. O. Box 6635, Abilene, Texas 79608. Questions regarding this position can be directed to our Human Resource Services office at 915/690-2216. We are EOE.

ACCOUNTANT

Growing Non-Profit Organization serving West Texas, seeking degreed accountant to assist Controller in financial and grant management reporting to various Texas state agencies. Supervise Accounting staff in daily accounting functions.

Position Requirements: BBA in accounting or finance. At least two years experience in fund accounting in reference to OMB 133, 122, and 110. Knowledge of financial reporting requirement to TDH, TCADA, and TDCJ state agencies. Computer experience in Windows 95, NT 4.0, MS Office 95, Excel, Word, etc. Experience in fund accounting software M.I.P., Cyma, etc. Familiar in grant writing to the State of Texas.

Salary: DOE & Benefits - Send resume, three references, and salary history to:

Controller
406 N. Texas
Odessa, Texas 79761

Deadline: January 8, 1997

EOE

MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Knowledge of and ability to use appropriate marketing and sales techniques.
- Knowledge of and ability to use basic management skills.
- Knowledge of terminology, services, and business activities associated with the oil and gas industry.
- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or a related discipline plus a minimum of ten (10) years experience in marketing o operations management related to the drilling and/ or well servicing business.
- Excellent written and verbal communication.

Call V.I.P. Employment Services 686-9722.

NEVER A FEE!!

MANAGEMENT

CITY OF MIDLAND
HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

Responsible for general administration and supervision activities in regard to the Health and Senior Services Division of the City of Midland. The division has an operating budget of over $1,000,000 and 18 employees. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in an area of Science, Management, or related field with three to five years of management experience in the health field. Must possess a valid Texas drivers license. Obtain application from: City of Midland, Personnel Department, 300 N. Loraine, P.O. Box 1152, Midland, TX 79702, or, call (915) 685–7251. Starting salary $3,034.00 - $3,337.00/month, DOE.
Closing Date: 1-15-97.

EOE.

PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN II

Texas Department of Health is recruiting for a Public Health Technician II to be headquartered in Midland. W conduct case finding of birth defects and abstract medical record information from health care facilities and providers pursuant to birth defects statute. Will also enter/edit data into computer and analyze data as needed for quality assurance. Requires Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university plus one (1) year of full-time experience in a health/medical field working with medical record review, abstraction, and/or coding. Bilingual-English/Spanish preferred. May require working hours other than 8-5, Monday-Friday. Registered records technician (RRT,ART) or similar certification, and familiarity with coding for birth defects or perinatal conditions are preferred. Must provide transportation. Requires 90% day and 5% overnight travel. Salary: $1,961.00/month plus excellent benefits. No resumes accepted. For additional qualifying options, information or applications, contact: Cindy Perez, (915) 774-6206. PRN #97-R09-0015. Closing date: 12-31-96.

Texas Workforce Commission News

ATTENTION VETERANS!

"America's Job Bank"
There are thousands of jobs posted here by employment offices all across the country.

You can search these nationwide job openings, including Federal Government Jobs listed by the Office of Personnel Managment, by occupation and/or geographic region.

Use your own computer at home, or use ours-FREE

For more information, call Scott Stafford, Local Veteran's Rep., @ 682-9421, Ext. 201.

Cimarron House
Licensed Assisted Living
Personal Service Assistant/CNA
Full Time or Part Time.
All Shifts. Send Resume:
ATTENTION:
Rozanne Johnson
P.O. Box 80834
Midland, Texas 79708
E.O.E.

FACILITIES ENGINEER
(Colorado)
Degreed. Facilities with CO2 exp. Reloc & Fee Paid. Salary to $65K
Liz Proctor
GlobalPerm Division
Ofc. 686-8360 * Fax. 686-8302

GEOLOGIST
(Midland)
Master degree, 10 yrs exp. An aggressive oil finder. MUST be promotable to grow w/ this company. Salary to $80K. Fee Paid.
Liz Proctor
GlobalPerm Division
Ofc. 686-8360 * Fax. 686-8302

Real Wheel Deals
ONLY $25 w/Photo
Call for Information
682-6222

AREA DIRECTOR. 25 hours per week. Responsible for fund raising in program activities in the Midland/ Odessa area. Some travel required. Past fund raising/ volunteer organization experience preferred. 1 person office in Midland. typing skill a must. Send resume to: American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Road #12A, Lubbock, TX 79424.

BANKING. Community National Bank has a position available for New Account/CD Clerk. requirements include prior teller experience, a minimum 3 years experience in New Account/ CD/ TRA area, PC skills and must type 50 wpm. Salary DOE, EOE. Qualified candidates may call 694-3333.

BOOKKEEPER
Job requirements include organizational skills, minimum 4 years experience in GL, AP & AR, professional attitude. Permanent position with well established company. Mail resume to:
Box F-26
Midland Reporter-Telegram,
P.O. Box 1650
Midland, Texas 79702

CONTROLLER/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for medium sized manufacturing company. Word Processing and computer skills essential. Full company benefits. Equal opportunity Employer. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Reply to: Box F-27 with resume and references. c/o The Midland Reporter-Telegram, P. O. Box 1650, Midland Texas 79702.

ACCOUNTANT- WEST TEXAS Construction Company has an immediate opening for an experienced cost accountant with computer operation capabilities. Must be able to post all records thru general ledger and prepare monthly financial statements and supporting statistics data. C.P.A. preferred but not required. Compensation include retirement and medical benefits. Base salary will be commensurate with experience and credentials. EOE. Send resume to: Box F-25, Midland Reporter- Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

Preferred Personnel
684-5900

LAND SECRETARY

Work directly with Land Manager. Should be familiar with all phases land work such as, Assignments, Title Curative and Operating Agreements, Delay Rentals, Letter Agreements. Recording legal instruments.
Must have good typing and computer skills. Salary to 30K.

No Applicant Fees

We're putting Midlanders in their place!

HELP! WE WANT YOU!

Preferred Personnel has the following poisitons open now

Geo-Tech/ Eng. Tech	25K
Executive Assistant	$1,200- 1,400
Land Secretary	30K
Receptionist (need 2)	$1,100- 1,400
Computer Tech with networking exp	Open
P/T Admin Asst	Open

Permanent, temp and temp to hire positions available now.
No applicant fees.
Call Preferred Personnel, 684-5900 or Fax 683-5336

312 Professional Help Wanted

DIRECTOR OF OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS
Applications accepted through January 7 for Director of Off-Campus Programs for Odessa College. Bachelor's required with experience in working with students and budgets. Invoices coordinating flexible work schedule, supervision of all off-campus programs and serving as on-site administrator for the Pyote Extension Center. Twelve months at $25,000-$27,000 with benefits. Flier and application available from Human Resources, Odessa College, 201 W. University, Odessa, Texas 79764. 915/335-6606. AA/ADA/EO

DP PERSONNEL
We find great opportunities for great people!
We have the following positions available:
*Office Mgr. w/Peachtree Accounting
*Chemist
*Legal Secretary
*Receptionist
*Oil and Gas Secretary
*Landman
Call DP Personnel
682–0033
Never a fee!

GOLF PROFESSIONAL
The City of Big Spring is accepting applications for the position of Golf Professional to oversee the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Qualified applicants must hold a PGA certificate. Preference will be given to a four-year college degree in Agronomy, Turf Grass Management, Horticulture, Landscaping or related field and must have five years experience of golf course work. For more detailed requirements and to apply contact City of Big Spring Personnel Office, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 915-264–2346. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 1996.
The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HYDROCARBON LOGGER
Discovery Logging, Inc. seeking experienced Geologist/Mudlogger for computerized logging system. Applicant must have a professional appearance, good people skills and the ability to follow company policy. Must pass Drug Test and able to pass Random Testing. Discovery offers the logger excellent logging units and a user friendly computer system that will enhance your logging abilities. Our computer system will make your job easier and you will be able to concentrate on samples and gases for the clients. Good transportation a must. Fax resume to 915-687-1689 or come by 1000 Goode St. for interview.

NEWS ANCHOR/ Producer/ Reporter- Newschannel 11, KCBD-TV, has an opening in it's News Department for weekend position. Prefer degree and 1 year experience. Send resume and non-returnable 3/4" or VHS tape to: Dave Walker, News Director, 5600 Avenue A, Lubbock, TX 79404. No phone calls, please. Deadline for application is 1/10/97. EOE.

SALES ENGINEER. A leading production chemical company seeks college graduate (science degree preferred) with oilfield experience. Company car /benefits. Send resumes to: Box D-44, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

SENIOR TAX ACCOUNTANT
CPA or CPA candidate. Minimum 2 years tax experience. Salary based on qualifications. Covered parking. Send resume to:
Darrell Dillard, CPA,
415 West Wall, Suite 1510
Midland, TX 79701

SOCIAL- PERMIAN Basin Center for Battered Women and Their Children has an opening for Children's Program Assistant. Must have Bachelor's Degree in Education of Social Services and experience working with children. Send resume to: P.O. Box 2942, Midland, Texas 79702.

312 Professional Help Wanted

HOUSING DIRECTOR
The City of Big Spring is accepting applications for the position of Housing Director. Responsible for the overseeing of the federal housing rental assistance program. Preference will be given to those with a four year college degree in business, public administration, or a closely related field. Must have 3 years experience in progressively responsible managerial work, it would be beneficial to have knowledge of HUD regulations governing housing assistance. For more information and to apply contact City of Big Spring Personnel Office, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call (915) 264–2346. Applications will be accepted thru 5:00 P.M. December 31, 1996. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

314 Clerical Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MUST have strong administrative and bookkeeping skills. Long-term temp with possibility of permanent. Salary $DOE. No fee. Call LeeAnn.
Global/Temp Division
(915) 686-8360

LEGAL SECRETARY
(Part-Time)
2-3 hrs. a day, MUST have strong MS/Word Windows or WordPerfect Windows and Excel exp. Legal exp. a plus. No fee. Call LeeAnn.
Global/Temp Division
(915) 686-8360

ONE PERSON OFC.
(Temp to Perm)
GREAT OPPORTUNITY for a professional, personable individual w/bookkeeping and secretarial skills. Oil & gas exp. needed. No fee. Call LeeAnn.
Global/Temp Division
(915) 686-8360

RECEPTIONIST
Client Co. prefers some legal experience. Must have WordPerfect w/Windows. 50+ wpm. Fee Paid. Salary $8.00/hr.
JEAN DALE
Global/Perm Division
Ofc. 686-8360 * Fax. 686-8302

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY
(Temp to Perm)
WordPerfect for MS Word & Lotus or Excel skills a MUST. Typing 55+ wpm. Oil & gas knowledge helpful. Perm salary $1800/mo + benefits. No fee. Call LeeAnn.
Global/Temp Division
(915) 686-8360

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
Full-time position for experienced individual with strong accounts payable, bookkeeping and cash management background. Competitive salary. Excellent benefits. Mail resume to: Box F-24, c/o The Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant, Excel, Word for Windows, Customer Service. 15 Smith Rd., Suite 1100, Interim Personnel, 570–7002. No fee!

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant, Microsoft Word, Excel, Marketing, Oil & Gas experience. Excellent pay & benefits. Send resume attn: Marketing Dept., P.O. box 50153, Midland TX 79710.

CLERICAL- Part- time. Work Tuesday- Thursday. Immediate opening for experienced person with telecommunications, coding invoices, & some computer skills. Call Olsten Staffing Services, 683–5677.

FULL TIME Receptionist needed for busy accounting office. job requirements include: excellent telephone, organizational and people skills, professional attitude and ability to work under pressure a must. Send resume and salary requirements to: P. O. Box 3487, Midland, Texas 79702.

LAND SECRETARY
Immediate opening for experienced Land Secretary. Temp to Perm position. Salary DOE. Hours are 8-5. Bring resume to Fran. No fee.
Temporary Resources
1601 W. Texas

"OFFICE ASSISTANT"
Career opportunity for a detailed, take-charge person with excellent skills. Good career opportunity for the right person. Skills needed include WordPerfect 5.1-Windows and Excel or Lotus Computer. Typing 50+ WPM, Oil & Gas background helpful. Good phone skills required. Hours are 8-5. Punctuality is essential. Pay is $7-$7.50. No fee. Bring resume and references ASAP.
Temporary Resources
1601 W. Texas

Sales
WE RELY ON THE

We've become an internationally respected company by being there first—developing the products that make a significant impact on health care services worldwide. And as a member of Abbott's Pharmaceutical Products Division sales force, you'll have the advantage of being backed by one of the most respected names in the industry. If you share our commitment to quality in all that you do, explore a professional sales career with Abbott Laboratories.

PHARMACEUTICAL SALES

You'll call on a variety of office-based physicians promoting our fastest-growing products, including a new antibiotic. Territories available covering the **Midland, Odessa and the surrounding area.** To qualify, you'll need a BA/BS in the Life Sciences or equivalent science background, plus solid sales experience - preferably in the health care industry.

If you're ready for a career with a company that's making a difference in health care worldwide, take a look at Abbott Laboratories. We offer an attractive base salary plus commission, potential for career advancement and an excellent benefits package, including company car, health insurance, profit sharing, and stock retirement plan. For consideration, please send your resume to: Abbott Laboratories, Attn: DSM, 2039 St. Andrews Dr., Round Rock, TX 78664. Abbott is an Affirmative Action Employer/Smoke-Free Environment.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
Quality Health Care Worldwide

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NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
MALE/FEMALE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
WE WILL TEACH
you how to sell new cars and make $$$. One of the area's most progressive and high paying car dealers now seeks salespeople with no experience.

YES, NO EXPERIENCE!!!
If you have ever tried to get into automobile business and were turned down because of no experience - NOW is your chance!!! We are looking for people who could be trained to sell cars our way

THE PROFESSIONAL WAY
WE OFFER
- Exciting Training Program
- Huge New and Used Car Inventory
- Excellent Pay Plan & Bonus
- Comprehensive Benefits

SUPERB OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE INTO MANAGEMENT
EARN FROM $28,000 - $48,000 1ST YEAR
Apply in Person • 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
Monday - Saturday • Ask for Steve or John
BERG MOTOR COMPANY
3205 W. WALL
MIDLAND, TEXAS

SECRETARIAL

SALES ASSISTANT
Norwest Investment Services, Inc., the full service broker dealer subsidiary of Norwest Corporation, has an opportunity for a Sales Assistant in its downtown Midland location.

Duties will include interacting with customers, coordinating appointments for brokers and a variety of administrative tasks. The hours of the position will be 8 am- 5 pm, Monday- Friday.

Candidates must be able to manage a high volume of transactions in a fast-paced service-oriented environment. This will require strong verbal and written skills, strong organizational and problem solving skills, proven ability to meet deadlines with a high level of accuracy, and typing and PC skills that include experience using Microsoft Word.

Norwest offers its employees a competitive compensation and benefits package that includes medical, dental, vision and 401(k). If interested in this opportunity please send a resume and cover letter to: P. Schoener, 1500 Broadway, Suite 702, Lubbock, TX 79401 or fax resume to 806-741-3117.
AA/EOE.

NORWEST INVESTMENT SERVICES, INC.

OFFICE MANAGER
Experience w/AccPac software a plus, some college preferred. Will perform all bookkeeping duties as well as supervising office of 3-4 employees. Express Personnel Services, 2817 JBS Parkway, Bldg. E, Suite 16, 550-0270. Never A Fee.

OFFICE position open for full time clerk for electrical distributor. Duties will include: heavy filing, phones and manual inventory control. Smoking environment. By appointment only. 687–1721.

OIL & GAS SECRETARY
Must have computer skills, knowledge of RRC reports, drilling reports, land terms, and lease files. Salary based upon experience. Reply to Box D-42, % Midland Reporter, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

Global Personnel Network
Temp & Perm positions. Locally & around the globe! 686–8360.

JOBS AVAILABLE
SELECT STAFF
915-687-1545

JOIN THE TEMP TIME TEAM. Temporay positions with "The Best In Town" 687–1545.

V.I.P. EMPLOYMENT. Call us today for information regarding temporary and permanent jobs. (915) 686–9722.

CLERICAL- Openings for exp. Oil & Gas office personnel. Call OLSTEN today, 683–5677.

SECRETARIAL resumes now being accepted by an oilfield service company. Must be knowledgeable in computer, Microsoft Office, access Database, professional writing skills, answering phones, and filing. Please send resumes to: Personnel Department, P.O. Box 61277, Midland, Texas 79711.

CAN YOU SCORE FROM INSIDE THE 20?

When you've driven downfield to the **RED ZONE**, you want the support and strategy to close the deal and get the points on the board. Because, in the business world, points on the board mean money in the pocket.

At **TRUGREEN CHEMLAWN**, we provide the solid training and production support to close the deal and help you become successful. If you are hard working, professional, have good communication skills, and the desire to win, we want you on our team.

We offer competitive salaries **PLUS** commission, training and **QUALIFIED** leads, Fortune 500 company benefits, and advancement opportunities for our Pro-Bowl'ers.

For Draft-Pick consideration, call Nick or Mike at 563-2497

No offense Ernie, but we want a TOUCHDOWN!!

EOE/M/F/V/D

AIM FOR... CHALLENGING VARIETY GROWTH CAREER INCOME CONTROL

Select Staff is recruiting a Sales Person to develop a Midland territory and build to branch office status... Cold Calls, Strategy, Planning, Appointment Setting, Presentations & Closing...Build a client base.

We offer base salary, bonuses & paid insurance. Qualified candidates will have direct Sales experience, business to business, a 4 yr. degree, be professional in communication and presentation skills.

Mail or Fax resume to Rick Graham, 12700 Hillcrest Ste. 201, Dallas, TX 75230, Fax 972-934-9344.

SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST
Immediate opening for Secretary/ Receptionist. Possible Temp to Perm position. Job requires excellent phone skills, purchase order experience, heavy filing. Must have MS Word and EXCEL. Salary $6.50- $7. Hours 9-6. Bring resume to Fran. No fee.
Temporary Resources
1601 W. Texas

PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY
For Career Opportunity. Experience must include Microsoft Office, transcription, typing 55 wpm, great phone and organizational skills. Salaried position with full benefits including medical, dental and 401K. Qualified applicants may forward resume to:
3100 N. A St., Bldg. E, Ste. 115
Midland, TX 79705

SECRETARY
Microsoft Word, Lotus, works well under pressure.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Windows 95, Word Perfect 5.0, 6.1. Full Office knowledge.
Call V.I.P.
686-9722
Never a fee.

Need An Office Job?
Call Us!
TEMPORARY RESOURCES
684-0527

RECEPTIONIST POSITION. $6 an hour. Good phone & computer skills. Bring resume, 203 W. Wall, Suite 1100.

Kemi

GRAND OPENING–MIDLAND
(4706 North Midkiff Rd.)
There's excitement in store at Stein Mart, where a new location will be opening soon!

NOW HIRING
STORE MANAGEMENT
Candidates must have 2+ years merchandising experience and the willingness to relocate.
Contact Stewart Johnson, District Director, at 817-459-1104 to arrange a confidential interview.
Or send resume to: 452 Lincoln Square, Arlington, TX 76011. Fax: 817-459-2579.

Stein Mart
We Fit Your Style
Equal Opportunity Employer

320 Skilled Trades

320 Skilled Trades

*SKILLED
JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

NATCO MANUFACTURING
NOW HIRING

NATCO, manufacturer of high quality oil and gas processing equipment has immediate openings for employees in the following positions:

COMBINATION FITTER/WELDERS
Able to perform layout and fit-up ASME Code Welding, 6-G position test.

CODE WELDERS
Able to weld with radiographic quality.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TECHNICIANS
Minimum 3 years oil & gas process equipment experience.
* Knowledge and ability to solve process equipment problems in a unsupervised environment at both field and plant locations.
* Verifiable motor vehicle driving record for company furnished vehicle operation.

All positions require ability to read blueprints. All positions require heavy lifting with continuous experience to shop conditions.

We Offer competitive wage and benefit programs including:
- Medical/Dental/Life Insurance
- 401K
- Paid vacations/Holiday
- Safety Incentive program

If you have a good stable work history and have an interest in working for the world's leading manufacturer of domestic and international oil and gas equipment, please complete an application Monday through Friday 8 am- 1 pm.

Selected applicants will be requested to successfully complete a pre-employment drug screen test prior to employment.

NATCO
6609 W. 16th
Odessa, TX 79761
530-3600
An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

COMPRESSION OPERATORS INCORPORATED

Compressor Mechanic and Mechanic's Helper sought for Midland location. Experience with AJAX, Ariel, and screw compressors.

Ronnie Hensley
Area Maintenance Supervisor
P.O. Box 506661
Midland, Texas 79710
(915) 684-4730

Equal Opportunity Employer

314 Clerical Help Wanted

RECEPTIONIST
Must have excellent communication skills for this possible full time opportunity.

LABORER
Immediate long-term assignment. If you are dependable, over 18, and have reliable transportation call us today!

RECEPTIONIST
Short-term receptionist position starting December 30th. Excellent phone skills required and knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows and EXCEL helpful.

SECRETARY
The ideal candidate must have at least 2-3 years secretarial experience and strong PC skills including Microsoft Word for Windows. Communication and organizational abilities are essential.

Call Kelly Services
689–9801
Never an applicant fee!
Equal Opportunity Employer

DP PERSONNEL
Temp & Permanent positions available
682–0033

316 Sales Help Wanted

SALES- PETROLEUM Or Chemical degree required. City/ field technical sales for oil field service company. Salary/ auto/ insurance and other incentives. Male or female. Send resume to: Box C-14, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

INSURANCE AGENT'S DREAM!
Selling final expense life plans to the elderly. Top Commissions. Daytime leads available, exotic trips. Call 915-570-1930.

316 Sales Help Wanted

OUTSIDE SALES
For national corporation. Must have experience and good track record. Salary plus commission, excellent benefits package. Express Personnel Services, 2817 JBS Parkway, Bldg. E, Suite 16, 550-0270. Never A Fee.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE for Oil & Gas industry, servicing Permian Basin. OCTG Coating background required. Send resume to: 1830 S. Kirkwood, Suite 102, Houston, Texas 77077.

SALES- EARN $4K- $7K per month. Give away our free security system. 570-8890.

318 Management Help Wanted

ESTIMATOR/ Project Manager. Employment opportunity in Amarillo, TX with a Gen. Contractor. Must have solid estimating and project management skills on various types of building construction. Resume must include specific project experience and salary history to: RGS, P.O. Box 7038, Amarillo, TX 79114-7038.

320 Skilled Trades

*OILFIELD
Experienced Drilling Hands and Tool Pushers needed due to rig expansion.
TransTexas Gas Corp
1-800-572-1966

AIR CONDITIONING Technicians, Plumbers, Electricians wanted. Part or full- time. Terms, incentives, bonuses available. 682–3542.

OFFSET PRINTER- Must be experienced. Will run 2 color AB Dick equipment. Apply: 315 N. Colorado St., Midland.

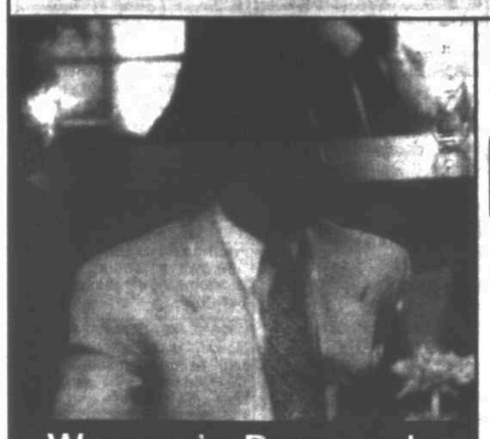
SINGLE-HAND WELDER
Immediate assignment. Must have own hood. Apply 10:30 am and 1:30 pm.
EnergiPersonnel
4400 N. Big Spring #202
Re/Max Building. No fee.

LICENSED REPAIR PLUMBER Needed. Call 687–4507.

Meet

Women
SEEKING SOMEONE SP
Single female, 49, black, enjoys reading, television, ing. Seeking single wh Hispanic male, 45-49, non-s must be sociable and have interests. ☎2580(exp2/9)
BIG BEAUTIFUL WOM
Single black mom of tw enjoys romance, children, music. Seeking strong, int man, 30-45, race unimport drug users need apply. (exp2/9)
EASYGOING
Single white female, 34 115lbs, seeks single or d white male, 34-43, who enj simple things in life. (exp2/9)
LOTS TO OFFER
Divorced black professional male companionship, ind should possess vivid imag good sense of humor, dire goals, honesty and a sincer a plus. Optimistic about po ties of a fun-filled relati Age/race unimportant. (exp1/19)
LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSH
Outgoing single white fe ma 5'5", medium-built, enjoys ing, fishing, travel, all Seeking single white male, who loves being sponta wants to be pampered. (exp1/19)
WHAT HAPPENED TO ROMAN
Single white female, 22, romantic single white male, for candlelight dinners, m spending quiet times tog Must respect the fact that I child. ☎2477(exp1/19)
A FEW GOOD MEN
Tall student, 25, brown/ seeks attractive, financially single white professional ma 40, who enjoys the finer thi life. Must be adventurous an a sense of humor. ☎247 1/19)
COWBOY LADY
Single white mother of thre 5'7", blonde/green, profes enjoys dancing, country rodeos, fishing, lakes, mou Seeking white male, 30-5 relationship or friendship. (exp1/19)
GUIDELINES: People Meeti will not be accepted. Midland ed message and for any clas advertisers agree not to leave
320 Sk Tr
COMP
QUALIT
An industry leader for companies providing r applications for the fo
Qualifications include 5 to 2 1/2", instrument t Responsibilities include dial indicating engine/
Must be able to read b
Additional qualificatio
• Ability to work inde
• Strong pride in wor
• Gas compression pa
• Highly skilled and m
• Ability to schedule t
• Ability to work over
We offer an excellent mail or fax resume to
Equal Opportunity E
320 Sk Tr
PAINT ESTIMATOR/ Manager. Local cons company looking for exp Paint Estimator/ Project for paint division. Must motivated, self starter wi to handle multiple p simultaneously. M experience requirement years. Starting salary b experience. Must have ow Send resume to: Paint E P.O. Box 50653, Midl 79710-0653.
DOODLEBUGG
Observers wanted. exp in IO, MDS or Sercel J wanted. Benefits includ Sharing, 401K, Health Insurance. Come by 550 W Suite 500 to fill out an ap or bring in resume. NO CALLS PLEASE.
ELECTRONIC TECH. Go and analog troubleshoot a must. Mechanical skill 694–3901.
LEAD MECHANIC- equipment mechani experience needed. Pro insurance, salary DO Reply to Box E-40, C/O Reporter-Telegram, P.O. B Midland, TX 79702.
HEAVY EQUIPMENT par with experience neede share, insurance, sala EOE. Reply to Box E- Midland Reporter-Teleg Box 1650, Midland, TX
LAB TECH for production on analytic balance 694–3901.
LICENSED Plumber & needed for plumbing subc work in surrounding are travel involved. Call 68
PIPELINE CONTRACTO for experienced backho operators. CDL requi HazMat endorsement a p physical and drug test Send resume to: P.O. Post, TX 79356 -or- call 1 7031.

Meet New People, Make New Friends With People Meeting People



Women's Personals

•Free Voice Greeting •Free 30-Word Print Ad •Free Message Retrieval

To place your free personal ad, call: 1-800-214-3435. Must be 10 or older.

To respond to personal ads, call
1-900-407-1160 Calls cost $2.19. Must be 18 or over.

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Single female, 49, black/brown, enjoys reading, television, studying. Seeking single white or Hispanic male, 45-49, non-smoker, must be sociable and have similar interests. ☎2580(exp2/9)

BIG BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
Single black mom of two, 31, enjoys romance, children, movies, music. Seeking strong, intelligent, man, 30-45, race unimportant, no drug users need apply ☎2577 (exp2/9)

EASYGOING
Single white female, 34, 5'2", 115lbs, seeks single or divorced white male, 34-43, who enjoys the simple things in life. ☎2574 (exp2/9)

LOTS TO OFFER
Divorced black professional seeks male companionship, individual should possess vivid imagination, good sense of humor, directional goals, honesty and a sincere heart a plus. Optimistic about possibilities of a fun-filled relationship. Age/race unimportant. ☎2479 (exp1/19)

LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP
Outgoing single white female, 37, 5'5", medium-built, enjoys camping, fishing, travel, all sports. Seeking single white male, 35-45, who loves being spontaneous, wants to be pampered. ☎2478 (exp1/19)

WHAT HAPPENED TO ROMANCE
Single white female, 22, seeks romantic single white male, 22-30, for candlelight dinners, movies, spending quiet times together. Must respect the fact that I have a child. ☎2477(exp1/19)

A FEW GOOD MEN
Tall student, 25, brown/brown seeks attractive, financially secure single white professional male, 26-40, who enjoys the finer things in life. Must be adventurous and have a sense of humor. ☎2471(exp 1/19)

COWBOY LADY
Single white mother of three, 44, 5'7", blonde/green, professional, enjoys dancing, country music, rodeos, fishing, lakes, mountains. Seeking white male, 30-50, for relationship or friendship. ☎2476 (exp1/19)

ATTRACTIVE AND INTERESTING
Attractive, happy, loving, loveable, interested, interesting intellectual, 5'4", 138lbs, health enthusiast, well-educated and traveled, loves spy novels, big bands, pets, children, outdoors and romance, seeks similar gentleman, 60-?. No grumpies. ☎2474(exp1/19)

BEAUTIFUL BLACK WOMAN
Very attractive single black female, 23, 5'4", no children, enjoys romance, dancing, movies, dining out, laughing. Seeking good-looking single male, 24-35, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. Race unimportant. ☎2412(exp1/12)

SEEKING YOU
Single Hispanic female looking for a boyfriend or a husband, 55-57, whose romantic, caring, must speak Spanish. ☎2215(exp1/5)

LOVABLE WF
Christian, reddish-blonde hair, sensitive and spiritual, enjoy most everything, non-smoker, non-drinker. Seeking romantic, lovable guy, 50s, with same qualities, for friendship, possibly more. Where are you? ☎2422(exp1/12)

CREOLE BEAUTY
Single, Creole female, 26, brown/brown, enjoys dancing, reading, movies, long walks. Seeking romantic single or divorced white professional male, over 6', under 40, who enjoys the same. Smokers and drinkers ok. ☎2415(exp1/12)

HEART OF GOLD
Single white female, 50s, 5'10", enjoys movies, dining out, the arts, music, seeks single, white/Hispanic male, with similar interests, for friendship/possible long-term relationship. ☎2212(exp1/5)

ENERGETIC
White female, 26, with red-brown hair and green eyes. If you're a romantic, fun-loving white male with lots of energy, you need to apply! ☎2110(exp12/29)

LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP
Honest, romantic, caring, divorced professional lady, 37, 5'4", medium build, enjoys cooking, dancing, bike rides, swimming, quiet times. Seeking a caring, single, white male, 36-45, for friendship and possible long-term relationship. ☎2211(exp1/5)

FALLING INTO YOU
Blonde, green-eyed, Christian female, 34, 5'6", 125lbs, seeks once-in-a-lifetime love with white Christian male, 30-40, serious callers only. ☎2113(exp12/29)

JINGLE MY BELL
Single, brown-haired, brown-eyed beauty, 26, tired of the bar scene seeks single/divorced, white male, 25-37, must be employed, relatively tall, attractive, athletic, and fun loving. ☎2112(exp12/29)

WISHING FOR LOVE?

Don't just wish for someone special to share the holidays with, do something about it. Pick up the phone and make this a season to remember.

PEOPLE People

To listen and respond to voice personal ads, call
1-900-407-1160
Call costs $2.19 per minute.
Must be 18 or over.

© 1996 The TPI Group

NO COWBOYS, PLEASE!
Educated, professional, divorced white female, 42, 5'3", auburn/blue, height/weight proportionate. Enjoys travel, reading, intelligent conversation. Seeking white male, same interests, sense of humor a must. Non-smoker, social drinker. ☎2108(exp12/29)

PROFESSIONAL
Outgoing, understanding, American-Indian divorced female, 42, enjoys country and western dancing, traveling, romantic dinners. Seeking outgoing, fun, single/divorced white male, 35-50, who likes children, with similar attitudes and interests, for long-term relationship. ☎1959 (exp1/4)

SWEET & SINGLE
Single black female, enjoys reading, movies, dancing, concerts, and dining out. Seeking honest, truthful, dependable single black male, financially stable, who enjoys children and social gatherings. For relationship. ☎1955(exp1/4)

Men's Personals

SINGLE WHITE MALE, 39...
nice, and nice-looking, seeks nice-looking, attractive woman, in similar age group, maybe younger. ☎2579(exp2/9)

FUNNY GUY
Divorced white male, 31, 6'1", slender, blond/blue, musician and rancher (but not a country boy), enjoys dancing, playing guitar, rock-n-roll. Seeking petite single white/Hispanic female, 25-38, for friendship, dating and possible relationship. ☎2578(exp2/9)

LONELY SOLDIER BOY
Divorced male, 31, enjoys country music, movies, quite evenings at home and looking for someone special, 29-33 to become friends. Smokers, drinkers welcome. No drugs. ☎2576(exp2/9)

ROMANCE
Single black male, 32, 5'11", 175lbs, seeks companionship, possible relationship with single white or Hispanic female who enjoys all sporting activities, romantic evenings, walks, dining out, etc. ☎2575(exp2/9)

FUNNY, HANDSOME, OUTGOING
Single white male, 5'9", 170lbs, athletic, loves dancing, movies, cooking. Seeking romantic, intelligent, attractive female, 20-34, height/weight proportionate. ☎2483 (exp1/19)

HISPANIC MALE
25 year-old, seeks white/Hispanic female, 18-30, for companionship. If you like movies, dining out, long trips, good conversation, I'm your man. ☎2482(exp1/19)

ATTRACTIVE
White male, 22, seeks single white female, 25-40, for fun, possible relationship. ☎2481(exp1/19)

Men's Personals

OUTGOING MALE
Attractive single white male, 31, professional, financially secure, well-built, athletic, adventurous, spontaneous. Seeking attractive single female, 20-37, adventurous, outgoing, who loves travel. ☎2480 (exp1/19)

OUTGOING
Black male, 31, enjoys dining out, movies, and evening walks, seeks female, 25-34, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎2475(exp 1/19)

MOTORCYCLE RIDING?
Clean-cut, 40 year-old, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys bowling, fishing, camping, and motorcycle riding. Seeking friendship in a lady with the same qualities and interests. ☎2470(exp1/19)

DREAMER
I only dream of you and long for your caress. A love so warm and true, and will settle for nothing less. White male, 39, 6', 210lbs, black/blue. ☎2468(exp1/19)

LOOKING FOR MY DREAM
Divorced white male, 36, 5'10", 145lbs, many interests. Seeking female, 30-40, not afraid of love, commitment or romance for friendship first. ☎2419(exp1/12)

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATE
Is there a woman for every man? Transplanted Hispanic male, 39, 5'6", 140lbs, likes common and varied. Seeking single/divorced, white/Hispanic female, 27-40, who is open to friendship and romance. ☎2423(exp1/12)

SWEET AND LONELY
Single white male, 29, 6'1", 150lbs, brown/brown, varied interests. Seeking Hispanic/Asian female, 22-33, for possible relationship. Looks unimportant, kids ok, serious inquiries only. ☎2420 (exp 1/12)

SOMEONE SPECIAL?
Single white male, 29, 6'2", 180lbs, new to Midland (from Kansas), honest, good listener, adventurous, respects people, likes to travel. Seeking single female, 20-30s, to show me around, friendship and long-term relationship-minded. ☎2418(exp1/12)

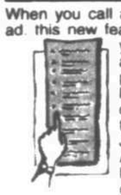
MY FIRST AD
Divorced white male, 35, 5'10", 155lbs, brown/blue, loves kids, enjoys sewing, CB radios, fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, camping, movies, most sports. Seeking single white female, 21-40, for relationship, possible marriage. ☎2416(exp1/12)

Introducing the features that can introduce you to someone special.

ADVERTISER MATCH℠

Advertiser Match lets you know – when you place an ad – if there are other advertisers out there who are just your type. All you need to do is answer a few simple questions when you record your voice greeting and this new feature will immediately direct you to other advertisers who meet your criteria. Then just call 1-900-407-1160 (Call costs $2.19 per minute. Must be 18 or older) to hear their voice greetings. The best part is, each time you call to hear responses to *your* ad, Advertiser Match will direct you to any *new* advertisers who meet your criteria.

AUTO BROWSE℠



When you call and respond to a specific ad, this new feature will automatically let you know if there are other advertisers with the same profile. Then once you've left your first greeting, you can listen to as many of the other ads as you wish. Just think about it... with Auto Browse, you'll never have to worry about the one who got away!

Personal Interview℠

With Personal Interview you'll record better, more interesting voice greetings and let listeners know even more about you. Here's all you need to know: when it's time to record your voice greeting, you'll be given the option of answering a few simple questions. Just take your time, and in no time, you've got a better, more interesting voice greeting than you ever thought possible. More interesting greeting... more responses. Better greeting... better responses. That's all there is to it.

SUPER BROWSE℠

Similar to Advertiser Match, Super Browse automatically directs you to advertisers who meet your criteria. And like every new feature, it's so easy to use. When you call to browse ads, just answer a few simple questions and Super Browse will let you hear all the ads from people who are sure to be your type.

Frequent Caller℠

It's no wonder Frequent Caller is our most popular feature. For starters, it makes responding to ads faster and more efficient than ever before. And of course, it's easy to use, too. When you call to respond to an ad, simply answer a few questions and you'll be given your own personal Frequent Caller PIN#. Then every time you call and enter that number, Frequent Caller will let you know if there are any new advertisers who meet your criteria. You'll never have to listen to the same ads twice AND, you can listen to more ads than ever... for less money!

© 1996 The TPI Group

Just Friends

DESPERATELY SEEKING...
a good friend. Hispanic, 31, cosmetologist, seeks clear-minded, easygoing friend who enjoys watching Dallas cowboys, movies, staying fit and eating healthy. ☎2417(exp1/12)

FUN-LOVING COUPLE
White couple, early 30s, would like to meet similar couples, who share our interests in dining, dancing, and exotic travel, for comfortable friendship with like-minded people. ☎2413(exp1/12)

TOO MANY WOMEN
School teacher, 40s, spends days with women, seeks male friend to visit with, have coffee, go to a show. It would be nice to have another guy to talk to, 30-50. ☎2115(exp12/29)

GUIDELINES: People Meeting People personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. We recommend users carefully screen all responses and first meetings occur in a public place. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocation information. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. Midland Reporter reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases, to edit or reject, in its sole discretion, any advertisement. Midland Reporter assumes no liability for the content or reply to any People Meeting People ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold harmless this publication, its employees and agents from any cost, expense, liability and damage resulting from the publication or reply to any advertisement or recording placed by the advertiser. People Meeting People advertisers agree not to leave a phone number, last name or address in their voice greeting.

320 Skilled Trades

COMPRESSOR SYSTEMS, INC.

QUALITY PEOPLE QUALITY SERVICE

An industry leader for 25 years, Compressor Systems, Inc. is one of the largest privately owned companies providing natural gas compression equipment and services. We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

INSTRUMENT FITTERS

Qualifications include 5 years Screw Pipe experience, plus the ability to run conduit to end devices 1/2" to 2 1/2", instrument tubing 1/4" to 1/2" and screw pipe from 1/2" to 2". Must be able to read P&ID's. Responsibilities include installing engines and compressors on skids; wiring end devices and panels; and dial indicating engine/compressor to within .005. Previous welding experience required.

PIPE WELDERS

Must be able to read blueprints and diagrams, previous welding experience required.

Additional qualifications for both positions include:

- Ability to work independently with little or no supervision
- Strong pride in workmanship and product output
- Gas compression packaging experience preferred
- Highly skilled and motivated
- Ability to schedule time wisely
- Ability to work overtime

We offer an excellent compensation package with a full range of benefits. For consideration, please mail or fax resume to:

Compressor Systems, Inc.
Attn: Personnel Department
P.O. Box 60760
Midland, TX 79711-0760
FAX: (915) 563-1402
Applications may be completed at:
3809 South F.M. 1788
Midland, TX 79703

Equal Opportunity Employer

320 Skilled Trades

PAINT ESTIMATOR/ Project Manager. Local construction company looking for experienced Paint Estimator/ Project Manager for paint division. Must be self motivated, self starter with ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously. Minimum experience requirement is three years. Starting salary based on experience. Must have own vehicle. Send resume to: Paint Estimator, P.O. Box 50653, Midland, TX 79710-0653.

DOODLEBUGGERS
Observers wanted: experience in IO, MDS or Sercel JO's also wanted. Benefits include, Profit Sharing, 401K, Health & Dental Insurance. Come by 550 W. Texas, Suite 500 to fill out an application or bring in resume. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

ELECTRONIC TECH. Good digital and analog troubleshooting skills a must. Mechanical skills helpful. 694–3901.

LEAD MECHANIC- heavy equipment mechanic wit' experience needed. Profit share, insurance, salary DOE. EOE. Reply to Box E-40, C/O Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT parts person with experience needed. Profit share, insurance, salary DOE. EOE. Reply to Box E-23, C/O Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

LAB TECH for production weighing on analytic balance. 915-694–3901.

LICENSED Plumber & Helpers needed for plumbing subcontracting work in surrounding area, some travel involved. Call 684–8245.

PIPELINE CONTRACTOR looking for experienced backhoe & dozer operators. CDL required with HazMat endorsement a plus. DOT physical and drug test required. Send resume to: P.O. Box 357, Post, TX 79356 -or- call 1-800-582-7031.

320 Skilled Trades

LICENSED PLUMBERS: Looking for small town life working in a good community close to Midland/ Odessa area? Needed: full time licensed plumber. Hourly rate, year- round employment. Send resume to: Box E-22, C/O The Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702

MAINTENACE PERSON needed (experience a must) for 300 unit complex. Canyon Creek Apartments. Apply in person. No phone calls.

MAINTENANCE. Courtyard Care Center is seeking an experienced Maintenance person. Apply in person at 3203 Sage. 683–5403.

OIL FIELD- EXPERIENCED, 39/m, 13 years with Major Oil Company, Pumper Gauger, Co2 Injection, Waterflood. Excellent references, reliable, dedicated. Willing to relocate ASAP. Have resume, will FAX 915-573-3145.

OIL FIELD- Wanted Experienced oil and gas well production employee. send resume to: Box F-17, c/o The Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

PAINTER, DRYWALL, bed & texture. 5 years experience, tools a plus! References! Top work habits. To $9/ hour + medical. Property Manager, 1907 Tarleton, 915-697–9768.

SEISMIC CREW Supervisor-experienced only. 683–1822.

335 Adult Care Needed

ADULT CAREGIVER needed for weekends. Call 694–1056.

"HAPPY ADS"
for any occasion
as low as $42
Call 682-6222
for more information.

336 Adult Care Providers

FEMALES ONLY- after surgery care in your home. Light cooking, housekeeping, errands. Call Carol, 697–8128.

HOME HEALTH Aides available to attend your daily needs. Also hospital sitting. We work from 4 to 24 hours. Call 570-4475, ask for Jackie.

341 Child Care Provided

MRS. IRENE'S Christian Day Care, 1007 Austin has openings for 10 babies, 0- 1 year in a new baby room. First 5 enrollments- no registration fee! Weekly rate of $70. Come see us! 520-8888.

OPEN MONDAY- Friday, 7 am- 6 pm beginning January 6th. Call Jana for application 689–2623.

7TH GRADER wishes to babysit short periods. Experienced, fun, loves to entertain kids. 687–5857.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Sitter service. Games, snacks, Disney movies, fun, breakfast, responsible supervision, clean, safe! Enroll now. Call Monday- Friday, 9- 9, 682–1911.

350 Business Opportunities

★★★★★★★★★★★

Attention Readers

Occasionally ads found in this section come from distant points and the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract.

★★★★★★★★★★★

GIANT GUMBALL Route- 15 machines on location, $12,000 1-800-446-1834.

400 Auctions

NEW YEARS ESTATES AUCTION "IN THE BARN"

Sat., Dec. 28th At 10:30AM & Sun., Dec. 29th At 1:00PM

Located: Hwy. 70 West Ruidoso NM, 1 mile west of 48 & 70 "Y"

Including: Antiques, Top of the Line Modern Collectibles, American Cowboy and Indian items, Guns, Genuine Oriental rugs, Genuine Indian Jewelry, Artifacts & Rugs, Slot Machine, Clocks, Cut Glass, Life Size and Smaller Bronze Statuary, Bronze Fountain, Oak Entertainment Center, Oak Beveled Glass, China Cabinet, Mahogany Hand Carved Armoire, 4 Poster Bed, 2 Bedside Cabinets, Dresser and Chest, Art, Glass Lamps, Antique Table & Chairs, Pie Safe, Oak Dresser, Princess Dresser, Beds, Handmade Quilts, Sterling Silver, Cedar Chest, Porcelain Center Piece & Matching Candelobran, Antique Organ, Steuben Arueen Bowl, 3 Piece Clock Set, Concho Belts, Collection Carved Wood Face Masks, Lawyers New Oak Bookcases, Chippendale Dining Chairs, Oak Table & Chairs, Aunt Loue Red Oak Table and More Tools Etc.

No Buyers Premium

Roy and Janet Henson Owners,
Plus Other Local Estates - A Very Good Sale!!

Col. Tony Oplotnik, Auctioneer
505-257-5510/ Fax 505-257-2684

350 Business Opportunities

BUSINESS OR Property for sale. 26,000 Square feet, 1 block from hospital on Illinois. Call 570–7875, after 5 pm.

GET REAL Estate License quickly. Short state course. Day, weekend or evening. Southwest College. 697–7277.

WELL ESTABLISHED restaurant for sale. Call 699-1339 or 683–5677.

FRANCHISE
Rated #1 by Entrepreneur

All Tune & Lube, ATL Motor Max Engine Replacement, All Tune Transmissions, 3 times the $$$ under one roof! Join 450 Franchises. Free Info kit. 800-935-8863, ext. 5.

FOR SALE: SUZI'S CLOSET. A junior specialty shop. Fixtures, inventory, accounts receivable. Serious buyers call before 8 am or after 6 pm. 684-6439.

410 Miscellaneous Sales

NORDICTRACK, $25. DP Airgometer Exercise bicycle, $50. 694–1137, after 6 weekdays.

1996 HOLIDAY BARBIEs. Caucasian. Have 6 to sell. 685–0916, leave message.

NINTENDO 64- Brand new. Taking best offer until 12/23/96. Call 563–9682.

GAS HEATERS, mowers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers, furniture, couches, recliners, dining/ suites., TVs. 570–4851.

GOOD USED VACUUM cleaners $25 and up. Repair all makes 520–6464.

LITTLE TIKES Wave Climber Gym. 2 Years old. Great condition! $70. 520–5066.

NINTENDO $75, Super Nintendo $100, Sega Genesis $125, Sega CD $140. Call 697–7147.

FALL SPECIAL- 30% to 40% off on all in stock spas. Free delivery within 45 miles. 563-3108.

TATTOO EQUIPMENT. Sterilizer and colors. $600. Call 689–7999.

410 Miscellaneous Sales

REFRIGERATOR- 6 months old $250; washer $150; Ammox 220 heating/ air conditioner- used 4 times, $350; Xerox 1035 copier $350; computer with color monitor & printer $300. 570–4175.

POOL TABLE, 1" slate top, all accessories, $500. Honda XR100 dirt bike. Aluminum toolbox for large pickup, like new $120. 362-3128.

FOR SALE: Spaces 1 & 2, Lot 139 in Meditation Garden, Resthaven Memorial Park. $1,150 each. Call (512) 267–3636.

NEW NORDICTRACK, $300. Baby bed, $20. New motorcycle tire, 120/190/18. Microwave. Car tires. 694–9871.

GOOD CHRISTMAS Presents! 5 different fishing tackle boxes full of lures. Bargain priced! Fish finders, depth finders, GPS & accessories. New and Used By Lowrance. Power scooters, carvings. 3810 Neely. 694–3186.

MODEL T 2 Seater with Briggs & Stratton engine. $1,400. Call 683–4831.

RAINSOFT RO Drinking Water System. 1 year old. Excellent condition. $3,000. 570–0042.

12" BOY'S BIKE $20; 16" Boy's Bike $25. Both good shape. 697–5127.

HERBALIFE & Natural efx Independent Distributor. For products or opportunity call 689-HERB!

KENMORE WASHER/ Dryer, $150. Magnavox VCR & Video Camera, $125. 694–7561, after 5:30.

STILL LOOKING for that hard to find "TICKLE ME ELMO" DOLL? We have some of the originals. Call 563-7482 digital pager for inquiries.

QUEEN REVERSIBLE comforter, in blue, green and peach, dust ruffle and extra fabric. $40. 697–3563.

PORCELAIN Eskimo Doll with basket- for sale. Call 697–8613 for details.

TICKLE ME Elmo for sale. Best offer. Call 694-2405 or 685-3128.

TICKLE ME ELMO For sale. Best offer. Call 362-8188 for more information.

TICKLE ME ELMO. Also will trade new 12" regular talking Buzz Lightyear for new silver talking Buzz Lightyear. 332-3507.

GARAGE SALES
Hidden treasures? Junk?
Recycle your unwanted items!
Call 683-6222 today. A friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!

79701

GOOD USED VACUUM cleaners $25 and up. Repair all makes. 520–6464.

79707

CHRISTMAS Sale. Need money. New $500 American Gladiator Bench with bands, attached leg lift and stair stepper. 520–8745.

GARAGE SALE SERVICES

$20 $20 $20 $20 $20 $20 $20

GARAGE SALE AD PACKAGE $20

★7 Lines (approx. 28-35 words)
★2 Days
★ ■✓●♥ Stand Out Emblem
★Garage Sale Kit
(includes Signs, Stakes, Marker, Balloons, Helpful Hints. $5 Value!)
★Package of Flavored Drink Mix
(for the Kids to Open a Drink Stand!)
★$3 Off Classified Coupon
(Place an ad to sell those left-over garage sale items & get $3 off!)

Or Get 3 Days for Only $24!

Call 682-6222 Today!

$20 $20 $20 $20 $20 $20 $20

410 Miscellaneous Sales

TICKLE ME ELMO. Best offer. 570–4243.

MITSUBISHI INTER Play system Z40, linear tracking, fully automatic stereo/ cassette player. Fisher single CD player. $225 for set. 682–4538, after 5.

SEARS FLEX Force "Solo-flex" type exercise machine. Like new condition, $150. Call 697–0908.

BARGAINS GALORE. Refrigerator, desk, sofa, book shelves, books, odds & ends, ceramic items. 683–5079 or 687-2665. 1109 E. Scharbauer Drive.

GO CART- 5 HP, 1 seat. Runs good. $500. Call 699–1730.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES Frequent Flyer ticket for sale. Use by January 3. Call 694–7148.

PINBALL CLASSICS, 1975 Bally's Wizard and Captain Fantastic $1,650 pair; 1965 Gottlieb's Skyline $500 and Dodge City $200, 686–7706.

HOT SPRINGS SPA Hot Tub, 5 persons + extras. Excellent condition, $2,500 firm. Call 550-6475 leave message.

3 WINDOW UNIT air conditioners, gas stove. All less than 5 months old. Call 520–5142.

★BIBLE TALK. "What did Jesus tell a Samaritan woman about worship?" 520-0381. Free recorded message.

410 Miscellaneous Sales

DALLAS COWBOY Cellular phone, collectors item. $1,500. Antique jun cabinet, $800. New Whirlpool dishwasher, $250. Call 520–7487. Serious calls only.

DALLAS COWBOYS Play off/ parking tickets. Season ticket section. 2 for $299. Call 699–1748.

413 Jewelry & Furs

GENTS 2 TONE Rolex. Never worn. See in Old Town Midland at Frank Hawk jewelry. 305 Dodson. 684-4525.

2 GOLD RINGS- Never worn. Emerald or Sapphire, $189 each. Retailed $500 + each. 520–9998.

ROLEX- Mens 2 tone & stainless watches. Good Christmas gift. Great selection! Call 520–7227.

ROLEXES- Ladie's President, Men's President, men's two tone. Priced to sell! Odessa 332-2657, before 5:30.

GREAT CHRISTMAS Gifts! Full length Saber Mink coat with full pelts and Saber Mouton coat. $2,000 or best offer. Call 685–0811 after 6 pm.

BLACK MINI [illegible]sale. $600 or best offer. Call 699–7523.

Classified Can!
682-6222

415 Miscellaneous Wanted

SOUTHWEST Company Club tickets or other airline mileage awards wanted. Will pay top dollar. 687–5039.

WANTED ATV'S and dirt bikes. Call 332–9253 9 am to 6 pm.

420 Good Things To Eat

GARDENDALE PECAN Processing, shelling and pecan sales. Holiday candies, banana nut bread, fudge & goodies! FM554, Gardendale. Monday through Saturday 9 am- 6 pm. 550–7609.

NOW BUYING PECANS. Both native and improved varieties. Gardendale Pecan Processing, FM554, Gardendale, TX 550–7609.

SHELLED PECANS. $5 Per pound. Call 682–8972.

BLUE RIBBON Pecans in shell $1.50/ pound, shelled $4.25/ pound. Candy confections and unique gift baskets available. 563-0931.

GREEN ACRES pecans. 5 pounds of halves $27.50, 5 pounds of pieces $25.00. Will deliver. 686-8155.

430 Household Goods

5 SPEED boys bike $30; bunk beds with bottom as a waterbed, excellent condition, $200. 699–7379.

MOVING SALE! Exercise bike, Changing table, TV stand, Lamp shades, Couch. Hurry- Reasonable prices! 683–7108.

GE GAS stove, like new, $175. Hooked-On-Phonics, brand new, still in box, $100. 687–2801.

REFRIGERATOR- 18 CU. Ft. Almond, $175. 520-5329 or 683-0914, after 6.

QUEEN size wall unit bedroom set, oak. Good condition, $600. Call 697–6732.

REMODELING! Built in oven, microwave, cook top, vent hood. $200 For all. Call 699–0904.

★FREE REMOVAL of your unwanted appliances. Fast pickup. 567-5221.

APPLIANCES reconditioned with 6 month plus warranty. Wood & Son Appliances. 2811 W. Wall 699–1224.

FACTORY blemished hot tubs- 2 to choose from. 10 year warranty. Financing & delivery available. 563–3108.

BEDROOM FURNITURE- Priced to sell. Armoire, dresser with mirror, 2 night stands, king size water bed frame with 6 drawers. 697–4835.

FUTON BED. Black metal includes 2 mattresses. $200. 689–8189.

MATTRESS sets, dinette sets, bunk beds, daybeds and Futon couches. Reasonable prices. Also catalog orders available. Credit Cards- Layaways welcome. Wood & Son Appliances. 2811 W. Wall 699–1224.

BRAND NEW. [illegible]ll in plastic, any size mattress and box set. Free frame or delivery. 550–5123.

MOVING- LIKE NEW: Big GE refrigerator $750; 2 club chairs $150 each; love sofa $125; 2 La-Z-Boys, super nice treadmill; dining set $250; coffee table $80; hide-a- bed $400; desk and chair $340; gun cabinet $150; deluxe bar $185. 694–4747.

END TABLE, $25. Coffee table, $25. 5 x 8 southwest rug, $40. Call 686–1853.

430 Household Goods

BLACK leather sofa, loveseat and dinette set. Cherrywood queen bedroom set, section living room suite with sofa bed, entertainment center & matching coffee/ end tables. 520–0318.

MOVING NEED to sell: sofa, beige with white and rust print, $350. 2 rust chairs, $300. Wicker rocker, natural color, $300. All like new, rarely used. Cherry wood coffee table and 2 end tables, $300. Excellent condition. Rattan/ wicker queen headboard, dresser, 2 night stands, dark stain, $350. All offers will be considered. 689–2400.

ELECTRIC stove $125, 2 recliners $30 each; blue queen sofa bed $200; junior size pool table $35. 684-5567 ext 306, 682–4556 after 5:30.

440 Firewood

DICK'S FIREWOOD. Oaks, Mesquite, Pecan & Cedar. We deliver. 1-(915) 453–2151, Fax 1-(915)-453-4322.

TEEN CHALLENGE has Oak firewood for sale. Can be delivered. Call 687–0348.

GOOD FIREWOOD, oak or mesquite, you pick up or we deliver. Call Larry Tucker, 689–7151.

TURF SPECIALTIES FIREWOOD. 2427 E. Hwy. 80. Many varieties available. Delivered or do it yourself. Call 684–7166 or 570-7166.

FIREWOOD- Mixed Stacks, also Mesquite Roots. $55.00 & $15.00 deliver. Call 697-5768.

450 Sporting Goods

10 1927 A.G. SPALDING & Brothers KRO Flite sweet spot irons. Wood shaft, leather handle, best reasonable offer. 682–7176.

REMINGTON 1100 12 gauge with screw and chokes and extra barrel. Receiver has silver inlay. $3420. 381-4186.

GLOCK MODEL 26 9mm, Night sight, as new, in box, 3 mags, $500. 362-1058.

GUN CASE Holds 10 rifles, pistol display on bottom with drawer, locks on gun case, pistol case & drawer. Lighted gun & pistol case. Etched scrolling on glass. Beautiful! $300. Call 524-2155, Andrews.

BERETTA MODEL 92 Stainless steel 9mm, Pacmyer grip, nightsights and laser sights, new in box, $950. 362-8304.

BRUNSWICK full size pool table with all accessories, 1" slate. $1,200 firm. Call 689–2055.

JIM'S GOLF Club Repair. Custom Clubs. Big Bertha Irons (Clone) $184; Regrip $3. 3115 Haynes; 694–1334.

MASTER Gun Smith. Service, repair, & engraving. By appointment only. Please call (915) 684–0809, 1-800-327-0809.

OLHAUSEN REGULATION Size pool table. Excellent shape, all accessories. $1,000. Call 699–0034.

K2 185 SKIS With Solomon bindings, $75. Call 686–3930, please leave message.

460 Antiques & Art

LONE STAR ANTIQUES. Unit #3, Advantage Storage, 5000 N. Lamesa and Soloman Lane, 570–9243.

DECEMBER 22 1996

CATS:

"Scruffy" cute male kitten, striking green eyes, silver gray/ white coat, playful & inquisitive, loves to be cuddled.
"Patch" large adult yellow/white spotted male, calm, friendly, laid back, loves people.
"Mandy" neutered male gray tabby, bobbed tail, very pretty markings, real playmate for some lucky family.
"Dolly" young female kitten, black coat with gray undertones, affectionate, loves to sit on your shoulder.
"Promise" large spayed adult female, golden tortoiseshell coat, deep golden eyes, reserved & quiet.
These plus many more pets are adoptable at the Big Spring Humane Society. Fees are $45 dogs, $35 cats -includes spay/neuter, rabies shots, vaccinations and leukemia test. 267–7832.

400 Antiques & Art

BARBIES FOR CHRISTMAS Large selection plus accessories at Antique's Etc., 2101 W. Wadley. Daily 10:30 -6, Sunday 1 -5.

MIDLAND ESTATE SALES AND AUCTION SERVICE. Call Judy Jackson 689-3536 or Dawna Keith 683-9234.

ANTIQUE slot machines for Christmas, Mills nickel $1,650; Jennings quarter $1,750; old Dr. Pepper soda machine $225, 686-7708.

MOVING! Must sacrifice- beautiful antique armoire. Would make great entertainment/ computer center or conversation piece! $650. 520–8523.

CHEZ LANAE. 5701 Austin, Odessa, TX. Call 550-3108. Special holiday hours for December: Monday- Saturday, 10- 6 pm. Sunday, 1- 5 pm.

DOLLS From Your Childhood to today! Excellent prices. 550–2626.

COME CELEBRATE Our 6 Month Anniversary!!! 10% discount on furniture and glassware! ABC Antiques, 110 Andrews Hwy, 682–4595. 10:30 am- 6 pm.

THE CATS MEOW Antique Mall. 408 Andrews Highway, Mon. - Sat., 10 - 6. We buy and sell antiques. (915) 687–2004.

470 Musical Instruments

SILVER Bach Cornet with trigger, very clean and very nice, original case, must see. Call 366-1574 and leave message.

ELECTRIC YAMAHA Grand piano with speaker, $1,200. Pease antique upright piano, $700. Excellent condition. 686–1853.

GREAT CHRISTMAS Gift!!! Peavy Predator guitar and amp $250. 699–5155.

BENGE TRUMPET, Professional model, $500. Call 686–3930, leave message please.

490 Computers & Accessories

PANASONIC CF-1000 Notebook with software & HP 310 portable printer. $500. 522–7878.

✔✔★✔✔
INTERNET ACCESS.
Call 687-9014 for details.
✔✔★✔✔

COMPUTERS- New and used, upgrade and repair. Night Owl Computers, etc. 8am to 10pm 686–8835.

495 For Free

JUST IN Time for Christmas free cuddly tabby kittens. Contact 687–2698.

FREE PUPPIES. Just in Time for Christmas! Get your pick. Call 689–2341.

ST. VINCENT dePAUL Thrift Store, 701 N. Fort Worth, is giving away free pre-owned toys (2 per child) on Monday, Dec. 23rd, from 2- 5 pm. Se Habla Espanol.

COLLIE/ mix male, excellent with children, 5 years old. Yorkie/ mix male, 3 years old- needs lots of attention. 520–4633.

SIAMESE colored kittens, 6 weeks old, free to good homes. 682–7567.

AUSTRALIAN puppy female, 1 year old. To good home with lots of running room. 683–6499.

500 Pets & Supplies

2 FEMALE AKC Chihuahuas- 8 weeks old. Blue fawn, chocolate & tan. Shots, vet checked. 580–5193.

JACK RUSSELL Puppies for sale. Both parents JRTCA Registered. Excellent confirmation. $500 each. 915-943–7241.

SPECIAL PRICE for Christmas on Pit Bull puppies and baby Bull Snake. Cash only 683–3662.

BEAUTIFUL AKC Lab puppies, yellow and black, championship bloodlines, $200. Call 682–6866.

AKC MINIATURE Pincher, female, 3 months old, black & rust, $175. Call 687–5098 after 6.

AKC YORKSHIRE TERRIER Male puppies- 3. Put deposit down now. (915) 758–8441.

AKC REGISTERED Lhasa Apso puppies. 8 weeks old. 1st shots. Parents on premises. $250. Call 689–0991.

AKC ENGLISH MASTIFF Puppies. $900 each, or best offer. Call 687–1417.

MINI DACHSHUND. Red long haired male, 9 weeks, all shots, $200. 915-337–5186.

A PUPPY is for life, not just Christmas. PBGRR@AOL.COM

DALMATIANS for sale, full blood, not AKC, $100 each. Ready for Christmas! Leave message, 689–2311.

AKC COCKER Spaniel puppies. Black. First shots. $150. Call 523-2703.

DALMATAIN puppies for sale. Full blooded, not registered. Males $75. Call 682–0654.

DALMATIAN PUPPIES For sale. Ready for Christmas! Call 696–9082.

AKC CHINESE PUGS. Excellent with children, cute, adorable, $225 each. Great Christmas present! Call 520–0031.

CHRISTMAS PUPPIES! AKC Miniature Schnauzers- registered. Born December 1st, beautiful females. Call (915)573–7987 after 6 or leave message.

AKC SCHNAUZER puppies. Born December 13th, take home January 24th. Parents on premises. Male (black silver) female (salt pepper) tails cut and shots. $250. 686–2053.

TOY POODLE. Registered male, 6 weeks old. Apricot. $200. Call 689–0692.

AKC RED SIBERIAN Husky pups, with blue eyes. Beautiful pups! Evenings 332-9000, days 550–9200.

TIGER KITTENS for sale, $15. Call 570–0788 for more information.

SUGAR GLIDERS, free delivery for Christmas. $150 each. 399–4847.

POODLES, AKC standard or mini puppies, all colors, can deliver, top quality. Some trained. 915-636–4493.

BANGAL domestic Leopard kittens. Raised underfoot. Ready for Christmas. 362–0282.

AKC SCHIPPERKE Puppies. Perfect indoor family pet! Great with children. 3 adorable black males. Parents on premises. Available 12/16/96. $300. Call 694–1967.

505 Livestock & Poultry

12 x 16 PORTABLE BARN- heavy duty floor- double doors, financing and delivery available. 563–3108.

FULL CARE Boarding. Automatic waterer, ceiling fans, wash rack, outdoor ring, round pen. Available January 1st- Northwest location. 699–1473.

LARGE ROUND Bales of Red Top Cane. Good, Clean. $45.00 bale. Holloway Farms, 915-459–2373 or 915-459–2499. Leave message.

7 YEAR OLD Registered Arabian mare. Shows medium pony. Jumps 3'6". Consistently in the ribbons and under saddle. Sweet disposition! Needs rider with some experience. $2,500. 687–0414.

HORSE FOR Sale. Great for kids! Call 570–1817 for more information.

FERTILIZED COASTAL round bales $70 a ton. Delivered by truckload. (817) 392–2003.

HAYGRAZER, round bales, $50 per bale. 2 or more $45 each. Rain damaged $35 each. Call 683-2630 or 684–7000.

HORSE BLANKET REPAIR. 1306 S. Midkiff, Suite 313.

510 Office Supplies

AT&T PARTNER Plus Telephone System with 6 telephones, fax machine, copier, sofa with side chair, desk with chair and two side chairs, two work tables, one five drawer legal file cabinet. Call 686–0121, leave message.

550 Portable Buildings

OVERSTOCKED on 8' and 10' wide portable storage buildings. 563–3106.

WE move, buy, sell and rent portable buildings.
MORGAN
(915) 563–1860.

560 Machinery & Tools

COMPLETE LIQUIDATION: Mills, Mill Drills, Lathe, Micrometers, Air Compressors, Air Wrenches, Band Saw, Hydraulic Presses, Hand Tools, Bead Blaster and many more misc. tools & Equipment. KEEN COMPANY, 4710 S. County Rd. 1311, Odessa. 563–9222.

570 Oil Field Equip. & Supplies

83 MODEL HOT OILER, 75 barrel tank. 81 model auto car, excellent condition. Reasonably priced. (405) 336–4870.

FOR SALE: Structural rods and pipe of all sizes at bargain prices. Call 682–1546.

1994 36' GOOSENECK 2- 12K axles 95x rubber 2 tool boxes chain racks, $5,000. 367-4988, after 5 pm. 366-2400.

580 Legal Notices

THE BOARD of Trustees of the Greenwood Independent School District willo accept sealed bids for coinstuction of parking lots. Specifications may be secured from the Central Office, 2700 FM 1379, Midland, Texas 79701. Phone 685-703. Bids will be opened January 3, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. at the Central Office. GISD reerves the right to accept or areject any or all bids.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids for Teaching Supplies for the Midland Independent School District, Bid #7-0011 addressed to Mr. Leon Hartter, Director of Purchasing, Midland Independent School District, 7201 W. County Road 60, Midland, Texas 79707 will be received until 2:00 p.m. CST, January 6, 1997, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by calling (915) 689-1792.

THE OASIS APARTMENTS
2700 N. MIDLAND DRIVE,
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79707
The Twelve Days Of Christmas The Oasis Gave To Me...
1. Free Deposit
2. Free Application Fee
3. $99.00 Move In Special
4. One Bedroom Loft Special
5. Two Bedroom Townhouse Special
6. Great Management
7. Twenty-four (24) Hour Emergency Maintenance
8. Convenient Location
9. Washer/dryer Connections
10. Covered Parking
11. Bright, Cheery Floor Plans
12. Service With A Smile
Merry Christmas And Happy New Year From The Staff At The Oasis Apartments
694-5950

NORTHRIDGE Court APARTMENTS
Make This Christmas The Cat's Meow!
•1 to 3 Bedroom Apartments •Washer/Dryer Connections •On-Site Laundry Facilities •On-Site Courtesy Officers •Weight Rooms •Central A/C and Heating •Swimming Pools
NOW LEASING
697-2242
3417 N. Midland Dr.
Professionally Owned/Managed by Weidner Group

Hawthorne House/Court
IT'S A GREAT DEAL!
• 1.5 & 2.5 Townhomes
• Washer-Dryer or Connections
• Fireplaces • Free Basic Cable
NO APPLICATION FEE
694-2011
2811 W Loop 250 Professionally Owned/Managed by Weidner Group

HO - HO - HO
COME HOME TO
COVENTRY POINTE APARTMENTS
1•2•3 BEDROOMS
5 Floor Plans to Choose from
3329 W. WADLEY
697-4149
MON.-FRI. 9-6

Done Kelly Realtors
No Charge to Tenant Save Time & Money!
APT. LOCATOR
Willa Dean Berry-Cecil
687-2384 • 682-5177 Evenings
Open 7 days a week • 2502 W. Wadley

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BID

Midland County Hospital District is accepting bids for a **SURGICAL MICROSCOPE FOR OTOLARYNGOLOGY.**

Specifications may be secured at the Purchasing office of Memorial Hospital and Medical Center on or after Monday, December 16, 1996.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SEALED AND LABELED "BID #266-121296 ENCLOSED".

Under no circumstances will faxed bids from bidders be accepted.

All bids must be received in the Office of the Materials Manager by 12:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1997.

Bid opening will be at 2:00 P.M. in the Department of Materials Management, Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, 2200 West Illinois, Midland, Texas 79701, on Wednesday, January 8, 1997.

ALL BIDS MUST BE PRICE PROTECTED UNTIL MAY 8, 1997.

All bids will remain confidential until after the Board of Directors has met and voted an award. Vendors will then be allowed to review the bids in the purchasing office according the the policy/procedure of Memorial Hospital and Medical Center. Midland County Hospital reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities.

Director of Materials Management
Midland County Hospital District
Memorial Hospital and Medical Center
2200 West Illinois
Midland, Texas 79701

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FOR SUSPENDED ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS AND LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR FORT STOCKTON MAINTENANCE OFFICE AND AREA OFFICE LOCATED ON EAST US 290 FORT STOCKTON, PECOS COUNTY
CONTRACT NO. 067XXR1013

Sealed Proposals for Suspended Acoustical Ceilings and Lighting Fixtures, Fort Stockton Maintenance Office Located on east US 290 to be received by the Texas Department of Transportation until 10:30 A.M., Monday, January 6, 1996 and then publicly opened and read.

Bid proposals and specifications will be available at the office of Arnulfo Valdez, 3901 E. BI 20, Odessa, Texas 79761. Telephone Number 915/333-9296.

Usual rights reserved

Super Seller II
15 words, 7 days, $5
Advertise your household item (priced under $150) with this Classified special! Call 682-6222 for details...

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for 0.347 km of landscape development on FM 1882 from intersection of FM 1882 and University Blvd. to intersection of FM 1882 and Spur 450 covered by CD 2005-1-22 in Ector County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., January 7, 1997, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Paul Hoelscher, Area Engineer, Fort Stockton, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction and Maintenance Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder.

The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex, or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award.

Usual rights reserved
06-D-37
06-76-2005-01-022

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners Court of Kent County will receive sealed bids until 10:00 A.M., on Monday, January 13, 1997 for grass and /or hunting leases on Public School Land owned by Jayton-Girard Independent School District located in Dawson and Martin Counties.

Details regarding location of land, length of lease, minimum bid, and other information may be obtained from the office of the Kent County Judge.

The Kent County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Witness my hand this 10th day of December, 1996.

Tommy Stanaland
Kent County Judge
P.O. Box 6
Jayton, Texas 79528
(806) 237–3373

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given per the Texas Provision of Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, that the contents of Storage Unit:

#19 Doug's Baby Store

at ABC SECURED STORAGE, 3105 W. Industrial, Midland, Texas will be sold for rent due if not contacted by 1-8-97.

$0 January Rent!
That's right! Ashton Way Apts. is offering FREE RENT * for the month of January But hurry, this offer is good for the first 10 new approved applications. And don't forget to ask about your free gift.
A Special Present From
Ashton Way APARTMENTS
694-1646
2613 N. Midland Drive Midland, Texas
* Deposit Restrictions Required

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Proposals for ten (10) combination rooftop (gas /electric units) and installation, Proposal 97-11-0108, addressed to Byron R. Baulch, Region 18 Education Service Center, P.O. Box 60580 or 2811 LaForce Boulevard / Air Terminal, Midland, Texas 79711-0580, will be received at the above address until 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 2, 1997. Proposal forms and specifications may be obtained by calling Mr. Jimmy Whitehead, Maintenance and Grounds Foreman, at (915) 567-3264.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FOR INSTALLATION OF GYPSUM COVERED WALLBOARD AND COVE BASE FOR McCAMEY MAINTENANCE OFFICE, WEST 5TH ST. (US 67 WEST) McCAMEY, UPTON COUNTY
CONTRACT NO. 067XXR1012

Sealed Proposals for Installation of Gypsum Covered Wallboard and Cove Base located at McCamey Maintenance Office, West 5th St. (US 67 West) to be received by the Texas Department of Transportation until 10:30 A.M., Monday, January 6 19, 1996 and then publicly opened and read.

Bid proposals and specifications will be available at the office of Arnulfo Valdez, 3901 E. BI 20, Odessa, Texas 79761. Telephone Number 915/333-9296.

Usual rights reserved

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FOR INSTALLATION OF GYPSUM COVERED WALLBOARD AND COVE BASE FOR SANDERSON MAINTENANCE OFFICE, US HWY 285 NORTH SANDERSON, TERRELL COUNTY
CONTRACT NO. 067XXR1011

Sealed Proposals for Installation of Gypsum Covered Wallboard and Cove Base located at Sanderson Maintenance Office, US Hwy 285 North to be received by the Texas Department of Transportation until 10:30 A.M., Monday, January 6, 1996 and then publicly opened and read.

Bid proposals and specifications will be available at the office of Arnulfo Valdez, 3901 E. BI 20, Odessa, Texas 79761. Telephone Number 915/333-9296.

Usual rights reserved

605 Apartments Furnished

STUDIOS. 1 & 2 Bedrooms Available. All utilities paid, free cable. Deposit required. Lexington Hotel, 1003 S. Midkiff, 697-3155.

1210 COLLEGE. 1 Room. Bills paid. $250 monthly, $75 deposit. Call 689–7107 for more information.

ALL Utilities Paid! 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Deposit required. 501 W. Louisiana. 685-0911, 683–5161.

610 Apartments Unfurnished

WESTPARK APTS.
2926 W. Louisiana
687–4514
●1-2 & 3 Bedrooms
●Mini-Blinds Throughout
● 2 Pools
●2 Laundry Facilities
●Covered Parking
★ Open (7) Days A Week ★

SILVER CREEK APARTMENTS

1,2 & 3 bedroom apartments with washer and dryer connections. Don't Miss our December Special on our 1 & 2 bedrooms. First month rent free. 687–0053. 2438 Whitemire.

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath. $275 includes water. $150 deposit. All electric, central air. Call 686–9647.

2 BEDROOM; 1 bath Condo at New Horizons. Fresh paint, new carpet, $300 monthly. Call Nelda with American Realty 697-8301.

SUTTON PLACE King size 2 Bedroom, 1 bath apartment, - 1060 sq. ft.; Assigned covered parking. 682–2423.

WE HAVE IT
Efficiencies, 1BRs, 2BRs & Townhouses. Basic Cable. On Site Parking.
The Arches
2900 W. Illinois
694-2466

DEC. SPECIAL
Open Mon. thru Sat.
THE JUNCTION COMMUNITY
APARTMENTS
(Most Bills Paid)
• W/D Connections
• Laundry Facilities
• Fireplace
• Small Pets Allowed
• Large 1 & 2 Bedrooms
1902 N. Midland Dr.
699-5168

ASHTON WAY APARTMENTS

Don't go bust paying your first month's rent. Get your savings at 2613 N. Midland Drive. 1, 2, & 3 bedrooms. $200 - $430. Open Sat.10 - 5
(915)694-1646

THE PARK AT CALDERA, 3100 Caldera Blvd. All the amenities!! Call 699–2173.

Hunter's Ridge Apartments
$185 - 1 Bedroom
$99 Off 1st Months Rent!
4201 Andrews Highway
520–0023

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS HERE... Owner Gone Crazy. 1 Bedrooms $180., 2 Bedrooms $280. Move -In for $75.00!! 520-5192 or 688-3606

UNFURNISHED units available: Golden Park Duplexes, Fairmont and Renaissance. 1 and 2 bedrooms, some with washers and dryers. 1 corporate unit also available. 520–4617.

ALL bills paid. 1- 2 bedroom apartment homes, excellent location. $305- $385. Abby Court, 694-2549.

•Extra Large Apts
•All Bills Paid W/Cable
•Covered Parking
VILLA CHATEAU
1903 N. MIDKIFF
694-1112

$99 MOVE -IN SPECIAL. $5 Application fee. Total move in $104 on 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. 3 Bedrooms for $250 Move -In Special. Emerald Terrace, 4405 N. Garfield, 682–1659.

FREE RENT
Every Other Month For First 6 Months of 1 Year Lease
AFFORDABLE & AVAILABLE NOW!
1710 NORTH "A" STREET
682-4783

TOWNHOMES/ Apartments 1- 2 bedroom, 1- 1/2 bath, 616 to 1186 sq. ft., garage, washer/ dryer, pool, ceiling fans. $295 up. 689–8115.

YOU HAVEN'T seen space like this!!! Call about our unique floor plans. 1 & 2 bedrooms. Garden Court Apartments, 683–9270.

THORNWOOD APARTMENTS- Great prices, all sizes, great location. Free cable. 682–5381.

Come See - Newly Remodeled Apartments!
1 Bdrm Start $190-$260
2 Bdrm $300
2 Bdrm Townhomes $380
Senior Citizen Discount
THE TRELLIS
3212 W. Wadley at Midkiff
(915) 697-0718

625 Houses Unfurnished

RENT-TO-OWN, low as $295!!! Remodeled, 2 day move-in, bad credit ok, fenced backyard. 900 Waverly, 2 bedroom....$295 915 Holly, 3 bedroom.....$545 1710 N. Main, 3 bedroom...$545 Low down...easy owner 9.9% finance, payoff in 10, 20 or 30 years. Free call 800-637-4823.

3 BEDROOM, 1 3/4 bath house, in Fannin School District, with 2 car garage, hot tub, inground pool, tree house, low maintenance yard. Available now. $1,050 a month plus deposit. Shown by appointment. Call 683–9469.

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 3 living area home in Bowie/ S J/ MHS area. $700 Month, $500 deposit. Call 694-2825.

3 BEDROOM, 2 Bath Homes. Fenced back yard, carpet. Nice! Call for appointment, 520–0998.

3 BEDROOM, 2 Bath, cathedral ceilings, fireplace, sequestered master suite, double garage, fenced yard. Lee District. $750 month plus deposit. 915-366–1931.

503 WAVERLY. Clean 2 Bedroom, central heat, air, stove, refrigerator, washer/ dryer hook ups, carport, large fenced yard. $425 Month, $300 deposit. 699–1823.

RENT OR rent to own; 5104 Storey, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. To see call 570-6386 or 620–1500.

YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST
Let me be your Santa!
Don Byerly
699-4127
RUSTIC TRAIL.....$109,500
4 Bdrm in Greenlee with water well
TERRACE.....$85,500
4 Bdrm, non-qual. assumption.
SHANNON.....$95,000
4 Bdrm, updated, new carpet.
PARK PLACE.....$99,900
3 Bdrm with a pool.
LAUREN.....$98,500
4 Bdrm, 2 sequestered masters.
SAGE RUN.....$9,500
.64 Acre, mobile home ready.
SAGE RUN.....$11,900
1.06 Acres, mobile home ready.
Lexington 685-0400

3 BEDROOMS, 2 baths, central air, fenced yard. No Pets. $550 monthly. 4717 Wilshire. 685–1173.

WONDERFUL 2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath with central heat/ air, 1 garage, storage and block fences. Call Janet, Carriage Company Realtors, 684-5881.

$325/ $150. CLEAN 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, central heat. No pets. 907 W. Kentucky. 699–2569.

4719 COMANCHE. 3 Bedrooms, carpets, bath. No pets. $340, $170 deposit. Henderson/ Alamo/ Lee. 684–0010.

WESTSIDE 3 bedroom, 2 bath, single garage. Utility room, fenced yard. No Pets! $625. Call 699–4361.

WYDEWOOD- ABELL Area. Lovely 4 bedroom- 2 bath. Pool. Low care yard. $1,000/ month. $500/ deposit. Williams & Assoc., 694–9663.

NORTH of Friendly Pontiac; 2 bedroom, 1 bath, some carpet, carport, trees. No pets please. Call 682–0706.

FOR LEASE

1500 KENTUCKY	4/3 pool	$700
2902 GOLF COURSE	4/2	$800

Available January

2904 MOSS Townhouse	3/2	$1100
2405 EMERSON	3/2	$850
3310 FANNIN	3/2	$750

Call Lanier & Co.
682–1144

307 E. CUTHBERT. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no pets. $275 a month, $150 deposit. HUD payments accepted. 684-1107.

NEWLY REMODELED 2 bedrom duplex. Appliances furnished. $325 monthly, $175 deposit. No pets. 208 A Mitchell. 687–4198.

AVAILABLE January 1st. 3311 Baumann. 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, appliances, central heat and air, 2 ceiling fans, carpeting, nice fenced yard, excellent condition. No inside pets. Pauline Tuttle, 694–7987.

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath, garage, fireplace, new carpet, sprinkler system. Water paid. 3801 A Storey, $475. 686-0734, 687-6406.

CLEAN 3 bedroom, 1 bath, den, garage, appliances, fenced. $400. References. Deposit. Southwest Midland. 682–2795.

EXECUTIVE DUPLEX near Midland College. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, fireplace with washer/ dryer connections, walk in closets, large open living and dining room area, 2 car carport, water paid. Available December 10th. No pets. $850 rent, $850 deposit. 2303 Haynes. 699–6258.

5125 ILLINOIS; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Nice and clean! $650 a month. Call Nelda with American Realty, 697-8301.

SEVERAL nice homes & condos, $200- $700. Jeannie Printz, Agent 684-8202.

BELEW REAL ESTATE Offers: Near Racquet Club 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, central heat/ air. $825 month, Deposit $450. Call 580–4558.

1 BEDROOM BRICK Duplex 4 blocks north of MHS. Carpeted, stove/ refrigerator furnished, no pets. Call 682–0706.

1710 SQ. FEET. Brick veneer, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with office, some carpet, electric range and oven, central heat, refrigerated air. No pets please. Call 682–0706.

2 BEDROOM COTTAGE. Central heat/ air. Carport. Water paid. No pets! $425/ month. Williams & Assoc., 694–9663.

630 Condos & Townhouses Unfurn.

EXPECT TO BE IMPRESSED... 1 Bedroom luxury condo- $350. 699–1693.

FAIRGATE Townhomes- 4400 Fairgate Drive. 2 & 3 Bedrooms 12 and 6 month leases. $700 & up. 1,600 sq. ft. Approx. All appliances furnished, fireplaces, garage. Northwest side. 697-9566.

ALLOW your lifestyle to equal your success. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, washer dryer, heated pool, covered parking, ClayDesta area. 563-4554.

1 & 2 BEDROOM Dens, 1,007 to 1,391 sq. ft. Garage, washer-dryer connections, pool, ceiling fans. $490 /up. 689–8116.

1 & 2 BEDROOMS. 950 sq. ft. - 1537 sq. ft. 2 car garage with washer/ dryer connections, microwave, ceiling fans. 2 bedrooms starting as low as $650. 697–9768.

4823 -1 MEADOWPARK Drive; Space, Luxury, in 3 bedroom, 2 bath patio townhome. $1,100. 694–7663.

635 Mobile Homes Furnished

2 BEDROOM Completely furnished except for beds. Also, 2 additional trailers available soon & mobile home spaces. Greenwood District. 684–5920, 634-4701.

655 Mobile Homes Unfurnished

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath. Appliances. $325/ $150 deposit. Call 550–7505

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, $375. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $350. $150 deposit. On Cloverdale. No pets. 694–2047.

VERY NICE 2 bedroom, 2 bath, wet bar, island stove, carport. $400/ $200 deposit. No pets. 694–2047.

NOW AVAILABLE 3 bedroom starting $450- mobile home for rent. Large fenced yard, washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator. References and deposit required. No vicious dogs please. Move- In Special This Week, $50 Off Rent. 687–6324.

2 BEDROOM, semi- furnished, Greenwood School, off 158 & 1140 South. 557-2432/ 682–8787.

660 Mobile Home Space for Rent

MOVE- IN SPECIAL $39- 2 years, normally $125. 2 driveways-paved, security fence. 563-3510, 550-7505.

WESTGATE Mobile Home Park. Security lights, free satellite TV, free water. Free move & set up. 520–9416.

LOOK AT THE REST- THEN
CHOOSE THE BEST
Move- in special
AIRLINE MOBILE HOME PARK
Between Midland & Int'l Airport West Hwy. 80. 694-2534

665 Business Property Office Space Rentals

SINGLE OFFICES entire suites free parking, secretarial services, copiers, faxes phones provided at very reasonable rates. 4500 W. Illinois, 201 E. Michigan, 602 N. Baird. Call Midland, 620-1500.

RETAIL Space For Lease- 500 sq. ft., 1,200 sq. ft., 2,400 sq. ft. & 9,000 sq. ft. Reasonable rates & terms. Assistance in rehab provided. 915-235-8290.

BUILDING FOR Rent. Kitchen, bar, dancing area, etc. 4,700 square feet. Call 570–1613.

SHOP, OFFICE, & YARD. 3200 Hwy. 349 South. 5 Minutes from downtown, 1/2 mile south of I-20. Day or evening, 683-3699.

ALL SIZES and types of properties. Office, Warehouse, Retail. 800 to 40,000 square feet. 683–8681.

ONE YEAR FREE RENT! 1659 sq. with parking lot, downtown Midland. Bill Cherry (409) 763–0448.

FULLY EQUIPPED mechanic's garage. For more information call 685-3449, ask for Bedford.

MIDLAND PROFESSIONAL Center on Midland Drive. 1142 sq. ft., perfect for high traffic, office, medical or service business. $800/month. Call Roy Proctor, Broker/ Owner, 685-4141.

DOWNTOWN Office Space. Individual room or suites from $65/ month. No extra charges 682-3400.

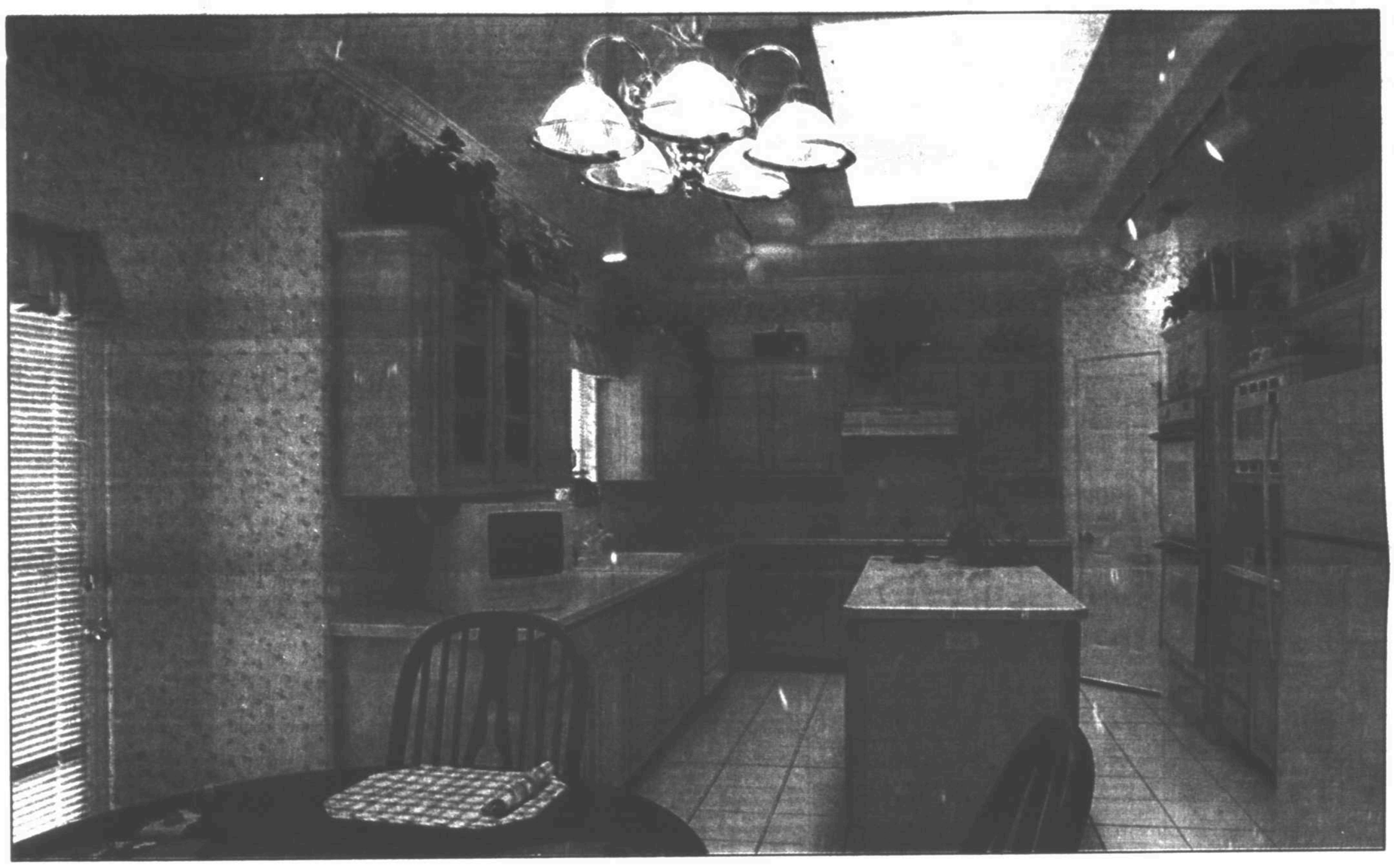
MISSION SQUARE. Office/ retail space available. From 375 to 2,500 square feet. Low rates, local owner/ management. Great North Midland location. Call Callie at 682-2422.

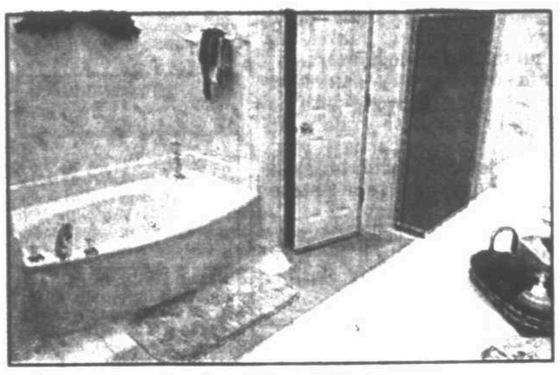
2650' DOWNTOWN, ground floor, park at door. Custom design. Lease. Also 1- 2- 3 room offices. Don Roderick, Broker Assoc. Langston Realtors, 685-0400.

FOR LEASE- Excellent location. 6,000 square foot building with offices, warehouse & showroom. 8 1/2 acres, fenced yard between Midland and Odessa. 13520 W. Hwy 80. $1,500 per month, $1,000 deposit. Contact Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 915-263-5000 or 1-800-592-1444.

CLASSIFIED CHRISTMAS DEADLINES:

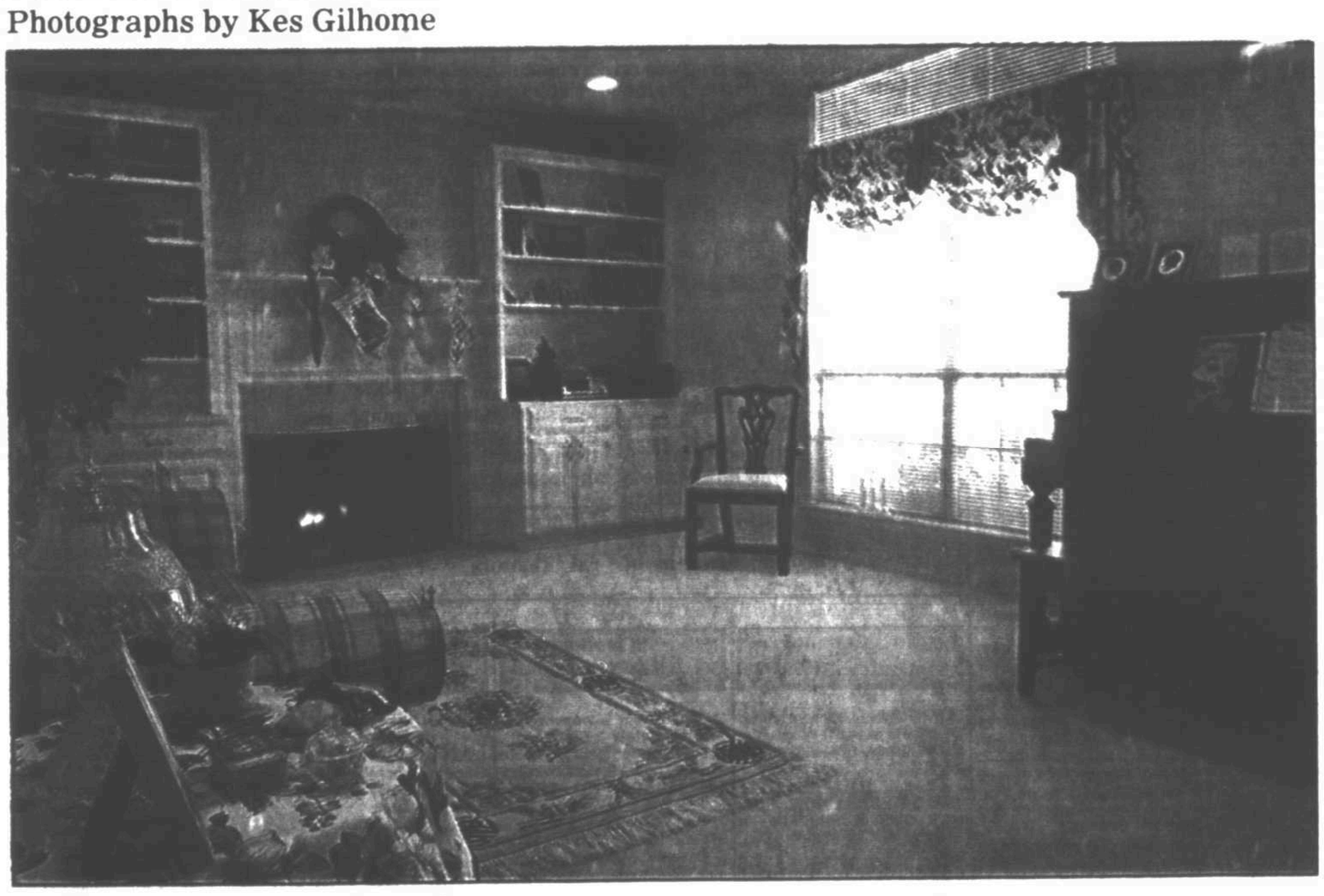
If you would like to place an ad to begin Wednesday, December 25th, please call before noon on Tuesday, December 24th.
If you would like to place an ad to begin Thursday, December 26th, please call before 2 pm on Tuesday, December 24th.
We will open for business at 8 am, on Thursday, December 26th.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 682-6222.





LOTS OF STYLE IN A GREAT PACKAGE

Photographs by Kes Gilhome



A quiet cul-de-sac in Grasslands Estates is the setting for this attractive four bedroom family home.

Listed for $174,500 by Coldwell Banker Cooper Realty this is home that offers a plethora of features. Features such as the study in the sequestered master suite, jacuzzi tub in the bathroom and built-in bookcases flanking the fireplace in the formal living room.

The kitchen forms the focus of the property as it contains a breakfast room and opens onto the family den. Full of built-in appliances and accented with pale wood and light trim, it is a large and elegant workspace that overlooks the back garden. Open fronted display cabinets, a large central island and a sizable skylight are just some of the aspects of the kitchen which combine elegance and practicality.

For more information about 5409 Hillcrest, with its immaculate landscaping and interesting accents, contact Rhonda Cooper, the listing agent at 689-7700.

Who's Who For Service

Call 682-6222 For Further Information

You can advertise your business in Who's Who For Service for as little as $42.60 monthly

Air Conditioning/Heating

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683–2679. TACLB005482.

AAA AIR CONDITIONING- Home & automobile, roofing, sheet metal work. Lowest Prices Guaranteed! TACLB011594E. Insured. Licensed. References. Guarantees. 682–3542, pager 567-3172.

PENGUINN REFRIGERATION Air Conditioning/ Heating. Uncomfortable rooms, dust, allergies? Free comfort check-ups. 685-3387. #TACLB009418C.

UNITED Energy Systems- Complete Sales, Service, Repair, Air Duct Cleaning, Residential, Commercial, Mobile Homes. Free Estimates, Second Opinions. 561-4126, TACLB010538E.

NEED REPAIRS, new furnaces? Call Permian Basin Air Conditioning, 682–2204. License #TACLB006881E.

THE BOSWORTH CO.- Service and Sales, all makes. We've been in the service business for 40 years! (915) 683–5233. #TACLA008644E.

Appliance Parts

JG SPECIALTY Products. Parts for GE/ Hotpoint, Whirlpool, Sears Kenmore, and most other brands. Call 520–9670.

Appliance Repair

FREE SERVICE CALL with repair!!! M & M Appliances sell washers, dryers, refrigerators. Guaranteed. 570–8278.

★ FREE REMOVAL of your unwanted appliances. Fast pickup. 567-5221.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING Appliance Service: Parts and service on all name brands of appliances. Used appliances with full warranty. 687–5113.

✔ MIKE'S APPLIANCE. Same Day Service on most major brand appliances. Call anytime, 561–8809.

Assembly Services

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED INC. Call us for all your assembly needs. 1308 S. Midkiff, Suite 312. 682–1433.

Barbecue Pits

MIDLAND IRON WORKS. General Shop Welding, Barbecue Pits, Cooking Wood, Blacksmith and metal art. 684–4825.

Bathtub Refinishing

TUB & TILE REFINISHERS. Renew shine on tubs, sinks, ceramic tile, appliances, formica. Call 550–2002.

★ DON'T REPLACE- Refinish. Bath tubs, sinks ceramic tile, counter tops and appliances. Westex Resurfacing, 520–9898 or 1-800-774-9898.

WORLDWIDE REFINISHING Systems. 25 Years resurfacing tubs, counter tops, fiberglass, antique tubs. Free estimates, 570-7114.

Blind Cleaning

PROFESSIONAL BLIND and Window cleaning. Free estimates. Call 570–6716.

Bookkeeping & Taxes

BALANCE SHEET, P/L, Payroll/ W-2/ 1099, Receivables/ Payables, Tax Returns. Pick up/ Delivery. 520–5868.

Business Consulting

ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAL Services. Business documents, business plans, presentations, administrative assistance, filings, investigations, computers, software. 570–8427.

Carpentry & Cabinets

HODGES CUSTOM Woodworks. Cabinets, decks, room additions, fences. Any type remodeling repair or custom shop work. 24 years experience. 683–7704.

Carpet Cleaning

A + CARPET SERVICES. Cleaning- repairs- stretching- empty room discounts. Senior Citizen Discounts. Autos/ furniture. Call Ray 520–8504.

SEARS CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING. Sears Guarantee. Use your Sears card. Holiday Special $9 per area (Size limit, minimum 3 areas) Sofa $47. 520-7600.

★ FREE DEODORIZING ★ for a limited time only! "The Clean That's Guaranteed" 2 rooms & a hall $29.95, House Special $69.95. Sofa & Loveseat Special $55. Mention this ad & receive an additional room or chair cleaned FREE !!!!!!!!!!! ★SuperStar Carpet Cleaning★ 685–3366, 550-6447.

THE ONE SOURCE Carpet Cleaning Company! $25 minimum includes deodorizing. Call for specials today! 587–9593.

Chimney Sweep

CHIMNEY CLEANING starting at $35. Call 686–7954.

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RELIABLE PERSONAL training and upgrading service for your P.C. 687-2050.

Concrete Work

DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS, Sidewalks, Brick Block Fences, Sheetrock Repair, Stucco Work. Also Roofing. References. Call 685–0693.

DAVID VALVERDE Concrete Work. Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks. Small jobs welcomed. 685–1300.

Concrete Work

CONCRETE WORK: Patios, sidewalks, curbs and drives. References available. Free estimates. Webster Construction, (915) 563–4926.

QUIROZ CONSTRUCTION. All types concrete, block, brick Native Midlander. Free estimates. References. 683–5504, Pager 561-0060.

Concrete Cutting & Drilling

CUT/ DRILL concrete and brick. Remove/ re-pour. Also finish slabs, patios & driveways. 570-2996, 682–5708.

Credit Cards

BUSINESS OWNERS! Just in Time for Christmas! Increase your sales by accepting credit cards from your customers. We can help get your Merchant Account set-up with quick approval. 915-362-2820 or 800-715-9154.

Decorating

HOLIDAY HELPING Hands. Inhouse moving, decorating, light hanging, tree trimming. Great references, Senior discounts. 699–0650.

Dirtwork

B & L BACKHOE- Dump trucks, maintainer, dozer, grubbing, mesquite, driveways, caliche, dirt, lots cleaned. (915) 687–4876.

ADVANCE BACKHOE & Dump Truck Hauling. No job too small! Topsoil, caliche, driveways, lot clearing, complete septic system installation. 570-1704, 570-4942.

ROGERS GENERAL DIRT SERVICE. Driveways, patch jobs, fill dirt, caliche and top soil. Lot clearing. Call 570–8343 or 570-1510 evenings.

Domestic/House Cleaning

LET US Get your home ready for the holidays! Reasonable rates. Starting at $35. References. 699–1002.

PROFESSIONAL HOUSECLEANING Monday-Friday, 9 am- 5 pm. Call 689–0990, ask for Sherry or Kristin.

★ HOUSEKEEPING- need your home, apartment or office cleaned? I have excellent references! Call 570–0916.

MARY POPPINS Cleaning Service has openings for bi- weekly & weekly cleaning. Excellent cleaning, excellent prices. 10 years experience. Call 697–6539.

WANT A Fantastic Housekeeper! I Know Housekeeping! I need extra work! Maria, 684–8927.

DUST BUSTERS- we specialize in thorough cleaning, non- caustic cleaning products, Rainbow vacuum. Call 520–2897.

MAID IN U.S.A.! Let us do your holiday cleaning! Short notice okay! Deep or basic cleaning. Call 520–5930.

NEED AN EXTRA HAND before the holidays?!! Call Mel to get your house spotless! 570–8424.

❤ HOUSEKEEPING ETC.- Professional housekeeper has few openings left. Honest, dependable, excellent references. Call today! 682–5436.

Electric Service

QUALITY Cable TV and Telephone Outlet Installations. Minor, non-permit electrical work. 16 years experience. Michael's Enterprises, 683-1991.

KREGER Electric. License #124. Bonded. Lights, plugs service calls, repairs. 38 years serving Midland. 684–4836.

ECONOMICAL General Contracting. Plumbing, electrical, handyman services, cement, floor covering, roofs, new construction, painting. 682–3542.

RESIDENTIAL- Commercial. Electrical installations, ceiling fans, switches, plugs. Free estimates. Insured. License #10. Call 685–0859.

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC. Electrical, Repairs, Ceiling Fans, Trouble Calls. Residential- Commercial. Serving Midland and Odessa since 1982. Special discounts for Senior Citizens, 580-4535 answered 24 hours.

Environmental Service

BIG D ENVIRNOMENTAL SERVICES. Clean up soils contaminated by oil or salt. Remediation for property sale. Construction/Dirt Work for small/ large projects. Call Billy Gilson,688–8100.

Errand Service

NO TIME for errands? Let me help you! Call "Go for Geoffrey", 520–5899. Pager 495-1245.

Floor Services

SOLOMON FLOORS. Strip, seal, recondition. Specializing in Mexican tile & wood. Solomon, 684-7650.

WOOD FLOORS: Refinish/ repairs/ installation/ sales. Howard (915) 694–4044.

Fences

R J FENCING - 30 years experience. New and repair. Reasonable rates. Free estimates. 550–6714.

Fences

WOOD FENCES- Install new and repair old fences. Free estimates. Call anytime. Charles, 684–5638, 694-7725.

Furniture Refinishing

FURNITURE Stripping: Repair, refinishing, veneer, caning, rushing. ROYAL FURNITURE REFINISHING. 1607 W. Industrial. (915) 682–8239.

Gun Smith

MASTER Gun Smith. Service, repair, & engraving. By appointment only. Please call (915) 684–0809, 1-800-327-0809.

Handyman

CALL KELLY 699–6048. 20 years in Midland. All home repairs, reliable & reasonable! Satisfaction guaranteed!

HOME MAINTENANCE Services. Spruce up, fix-up those pesky, odd-jobs you can't get to- Call 694–5347.

HANDY RANDY Home repairs, plumbing, painting, carpentry, construction, sheet rock. Free estimates. 699–0804.

Hauling

B. JACKSON- Handyman Service. Haul off trash, old furniture, appliances, carpet- padding, etc. Call (915)682–2667.

Home Repairs/Remodeling

★ FRANK'S CARPENTRY. Quality work for LE$$. Anything you need- Decks, painting, acoustics, sheetrock, fences. 687–1068.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL metal/ wood fences, buildings, awnings, underpinning, carports, welding, roofs, additions and general construction. Bonded and references. 570-6050.

REBEL KING CERAMIC TILE. New installation and repairs. Free estimates. References. Work Guaranteed. Call 697–4518.

✔ WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU! Remodels, painting, ceilings, sheetrock and carpentry! Westex Resurfacing, 520–9898.

HOME MAINTENANCE Services. Spruce up, fix-up those pesky, odd-jobs you can't get to- Call 694–5347.

KITCHEN CABINETS, vanities, formica counter tops, beveled edges. References. Handyman Service. Call Luis at 682–4544.

RON KINSEY, KINSEY Construction. General contracting, remodeling, ceramic tile, marble, roofing. Satisfaction guaranteed. 697–2135.

SUNRISE PAINTING & Remodeling. Drywall, Tile, All types residential, construction. 20 years experience. Formerly with Dan Garner Painting. Call Brad Jones, 570–5859.

COMPLETE HOME Maintenance. Additions, cabinets, counter tops, concrete, fences, masonry, painting, tile wall paper, and more! Free estimates. 520-0661.

JOHNNY'S HOME REPAIR. Painting, Carpentry, Drywall, Formica, Acoustic. All your Handyman needs. Please call 563–1517.

BEST BUY CONSTRUCTION Additions, cabinets, roofs, dry wall, floor/ wall tile, painting, papering, vinyl siding, fencing, & mobile home specialists. The Best for le$$- you've got my name on it... Steve Best 915-561–5988.

✔ TRIPLE T Construction. Roofing, painting, concrete, paneling, plumbing, sheet rock, tape, bed, & texture, floor tile, etc. General remodeling. Mobile home repair. 550-6997.

WE ARE CUSTOMER Friendly! Free estimates on all of your home improvement needs. Financing available on larger jobs with approved credit. Alpha & Omega Home Improvements, 694–0693.

Insulation

THE BOSWORTH CO.- Blown-in attic insulation. Quality materials and installation at a competitive price! (915) 683–5233.

Ironing

IRONING. Non- smoker, starch provided. Same day service if needed. .75¢/ item or 15/ $11. 689–3516.

NON- SMOKER. $10 a dozen, starch provided. Same day service. Call 697–8905.

NON- SMOKER. $12 a dozen. Blue jeans a specialty. Free minor sewing, buttons and minor repairs available. Lois, 682–1841.

Lamp Repair

★ "THE LAMP LADY". Lamps repaired in your home/ office, $16 plus parts. DEB'S HOUSECALLS 689–8502.

Landscape Design

RUEDAS LANDSCAPING. Tree trimming/ removal, leave raking, gutter cleaning, shrubs, beds. Free estimates. Jose, 684–6745.

Lawn & Garden Service

★ THOMPSON Lawn & Tree Service. Mowing, scalping, flower beds, tree trimming/removal. Fast, dependable service. 570–5435.

CURRIE'S YARD SERVICE. Mowing, flower beds, hauling, tilling, alleys, all yard work. Tree trimming. 682–9523.

Lawn & Garden Service

ROSE'S Lawn Service. Professional tree pruning and complete lawn maintenance. Free estimates. Insured. 697-1912.

ANDY'S LAWN SERVICE. Yardwork, Vacant Lots, Fence Mending, Clean-up, Hauling. $20 and up! 570–4826.

B & L LANDSCAPING - Trees removed or trimmed. Stump grinder. Bucket truck. Lots cleaned. Top soil. (915) 687–4876.

WE DO YARDWORK! Mowing, edging, trimming, hauling, scalping. Reasonable rates. 682–4333.

★ 13 YEARS EXPERIENCE. Tree Trimming/ Removal, Fall Clean ups. Professional Results. Free estimates. Charlie, 699–7967.

CLEMENTS LAWN SERVICE. "Complete Lawn and Tree Care" For fast, friendly service call 520–4657.

● FREE ESTIMATES Tree trimming, shaping, stump removal. Creative shrub designs, flower beds. Seniors discounts. 570-7314.

Masonry Work

QUALITY WORK! BLOCK AND BRICK Fences, masonry repairs. Free estimates. 550–9441.

MASONRY: All types. Brick, block, stone, concrete. Dependable. Free estimates. Quality workmanship. Glen Rickey, 694-7684.

ALL TYPES Masonry. Brick, Block, Stone, and Concrete. Steve Rickey, 682–5708, 570-2996 for free estimates.

QUIROZ CONSTRUCTION. All types concrete, block, brick. Native Midlander. Free estimates. References. 683–5504, Pager 561-0060.

Massage Therapy

SPECIAL $25 for a full body Therapeutic Massage. (Across from the Courthouse). Call 570–8860 today!

Moving & Storage

2 BROTHERS. Local, Office, Pack, Etc. 30 Years experience. Rent a truck moves- 683-7954.

CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE? Packing, loading, unloading, storage facilities. Flat/ Hourly! Mike, 520–6610, beeper 567-7956.

COMPLETE LOCAL moving services at do it yourself rates. Packing, loading, homes, apartments, offices. 520-5501.

HERCULES MOVING & Storage- courteous, professional service at the lowest rates in town. Brian, 689–6723.

LOADING AND Unloading Rental Trucks. Packing. Check our prices. Senior discounts, great references! Call 553-6947.

Nutrition/ Weight Control

INCREDIBLE Patented Balance of Nutrition Supplement Products. Fantastic Opportunity- Work From Home! RELIV Independent Distributor, 560-2986.

Painting & Paper Hanging

HENRY CEBALLOS. Exterior & Interior painting, Wallpaper hanging & wall preparation. Numerous other home repair services. 30 years. Working in Midland. References. 570-8641.

WALL/DO's- Interior paint and paper hanging. 18 years professional experience. Quality workmanship. Free estimates. 689–9989.

■ SOUTHWEST PAINTING. Honest, dependable, clean high quality work. Tape, bed, texture, paint, acoustic ceilings. 689–6892.

TRIPLE T PAINTING. Average exterior trim $177.00 Average interior rooms $34.77. Clean and dependable. 20 years painter. Call Rick 550-6997.

TONY'S Painting & Wallpaper. Great work! Free estimates. References. 687–4619.

HENRY'S PAINTING- Remodeling. Master Quality, Lowest Prices! 22 years experience. Senior discount. Free Estimates. 684–8135 or 528-4263.

REPAIR WORK- tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan, 561–8700.

RY-CAM Painting & Remodeling. Interiors/ exteriors. Drywall, fence, roof repairs. F.H.A., V.A., inspection approvals. References available. 520–2255.

WOOTEN PAINTING. Interior/ Exterior, 35 years experience. Work guaranteed. W. J. Wooten, 687–0937.

JAMES SIMMONS PAINTING. $250 Exteriors, $75 Rooms. Acoustic Ceilings. Carpenter repair. References. 694-5039, 685-3020.

SMITH PAINTING- $250 Exteriors. $75 Rooms. Quality work, reasonable. Free estimates. 689-3054.

BONDED AND INSURED! Exterior/ interior painting. Free Estimates. Van Hill Paint Contracting, 550–2002.

QUIROZ CONSTRUCTION. Complete remodeling & painting. Interior/ Exterior. Call David, 570-6392.

M&P REMODELING, Painting, Acoustic Ceilings, Sheetrock, Ceramic Tile Floors. Installation/ repair. Free Estimates 694–8722.

Piano Tuning

EXPERT PIANO TUNING and repair. Call Michael Sherrod, (915) 694–3161.

Plumbing

ECONOMICAL General Contracting. Plumbing, electrical, handyman services, cement, floor covering, roofs, new construction, painting. 682–3542.

BUD'S PLUMBING AND A /C. Serving Midland for 20 years, Masters License, M9388. Can Do, Will Do! 694–9722.

PLUMBING, Heating, Air Conditioning. 35 Years of Service!! 24 Hour EMERGENCY Service. Scooter's Plumbing. 682–5984.

THE BOSWORTH CO.- Call us for water heaters, disposals, sewer service and all plumbing repairs. Over 40 years in Midland. (915) 683–5233, #M4325.

ALVIN'S PLUMBING. Low rates! Water heaters, disposals, all your plumbing needs! 24 hours. M-10357. 699-9253/ 567-9667 beeper.

Roofing

✔ WE TOP 'EM ALL! That says it all. Give us a call. Roofs by Nicholas, 520–7348.

RON KINSEY, KINSEY Construction. Roofing- all types, shingles wood or hot tar. Satisfaction guaranteed. 697–2135.

TRIPLE T ROOFING. Leak specialist or total recover, also mobile homes. Senior Citizens Discounts. 20 years experience. 550-6997.

DISCOUNT ROOFING. Serving Midland for over 15 years! Quality workmanship. Free Estimates. Call 528-9603 anytime.

Secretarial Services

✎ C & C SECRETARIAL Services. Synthetic Digitizing, Bulk Mailing, Legal Documents, Computerized Bookkeeping, Resumes, more. 684–6624.

WORD PROCESSING,Reports, Documents, Mailing Lists, Etc. Reasonable rates. Pickup & Delivery available. Crystal, 570–7461.

HOME SECRETARIAL/ Typing service. Reliable, experienced, reasonable, confidential. 24 Hours, 7 days a week. 520–8963.

Septic Tank Service

ADVANCE BACKHOE & Dump Truck Hauling. No job too small! Topsoil, caliche, driveways, lot clearing, complete septic system installation. 570-1704, 570-4942.

PROFESSIONAL Maintenance of Septic Tanks, Grease Traps and Sand Traps. Serving the Permian Basin for 20 years! AAA Septic Tank Service, 682–7476.

Sewing & Alterations

SEWING & ALTERATIONS- Formals, regular wear, etc. 40 years experience. Mrs. Kidwell (915) 682–2223.

NITA & Laura, THE SISTERS, alterations, dressmaking, home decor. 689-2866 or 694-4245.

Telephones

HOLIDAY SPECIAL. December 17- 30. Telephone & computer jacks installed. 30 Years experience. Pre- wired houses, $20 a jack. Run wire, $35 a jack. Pre-wire (no dry wall) $15 an outlet. Call for appointment. 520-8994.

Tile Floors

M&P REMODELING, Ceramic Tile Floors, Painting, Acoustic Ceilings, Sheetrock. Installation and repair. Free Estimates 694–8722.

E. J.'s TILE INSTALLATION. Mexican and Ceramic tile. FREE estimates. (915)682–9807, beeper 742-0484.

Tractor Work

MOWING, SHREDDING, Bush Hogging to meet city standards. Light hauling. Free estimates. Reasonable rates. 697–2869.

TRACTOR WORK OF ALL Kinds! Bush hog, mowing, disking and blade. Fully insured. Johnny 694-2752, Ed 684-7001.

Tree & Shrub Care

WILL TRIM, prune, or uproot all trees. Very reasonable. Call Norman, 697-5768.

PROFESSIONAL TREE trimming, and removal. References. Low Rates. Call Chris, 694-1800.

TV Repair

FOR QUALITY VCR Repair! Premiere Video, 3323 N. Midland Drive. Call 689-6674. Open 7 days.

Upholstery

BETTERHALF Upholstery. Free estimates, pickup, delivery. Before you buy new, try our prices. 683–6731.

Welding

GENERAL WELDING/ Shop Welding. No job too small! Fences, stalls, arenas, barbecues. Free estimates, 570–1704.

MIDLAND IRON WORKS. General Shop Welding, Barbecue Pits, Cooking Wood, Blacksmith and metal art. 684–4825.

Window Cleaning

WINDOWS PLUS++ Storm windows, hard water stain removal, caulking, screen repair. Quality Service! Call 682–9322.

Lanier & Co.

SELLING REAL ESTATE MIDLAND

682-1144
1310 W. Wall

OUR NEWEST LISTINGS

1009 W. KANSAS.....$59,950

1200 W. KENTUCKY.....$27,000

COMFORTABLE FAMILY HOMES

ATTENTION AIRPLANE OWNERS.....$269,000
Only 10 Minutes from Downtown. Custom built in Southwest style, on 1.5 acres, lots of Mexican tile, beautiful cabinetry, 2 Vermont Cast stoves, separate guest house, direct access to runway, & 58'x60' hangar, workshop & apartment, hundreds of trees.

CUSTOM WHITLEY BUILT.....$169,900
ON THE GOLF COURSE
Large windows overlook one of the best views of the golf course and lake! Custom floor plan, sequestered master & guest room, contemporary gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 living areas, 2 dining areas.

W. CO. RD. 56.....CLEAN & READY TO MOVE IN!.....$119,750
Over 1 acre in Northwest Midland. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas, workshop, & sprinkler system. Lots of oak & pecan trees.

KESWICK.....4 BEDROOMS.....$106,750
Elegance from top to bottom with a kitchen that will satisfy any cook. Spacious with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, and a corner lot. Custom built by Jim Leonard.

SPRINGMONT.....ONE YEAR OLD HOME....SALE PENDING
Just like new. Quality construction by Greg Frazier. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, secluded from traffic and less than a short walk to a park. In Fairmont Park Addition.

SHERWOOD.....$92,900
Custom Kahler nestled in peaceful Greenhill Terrace. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, newly remodeled master bath. Open living & formal dining. Many built-ins. Perfect office or hobby room off utility room. Just south of Green Tree Country Club.

PURPLE SAGE.....GREAT DRIVE-UP APPEAL.....$89,998
Corner lot with mature oak trees and manicured yard. Quiet residential area with schools and shopping just blocks away. Over 2000 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sequestered master, 2 living areas, and formal dining.

N. "C" STREET.....$84,480
Colonial 2 story home. 2 living areas plus game room. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large yard, quiet street. Many recent improvements.

TENNESSEE.....HARDWOOD FLOORS!!.....$84,319
Convenient to hospital & schools. More than 2000 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, study or exercise room off of master. Updated kitchen, oversized 2 car garage with work area, hot tub and deck in backyard.

2 STORY STONE HOUSE.....$76,000
Located on huge lot, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, basement, utility room, 2 car garage, and workshop. Wonderful family home!

FRONTIER.....GIANT GAME ROOM.....$73,500
Large living area with fireplace, sequestered master, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, neutral carpet & paint, 2 car garage. Carpet allowance!!

COMFORTABLE FAMILY HOMES

FRONTIER.....SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD!!.....$69,900
Centrally located. Giant oak trees, neutral carpet and paint, updated kitchen, 2 living areas and formal dining. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

KANSAS.....MANY RECENT IMPROVEMENTS!.....$69,500
"Old Midland" updated stucco. Many recent improvements include appliances, carpet & paint. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas plus separate apartment with living, bedroom & kitchen.

KENTUCKY.....POOL!!.....$65,000
Large 4 bedroom brick home nestled in beautiful museum area. 2 living areas, 2 fireplaces, sequestered bedroom and bath. Privacy fence around inground pool. Seller will consider a lease purchase.

GREENWOOD AREA.....LOTS OF ROOM TO GROW".....$40,000
3 Acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath home with tons of storage. All bedrooms are large and have walk-in closets. Formal dining area, 4 car carport, RV covered parking. Lots of fruit trees.

KESSLER.....CREAM PUFF!.....$37,000
So much charm with many improvements. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, manicured yard, storage building or workshop, updated carpet & paint.

LAND & LOTS

CO. RD. 307.....GREAT HOME SITE.....$175,000
Approximately 34.87 acres, 300 pecan trees, 5 water wells, underground irrigation system. One bedroom efficiency apartment with basement. 30x60 barn, 20x18 shed, corrals, windmill.

CO. RD. 1130.....$15,000
Approximately 10 acres, building site with corton farm.

NE OF MOCKINGBIRD HEIGHTS.....$29,900
Agricultural Estate lots, restricted area, convenient to stables.

CO. RD. 1297.....$34,900
10 acres with ed frontage road. Northwest Midland area. Land may be subdivided into 5 acre tracts.

N. CO. RD. 1297.....$74,900
30 acres in Northwest Midland area. Can be subdivided into smaller lots.

Call us for a list of our new construction properties.

Lori Lanier Bill Lanier Billie Lanier

Selling your home by yourself

Could you sell your home by yourself? "Of course you could", says Kay Sutton, owner of Kay Sutton, Realtors. "Whether you should or will want to, however, is a whole different matter."

Sutton

Homeowners attempting to sell their homes without the help of a professional generally do so to save the commission fee, which may or may not pay off. Prospective buyers commonly submit lower offers knowing the seller does not have to pay a commission.

Before attempting to sell your own home, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you have sufficient knowledge to sell your own home — market conditions and recent sales of similar homes in your area?
- Are you informed about FHA, VA, PMI and other financing methods?
- Do you have a network of contacts to produce potential buyers?
- Are you able to screen out unqualified prospects — people who are just curious?
- Are you comfortable inviting in strangers who stop by at 9:00 p.m. because they saw your sign?
- Are you available seven days a week to show your home? Buyers will expect you to be available at their convenience, not yours.
- Do you have good negotiating skills? Will you be comfortable haggling face-to-face over the price?
- Will you be ready to reveal unknown defects of your home and do you know what you are required, by law, to reveal?
- Can you write a binding contract? Do you have forms readily available? Do you have a lawyer to advise you on essential terms that must be in the contract?
- Can you close a sale?

If you can confidently answer "yes" to all these questions, you probably could sell your own home.

Most homeowners recognize the wisdom in working with a trained, licensed professional to handle the many complex details of a home sale. Mistakes can be costly — mistakes a real estate professional can easily avoid.

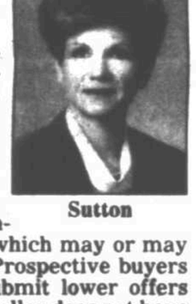
Mrs. Sutton poses one final question for homeowners considering marketing their own homes: "Whether you're an accountant or a zoologist (or anything in between) do you think its reasonable for someone with no training or expertise to do your job?

Contact a local Realtor to assist with any or your real estate needs.

This story submitted by Kay Sutton , Owner of Kay Sutton Realtors.

Select a professional

When you need expert advise or guidance you turn to a professional. On your list of professional consultants carefully choose a Realtor who is experienced, productive and knowledgeable.



Pine

You will want to work with an efficient, courteous, persistent, resourceful and enthusiastic individual. A sales associate who has made a personal commitment to ongoing professional training, one who can answer your questions and address your concerns is of utmost importance.

You need a competent professional you can rely on to help you make the right decisions when your are faced with questions regarding real estate: When is the right time? Should I trade up? Should I downsize? Should I add on? What about investment property?

The foundation of the real estate firm you choose should be the superior delivery of professional service with integrity. An excited sales force, top-notch management and highly competent support staff combines to create a dynamic team that effectively meets the real estate needs of people in our area.

This story submitted by Norma Pine, Owner/Broker of Chaparral, Realtors

667 Commercial Property

DOWNTOWN 14,000 sq. ft., zoned C1, office or retail, 811 W. Missouri. $3,500 monthly. 570–4665 or 694-1800.

4305 B WEST ILLINOIS. 1,000 sq ft. $400 monthly. Lease negotiable. Call 689–7107 for information.

4,600 SQ. FT., masonary building. Offices, warehouse, yard. Located I-20 & Warehouse Road. Reasonable. 683-5697, 694-8032, 682-4789.

670 Warehouse & Storage Rental

OFFICE/. warehouse. Approximately 1,000 sq. ft., overhead door, lighted secure yard, air/ heat. Reasonable. 683-5697, 694-8032, 682-4789.

20' x 20' and 20' x 40'. Electricity furnished. Near Community National Bank. $75 and $150 monthly. 685–3005.

OFFICE WAREHOUSE space for lease. 800 to 40,000 Square Feet. Some with fenced yards. 683–6661.

670 Warehouse & Storage Rental

MIDLAND INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE, 2601 W. Industrial. 1800 sq. ft. and 4500 sq. ft. units available. Dock height and ground access. Security gate - secure units. 684-3838.

Super Seller !
15 words, 7 days, $10
Advertise your household item (priced under $350) with this Classified special!Call 682-6222

675 Recreational & Resort Rental

RUIDOSO Cabins, Houses, Condos- nightly, weekly. Some with hot tubs. Don Harmon, Four Seasons Real Estate. 800-822-7654.

RUIDOSO Rentals nightly. Cabins, condos, some hot tubs. Century 21, Aspen Realty. 800-657-8980.

RUIDOSO: 3 bedroom- 2 bath and 2 bedroom- 2 bath. Very nice, completely furnished. No pets. 697-1337.

RUIDOSO- 1 Bedroom Condo. Nightly/ Weekly Rentals. Accommodates 2- 4. Daily Maid Service. 682-8314, 694-2500.

FOR WEEKEND or by week, beautiful cabin, on river, upper canyon, nicely furnished, fireplace. For Ruidoso reservation call: 915-580–6944.

680 Oil & Gas Leases

FOR SALE. Overriding royalty interest, Shackelford County, Texas. Moran Sand waterflood. Average income $750 per month. Call 915-698–2071.

FOR SALE- Schleicher County- (3) wells, 1 Active, 1 SWD, 1 TA 28 BOPD, 100% WI, 80% NRI, good equipment, Uphole potential. Call (806) 352–2936 for package.

700 Manufactured Homes

ZERO DOWN on a new manufactured home of your choice if you own your land. We may be able to help you with your improvements. 800-456-8944 or 915-520-5850.

3 DOUBLEWIDE REPOS just purchased from bank at Big Savings! We will pass this Savings on to you at Nationwide Housing Systems of Midland, 800-456-8944 or 915-520-5850.

NEW 1995 28 X 60 4 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home with fireplace and more!! Plus a $500.00 gift certificate with a local toy store! For more details call Bob 915-520-5850 (if you buy before 12/23/96).

★ E-Z FINANCING... $202 per month, 10% down, 9% APR, 360 months with approved credit. Buy down financing! 1997 16' x 76' 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home. USA Homes, 4608 W Wall, Midland. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Se Habla Espanol!

MOBILE HOME CREDIT HOTLINE! E- Z QUALIFYING! Call 550-4033, (800) 725-0881.

90 DAYS until you have to pay your first payment. As low as 8.99 APR W.A.C. New and used single and doublewides available at Nationwide Housing Systems of Midland, 800-456-8944 or 915-520-5850.

DISPLAY MODELS, must sell all Doublewides Now!! Palm Harbor's Masterpiece. Circle B 333-3212.

$198.36 PER MONTH for a new 3 Bedroom, 16 Wide Manufactured Home. 180 months at 9.50 VAR APR with only $999 down cash or trade. $19,995 delivered and set within 100 mile radius of Midland Nationwide Housing Systems, 800-456-8944 or 915-520-5850.

★★ 249.00 MO. ★★
Nice New Doublewide Mobile Home; 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, 5% down, 8% V.A.R., 300 months.
SUPER-NICE, NEW
3 bedroom singlewides lower than the Doublewide!
GREAT AMERICAN HOMES
1 mile west of Water Wonderland on Hwy. 80
★★ 561-6222 ★★

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THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT PROPERTY!

4902 ISLAND DR. REDUCED -
Gorgous home in Greentree, 4 bedroom, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 3 living areas, 3 car garage, pool and hot tub and much more.
Call Bill Jackson 683-6548 or 559-0205

MERRY CHRISTMAS

NEW LISTING

1411 S. TERRELL-3BDR/1BTH	VRM G
3801 SUNCREST-3BDR/2BTH	VRM
2519 NEELY-4BDR/3BTH	VRM 10

RESIDENTIAL

ANDREWS HWY-5BDR/3.5 BTH	$150,000
CENTERVIEW	SOLD
CHESTNUT-3BDR/1BTH	$20,000
CRESTGATE-4BDR/3.5BTH	VRM 10
DENGAR	UNDER CONTRACT
DRIFTWOOD	SOLD
NEELY-2BDR/2BTH, Duplex	$64,900
NEELY-4BDR/3BTH	VRM 10
PRESTON-2BDR/2 1/2BTH, townhome	VRM 1
TENNESSEE-3BDR/1BTH	$47,500
TENNESSEE-3BDR/2BTH	$47,500
TERRELL-3BDR/1BTH	VRM G
ROBIN LANE	SOLD
SHANDON-4BDR/2.5BTH	$94,900
SEABOARD-Two story 4BDR/3BTH	$159,900
SUNCREST-3BDR/2BTH	VRM 5
WADLEY-3BDR/2BTH	VRM 7

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

433 ANDREWS HWY...OFFICE LEASE	$800.00
3411 ANDREWS HWY	$150,000
2110 TENNESSEE	$47,500
2112 TENNESSEE	$47,500
GARDEN CITY HWY-Office/Warehouse	$25,000
1500 GARDEN CITY HWY-1800 SQ. FT. shop	$35,000
DAYTON RD-Possible owner finance	$54,900
3106 KENTUCKY	$70,000
3038 WEST WALL	SOLD
ANDREWS HWY-High traffic location	$125,000
3103 W. FRONT	FOR LEASE
926 VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER-2 Story office suite	$199,000
305 E. TEXAS	$325,000
1701 COTTONFLAT RD	$89,500
221-233 E. TEXAS	REDUCED $225,000
3405 W. WALL	$59,950
CR 129 - 1 1/2 acres with building	$167,000
CR 133-6 1340-1750 sq. ft. office, 0.250 Whse, Shed	$130,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

E. COUNTY RD 63-3BDR/1BTH, Mobile home	$15,000
2032 LAKE CO. RD. 253-3BDR/2BTH	$49,900
"A" & MISSOURI vacant lot behind old Exxon service station	$12,000
BRIARWOOD & HOLIDAY HILL ROAD	$250,000
RANGER ESTATES-11.85 acres	$30,000
RANGER ESTATES-7.45	$15,000
AIR PARK AND SMITH ROAD	$19,500
COUNTY RD 118-several lots at $5,000 each	CALL OFFICE
3038 WEST WALL-5 acres at 1.25 per sqft	PENDING
BIG SPRING & CORPORATE DR...1.50 per square foot	CALL LISTING OFFICE
W. SCHARBAUER & "L" ST.-large residential lot	$16,000
KEENLAND 2 Acres of tree lined land with three home stalls	$30,000
CO. RD. 300 E-5 tracts with 5+ acres on each	$7500 PER TRACT
CO. RD. 150-E	10 ACRES $16,000

CALL US TODAY!

LaVada Fowler, GRI, CRS, Broker Assoc... 694-8343
Kaye Horchler, GRI... 682-6637
Marcia Chandler... 682-4950
Gary M. Telnert... 683-9395
Ruth Booker... 520-5216
Bill Jackson, Brkr/Ownr... 682-2135
Jack Ovadia, Brkr/Assoc... 694-0853
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LINDA Fiessler 694-2609 — LISA Buescher 687-4419
GINGER Koen 699-6685 — DAVID Carlson 694-0212
BEN Massey 699-1088 — WILLA DEAN Cecil 682-5177
ANNE Breeding 682-1809

NEW-ON-MARKET (& WONDERFUL!) Townhome 3/3/2, formal dining, frpl, brkfst area, storage, wet-bar. Immaculate! Call LINDA Fiessler 687-0595.
A PARK OF YOUR OWN with heated pool & hot-tub comes with 2-story, 4/3/2. You'll simply live outdoors! Only $129,000. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
MAMA MIA! PASTA FAZOOL! You've overlooked cutest house in town! 3/2/2, screened porch, sec. sys., sprk. sys., LHS distr. Call ANNA Crawford 687-0595.
40X40 SHOP with 2-bdrm mobile home on 1/2 acre, I-20 access (Odessa). Call LYNN Cook 687-0595.
REDUCED IN CRESTGATE-LG. 4/4/2, frml. dining, 2-liv., xtra parking, rear gar. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
DAD'S WISH FOR A SHOP will come true 20x24 shop, 3/2, 1-liv., 3-carport, RV hookup - just ask for GINGER Koen 687-0595.
ONLY $49,900?!! & over 1500sqft! 3/2/1, lg. kitch, with brkfst., util. rm., spotless! Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
BEST PRESENT EVER! Unwrap this 4/3, 2-liv., formal dining, lovely pool on 3.89 acres. Ask for LINDA Fiessler 687-0595.
NEAR SHOPPING & SCHOOLS-Large yard with sprk. sys., 3/2, 1-liv., steel siding trim. Ask for DENE Kelly 687-0595.
IT'S A GIFT...at this price! $35,000 for 3/2/1, open flowing dining/living, much recent, screened backporch. Call ANNA Crawford 687-0595.
UNIQUE TREASURE! 1 of-a-kind, 2-story, 4/4, indoor pool, hot tub, 1.50ac. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
SANTA WILL LOVE THE FIREPLACE beautiful Fairmont Pk. home 3/2/2, formal dining, sprink. sys., Ask for GINGER Koen 687-0595.
CLASS YOU CAN'T HIDE-Over 2000sqft, Crestgate, 4/3/2, lovely landscaping, sprk. sys. DENE Kelly 687-0595.
7.78 FENCED ACRES completely cleared, 2-ww, ready to build on. Call LINDA Fiesler 687-0595, 694-2609.
CHURCH W/HOUSE Call DAVID Carlson 687-0595.
DUPLEX TO MOVE-6 Reduced, or call about the whole location, zoned comm'l. ANNA at 687-0595.
TOWNHOUSE with small yard, 3/2/2, 2-living areas, over 1800sqft. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
COMMERCIAL SITE-LINDA Fiesler 687-0595.
INVEST IN A CONDO-Fairmont area. Call LYNN Cook 687-0595.
NOT "JUST A QUADRAPLEX"-non-qual. assump. The possibilities are endless, live in one & rent out 3 or take 2 for yourself & rent out 2. Call ANNA 687-0595.
STOCKINGS BY THE CHIMNEY in home built with care. Lovely 3/2/2 on quiet cul-de-sac. Merrill Ct. $76,500. Call LINDA Fiesler 687-0595, 694-2609.
ON LOOP 250 near 191 - Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
BETWEEN LOOP 250 & HWY. 80-Greenwood, zoned acreage. Call ANNE Breeding 687-0595, 682-1809.
HAVE CHRISTMAS DINNER in a new home in Greenwood 3 & 4 bed., 2-ba, 2-gar, formal dining on .50 ac. From $88,500 to $108,000. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
1-ACRE - GREENWOOD - w/septic & water well - ready for "move-on". ANNA Crawford 687-0595.
NEW CONSTRUCTION - GREENWOOD 3 & 4 bdrms, 2-ba, formal dining, select colors now. $92,400 to $108,000. Call DENE Kelly 687-0595.
GREENWOOD-call LISA - 687-0595, 687-4419
3/2 on 15 ac 3/2 MH, barn, corral, workshop, storage. Seller might help w/some closing costs. (Will sell land/barn/corral separately for $35,000.) $44,900
3/2/2 on 1/2 acre behind school. New carpet & paint, seq. master, fpl, pretty yard $67,000
3/2/2 on 3 acres, 2 living areas, 2 water wells, septic. Near schools, HOME WARRANTY $89,900
****BUSINESSES FOR SALE**** Answering/secretarial service, Specialty Foods Boutique. Call LYNN Cook or ANNA Crawford.

Don't call 911 - call the Dene Kelly sold line for a quick RESCUE
Your house could be here-SOLD
Your house should be here-SOLD
Your house would be here-SOLD
FREE HOME WARRANTY WITH EACH NEW LISTING OR PURCHASE!!

2302 W. Wadley
687-0595

It costs no more, to have the BEST!

Vicky Garrett

NEW TO MARKET PLACE

Exceptional Quality
in this 4 bedroom, 3 bath, extras include playroom for the kids, formal dining, two p[illegible] sprinkler system & many more. Rush to see this [illegible] $[illegible],000.

JUST REDUCED

Great Schools
are just a few blocks from this friendly 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. After class, the kids can study in the homey paneled family room, or in privacy of their comfortably sized bedroom. Master bedroom has private sitting area -- great for the exercise equipment or computer. Offered at only $73,500...it's one of the cleanest & lowest priced homes in the Bush School District. Call Vicky today.

Premier Golf Course Home
In an estate neighborhood, you'll find this James Morris resale built with quality & superb taste. 5 bedrooms (each with connecting bath), luxuriously large living, private study, 5 fireplaces, den, many built-ins. Plus room for your golf cart in the oversized 3 car garage. Ready for immediate occupancy. Just $339,900. See it today.

Retreat to Comfort
in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath with large open living space & charming kitchen. No honey dos. in this well cared for home with sprinklered grounds & mature landscaping. Priced at just $78,500. Call Vicky Garrett, 570-8889 Now.

The Art of Luxurious Living
For those who long for luxury...stately 5 bedroom, 6 bath traditional brick with little touches you'll love. Picture condition, hardwood floors, sparkling pool, inside spa, 3 car garage. Priced at $289,000. Easy to Show, Call Vicky Garrett today.

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2301 Gulf	Fantastic! 4/2/2
1401 Boeing	Recent Carpet 4/2/2
1714 Northrup	2 Story, Lots of Goodies! 3/2/2
5112 Canadian	Great Location 3/2/2
2704 W. CR RD 140	Lots of Storage 3/2/1
4501 Erie	Well Maintained! 3/2/1
712 W. Spruce	Cozy! 3/2/2
4002 Avondale	Lovely! 3/2/1
3311 W. Louisiana	Big Backyard3/2/1
3303 W. Cuthbert	Location! Location! 3/2/2
4101 Amistad	Great Townhome 2/2/2
111 N. Carver	Handyman's Delight! 2/1

HUD & VA PROPERTIES

4088 Camelia	$30,000	3/1
3804 Fannin	$62,100	3/2/2
1100 Mogford	$60,500	3/2/2
4909 Concho	$57,000	2/2/2
4409 Leddy	$30,100	3/1.5/1
810 W. Tennessee	$18,450	4/2/1

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES:
Office, Industrial, Warehouse $20,000-$217,000

701 N. Big Spring	Close to Downtown
912 S. Garfield	Great Visibility/Great Location
2202 W. Wall Street	High Traffic Area
3404 W. Illinois	2 Story Office Building

Merry Christmas!

THE SIGN THAT SELLS

Jo Braden - Re/Max
683-1425 or 682-8820

"Problem Property?"

Call Kaye Horchler
Prudential Adobe
683-9548 682-6637

RE/MAX OF MIDLAND/ODESSA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE AFFILIATION OF
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Kay Pederson

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Ask Anybody...
Tamara Rogers
LANGSTON REALTORS 682-9495

700 Manufactured Homes

★ CASH IN 5 MINUTES for your mobile home! Call Brad at (915) 550-6716 or 520-2177.

DOUBLEWIDE mobile home to be moved 1979 Magnolia. 26' wide x 54' long, with axles. Will consider trade. Good condition. 520-8730, 915-338-0356 after 5 pm.

★ THROW AWAY Your Paintbrush!?! Maintenance free vinyl siding on this huge 28' x 64'. 4 Bedroom home- never needs paint. As low as $323 per month, 10% down, 8.5% APR, 360 months with approved credit. Buy down financing! USA Homes, 4608 W Wall, Midland, TX. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Se Habla Espanol!

INVENTORY BLOWOUT! Up to $9,000 Savings on 1996 Models. Won't last long. Circle B 333-3212, 700 N. Grandview, Odessa.

★ REPO REPO REPO...
Fantastic opportunity on a beautiful 1994 16' X 80' luxury home. No payment until March 15, 1997, with approved credit. $500 gift certificate at your favorite store with purchase of this home!!! U.S.A. Homes, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Se Habla Espanol!

★ KEEP YOUR CASH... Bring your title, Bill of Sale or other proof that you own your mobile homes and we'll do the rest! Your family can be in a brand new home for the holidays! USA Homes, 4608 W Wall, Midland, TX. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Se Habla Espanol. With approved credit.

ONLY $500 DOWN on a new Oakcreek 18 wide. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. 11.25 APR for 300 months at $499 per month with special financing and approved credit. Nationwide Housing of Midland, 800-456-8944 or 915-520-5850.

701 Real Estate

CASH FOR Your home. Any price, any area. Call 520–4150.

Let Classified Work for You! Call 682-6222

701 Real Estate

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710 Open Houses

★★★★★★★★★★

Open

For A Complete List Of Our Open Houses Please See Our Big Ad On Last Page Of This Section.

2-4
5307 LAVACA
$88,000
Take a break from all the holiday frenzy to see this "spiffy" 3 bdrm, 2 ba in Northgate.
Shown by Tamara Rogers

Langston REALTORS*
682-9495 685-0400
★★★★★★★★★★

TRADE
Your home for a new custom home from KEY HOMES, INC. 520-9848

720 Homes for Sale

3505 DENTCREST-NEW LISTING
No understatment here! This house has zip! 3BR/2BA tile floors in kitchen, "decorator colors and papers", wood blinds, corner FP, large bedrooms. $89,000. Call Norma Pine 682-0662.
Chaparral Realtors 686-7000
Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas!

3501 SHANDON-NEW LISTING
3BR/2BA/2LA with a great bonus -14x14 sunroom. Qualifying assumption. Will look at all offers $65,000. Call Ruth Shields 563-3680.
Chaparral Realtors 686-7000
Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas!

4208 DOWNING-REDUCED - NOW $142,000
for a tremendous home. Over 3000 sq. ft. with 5BR/3BA/2LA. If you have a big happy family this is the big happy home for you. Fresh paint in this Robert Graham built conveniently located special home. John Nobles 694-4464.
Chaparral Realtors 686-7000
Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas!

501 WAVERLY-3BR/2BA
Gotta go inside!
It's so cute and has recent carpet, roof, windows, and paint. Has new kitchen counter tops, new ceramic tile in kitchen and bathrooms, new HWH, range and refrigerator remain. Only $37,500. Call Jody Smith 694-9428.
Chaparral Realtors 686-7000
Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas!

3105 SENTINEL-NEW LISTING
4BR/3BA/3LA with fashionable and elegant decor. Very generous rooms, outdoor kitchen overlooking decked yard. Over 3700 sq. ft. $158,500. Call John Nobles 694-4464.
Chaparral Realtors 686-7000

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WYDEWOOD Addition. Bush, Abell & Lee schools. Over 2,000 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large office/ study, newer paint and Berber carpet, extra large living room, hot tub and deck in backyard. Very quiet cul-de-sac. 4707 Cindy Place, $92,000. 697–6607.

OWNER FINANCED- 1813 E. Maple, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, carport. New roof, flooring & fresh paint. $24,900 financed at 10% for 20 years. Total monthly payment with $1,200 down is $295. Call Dan 699-5949.

720 Homes for Sale

VA/ HUD HOMES. 0 to 3% down. All prices. All areas. Free List. Free Consultation & Bid Placement. Financial Assistance Available. Robles Real Estate, 306 E. Illinois, 682-0470. Se Habla Espanol.

3 BEDROOM, 1 bath, living room, kitchen- dining combination. Garage, fenced- in-backyard, and ceiling fans throughout. $39,000. Call John @ 570–1567.

2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath totally remodeled condo. Full exterior maintenance, access to pool. $13,900 includes closing. 3112-A W. Kansas. 699–0550.

STEAL THIS 3 Bedroom! Good location. New loan required, but price only $17,500. 683-3296 Monday thru Thursday.

NEED TO SELL before January 1, 1997. New 2 and 3 bedroom low maintenance homes. Make me an offer! 3300 and 3314 Wedgewood, 3607 Wadley. Lee Thompson, builder 528-5104.

KAY SUTTON REALTORS
702 Andrews Hwy.,
570–8200

MOVING- MUST SELL! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 large living areas. Great family home! Many amenities, 1,730 sq. ft. $72,000 or qualifying assumable at 7.5% interest. 5210 Lavaca, 520–6204.

REDUCED $8,000. 3801 Westmont Ct. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 24' x 24' work shop, RV parking. $111,000. 699–1659.

3,190 SQ. FT. 1/2 acre, big house, big repairs. Much potential! Bonham area. $39,975. You finance. 687–6790.

720 Homes for Sale

BY OWNER: 1103 Delmar. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1 Car Garage with opener, central air/ heat, fresh paint, ceiling fans throughout. ALL appliances. $42,000. 697–6370.

BY OWNER: 3404 W. Louisiana, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, single garage, fireplace, large living area & kitchen, separate utility. $56,500. 694–5547, 694-9722.

BY OWNER: 4010 Avondale. 3 Bedroom, 2 full baths, dining room, storage room. $25,000. Call 697–2148, after 5 pm.

BY OWNER 4204 Greenbriar Drive; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, $87,900. Call 699–7368.

✔ 3102 BARKLEY, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, office, completely remodeled, $48,900. Call (915) 942–9091.

$37,500 FOR AN adorable 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home. Updated with lots of new! Chaparral Realtors, Jody Smith 694-9426.

BY OWNER, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1 1/2 story brick home in "Old Midland". 570–7619.

CHAPARRAL REALTORS
731 W. Wadley, Suite N-100
CALL 686-7000

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS. Non-Qualifying Assumption. Owner carry 2nd. Low down. 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath. $37,500. Call Dee Jones, 697-7706 or Century 21 Midtex, 689-0021.

NICE WEST Side location. 3- 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 3 car garage, only $65,000. 694–4150, 688-5826.

RE/MAX of Midland
at Mission Square
Call 682-8820

OWNER FINANCE/ Lease purchase. Desirable location. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, formals. Move-in condition. $80,000. Call Billie Perry Realtor, 694–1886.

720 Homes for Sale

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683–5333 - Contact us for all your relocation needs.

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LANGSTON REALTORS
Call Today!
(915) 685-0400 682-9495

325 Tanglewood. 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1,624 sq ft, 2 living area, formal dining or office or playroom, fireplace, central heat/ air, fresh paint, all new- apliances, carpet, counter, tile, fence. Must see! Like new! $53,500. 689–3730.

BRICK 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, nice neighborhood. Act now! 1-800-266-2305.

FOR SALE By Owner. 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, refrigerated air, garage. 915 Canyon. $3,000 down, $325 month for 10 years at 10.75%. 682-1622.

✔ BY OWNER. 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, sequestered master bedroom with sitting area & fireplace, beautiful kitchen/ appliances, new carpet throughout. Large living area, formal dining room, immaculate condition. Approximately 2,400 sq. ft. Shown by appointment only, 2424 Apperson. $98,500. 682–1358/ 699-6299.

GARDENER'S DREAM Home in Kimber- Lea. Immaculate lawn, flower beds, shrubs patio and large trees surround this well maintained home. Amenities include 3 bedrooms, 3 1/4 baths, 2 living areas, formal dining with mirrored wall, central heat and air, fireplace, sunroom, huge master bedroom with large extra closet, built- in bookcases and computer desk, other 2 bedrooms have walk-in closets, wet bar, double ovens, microwave, cooktop and pantry to name a few! Large metal storage shed also stays. Drive by 3202 Maxwell then call 520–9649 for appointment.

720 Homes for Sale

HUD - VA - MLS
Call for free list
2101 Abbey - 2000 Abbey
3804 Thomason
Call Dennis Realty
520-9649

J.C. BUILDERS- New 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom homes just 3 blocks from Lee High/ Abell Junior starting at $95,000. (Only six lots left!) Call now 520-5096, 559-5479.

J.C. BUILDERS- New 3 Bedroom brick homes starting at $65,000. 4 bedroom brick homes starting at $75,000. 520-5096, 559-5479.

Your 24 HOUR Permian Basin HomeSearch!
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www.basinlink.com /homesearch

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Garden Homes from
$129,000
697–7115

KEY To Abbreviations

Bdrm	Bedroom
Ba	Bath
Kit	Kitchen
Dbl	Double
A/C	Air conditioning
Mst. Bdrm	Master Bdrm
Gar.	Garage
Bldg	Building
Cond	Condition
N-QA	Non-Qualifying Assumable
QA	Qualifying Assumable
Ac	Acre
3/2/2	Bdrm./Ba./Gar

720 Homes for Sale

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & LEASING
*OWNER/AGENT

900 W. Indiana	2/1	$300
1310 Tennessee	4/2	$595
2009 Cuthbert	3/2	$650
3203 Frontier	3/2	$650
3909 Permian Ct	3/2	$800
10909 E. CR 107 Virginia	3/2	$800
1906 N D (TH)	2/2	$1,000

Let Langston Professionally Lease and/or Manage Your Property
DON BYERLY 685-0400
Langston REALTORS
REALTOR FOR ALL REASONS

Classified Can! 682-6222

725 Condos Townhouses

CONDO- $6,500! Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath, recent A/ C and hot water heater. Cash. Call Jody Smith 694-9426, Chaparral Realtors.

CONDO- $8,000. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Needs work. Jody Smith 694-9426, Chaparral Realtors.

SAGEWOOD- 1 Bedroom condominium. New A/ C, paint. Excellent condition. $21,500. No owner financing. 683–2582.

2 BEDROOM condo for sale in Midland. 3101 N. Midland Drive or 550-5929.

CUTE! CUTE CONDO! 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, washer/ dryer, kitchen appliances, fireplace. $10,500. Will finance. Jody Smith 694-9426, Chaparral Realtors.

Super Wheel Deal 24 Words/14 Days/$25

You'll get a total of 14 consecutive days of advertising with this super plan. 24 Words and a photo of your vehicle in a 1 column by 1.5 inch advertisement.
We take photos on Tuesday from 2 to 3. Just bring your vehicle to us and we'll do the rest.
If you prefer, you may take a photo and bring it to us at any time.
Only one vehicle per ad. Private individuals only. With this special price, the $25 is payable in advance please.

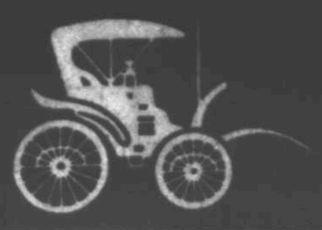
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Call Classified @ 682-6222

DEC 22 1996

CARRIAGE COMPANY, REALTORS

YOUR SOURCE WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW!



684-5881

TOLL FREE 1-800-229-9708

OPEN HOUSE

1:15-2:30 2524 Keswick
Special Christmas showing on this immaculate 3 br, 3.5 ba, 2 la home w/ 3 car garage. seq. mbr w/ his & her baths & walk-in closets, & much more. See today!!!
Shown by Les Carnes

Merry Christmas

NEW LISTINGS

E CO RD- 120 3 br/2 ba, 2 la, fp, pool, barns, pens, orchards & more	$210,000
HILLCREST - 4 br/3 ba/3 car gar/2 la, fp, top quality, still under builders warranty.	$209,955
PINE - Fantastic Town home w/ 5 br/3 ba/2 la/2 car gar., fp, bonus room/shop	$169,900
HUNTINGTON - 5 br/3 ba/2 la, fp, storage rm, sun room, mother-in-law suite	$124,976
CUNNINGHAM - 3 br/1 ba/ 3 car gar., lots of storage, lots of room to grow!	$39,950
SENSATIONAL HOMES OVER $100,000	
CUTHBERT - Heart of Old Midland, pool, 5 bd /2 la	$495,000
SADDLE CLUB - 3 fireplaces, study, sitting room, pool, tennis courts.	$329,000
FM 307 - 30.39 Acres. Residence w/ pool, arena & barns	$295,000
RUSTIC TRAIL - Green Tree. 4 br/3 ba, 2 la, 3 car garage	UC
S CR 1200 - 5.7 acres 4 br/3.5 ba, 2 la, 2 fp,	$200,000
SEQUOIA - 4 br/4.5 ba/ 2 ba, 2 fp, pool, high ceilings. Lease purchase!	$174,500
GRASSLAND -5615 CROWLEY - 4 br/3 ba, RV Pad, Home Owners Warranty!.	$154,915
MCCLINTIC - Town House or home -4 br/3 1/2 ba, fireplace, lots of new	$164,900
CROWLEY -4 br/3 ba with all the amenities. Home Warranty	$137,900
KESWICK -3 br/3 ½ ba/2 la/3 car garage, his & her bath	$130,000
GOLF COURSE - 5 br-like new inside-beautiful kitchen, fp	$125,000
PRINCETON - 4 br/2 .5 ba w/all the amenities, pool, extras	$122,500
S CD 1130 -4 br/2 ba/ garage, fireplace-Greenwood area	$119,975
ROSEMONT - 4 br/2 1/2 ba/2 la on quiet cul-de-sac. A must to see!!!	$119,950
CASTLEFORD-Great house in Polo Park-3 br/2 ba/2 car gar., approx. 2000 sq.ft.	$119,000
SINCLAIR - 4 br/3 ba/2 la. Great location. 12 mo. warranty. Just Reduced!!!	$118,000
SAND HILL CIR - Upscale beauty - 3 br/2 bc/2 car gar.-large walk-in closets	UC
BELLECHASSE -3 br/2 ba/2 la, fp, pool & hot tub, large rooms. Owner ready to sell!	$110,000
AUBURN -3 br/2.5 ba/2 la/2 car garage/newly remodeled, lush landscape!	$109,900
NORTHTOWN PL - Pristine condition - 4 br/2.5 ba very spacious, lots of update	$109,900
WINDSOR - Need office in home? Lovely 3 br/3 ba/2 car gar., gorgeous POOL	$107,500
TERRIFIC VALUES UNDER $100,000	
E CO RD 139 - 3 br/2 ba w/ 2 acres.	$97,000
CO RD 3825/STANTON - 4 br/3 ba/2 la on 2 ac.,	$91,900
MARINOR CT -3 br/2 ba, 2 la, formal dining, w/boat house	$89,900
EDGEMONT - 3 br/2 ba, fp	$89,900
WESTMINSTER- Colonial beauty, skylight in kitchen, new tile floors, bay windows	UC
WADLEY #34 Awesome Town Home! Lrge liv. area & master,great kit.,lrge patio	$89,000
ILLINOIS - DUPLEX w/cove ceiling & fp, 3/2 and 2/2 . Great Investment!!	UC
CINDY - 2-story 3 br/ 2 ba, Wydewood cutie!!.On cul-de-sac	$88,000
GULF-3 br/2 ba/ 2 la/swimming pool. *OFFERS PLEASE* Great Buy!!	$85,000
LANHAM - 3 br/2 ba/2 la ,	$82,000
W CR RD 130 - 2-story house w/10 acres, fenced & irrigated. FHA/VA appraised	$82,000
BRUNSWICK- 2 br/2 ba, 2 car garage, fireplace, refrig.	$79,900
PRESTON - 3 br/2 ba, fp, great floor plan, glass patio	$78,900
STANOLIND - 4 br/3 ba - large backyard. Home Warranty	$78,900
N. "T" -3 br/2 ba/2 la/ 2 car garage, pool	$77,500
GULF-4 br/2 ba/2 la/workshop, open kitchen & den area	$76,500
LOUISIANA -3 br/2 ba with 2-½ ba /3 car gar., Must SEE!! Reduced to	$76,500
PROVIDENCE- fireplace, 3 br/2 ba, cathedral den/ cute/sassy.	UC
N CO RD 1140 - 2 br/2 ba on 5 acres, barn, pens, 3 wells	UC
STANOLIND - Spacious 4 br/2 ba, great neighborhood, big shade trees & storage.	UC
S CO RD 1128 - 3 br/2 ba in Greenwood schools, 2.5 acres, 2 storage shed,	UC
OHIO - Lots of room!! 3 br, 2 ba.	$64,950
PRESTON - 3 br/2.5 ba Townhome, 2 la, fp, bonus room, hot tub in garden room,	$64,449
S CR 1186 - 3 or 4 br /2 1/2 ba on approx 2 acres, fresh paint in & out . Reduced to	$63,900
DORMARD - Has it all!!! 3 br/2 ba, large living, seq. master...circle drive	$62,500
TENNESSEE -"Old Midland" -3 br/2 ba, 2 lrg LA. areas. MUST SEE!!	$59,000
McDONALD - 3 br/2 ½ ba, new carpet, fresh paint, FHA/VA appraisal	UC
LEISURE- 3 br/2 ba, 2 la, new carpet, paint & much more, water well.	$58,500
CRENSHAW - Lovely well kept 3 br/2 ba/fp, Call today for appt.	$56,500
COUNTRY CLUB -3 br/2 ba, super home w/lots of updating.	$54,000
S CO RD 1220 - 2 br/2 ba, large workshop and storm cellar on approx 3 acres	$49,900
ILLINOIS - 4 br/2 ba, large family room-great house Reduced!!!	$49,900
GRAY- 3 br/3 ba/2 la/RV, storage, workshop, lots of closets, good water well	$49,000
ERIE - 3 br/2 ba/2 la, fireplace, wet bar, freshly painted.	$49,000
COLLEGE - Great starter home! 3 br, 2 ba with a/c -new to market	$47,500
CUTHBERT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, new carpet, vinyl, paint, roof, FHA appraisal	$47,000
BOYD -3 br/2 ba/large workshop extra storage, new carpet, remodeled Reduced to	$46,715
PUEBLO -3 br/2 ba/fp, ceiling fan, fresh paint! Will Lease!	$43,950
CARPENTER/STANTON 3 br/1 ba -repairs in process	$43,500
KANSAS - Triplex! Put your money to work	$38,950
COLLEGE - 3 br/2 ba, 1 car garage, fresh paint & tile	UC
ANETTA - Cute 3 br, 1 ba with a/c- New on Market	$36,000
MARIANA - 3 br, over sized gar., all appliances stay w/house, lots of new & extras	$29,990
1st STREET/ STANTON -3 br/1 ba	UC
S CO RD 1206 - 2 br/2 ba/2 car garage, decks front & back, new carpet	$27,900
COLLEGE-2 br/1 bath with rental apartment in back	$24,900
COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND VACANT LOTS	
VERSATILE BLDG - Almost 2 acres).	$275,000
N BIG SPRING-5 Acres, zoning comm.	$165,000
COMMERCIAL - Lot on Big Spring	$150,000
10 ACRES , middle of Greentree North	$150,000
ILLINOIS -Duplex each side $650/mo income	UC
W. LOUISIANA - FORMER PROFESSIONAL OFFICE - ZONE 0-1	$82,500
SINCLAIR- 3.41 acres zoned 1F1	$40,500
W. LOUISIANA- Very good location with a super nice building	$40,000
E NEW JERSEY- 2 bldgs, 2 lots w/well, for SALE or LEASE	$28,900
S HWY 349- 4 AC, 1 AC w/well	$24,850
SINCLAIR - Lot sq. ft. 10146, electricity, water, fence, pecan trees	$20,000
N CR 1135 - Fully developed, water, septic, 50 fruit trees, etc.	$14,900
E. HIGHWAY 80 - (3.5 acres) -	$13,000
E. HIGHWAY 80 - (3.47 acres)	$13,000
LOT on CO RD1806	$12,500
E. HIGHWAY 80 - (3.0 acres) -	$12,000
TEJAS- 1 Lot on 2 ½ acres, Ranch Estates-	$9,500
FRANCES - .24 ac, lot sq. ft. 10500, zoned for commercial	$5,350
S- 1788 -63+ acres Commercial or Industrial, Price Reduction !!	Acre/$3,500
W. SHANDON - One lot.	$3,250
W. SHANDON - Three lots ea.	$2,950
N. BIG SPRING - Retail space AppWare. 2500 sq. ft.	$900/mo
LOTS - Several lots near Big Spring St. from $995-$2,950 call for info.	
FOR LEASE Downtown office space.1800 sq.ft.	

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- ❐ *24 hour marketing of your property using our new Internet website.*
- ❐ *Reaching the 40% of homebuyers who are out-of-towners before they arrive.*
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YOUR 24-HOUR REAL ESTATE SERVICE

570-8200

702 ANDREWS HWY.

To Use "Talking Ads"

Dial toll-free 1-800-498-0257 and then dial the "Talking Ad" number. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, coast to coast.

BREEZEWAY...Beautiful New Whitley: 5 bd-4.5 ba-4 liv ..	$ 375,000 Ad 2274
AUGUSTA DR	UNDER CONTRACT
CHOATE PL....REDUCED: 4 bd-4 ba-3 liv-Ing. Pool ...	$ 339,000 2203
VERDE GLEN ..... 3-Story- 5 bd -2 liv-Gameorm	$ 335,000 2215
BAYBROOK....5 bd -4.5 ba -2 liv +Gameroom Upstairs	$ 312,000 2218
HIALEAH....REDUCED: 3 bd-3 ba-Pool, Spa & Cabana .	$ 310,000 2206
RIDGEFIELD.....Graham Custom: 5 bd-3 ba-2 liv-3 gar	$ 212,000 2213
HATHAWAY....Grassland Custom: 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv-3 gar	$ 199,900 2206
ASHWOOD CT....New Graham 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv	$ 197,500 2254
DOGWOOD CT....Green Tree 2 Story: 4 bd - 3.5 ba	$ 179,900 2230
HATHAWAY.....Grassland: 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv-Sun Room ..	$ 179,900 2232
HEREFORD	UNDER CONTRACT
DRIFTWOOD	UNDER CONTRACT
HEARTLAND....New: 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv-Open Den Plan	$ 167,900 2219
BLUEBIRD BRANCH	UNDER CONTRACT
SPRINGMEADOW	UNDER CONTRACT
HEREFORD	UNDER CONTRACT
WHITMAN....Beautiful New Whitehead: 4 bd-2.5 ba-2 liv	$ 140,675 2258
CUTHBERT.....*"Old Midland";4 bd-3 ba-2 liv-Wkshp	$ 139,900 2242
GOLF COURSE ROAD.....2-Story - 4+ bd-3 ba-2 liv	$ 128,500 2231
WHITMAN.....New Whitehead: 4 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 128,450 2208
MELVILLE....Plantation Hills: 4 bd-3 ba-1 liv-Form.Din	$ 127,900 2271
KENSINGTON....REDUCED: 4 bd-2.5 ba-1 liv-Seq. Mstr .	$ 124,500 2268
DOWNING.....Skyline Terrace: 4 bd-3.5 ba-1 liv	$ 122,500 2290
McCLINTIC...Very Private: 5 bd-3.5 ba-2 liv-Ingrnd Pool	$ 119,900 2236
CUTHBERT.....2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-2+Ac. Pecan Orchard ...	$ 119,900 2204
MARMON.....Kimber Lea: 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv	$ 119,900 2212
BERMUDA.....Beautifully Maintained: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv .	$ 118,500 2284
BERMUDA.....REDUCED: Cul-de-Sac: 3 bd-2.5 ba-2 liv ..	$ 117,500 2262
WHITMAN.....Whitehead Const: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 115,000 2209
SHANDON.....Storage Galore: 5 bd-3 ba-2 liv- Slt-Ins ..	$ 110,000 2235
AUBURN.....Great Home: 4 bd-2.5 ba-3 liv-Huge Rooms	$ 109,900 2291
WHITMAN.....By Whitehead: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Options	$ 107,950 2208
WHITNEY.....Beautifully Maintained: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 105,000 2225
GLENEAGLES	UNDER CONTRACT
TIMBERLANE	UNDER CONTRACT
WHITMAN.....New Whitehead Home: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 102,900 2208
CALDERA.....Beautiful Kahler Resale: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv .	$ 102,500 2253
HAYNES.....Townhome: 3 bd-2 ba- 2 liv-Great Access ..	$ 102,500 2211
ANDOVER.....Quiet Cul-de-Sac: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 99,950 2262
NOEL.....3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Updated A/C, roof	$ 99,900 2250
McCLINTIC.....Pretty Quiet Street: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 98,500 2281
ANDOVER .....REDUCED: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Gard.in Rm ...	$ 97,500 2216
GLENEAGLES...REDUCED: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-One Owner ..	$ 94,900 2267
PURPLE SAGE.....4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Seq. Mstr; Cul-de-Sac	$ 94,900 2269
HAYNES...REDUCED: DUPLEX: Ea. side=3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 91,000 2272
NOEL.....Beautifully Maintained: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Twnhme	$ 90,000 2278
EDGEMONT.....REDUCED: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Updated	$ 89,500 2209
GREEN TREE.....High Ceilings: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Wet Bar ..	$ 89,000 2279
2nd STREET (Plains) .... NEW LISTING	$ 89,000 2227
Updated/Nice: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Circle Drive-Plains, Texas	
GLENEAGLES....Excellent Condition: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 88,000 2285
BELLECHASSE....Light/Bright: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Hot Tub ..	$ 86,000 2201
DENGAR...Duplex: 3bd-2ba-1 liv(Dwn)+2bd-1ba-1 liv(Up)	$ 84,500 0302
SPENCE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 83,500 2206
New Whitehead: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Colors/Options Available	
HANVARD ..... NEW LISTING	$ 82,500 2248
Large/Open Living Areas: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Shop-Recent Carpet	
FLOYD ..... NEW LISTING	$ 81,500 2255
New in Fairway Park: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Colors/Options	
BEDFORD.....Beautiful Decor: 3 bd-2.5 ba-1 liv	$ 81,000 2205
OHIO.....Old Midland Charm: 3 bd-2 ba-2liv-Hrdwd Flrs .	$ 81,000 2228
HERITAGE	UNDER CONTRACT
JORDAN	UNDER CONTRACT
NELSON.....Non-quality: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-2 gar	$ 78,750 2244
E. I STREET....Nice/Updated: 4 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Great Area	$ 78,000 2230
GLENEAGLES.....Home Warranty: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 76,800 2260
SPENCE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 76,744 2256
New in Fairway Park: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Options/Colors	
SPENCE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 76,244 2200
New by Whitehead: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Options Available	
CASPER ..... NEW LISTING	$ 74,744 2251
New Whitehead: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Colors/Options-Pick Now!	
FLOYD ..... NEW LISTING	$ 74,244 2255
Whitehead Construction: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Colors	
CLOUDCROFT...REDUCED: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Cul-de-Sac .	$ 74,000 2273
WYLEA.....Immaculate: Much T/L-C: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 73,900 2243
BELLE GROVE	UNDER CONTRACT
LOUISIANA...Nice Home/Great Location: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 71,500 . Ad 2200
SPENCE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 70,225 2286
New Whitehead: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Colors/Options	
BROOKDALE	UNDER CONTRACT
EVERGLADE (Odessa)...3 bd-2 ba-Large Living Area	$ 68,400 2264
TREVINO ..... NEW LISTING	$ 68,225 2288
To be Built: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Colors/Options	
RIO GRANDE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 67,704 2263
New in Northgate: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Colors/Options Available	
GRAHAM ..... NEW LISTING	$ 66,704 2256
New Construction: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-By Whitehead	
RIO GRANDE ..... NEW LISTING	$ 66,704 2263
New Whitehead Home: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-May Pick Options	
COUNTRY CLUB.....REDUCED: Large Living: 3 bd-2 ba	$ 65,000 2207
STOREY....REDUCED: Totally Updated ! 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 65,000 2226
GRAHAM ..... NEW LISTING	$ 64,704 2266
Fairway Park New: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Pick Colors/Options	
PUEBLO	UNDER CONTRACT
CANADIAN.....Nice Northgate Home: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 63,500 2214
BRAZOS.....DRASTICALLY REDUCED: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv ...	$ 60,500 2222
BEDFORD....Doll House: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Home Warranty	$ 59,500 2283
RIC	UNDER CONTRACT
GOLF COURSE.....Flagstone Fireplace: 3 bd-1 ba-1 liv ..	$ 58,000 2223
PASADENA.....3 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Lots of Updating	$ 49,500 2257
THORNRIDGE...Cute!! 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Lots of Space	$ 49,000 2275
REEVES	UNDER CONTRACT
CUTHBERT.....Lots of Updating: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-2 gar	$ 44,900 2241
PASADENA.....REDUCED: 3 bd-1.5 ba-1 liv	$ 41,750 2277
CENTURY.....REDUCED: 3 bd- 1 ba-1 liv- Fireplace	$ 39,900 2265
ROOSEVELT....Gardener's Dream! 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 38,000 2224
ROOSEVELT.....Nice Home: 3 bd; 1 ba; 1 liv	$ 37,500 2261
ST. ANNA.....Mob.Home - Stanton - Near Schools	$ 36,000 2246
KEITH ST....Relaxing Front Porch: 3 bd-2 ba-Fireplace ..	$ 35,000 2280
WASHINGTON.....2 bd-1 ba-2 liv-Great Yard/Wtr Well ...	$ 33,500 2276
RAYMOND.....REDUCED: 3 bd-1 ba-1 liv-1 car garage ..	$ 31,500 2202
MARIANA	UNDER CONTRACT
ROOSEVELT.....Assumable: 3 bd-1 ba-1 liv	$ 30,900 2245
CHEROKEE.....Lots of updating-3 bd-1 ba-1 liv-1 gar .	$ 30,000 2249
STOREY	UNDER CONTRACT
CHECOTAH.....Mob.Home - 3 bd - 1.5 ba - Carport	$ 27,500 2239
WASHINGTON.....*AS IS*: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv-2 gar	$ 26,900 2270
TANGLEWOOD	UNDER CONTRACT
MONTY	UNDER CONTRACT
AVONDALE.....*AS IS*: 2 bd-1 ba-1 liv	$ 18,500 2217
THOMASON.....Bargain Buy: 3 bd-1 ba-1 liv	$ 18,450 2247
BOULDER....2 Condos: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Fireplace..... each	$ 18,000 2237
N. LEE.....Nice Beginner Home: 2 bd -1 ba -2 liv	$ 17,500 2219
BOULDER....2 Condos: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Fireplace... each	$ 15,000 2292

SUBURBAN PROPERTIES

S. CO RD 1200....Fine Country Living: 4 bd-3 ba-2 liv ...	$200,000 Ad 0303
S. CO RD 1218.....Apprx 20 Ac: 4 bd-2 ba-1 liv-Wkshp ..	$198,500 2220
S. CO RD 1126 ..... NEW LISTING	$175,000 2234
Greenwood: Built 1996: Tons of Built-ins: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv-Approx. 2 Ac	
E. CO RD 98	UNDER CONTRACT
S. CO RD 1114	UNDER CONTRACT
S. CO RD 1314.....Beautiful 2 Story: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$110,000 0304
E. CO RD 140.....Huge Metal Shop: 3 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 75,000 2287
S. CO RD 1138...Very Nice Greenwood-3 bd-2 ba-1 liv .	$ 74,500 2229
E. CO RD 107	UNDER CONTRACT
E. CO RD 104....REDUCED: Grwd - 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv	$ 66,900 2252
S. CO RD 1210.....2 Farmhses: 3 bd-2 ba-2 liv- 3+ Ac. ...	$ 60,000 2240
E. CO RD 96..... Greenwood: 2 bd-2 ba-1 liv	$ 22,500 2289

Rhonda (Sam) House	699-2163	Karen Foster, CRS	697-4434
Lynn Walker	520-2249	Debbie Hamilton	684-7236
Jackie Sessom	694-6170	Judy Thornton	697-5748
Barbara Rhodes	699-6191	Kathy Phillips	699-6297
Wanda Cannon	694-2736	Cheryl Parrish	682-6085
Jane Petree	683-1450	John McKinney	697-2885
Caroline Ganem	697-6423	Bruce Bowman	697-3412
Betty Hicks	697-5685	Shanna Webster	699-2612
Beverly Klempnauer	685-6833		

Out-of-town and out-of-state residents feel free to use our toll free phone - (800) 658-6376.

TALKING ADS ?

When you list your home with us, and we will assign a 'talking ad' number for interested buyers to access when they call our "800" Hotline number. Buyers can call anytime, day or night. When they call, they will hear a detailed description of your home, the price and the benefits of living there...all from the comfort of their own easy chair--they don't need a computer and they can call from any telephone. Advertising can be very expensive. That's why we've added this format to our ads to make it convenient and pressure-free for a buyer looking for a home to get information about your home 24 hours a day.

LOTS AND LAND

RESTHAVEN	2 Spaces	$ 800 ea
RESTHAVEN	2 Spaces	$ 975 ea
HAMBY	12 Lots	$ 1,500 ea
WALNUT LN	2 Blocks	$ 3,500 ea
MIDWAY COUNTRY EST.	9 Lots	$ 4,000 ac
ALAMO DR	2 Lots	$ 4,500 ea
GARDEN LN	2 Blocks	$ 4,500 ea
BOWIE DR	1 Lot	$ 4,500
NEELY	3 Lots	$ 5,000 ea
DOUGLAS	Great Location	$ 10,000
S. CR 1085	Mob.Hm.Allowed	$ 18,000
SCHARBAUER & "T"		$ 21,000
N. CR 1130	Apprx 25 Ac	$ 30,000
E. CR 307	Apprx 21.5 Ac	$ 39,800
Greenwood School District		
WHITMAN	Apprx 11 Ac	$ 130,000

COMMERCIAL

WOLFCAMP CIR	2 Lots	$ 20,000
N. BIG SPRING	Zoned LR2	$ 45,000
N. LAMESA RD	Zoned IP3	$ 125,000
I-20	Ind. Park/Apprx 19 Ac	$ 255,000
I-20	Ind. Park/Apprx 22 Ac	$ 295,000

OPEN HOUSE TODAY

3:00 - 5:00
5010 Whitman
4 bedroom - 2 bath - 2 living
New 2 Story by Whitehead

May the peace and beauty of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year!

KAY SUTTON REALTORS

THE Home Selling Team

730 Suburban Property

✔ GREENWOOD- Next to School. 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1994 doublewide. 10 x 12 storage building, large covered porch. 570-0770.

740 Out of Town Property

COUNTRY LIVING AT ROBERT LEE!

9 year old 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick on 1.7 fenced and landscaped acres. Over 1,800 sq. ft. living area, full length porch, double garage, fireplace, storage building, many extras! 10 minutes from Lake Spence. $87,500. Days (915) 453-2623, nights (915) 484-2456.

750 Lots and Acreage

OWNER FINANCED. 1 Acre, waterwell, septic, $300 down, SCR 1156 off ECR 140. Directions. 683-1648.

SIXTYWEST Ranch Estates- 2 1/2 to 20 acre lots conveniently located in paved cul-de-sac, 2 1/2 miles west of High Sky Children's Ranch. Guaranteed water, good soil, owner may carry. $13,620 to $84,872. Please call Joanne Langston, Langston Realtors, 683-8386 or 685-0400.

20 ACRES IN GREENWOOD. $2,000 down and $330.40/ month. 682-0470 Owner- Broker.

5 + ACRES With Water Well. 1/2 mile South Midland on Cottonflat Road (CR 1200). $500 down, $229 month. 685-1875 or 683-3699.

760 Farms & Ranches

330 ACRE FARM / GRASS

near Spur, Texas. In CRP for 1997. Irrigation potential. Quail & Dove. Might split. $275 an acre. (505) 323-7169.

FREE INFORMATION for those interested in owning spectacular 2 to 5 acres in the Hill Country near Wimberley, San Marcos, Canyon Lake & Guadalupe River. Call toll-free for information, 888-842-5263.

395 ACRE COTTON FARM, Dawson County. 12 miles south of Lamesa. $435 per acre. Cash only. Contact 915-682-7346.

GLASSCOCK COUNTY. 2,560 Acres. Nice home, large barn, irrigarted farm land, improved pastures, owner will divide. Lockhart Real Estate, (210) 234-3415.

760 Farms & Ranches

Terrell County Properties
743 Acres. Old ranch house, well, metal barn, fenced, Rio Grande river access. S. of Dryden. Mule Deer, Blue Quail, Javelina. $89,500.
450 Acres. Secluded Acres, end of road, borders 2 huge ranches, good canyons & great W. TX hunting. $99/Acre.
525 Acres. Mule Deer, Whitetail, Blue Quail, Javelina. Easy access. $99/Acre.
20 Year Owner Financing Available
1-800-876-9720

770 Resort Property

LAST CHANCE! 7.470 Acres-Ruidoso, N.M. This 7.470 acre tract has beautiful trees & scenic views. Just 15 minutes from Ruidoso. Won't last long at $38,900! Properties of the SW- Call today! 1-800-RUIDOSO Ext 3136.

THE RIVER runs thru 5.661 Acres. Rare chance for affordable waterfront properties with over 200 ft of historic Rio Bonita frontage. Beautiful ponderosa pines, Scenic Sierra Blanca view. Paved roads, electricity, telephones, river park. 15 Minutes North of Ruidoso. Just reduced from $69,900 to $62,900 with terms. Better hurry! Call today! Properties of the SW, 1-800-RUIDOSO, Ext 3142.

FOR SALE BY OWNER- Very attractive 2 story brick lake house on Lake Brownwood, in excellent condition. approximately 1,300 square feet, central air conditioning, all built- ins, 2 full baths, brick carport and garage, boat dock with sun deck and boat stall, good trees. Partially furnished, good location for West Texas hunters who have leases, great second home or company resort for employees. $94,000. Call (915) 643-5566 or (915) 646-7875.

NEW CONSTRUCTION- 2,240 sq ft. Beautiful 3 bedroom and office or 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, large deck, lots of trees! Low maintenance. Metal roof and siding. Priced to sell! $159,500. Call (505) 257-4130 or (505) 420-2080

COLORADO CITY lake front, 14x80 mobile home, 16x45 porch, boat dock, $46,000 negotiable. Call 368-0463.

780 Business Property

OFFICE Complex. Great multi or single tenant complex. 2 building with 27 offices, reception, break rooms, covered parking and large fenced storage yard. $170,000. Please call Joanne Langston, Langston Realtors, 683-8386 or 685-0400.

★ MCKENZIE- OWEN ★
Commercial & Investment
★ (915) 684-6278 ★

780 Business Property

TWO MOBILE Home Parks, 1 full 14 spaces (6 owned) + 3 bdrm house on 4.4 acres, also 26 spaces on 19 acres, (3 owned homes), barn, pond. Owners may finance.

DOCTOR'S Office For Sale: 2,900 sq. ft. or 1,000 sq. ft. 1 block to MMH.

2501 W. ILLINOIS Club-Restaurant. 2,250 sq. ft., 1 block to MMH. $70,000

OLD Tru-Value Hardware Bldg. 14,000 sq. ft. Near downtown.

LONGTIME established Club/Restaurant, Wall St., possible owner finance. Call

SMALL office building- downtown, 600 N. Carrizo- $45,000.

1701 N. BIG SPRING. 2,400 sq. ft. offices. Make offers-Owner may finance.
Don Roderick-Broker Assoc.
Langston Realtors 685-0400

COMMERCIAL BUILDING and Yard with 1.33 acres on Garden City Hwy and I-20 in Midland. Warehouse, offices, shop, storage, large living quarters, fenced yard and good parking. $78,000. 570-9645.

W. INDUSTRIAL LOOP: Over 9,800 sq. ft., warehouse & offices. 7 overhead doors, 2 overhead lifts. Lots of storage!! $160,000. For more information call Lanier and Co. 682-1144.

INVESTOR: Buy my building for $33,000 and I'll lease back. Owner/ Broker, 682-0470.

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HomeWEB

SANDY SCOTT
ABR, CRS, GRI
Relocation Specialist
684-0370 Ext. 128
or 686-6323

NEW $60'S

Beautiful immaculate home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, open kitchen/den area, formal living area or 4th bedroom or study/office plus 2 car garage. Only.....$81,900

NEW LISTING

Beautiful Kahler 4 bedroom or 3 bedroom plus office/study with 2 1/2 baths, 2 living areas, formal dining, great kitchen and 3 car garage. Over 2500 sq. ft. Seller to pay 1 years Homeowners dues.....$132,500

NEW IN GREENHILL

Wonderful Kahler 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious living area plus formal dining. Beautiful kitchen/dining area. Much for little. Qualifying assumable loan w/low equity.....$80,000

BILLIE SHERMAN, ABR, CCLC, GRI
Sales Associate/Relocation Specialist
697-5545 or 682-8820, Ext. 140
"Supporting Children's Miracle Network With Every Closing"

BEST WISHES FOR A
Happy Holiday Season
AND THE NEW YEAR

Deborah Pierce
520-2112
682-8820, X 171

GET MOVING - JUST CALL DEBORAH TODAY!
REDUCED! REDUCED! REDUCED!

2801 PRINCETON $79,900
3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath contemporary. Can be non-qualifying.

3609 MONCLAVE $89,900
Gulf shore townhome/ hot tub/ 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and 2 car garage.

dpierce@Internetglobal jcom

CLEMMIE SORGE
CRS, ABR
Relocation Specialist
682-8820, Ext. 142

May All Your Christmas Wishes and Dreams Come True, Now and All The Year Through. Have A Wonderful Christmas and A Happy New Year!!

HOWDY!
Welcome To West Texas
Take A Load Off Your Shoulders
Buying or Selling
Call CLAYTON Today!!

Clayton Alexander
682-8820 or 682-9494

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
800 SINCLAIR
Room to Roam with 3 living areas, 3 BR, 2 bath, corner lot & water well. Updates in 1994 include heat & air conditioning & carpet.

Clayton Alexander, 682-9494

RE/MAX
Night before Christmas

'Twas the night before
Christmas when all
of us thought
This year '96 with such
blessings was fraught!
We're hanging the stockings
and looking at lights,
The Skyline of Midland,
what a glorious sight!
To live in West Texas where
folks are the best
To work here at RE/MAX
we're doubly blessed.
So many new friends we have
recently found,
We've shared time together and
through it we're bound.
We laughed with you, ate with
you, sold you a house
And hoped, prayed and wished
you would not find a mouse
Or termites or something that
leaks in the night,
A happy homeowner's a
wonderful sight!
And so as we look to a
Happy New Year,
Accept the best wishes from
all of us here.
We're thankful for family,
clients and friends
We pray that our freedom
forever extends.
And, we want you to know we
are never ashamed
Of Jesus our Lord for whom
Christmas is named!

written by Patsy Brice
retired RE/MAX Broker, Associate

DEBORAH POSSON
Office: 682-8820
Home: 683-0807
Mobile: 528-1130

DON'T MISS THIS DEAL!
NON-QUALIFYING ASSUMPTION
1305 McDONALD

LOW EQUITY! ONLY $763. A MONTH
3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath.

LINDA SMITH
682-8820, Ext. 152
Relocation Specialist

Season's Greetings to my Customers and Clients
Enjoy this season with family and friends.
Remember how blessed we are.
Merry Christmas to you all!

When you expect only the best in life you very often get it!

LAVONNE JOHNSON
Relocation Specialist
682-8820, ext. 137
694-0444

TWO LIVING AREAS-Delightful living room and formal dining, the den has high ceilings and rock fireplace, all rooms are large. This home is located on a corner lot with lots of storage and workshop.....$82,000

LIVE AMONG THE TREES-In Older Midland, lots of privacy, pretty back-yard, has deck and hot tub. This affordable 3 bed, 2 bath home is priced to sell.....$79,900

A LOT OF CLASS-Stylish town home built by Mike Jackson. It's hard to describe because it is so unique. It is new construction and has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas, beautiful master bath.....$113,500

WEDGEWOOD PARK-A truly roomy 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living area, one is a spacious family room for great gatherings. Nice backyard with lots of trees.....$76,500

Supporting Children's Miracle Network

Jeannie & Victoria Prints
682-8820 ext. 134
Victoria 687-5636 or
Jeannie 699-1641

#9 Hialeah...Reduced!
Saddle Club Estates...5BR, 2 liv, 2 din, 2 FP's, pool/cabana.....$299,000
4901 Rustle Tr...
Mediterranean style, 4BR, 3.5 BA, 2 Liv, built-ins, Fabulous!!.....$269,000
4807 Pine Meadow...
One-of-a-kind 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 liv, sunken living, custom kitchen...$169,900
2703 Caldera...
New Const., 3BR, 2BA, formal dining, high ceilings, seq. master.$105,000
2511 Castleford...
Gorgeous townhome! 2BR, 2BA, atrium, hobby room, Perfect!.....$89,900
2405 Princeton...
3BR, 2BA, 2 living, dinin, master has FP & hot tub, Great area.....$79,900
3811 Sunerest...
Repairs done! 3BR, 2BA, 2 liv, 2 car gar, lg kitchen, mature trees...$59,500
3516 W. Louisiana...
3BR, 2BA, 2 dining or 2 living, nice home, quiet location.....$59,000
1106 Carrizo...Reduced
Duplex-Both are 2BR, 1BA, FP's, 1 car gar. W/D hookups.....$39,900
4003 Graceland...
3BR, 2BA, large living, FP, garage, ref. air, nice!.....$37,900
1003 North B...
Live in one & rent the other...2BR/1BA, guest house 1BR/1BA.....$35,000

Midland's Premier Mother-Daughter Team

PREMIER GOLF COURSE HOME

Located on #9 North tee box, James Morris resale built with quality & superb taste. 5 bedrooms (each with connecting baths) luxuriously large living, private study, 5 fireplaces, den & many, many built-ins. Just $339,900 and Ready for immediate occupancy.

Vicky Garrett

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ABR, GRI
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or 697-0490
RELOCATION SPECIALIST

PRICED TO SELL!!

3206 GOLF COURSE-Attractive 3 BR, 2 living area home located in Fannin school district. Good storage, oversized 2 car garage. New heater, plus frig., washer and dryer stay - a value at.....$66,900

Buying or Selling...Call Donna

KAY PEDERSON
682-8820, Ext. 157
or 682-4922
Certified Residential Specialist

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! Fresh paint, carpet - 3/2/2 Gourmet kitchen with island.....$78,500
A SPECIAL GIFT!! Opportunity to move into the right house at the right price - 3/2/2 fp, Northgate addition. Value priced at.....$88,900
GREENTREE FOR $85,000! Values like this don't last - 3/2/2, new carpet 10/96. 2 living areas.
DEE-LIGHTFUL!! You'll be surprised - 3/2 - Greenwood Schools Totally remodeled in '92.....$89,900
START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!! Convenient location, fp, workshop, hardwood floors and more - don't miss out.....$49,900

JO BRADEN
CRB, CRS, GRI
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Ext. 159
"Dedicated To Helping You"

WARWICK-Pristine condition - brick floors, trees.....$297,500
ASSUMABLE FHA-3 bedroom, 2 living, Lee High.....$58,500
COUNTRY LIVING-91 acres, 3 bedrooms, bar, guest space.....$45,000
MEADOW PARK-fabulous 4 bedroom, 2 story, decking.....$124,900
MOCKINGBIRD LANE-4 acres.....$65,000

Merry Christmas

KAREN CZECH, GRI
Relocation Specialist
682-8820, Ext. 131
or 685-4028
ALL QUALITY CZECH-ED

✔ 1610 NORTH C STREET ✔
MLS #13583-Updated "Old Midland" charm. French doors open to a great room, loaded with rich woods, built-ins, and parquet wood floors. 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, and a COOK'S KITCHEN, with 3 ovens!! From the formal living located informally off the kitchen, look past the 30' covered porch at a 16x36 heated pool. Spaciousness and Quality throughout. $99,900

✔ **ON MORNING GLORY**-in Gardendale - 5 AC, MH hook-ups, 2 WW, 3 Septic, pipe fencing, pipe framed stalls, – Will divide - Great water & soil.....$60,000
✔ **ON BUTTERCUP**- in Gardendale - 5 AC, 3/2.5/4+ cinder block, pipe fenced, detached building with hot tub. BIG REDUCTIONS!!.....UNDER CONTRACT
✔ **2502 COUNTRY CLUB**-Excellent potential, but over-looked.....$49,900
✔ **4601 PARKDALE**-3/2/1, large corner lot, detached 1 bdrm apartment, lots of updating, B-I-G kitchen, bonus room, A/C being added.....$59,900

Call me for a free market analysis. Put your home on my list of Quality Czech-ed Homes Put on a "SOLD" sign

---

IF YOU ARE MOVING...

CRP
ACROSS TOWN
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
AROUND THE WORLD

CALL A SPECIALIST:
MARILYN JO SMITH, ABR, CRP, CRS
RELOCATION DIRECTOR / CO-OWNER
682-8820 ext. 143 or 694-0377

HANG WREATH HERE Warmth of the Holiday Season enhanced in the beauty of this custom built home. 4 BD, 3 LA, 3 BA. Fabulous gourmet kitchen to prepare all of your Christmas recipes. Make plans to view this lovely home.....$259,900
HANG MISTLETOE HERE Celebrate life's good times in a most delightful new home. You will be proud to entertain in this fabulous open kitchen/den area with a gorgeous fireplace and built-ins. 5 BD, 2 LA, MBR is full of surprises. Call for your personal showing.....$239,900
EXQUISITE ORNAMENT Look no further for the perfect Christmas. This nostalgic home will fill your every need. 2 large LA, 4 BD, 3 BA, sequestered guest room. Nice kitchen. Large back yard with a storage building. Make plans to see.....$119,000
UP ON THE ROOFTOP Traditional, updated, 2-story on quiet cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, large detached garage.....$119,900
SANTA'S FAVORITE CHIMNEY Loves sliding into large comfy den of this 4 BD, 3.5 BA, home. Enjoy cookies and milk in great kitchen with breakfast nook. Separate formal dining room. Excellent covered patio overlooking pool and play area.....$125,000
WORLD'S LARGEST RIBBON should be wrapped around this delightful and surprising patio home. Large country ktichen with island and tiled flooring. Huge living area with fireplace and built-ins, 3 BD, 2.5 BA, office/hobby room and sauna. Call today to see this comfortable home.....$119,900
DECK THESE HALLS Welcome loved ones to this very neat 2 story home. Plenty of room for all. 3 BD, 2 LA with formal dining. Pretty back yard with a game pool. Call for your personal showing.....$116,900
O'CHRISTMAS TREE How lovely it will look in your spacious 4 BD, 2 LA, 2.5 home. Low maintenance yard. Cul-de-sac location. Call to see today.....$91,500
SLEIGH RIDE BARGAIN You'll get carried away with excitement whey you choose this 3 BD, 2 BA, 2 LA home. Located on a corner lot, even a parking pad for Santa's sleigh.....$54,900
FOLLOW THE NORTH STAR to your home in Andrews, TX. Great country home with 3 BD, 2 BA and a sunken living area with a corner fireplace to hang those stocking. Call for your personal showing.....$54,900
JOLLY OL'VALUE St. Nick's been around, he knows homes like this can be created into your magical wonderland. This fixer-upper has 3 BD, 2 LA, 2 BA, 2 garages and 2 lots with a fenced back yard.....$32,000
ROOM FOR SANTA'S TAKE OFF County Road 118. 2 acres with water well, septic system and outbuildings.....$17,500

RELOCATION HOTLINE CALL
1-800-299-0377
Marilyn Jo Smith, Relocation Specialist
Licensed Assistant, Patty Frizell, GRI, ext. 139

NORMA BARNES
Relocation Specialist
Multi-Million $ Producer
682-8820 Ext. 169
or 683-1334

YOUR PERSONAL REALTOR FOR LIFE!

5107 GREENTREE-Walls of Windows, Beautiful townhouse in Greentree with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, huge rooms, fabulous kitchen, totally redecorated. It's stunning!.....$147,500
2509 BELLECHASE-Stop Circling Ads! This 4 bedroom home has it all! It's light and lovely with fireplace in the master, wet bar, pool, just perfect and it's.....$105,000!!
2311 GULF-Just listed! On a fantastic tree lined street. We have a one owner, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 2 living areas, fireplace, formal dining, in super condition. Wonderful established area with a great yard!.....$105,000

DENISE UNDERWOOD
697-1799 or 682-8820 #164
Relocation Specialist
Broker Associate

Denise's tip for the Week!
Nationwide, Real Estate Companies are fast providing on stop shopping services for buyers. RE/MAX now offers Momentum Mortgage to give excellent service of Mortgage loans. Easier on you & an efficient method of business for all.

★★★ Best Buy of the Week ★★★
2500 Cimmaron 3-2-2 at $71,400. Great area & Price!

Let Me Sell Your House Too!

NEW LISTINGS

4603 Teakwood	$159,900
3903 Northfield	$148,500
4007 Lehigh	$120,000
2003 Oaklawn	$119,900
5215 San Antonio	$69,900
2405 Whittle Way	$66,500
3622 Andrews Hwy	$61,900
3801 Dublin	$59,000
1106 N. Carrizo	$39,900

PRICE REDUCTIONS

4802 Island Dr	$339,900
4008 Baybrook	$263,000
11901 W. Co. Rd. 58	$235,000
4808 Sunshine Pkwy	$73,500
4510 Irwin Ct	$59,500

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Sr. Loan Officer

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DEBBIE
RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU!

FANTASTIC HOMES

ASHWOOD CT.-Outstanding 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 LA, FD, seq. master, seq. 4th great for office/guest. Super kitchen with island and gobs of cabinets. Cafe style patio off breakfast area. Loads of windows, 3 cg. Pick your colors NOW!.....$191,000
N. "K" Fabulous...New tile, carpet, kitchen, skylights, crown molding, ready to move in. Wonderful country kitchen, 2 large living areas, plus bonus room, 3 BR, 2 BA, totally redone. Unbelievable inside. a Must See!!!.....$98,500
PRESTON-Townhome living at it's best...Spectacular...kitchen updated with tile & counter tops, pantry, breakfast area, FD, fireplace in den, 2 huge bedrooms with own baths, updated master bath with double sinks, loads of storage.....$64,500

Have A Very Merry Christmas from the Hatfield's to You!

CALL THE HATFIELD'S **684-0369** **1-800-694-4663**

JOEL K. OLDHAM, III
ABR, GRI
Relocation Specialist
"The Aggie Realtor"
682-8820, Ext. 155

NEW LISTINGS!!!
MIDLAND
Whittle Way, 3B/R, 2B. Doll House in Arbor Park. In Mint Condition. Must see to Appreciate. ONLY $86,900.
ODESSA
Dublin, 3 B/R, 2BA. Corner lot. 2 Liv. areas, with fireplace. New paint, new carpet, new electric range. ONLY $69,900.
STANTON
W. Broadway, Vacant land. 1 City Block, consisting of 2+ Acres. Across from Stanton Care Center. ONLY $19,900.
I SELL MIDLAND
One Yard at a Time!!!
May Everyone Have The Merriest Christmas, EVER!!!!
My e-mail address: joeloldham@ppsi2000.net

ANITA NOLES,
ABR, CRP, CRS, GRI
BROKER/CO-OWNER
682-8820, ext. 163
OR 694-5255 CRP

NEW LISTING!

$148,500

DASH THROUGH THE SNOW...to this fabulous 4 bedroom beauty in coveted Trinity Estates with all the extras including in-ground pool and spa. Jewel-tone colors and gorgeous wallcoverings throughout. 2 living areas + formal dining, 3 full baths. Home backs up to the park affording homeowner more privacy. Call for more!

$204,000

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN...to see this beautiful McPherson new construction in Midland's exclusive golf course neighborhood. Don't miss the 4 large bedrooms, one of which is sequestered with it's own bath. 2 living areas, and 3 baths plus study, gourmet kitchen, 4 car garage and FREE country club membership! **GREENTREE NORTH.**

$79,900

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER... Will fall in love with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage in quiet neighborhood. Has tile floor in kitchen, berber carpet, vaulted ceilings in living, sequestered master, breakfast room with bay window and freshly painted interior! **WYDEWOOD ESTATES.**

$52,500

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS... My true love gave to me this roomy 4 bedroom, 2 bath with 3 living areas! Just a little TLC will give you a home you can love AND live in. Bank owned-will look at all offers! **DELLWOOD**

$32,500

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!... Three bedrooms, 2 bath red brick cottage-has 2 car garage, corner fireplace, large living area and kitchen with all the extras for more! **PERMIAN ESTATES.**

CALL ANITA NOLES TODAY!
RELOCATION HOTLINE: 800-583-3801
JANET OLEARY, ASSISTANT, EXT. 168

"I Support Children's Miracle Network With Each Closed Transaction"

MARY JO DRURY
GRI
Sales Associates
Relocation Specialist
682-8820, Ext. 153
or 684-4268

A Wonderful and Merry Christmas To All My Clients, Customers and Friends. May All Of You and Your Families Have A Blessed Christmas.

Mary Jo Drury

---

joyce brickey
ABR, CRS, GRI, BROKER, ASSOC.
Relocation Specialist
682-3191 or 682-8820
1-800-299-0376

2200 HUMBLE 5 BR'S, 2 1/2 BATHS, SWIMMING POOL, both formals separate, + family den, laundry shoot from 2nd floor into the utility rm. Located in the "Heart of Old Midland" Don't miss out on this one!!.....$159,900

It's a SOLD world out there when you list with Joyce!

"I Support Children's Miracle Network With Each Closed Transaction"

RUTH YOUNG
CRS, GRI, CRP, L.T.G.
Relocation Specialist
(915) 682-Ruth (7884) Ext. 154
CRP 1-800-658-9684

"IT'S THE EXPERIENCE"

JUST LISTED -in Greentree, 3 or 4 bedroom.....$159,900
MOVE UP -3 BR, 2 B, 2 car garage plus 2 car C/P.....$129,900
ACREAGE & HOUSE -255 acres.....$250,000
IT'S NEW & READY -4 BR, 2 B, 2 liv. areas, great kitchen.....$195,000
AWAY FROM THE CROWDS -3 BR, 1 acre, 4 horse stalls, w/w.$39,900
COMFORT YOU CAN AFFORD -3 BR, 1 B, 1 car garage.....$21,500

KIRK FRENCH, ABR, GRI
682-8820 Ext. 141
or 699-0969

"Go With The Best"

Merry Christmas

LOTS OF SPACE FOR THE MONEY-You need to see this three bedroom, two bathroom, two living area home with over 2000 sq. ft. for $59,500. Call for details.
3707 FAIRHAVEN-Best buy in Fairmont Park! This large home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two living areas, two fireplaces and a hot tub. Listed at $84,500!!
2602 EMERSON-This can be non-qualifying!!

JAN MELTON
Relocation Specialist
684-3864 or 682-2422
682-8820 ext. 125
ABR, CRP Broker/Assoc.

MOCKINGBIRD HEIGHTS: Very special 4BR, 3BA, 2 living & dining.....$269,000
POLO ESTATES: -4BR, 2.5BA, 3 car GA, Great plan.....$174,900
TRINITY ESTATES: Excellent Area. 3 br, 2 ba townhome, new carpet & tile.$89,000
FANNIN TERRACE: Cute 3 BR, 2 BA w/2 living areas, many updates.....$89,000
MISSION ESTATES: 2+ acre lots - Build your dream home - 3000+ sq. ft.....$40,000

CALL JAN MELTON 684-3864 or 682-2422

DEC 22 1996

Langston REALTORS

LANGSTON WALL
1908 W. WALL
682-9495

LANGSTON NORTH
LOOP 250 & GARFIELD IN THE COLONNADE
685-0400

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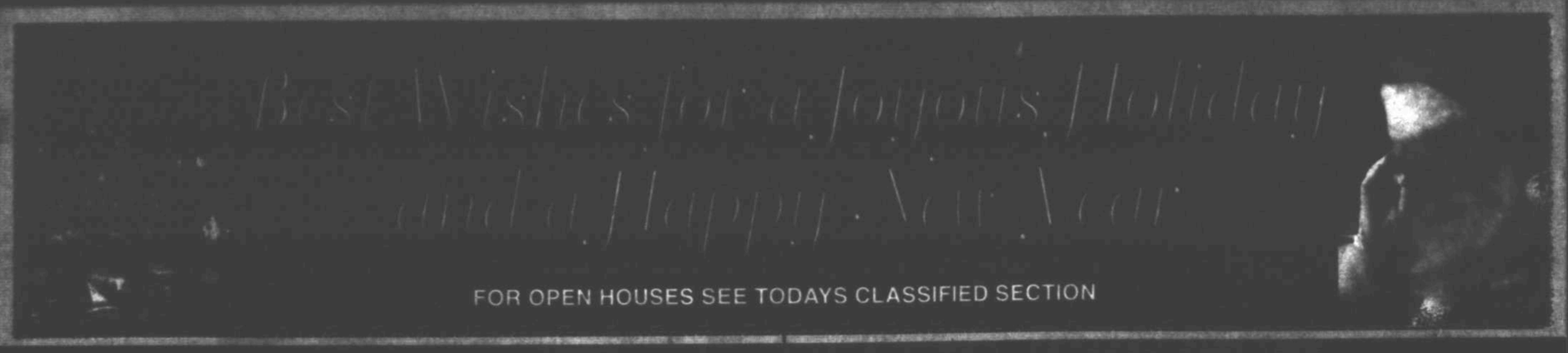
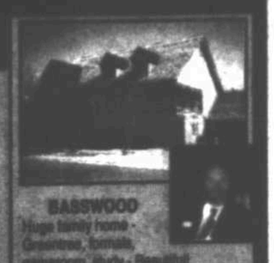
OPEN HOUSES-PICK UP A MAP AT OUR NORTH OFFICE & COME SEE!



FOR OPEN HOUSES SEE TODAYS CLASSIFIED SECTION



BASSWOOD
Huge family home - Greenway, formals, gameroom, study - Beautiful
$75,000
Call Sheet Done

SADDLE CLUB
Stunning 2-story, great master with 2 baths, study, super sunroom, pool and tennis court, now
$00,000
Call Joanne Langston

HARVARD
Not the usual Spacious 3BR w/3FP and guest house.
$0,000
Call Joanne Langston

IMPERIAL
Incredible one-owner home! Lovely, immaculate and spacious. Game room/fun room
$0,500
Call Sue Leengrich

LAWACA
Holiday cheer begins here! Get comfy by the FP in this larger 3/2 in N. Gate. Too good to last!
$0,000
Call Tamara Rogers

E. CO. RD. 106
Greenwood Addition! Super nice 3 BR on 1/2 acres. Much new in last 2 years
$0,000
Call Pat Paxton

WESTERN
Older Midland. 3 roomy bedrooms, spa, workshop.
$4,900
Call Gloria Lott

BAUMANN
Great custom built home on corner lot, lots of new and updated
$0,000
Call Michelle Hardin

GOLF COURSE
Owner wants fast sale and considering paying buyer's costs.
$0,000
Call Cynthia Brown

UNDER $100,000...SMART BUYS...LOVELY HOMES...PERFECT FOR YOU!

LONOKE-Great low maintenance TH, security system. High ceilings $0,750
HARVARD-Not the usual! Spacious 3BR w/3FP and guest house $0,000
HAYNES-Spacious TH. Enclosed patio, skylights, great master & bath $0,500
CRESTWOOD-Patio style TH. Small backyard, low maintenance front, 3/3 ..... $7,000
LAWSON-Old Midland charmer. Large baths, two master bedrooms, updated $8,500
JEFFERSON-Pride of ownership is evident everywhere. Park-like yard w/hot tub & gazebo $5,000
COLLUME-Large 4BR with 2 LAs and formal dining on corner lot, priced right $5,000
CUTHBERT-Expansive not expensive! 3 or 4BR in Old Midland. 3 baths, TLC shows $3,500
HARVARD-Great 3BR/2BA, hardwood floors and lots of windows $2,500
DURANT-Huge 3BR with wonderful "great room"/kitchen combination $2,500
BEDFORD-Location, location, location. Old Midland home w/loads of charm! $0,900
PHILLIP PL-Seq master, pool, walking distance from schools, new heat & air $5,900
IMPERIAL-Cheerful 4 BR. Walk to schools, church and shopping $0,000
O-Spacious & wonderful TH w/high ceilings, built-ins & tile floors. 2BR/2BA. Owner agent $4,900
FRONTIER-Darling 3BR in Fannin Terrace. Beautiful drive-up and backyard $4,500
WESTERN-Gracious 2 story TH in "Old Midland". 3/2/studio & den/guest $2,500
MOGFORD-Extra special. Very well kept, nice living areas and beautiful yard $9,900
NORTHRUP-Santa Fe style, 2 patios, big trees. Large LR & Mstr, xtra parking $9,500
DENGAR-Sensational location on this freshly painted home near schools, shopping $9,900
SHANDON-3BR/ 2 1/2 BA w/lots of storage. Detached 2-car garage w/shop $9,000
TAMMY COVE-Charming 3BR w/in-ground spa, plantation shutters $8,500
WESTERN-Older Midland. 3 roomy bedrooms, spa, workshop $4,900
CAMARIE-Spotless & updated in many areas. Storage building & RV parking $4,500

SPARKS-Beautiful home in Old Midland. Lots of storage and great landscaping $2,000
CUTHBERT-4 or 3BR, FP in big MBR, formal dining and formal living $9,900
BAUMANN-Great custom built home on corner lot, lots of new and updated $9,900
MCDONALD-Great house in Superior, sunroom and workshop, good drive-up, trees $9,900
SEABOARD-Great 3 bedroom home with 2 living areas and large trees $7,500
LANHAM-Non-qualifying assumption. 3/2, large covered patio, established area $7,000
GOLF COURSE-Quaint home, lots of charm - park-like backyard is a definite plus $9,900
SHANDON-4BR/2BA/2LA, price to sell. Privacy fence to street $5,000
ANETTA-Immaculate, updated, gorgeous landscaping & patios; 3/2 w/2 living $3,000
GARFIELD-4BR/3BA/2 living & 2 dining, large yard, cinder block fence $2,500
BOYD-Delightful 3BR with lots of storage, open kitchen/den, 2LAs $2,500
SPRUCE-3BR/2BA, energy efficient home $1,900
DENGAR-Fannin Addition. 3/2/1, "Huge" kit/dining. Extra 3-car parking slab $1,000
GOLF COURSE-Wonderful location! Zoned residential house is to be sold with property as is $0,000
PALMER-Terrific 5BR/2BA home in Fairway Park $8,500
MONTY-Wonderful w/vaulted ceilings, FP, French doors, built-in bookcases, study & much more $8,900
WADLEY #61-New carpet, paint & tile. Like new! May consider owner fin., lease purchase $7,500
FRONTIER-Great price on this 3BR/2BA, Fannin area. Large 2-car garage w/workshop $7,300
WADLEY L14-Enjoy peaceful, low maintenance living. 3/2, bring offers $5,000
NEELY-3BR/2BA, fresh paint outside and some inside, pretty yard $4,900
TENNESSEE-4BR/2BA, non-qualifying assumption $2,500
CROCKETT-Outstanding 3BR home, fresh paint throughout, bay window and FP $1,900

RIC-Spotless 3BR/2BA, white tile, new paint. Hurry! $1,000
STANOLIND-Generous repair & decorating allowance for buyer to work with! SLAs $1,000
MONTY-Cozy home, close to school, recently repainted inside, 3BR/2BA $0,000
LOUISIANA-Sweet & Low. Sweet house, low price. 3 roomy bedrooms, 2LAs $0,000
PARKDALE-Available for HIP program, updating, new carpet & paint, huge MBR $9,500
DEWBERRY-Loads of extras!! Low maintenance yard, extra parking in front $7,000
SHANDON-Value in the land, adjacent to land on Wadley, across from Clay Deale $5,000
THORNRIDGE-Lots of updating in this 3BR/2BA. Tree-shaded lot $4,000
IDLEWILDE-Spotless 2/2 condo. Newer heating/AC $3,000
THOMAS-Perfectly affordable 3BR/1.5BA. Gorgeous landscaping $5,000
CONNELL-Space galore with lots of extras, such as workshop, satellite dish and water well $9,000
ILLINOIS-Close to schools, shopping. Large backyard, lots of closets $6,000
COWDEN-Perfectly charming 2BR/1BA. Possible owner finance $5,000
KENTUCKY-Well maintained 3BR w/lots of closet space. Cute, cute $1,000
CANYON-Lots of new. Thermal windows and ceiling fans in every room $9,500
MARIANA-Great little home with a great little price $9,900
LINCOLN-3BR/2BA $0,000
JACKSON-2BR house plus bonus corner lot $0,000
LORAINE-Clean and neat 2BR/1BA - sold "as is" $9,500
CUTHBERT-Owner anxious, Old Midland home, priced to sell $7,000

$100,000-$200,000...BEAUTIFUL HOMES YOU'LL WANT TO SEE! CALL TODAY!

MEADOWVIEW-Beautiful country estate on 2.3 acres. 4BR/3 1/2 BA. Located on paved, quiet cul-de-sac 199,000
HATHAWAY-New home by Fred Nobles in beautiful Grassland Estates. Call for details 189,900
TEAKWOOD-Fabulous 4BR home in Greentree, enormous room! Outstanding kitchen 189,000
EDGEBROOK-Like new! 4/3 w/2LA & 3C garage. Plantation shtrs. Large mstr w/Jacuzzi tub 184,900
CASTLEFORD-Super home w/tremendous quality! 4/4 1/2, 3 FP, gourmet kitchen. Unique features abound in this one 182,000
HUMBLE-Lots of space for large family. 4BR + office, wood floors under upstairs carpet 169,900
HILLTOP-Price reduced on this 4BR/3BA/2LA in Briarwood. Plantation shutters! Large courtyard! 169,900
TEAKWOOD CT-Grassland beauty under construction. This one has it all. 4/3 1/2BA, 2LA, pick your colors 169,900

KNIGHTS PL-Good floor plan, 3 separate bedroom areas. Country kitchen, 1 large LA, 2 patios 168,000
COLEMAN-traditional charm, hardwood floors, pretty decor 165,000
RUSTIC-4BR/3BA Rasnick built w/seq. guest, water well lot yard, whirlpool tub and wonderful decor 159,900
ASHDOWN-Lovely TH in Saddle Club South. 3BR/3 1/2 BA. Style & space! 155,000
HIGHLAND-Lee Evans new construction in Grassland, 4BR/2 1/2 BA, all amenities including landscaping 149,900
LAFAYETTE PL-Lovely New Orleans style 2-story townhome. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths 149,900
KANSAS-Beautiful home in Old Midland that has been totally redone 141,900
NORTHFIELD-Spacious 4BR in Trinity Meadows with all the updating done for you! 140,900
DAWN CIRCLE-Great 4BR/3BA. Lush landscaping, outside hot tub 139,900
KNIGHTS PL-Custom built 3BR in Polo Park. 3 years new, lots of extras, beautiful rose garden, low maintenance backyard. Home office or hobby room 139,500

BERMUDA CT-One of Crestgates largest, loveliest! 4/3, Incredible space for 132,900
PINE-Light and spacious townhome in wonderful location. Lovely courtyard! 129,500
TENNESSEE-Unique & lovely Old Midland. Could be 3BR, guest qrts w/bath, replaced all elec., sprinkler sys 127,000
MEADOWBROOK DR-Exceptional 4BR. Beautiful landscaping, fabulous 'great room' 124,900
VENTURA-Lovely Wallace townhome across from park. Lots of updating! 119,900
RIDGMAR-Lovely curb appeal, great space, 4 BR and bonus room. Come see 119,500
PINE-Updated 3BR Wallace townhouse. Replaced carpet, new paint, new kitchen counter tops and flooring 117,900
MAXWELL-Super condition! 3BR/2BA/2LA, big rooms! Like new! 109,900
HUMBLE-4BR/2BA/2LA, great backyard w/2 shops 109,900
NORTHTOWN PL-Wonderful patio home! Seq master with FP. Spacious patio 105,000
NOEL-Totally charming patio home built around center courtyard. All rooms huge! 105,000

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Director Real Estate Central Mortgage
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$200,000 AND UP...THE CITY'S LARGEST SELECTION OF HOMES IN THE UPPER PRICE RANGES

SADDLE CLUB-Incredible stone patios, brick floors, rich paneling, marble baths, seq. guest w/kitchen/sitting. Huge basement 900,000
PECAN CT-Architecturally designed home with every amenity! True master piece! ..... CALL
SADDLE CLUB-Gorgeous Midland Estate. Must call 785,000
COUNTRY CLUB-One of Midland's loveliest! Pool, cabana, exquisitely decorated. 4BR/5 baths, two offices 725,000
SADDLE CLUB-5BRs, 9 baths, stunning space and style, luxury, seq. master with study and 2 baths, playroom, incredible kitchen, den, gracious formals, new pool 569,000
INCREDIBLE TOWNHOME-Indoor pool, stunning architecture, gorgeous terraces, 4/5, studio, office, darkroom 490,000
COUNTRY CLUB-A rare offering with all the amenities of newer construction - yet lovely "Old Midland" location! 3 or 4 BR/5 baths, study, gameroom 385,000
HIGHWAY 349 NORTH-5 Bdr Country Estate with beautiful wood and tile floors 349,000

FAIRWOOD-New Bill Brown 5BR/4 1/2 BA, seq. owner's suite with study. 4 fireplaces 319,900
BAYBROOK-Fabulous James Morris Construction. Rare 5BR, 3LA dream home 310,000
LAKES DR-Fabulous custom home, beautifully decorated, carefully designed 309,900
BASSWOOD-Huge family home - Greentree, formals, gameroom, study - Beautiful 275,000
LOCKHEED-Exquisite patio home, immaculate condition! Fabulous landscaping, unbelievable master suite 269,500
RUSTIC TRAIL-New paint, fresh, spacious, grand plan! Formals+study+den+wonderful kitchen. Elegant entry, beautiful high ceilings 260,000

SADDLE CLUB-Stunning 2-story, great master with 2 baths, study, super sunroom, pool and tennis court, now 200,000
RUSTIC-Wonderful 5BR or 4BR with a gameroom. Study located next to master. Custom built in Greentree with a great view of course 250,000
DOUGLAS-JJ Black contemporary - enormous master w/fireplace & sitting area, 5BR/4BA, 3LA, guest house, pretty courtyard w/putting green 249,000
HEARTLAND-Mark Payne delight, quality flows through this lovely 4BR/3BA/3 garage w/3FP in Grassland. Don't miss all this for 225,000
RICHMOND-Paul West perfection. 4 BR/3BA/2LA on a quiet cul-de-sac 219,000
LOS ALAMITOS-Fabulous custom one-owner home, light, bright, immaculate, wonderfully maintained 200,000

SUBURBAN HOMES

EDINBURGH-Home lovers home. 4BR, 3 1/2 BA, 2 LA, study, big barn 265,000
5 MINUTES NORTH OF THE LOOP-Enjoy sunsets, the city skyline from this wonderful retreat or building site. Charming 2/2, bunkhouse, barns, w/shop, 5 acres 225,000
S. CO. RD. 1213-Large home, pool, 2 barns, workshop and 10 acres 185,000
S. CO. RD. 1128-$2000 buyer incentive. 5 pastures, 6-stall barn plus 4BR/2BA home 184,500
S. CO. RD. 1244-WOW! 3/3 1/2/2. Lots of new. Barn, pens, den with 2nd FP, bath, loft 169,900
KUFFEN-Wonderful 3BR/2BA, 1.25 acres. Gameroom, pool & dog pens 165,000
E. CO. RD. 128-Gorgeous! 3/2/2, huge shop, fenced 1 1/2 acres, restricted area 133,900
CO.RD 2000-"Stanton Schools" N of Hwy 80, W. of Stanton, 14 apres, 3/2½/2LA , 3 ga 92,000
ELKINS-3/2/1, Brick custom built, one-owner on 20 acres 89,000
MILLER ROAD-Owner says "Give It Away", 10+ acres and house. Gardendale farmette 85,000
E. CO. RD. 8330-Peaceful living on 1.5 acres w/custom built home, round pen, barn & 4 horse stalls. Owner Co 69,900
E CO. RD. 120-4BR/2BA, double-wide mobile home on approx. 9+ acres. Extra hook-ups 65,000
W. CO. RD. 137-3 or 4BR, 1 or 2LA, 2BA, 4 acres, totally refurbished inside & out 65,000
E. CO. RD. 90-Perfect 3BR/2BA suburban property-fenced 54,900
W.CO. RD. 116-2 story on .79 acres, 3BR, 2 living, needs work 50,000
W. CO. RD. 137-Foreclosure sold as is', 3 BR/2BA manufactured home on lot 21,900

DUPLEXES/RENTAL INVESTMENTS

COLORADO-5 rental units, great returns 80,000
SIESTA LANE-Great investor property. Well-maintained duplex near Midland College 59,000
COLLEGE-Duplex + efficiency 38,500
KANSAS-Updated duplex with both sides rented; conveniently located to shopping 34,700
CONDOS-Great living or investment in several fine condo developments, call today for condo sites properties on Bentley, Trinity, Eastridge Road 19,500-21,000
TYLER-Nice income producing duplex-$39 each side 20,000

LOTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

BLUEBIRD-12.212 acres available across from the ball park. Can be sub-divided 146,520
BLUEBIRD-7.18 acres. Can be sub-divided 86,220
CARDINAL LANE-Four 3.997 acre lots, great country living in the city, city water available 84,000
INWOOD CT-Executive lot inside Loop 59,900
D-Lovely landscaped lot in Old Midland 59,500
GREENTREE-Select from 6 spacious lots to custom build your home 35,000-47,000
BLUEBIRD-Lovely 2 acre home sites in the green belt ..... 45,000 ea.
RUSTIC TRAIL-4 deep lots suited to a large w/pool etc. Last estate lots on Rustic 35,000
OAK-300 ft on Oak 127 ft on Main-financing available 34,000
MAIN-Few houses under construction across the street to the east. Excellent opportunity for builder 32,500
GREENTREE BLVD-Great Green Tree location 30,000
HIGHWAY 349-RIDGE HEIGHTS-3 acre tract-Ridge Heights with water well 15,000
CO. RD. 1158-One plus acre lots. Well and septic, owner financing, moderate restrictions starting @ 12,000
PECOS-Downtown Lot 50'x140' 9,000
GOLF COURSE, NEELY-Build in the heart of the city! Sugar Ray 7,500-10,000
CROCKETT-5 lots ..... 5,000 each
VARIOUS OTHER HOME SITES-Call for more details $7,500-25,000

SUBURBAN ACREAGE

40 ACRES JUST MINUTES NORTH OF MALL-Super improvements including home, barns, water 340,000
FM 307-Prime acreage in Gravenport 175,000
FM 150-160 acres between Tower and Cotton Flat Roads. Great possibilities 160,000
CO. RD. 109-New home development directly West & East 110,000
E. CO. RD. 100-77.398 acres 85,000
CO. RD. 184-8 acres with owner financing available 40,000
FAIRGROUND-3 lots East of city, owner may carry the financing 36,000
CO. RD. 1140-25 acres, farm land or substitute for houses. Restrictions apply 35,000
CO. RD. 144-3.85 acres with owner financing available 25,000
FM 1788-Two 1.89 acre residential tracts to be sold together 20,000
CO. RD. 8284-3.02 prime acreage, possible owner finance 15,000
CO. RD. 80-Several 4-5 acre sites, call for details 10,000-12,000
CO. RD. 1158-1 to 1 3/4 acre lots with owner financing available, mobile homes allowed 12,000-14,000
CO. RD. 1297-4.86 acres adjacent to Water Wonderland 12,000
S. CO. RD. 1204-1.58 acres w/septic tank, mobile home hook-up, field fence 7,900
S. CO. RD. 1169-Owner will consider financing 4,000

INVESTMENT & COMMERCIAL

FOR LEASE-Single office to 2650 sf downtown, park at door, bills paid ..... CALL
MAIN-14,000 sq. ft., tile building, retail/warehouse, etc. Near downtown ..... CALL
ESTABLISHED RESTAURANT & CLUB-8,000 SF Plus all fixtures, furniture and equipment. Owner may finance ..... CALL
DAVIS RD-Full super nice 14 space Mobile Home Park on 4.4 acres Includes 6 nice owned rentals & 3 BR house, 4 wells, 2 carports each ..... CALL
INDUSTRIAL PARK-44,000 SF shop + office - Loop 250 & IH 20 395,000
COTTON FLAT RD-20 acres, 14 mobile homes leased. Good income, 5WW 189,500
INDUSTRIAL-20,000 warehouse office, financing available 185,000
RANKIN HWY-Established business for sale 125,000
DAKOTA-Office warehouse - retail off Big Spring 100,000
MARIENFELD-Income -44 unit mini storage - near downtown 95,000
MICHIGAN-DOCTOR'S OFFICE...One block from MMH, 2000 sf and 1000sf 85,000/30,000
COPUS-Trailer park w/26 spaces. Owner will consider financing 75,000
ILLINOIS-2250 sf/e bldg - club or restaurant, one blk. to MMH. REDUCED 70,000
TERRELL-Great potential for restaurant, dance place, etc 69,500
BIG SPRING-6 offices on 1/3 block. Good child care or law office, Owner finance 65,000
MISSOURI-Good close to downtown cooling for small business or office 49,000
CARVIZO-4 room converted office bldg., 1710 sq ft (approx) 45,000
TERRELL-Retail across from Community National Bank 32,000
BERING RED LOBSTER-17,500 sq. ft. Lot 30,000
FOUR LOTS NEAR DOWNTOWN-Bargain - 30,000 sq. ft 30,000
DAYTON RD-2 lots approx. 2.1 acres each ..... 16,000 each
OFFICE BUILDING FOR LEASE-1692 bldg, Lots of parking 700/mo

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By Steve Wilst
AP Sports Writer

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

Sports Plus

Dec. 22, 1996

Sports' Enduring Images

From Strug to Johnson to the Cowboys, 1996 didn't disappoint

By Steve Wilstein
AP Sports Writer

Twenty years from now, and on prominent anniversaries beyond, successive generations will celebrate the sports stars of 1996 in misty prose dripping with nostalgia.

It was that kind of golden year.

They'll find Kerri Strug and beseech her to recall all the painful details of her vault in Atlanta, and every emotion she felt hopping up to the victory stand from the arms of Bela Karolyi to the embrace of her teammates.

They'll seek out gray-haired Carl Lewis and ask him how he soared for one last Olympic gold in the long jump when everyone thought his time had passed.

Michael Johnson, whose 200-meter record may still stand, will pose with his golden shoes and describe once more his whoosh with a swoosh that amazed even him.

They'll track down each of the New York Yankees to recount every play, every at-bat, maybe even every pitch in that stirring World Series comeback against the Atlanta Braves.

Evander Holyfield will tell about the time he pulled off one of boxing's greatest upsets, deflating and defeating Mike Tyson and ensuring himself a place beside the bravest heavyweight champions.

Unless Michael Jordan is surpassed by some 7-footer with fancier moves and sharper shots, he'll be remembered as the best player in NBA history and be asked about the time he hooked up with that strange Dennis Rodman to create perhaps the finest team in history.

Wherever the Northwestern Wildcats have scattered, they'll still be talking about that New Year's Day they played in the Rose Bowl and came so close to winning it after 23 straight losing seasons.

Some years are distinguished by enduring records — Babe Ruth's 60 home runs in 1927, Ted Williams' .406 average and Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in 1941. Other years stand out because of nerve-tingling moments, like Bobby Thomson's shot-heard-round-the-world in 1951 or the "Miracle Mets" victory in 1969.

In 1996, there was a little of everything, and something for everyone.

Even collapses came in outsized proportions, none bigger than Greg Norman's agony in Augusta, a final-round debacle so pitiful it moved Nick Faldo to hug him and apologize for winning.

We saw Monica Seles capture her first Grand Slam event since she was stabbed, taking the Australian Open, then we watched Steffi Graf overcome injuries and the imprisonment of her father to sweep every other major title.

We saw Pete Sampras exhausted to the point of sickness on court at the U.S. Open, yet still serving an ace and winning.

We saw Cigar's brilliant winning streak end, the Tiger Woods Era in pro golf begin, and Cal Ripken's career go on and on without interruption.

Michelle Kwan matured before our eyes into a dazzling world figure skating champion at 15, and Todd Eldredge became the first U.S. skater to capture the men's crown since Brian Boitano in 1988.

We watched the Dallas Cowboys romp again in the Super Bowl and the Kentucky Wildcats assume a once familiar place as men's basketball champions.

Mark McGwire chased Roger Maris between injuries — if he had played all year, he might have had 70 homers — and a new breed of sluggers breathed life back into baseball in a whole season without a strike.

Peace even broke out in the pastime during the offseason when owners and players found a way to share their millions, and someday we'll all look back on that and wonder why they were so foolish to fight in the first place.

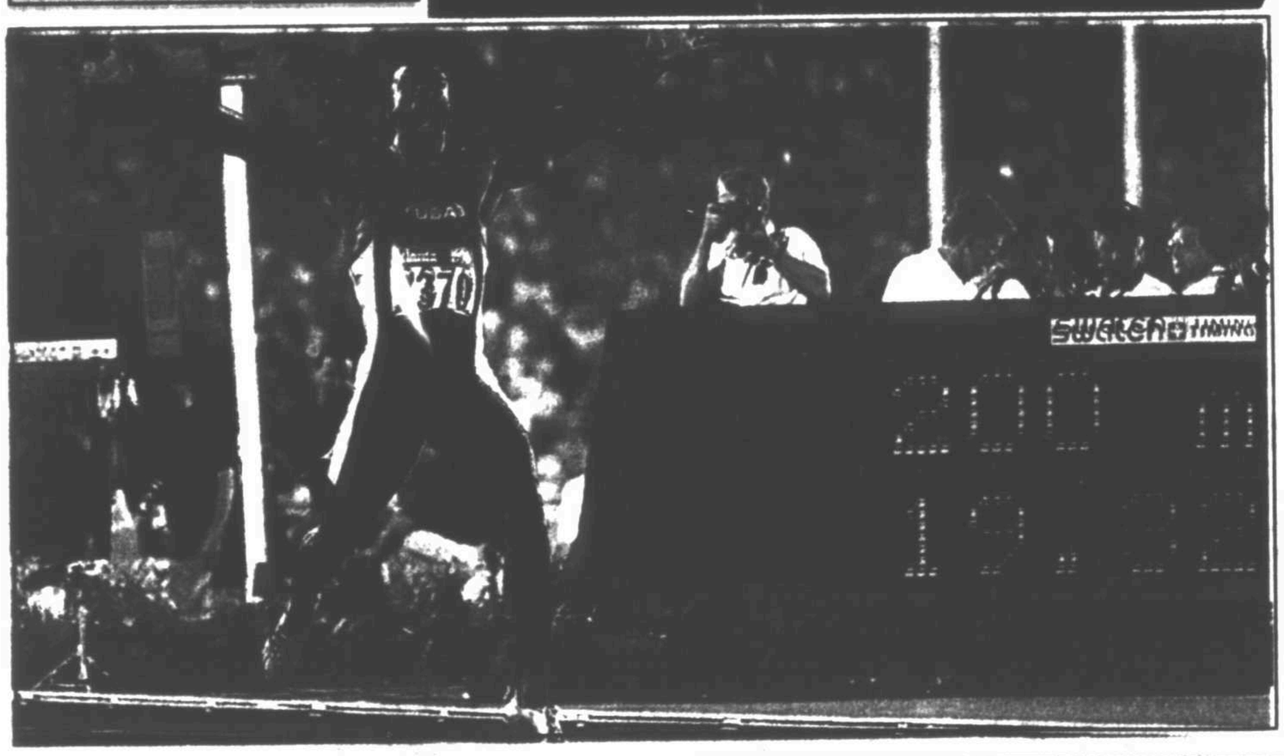
Every year has to have its villains, of course. There was the boorish Marge Schott, opening her mouth once too often, and the sweet-faced Roberto Alomar, spitting mad at an umpire. There were too many athletes-turned-felons to mention, and a bomber at the Olympics who still hasn't been caught.

Years from now people will remember that killer bomb, though maybe sweeter images of the Atlanta Games will endure more vividly: Muhammad Ali's blissful smile as he lit the flame with his shaking hand; Ireland's Michelle Smith flashing through the pool for three golds; the women's "Dream Team" upstaging the men; the sizzling speed and silent scream of Donovan Bailey as he became the world's fastest human, not only of the Olympics but in history.

The legacy of Atlanta, ultimately, will not be a moment of violence but the joyous, resilient, defiant spirit that brought tens of thousands of fans and athletes back into Olympic Centennial Park the minute it reopened. That will still be worth celebrating decades from now.

Story by Steve Wilstein Associated Press

Section designed and edited by Stewart Doreen



INSIDE

Andy Moog (top center) seems to be playing like the goaltender of old and is a key for the Stars. Page 7.

ALMOST OVER
Another Oiler football season is almost over and not a minute too soon.
Page 2

HOG HEAVEN
The Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins hook up in what will be the last game in RFK Stadium.
Page 3

UIL DECISION
The recent Plano situation has caused some to look into the way the UIL does business.
Page 4

NOT ANOTHER UTE
Utah's Keith Van Horn isn't just about basketball.
Page 5

CHANGES BECAME A TREND
Nebraska's repeat national championship and subsequent fall was just part of this crazy college football season. Page 4

SINKING SHIP
The Dallas Mavericks have had more problems than their new owners would like.
Page 6

GOLF'S GOOD AND BAD
Greg Norman's tragic fall in the final round of the Masters and Tiger Wood's rise to golf's hierarchy were the two top stories of the season.
Page 9

MAKING THE GRADE
Felipe Lopez is making the NBA wait, so he can get his education. Marcus Camby didn't. Bad mistake?
Page 10

NFL-WEEK 17
A capsule look at all of the matchups in the National Football League's 17th week of play.
Page 12

Michael Jordan (23) led the Bulls to another title and was one of 1996's brightest stars. Page 10.

DEC 22 1996

Statistics

Associated Press Expanded Standings

Saturday's Games not Included

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
East											
New England	10	5	0	.667	305	291	6-2-0	4-3-0	9-3-0	1-2-0	6-2-0
Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	299	257	6-1-0	3-5-0	8-4-0	1-2-0	4-3-0
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	293	303	6-2-0	3-4-0	8-4-0	3-1-0	4-4-0
Miami	7	8	0	.467	308	297	4-4-0	3-4-0	6-6-0	1-3-0	5-2-0
NY Jets	1	14	0	.067	251	423	0-7-0	1-7-0	0-11-0	1-3-0	0-7-0
Central											
Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	330	239	7-1-0	3-4-0	8-4-0	2-1-0	4-4-0
Jacksonville	8	7	0	.533	306	318	6-1-0	2-6-0	7-5-0	1-2-0	5-3-0
Cincinnati	7	8	0	.467	341	348	5-2-0	2-6-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	5-3-0
Houston	7	8	0	.467	321	298	2-6-0	5-2-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	4-3-0
Baltimore	4	11	0	.267	350	417	4-3-0	0-8-0	2-9-0	2-2-0	1-6-0
West											
Denver	13	2	0	.867	391	259	8-0-0	5-2-0	10-1-0	3-1-0	6-1-0
Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	359	280	5-3-0	4-3-0	5-5-0	4-0-0	4-4-0
Oakland	7	8	0	.467	316	355	4-3-0	3-5-0	6-6-0	1-2-0	3-4-0
San Diego	7	8	0	.467	294	308	4-3-0	3-5-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	4-3-0
Seattle	8	9	0	.400	289	353	4-4-0	3-5-0	4-7-0	2-2-0	1-6-0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
East											
Dallas	10	5	0	.667	276	213	6-2-0	4-3-0	2-2-0	8-3-0	5-2-0
Phila	9	6	0	.600	304	322	4-3-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	7-4-0	4-3-0
Washington	8	7	0	.533	327	302	4-3-0	4-4-0	3-1-0	5-6-0	3-4-0
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	281	308	5-3-0	2-5-0	0-4-0	7-4-0	4-3-0
NY Giants	6	9	0	.400	220	274	3-4-0	3-5-0	2-1-0	4-8-0	2-6-0
Central											
Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	416	200	7-0-0	5-3-0	3-1-0	9-2-0	6-1-0
Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	289	277	5-3-0	4-3-0	1-3-0	8-3-0	5-2-0
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	284	271	6-2-0	1-6-0	2-8-0	5-6-0	3-4-0
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	288	344	4-4-0	1-6-0	1-9-0	4-7-0	3-5-0
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	.333	187	274	4-3-0	1-7-0	2-8-0	3-6-0	1-6-0
West											
Carolina	11	4	0	.733	349	204	7-1-0	4-3-0	5-1-0	9-3-0	7-1-0
San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	374	243	5-2-0	6-2-0	4-0-0	7-4-0	6-3-0
St. Louis	5	10	0	.333	288	285	5-4-0	0-6-0	0-8-0	3-8-0	3-4-0
Atlanta	5	12	0	.333	288	442	2-6-0	1-7-0	0-9-0	3-8-0	3-5-0
New Orleans	3	12	0	.200	216	325	2-6-0	1-6-0	1-9-0	2-9-0	0-7-0

Team Statistics

TOTAL YARDAGE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Denver	5577	2296	3281
Jacksonville	5403	1507	3896
Baltimore	5349	1625	3721
New England	5061	1442	3619
New York Jets	4912	1482	3430
Oakland	4888	2056	2840
Seattle	4866	1861	3014
Pittsburgh	4675	2114	2761
Cincinnati	4784	1636	3148
Buffalo	4784	1823	2961
Miami	4749	1465	3284
Houston	4687	1853	2884
Kansas City	4680	1890	2790
Indianapolis	4478	1413	3065
San Diego	4429	1231	3195

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Pittsburgh	4139	1339	2799
Denver	4228	1250	2978
Houston	4333	1285	2998
Buffalo	4488	1550	2938
Oakland	4588	1580	3008
Jacksonville	4776	1635	3141
Kansas City	4889	1589	3291
Miami	4913	1453	3460
Indianapolis	4962	1603	3359
New England	5009	1405	3604
Seattle	5081	1980	3101
New York Jets	5148	2043	3105
Cincinnati	5209	1609	3595
San Diego	5207	1689	3518
Baltimore	5598	1803	3735

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	5584	1795	3529
San Francisco	5226	1718	3507
Green Bay	5095	1605	3490
Arizona	4981	1431	3550
Minnesota	4952	1500	3452
Atlanta	4807	1315	3492
Washington	4746	1753	2993
Detroit	4736	1621	3115
Carolina	4585	1650	2935
Chicago	4569	1663	2913
Dallas	4528	1522	3006
St. Louis	4195	1556	2639
Tampa Bay	4135	1500	2635
New Orleans	3965	1215	2750
New York Giants	3949	1506	2140

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Dallas	3984	1419	3480
Green Bay	3904	1367	2537
Philadelphia	4315	1494	2821
San Francisco	4475	1825	2650
Tampa Bay	4511	1377	3134
Carolina	4647	1733	2914
Minnesota	4703	1528	3175
Chicago	4723	2069	2654
New Orleans	4739	1722	3017
New York Giants	5018	1736	3282
Atlanta	5310	1979	3182
St. Louis	5358	1701	3527
Arizona	5429	1898	3531
Washington	5488	2158	3330

AVERAGE PER GAME

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Denver	371.8	153.1	218.7
Jacksonville	360.2	100.5	259.7
Baltimore	356.4	108.3	248.1
New England	337.4	96.1	241.3
New York Jets	327.5	98.8	228.7
Oakland	325.4	137.1	189.3
Seattle	324.3	125.4	200.9
Pittsburgh	325.0	140.9	184.1
Cincinnati	318.9	109.1	209.9
Buffalo	318.9	121.5	197.4
Miami	316.6	97.7	218.9
Houston	313.1	122.2	190.9
Kansas City	312.0	126.0	186.0
Indianapolis	298.5	94.2	204.3
San Diego	295.1	82.1	213.0

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Pittsburgh	275.7	89.1	186.6
Denver	281.7	83.3	198.4
Houston	282.2	84.3	197.9
Buffalo	292.2	103.3	196.9
Oakland	304.5	104.0	200.5
Jacksonville	318.4	109.0	209.4
Kansas City	324.6	105.9	218.7
Miami	327.5	98.9	228.7
Indianapolis	330.8	106.9	223.9
New England	333.9	93.7	240.3
Seattle	336.7	132.0	208.7
New York Jets	343.2	136.2	207.0
Cincinnati	346.9	107.2	239.7
San Diego	347.1	112.6	234.5
Baltimore	399.2	120.2	249.0

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	382.3	117.0	236.3
San Francisco	348.8	114.5	233.8
Green Bay	336.7	107.0	229.7
Arizona	330.7	88.4	236.3
Minnesota	330.1	103.0	230.1
Atlanta	329.8	87.7	232.8
Washington	316.4	116.9	199.5
Detroit	315.7	108.1	207.7
Carolina	306.7	110.0	196.7
Chicago	304.4	110.2	194.2
Dallas	301.9	101.5	200.4
St. Louis	279.0	103.7	176.3
Tampa Bay	275.7	100.0	175.7
New Orleans	294.3	81.0	183.3
New York Giants	249.1	100.4	142.7

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Dallas	299.5	84.9	214.5
Green Bay	320.3	99.1	221.1
Philadelphia	327.7	89.6	238.1
San Francisco	329.5	115.5	214.0
Tampa Bay	338.9	121.7	217.2
Carolina	339.7	91.7	248.0
Minnesota	339.9	119.8	220.1
Chicago	313.5	101.0	212.7
New Orleans	314.9	108.0	170.9
New York Giants	315.9	114.0	201.1
Atlanta	324.8	115.7	219.0
Detroit	339.0	126.2	212.8
St. Louis	332.5	117.4	235.1
Arizona	361.8	126.6	235.4
Washington	366.9	143.7	223.1

Individual Statistics

American Football Conference

Quarterbacks

	Att	Cmp	Yds	TD	Int
Elway, Den	455	281	3282	26	14
Testaverde, Bal	517	302	3670	20	17
Marino, Mia	531	301	3533	14	9
Flutie, Buf	211	120	1629	8	4
Bledsoe, N.E.	576	342	3796	25	13
Brunell, Jac	528	308	4145	19	20
Hostetler, Oak	402	242	2548	23	14
Humphries, S.D.	350	215	2500	17	10
Chandler, Pitt	320	184	2098	16	11
Blake, Cin	512	308	3340	21	13

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Davis, Den	338	1617	4.8	71t	12
Bettis, Pit	317	1421	4.5	50t	11
George, Hou	314	1283	4.1	76	7
Murrell, NY-J	288	1190	4.2	78	5
Martin, N.E.	308	1143	3.7	71	14
Thomas, Buf	264	992	3.8	30	9
Abdul-Jabbar, Mia	277	984	3.5	29	10
Warren, Sea	208	858	4.2	51	3
Kaufman, Oak	133	808	6.0	77	1
Hearst, Cin	208	756	3.6	24	0

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Pickens, Cin	94	1057	11.2	61t	11
T. Brown, Oak	85	1039	12.2	42t	9
Martin, N.E.	82	1008	12.3	37t	5
Martin, S.D.	81	1121	13.8	55	14
McCardell, Jac	81	1082	13.4	52	3
Brown, Oak	80	1082	13.5	51	10
Chrebet, NY-J	80	888	10.9	44	2
Smith, Jac	78	1180	15.0	62	7
Jackson, Buf	71	1084	15.3	69t	11
McDuffie, Mia	69	852	12.3	38	7

Punters

	No	Yds	LG	Avg
Kidd, Min	72	3048	63	46.5
Gardocki, Ind	80	3669	61	46.3
Barnett, S.D.	81	3691	66	45.6
L. Johnson, Cin	78	3525	67	45.2
Hansen, NY-J	68	3046	69	44.8
Kirby, Hou	63	2819	68	44.7
Tuten, N.E.	57	2522	62	44.2
Tuten, Sea	78	3352	66	44.1
Montoya, Det	69	2981	62	43.7
Montgomery, Bal	65	2835	67	43.6

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Da. Gordon, S.D.	30	337	14.5	81t	1
R. Smith, Den	20	244	12.2	36	0
Kinchen, Den	28	330	11.8	40	0
Scott, Buf	24	270	11.3	45	0
Hudson, Jac	30	336	11.2	80	0
Mitchell, N.E.	49	526	10.7	40	0
R. Harris, Sea	19	184	10.2	35	0
J. Lewis, Buf	54	537	9.9	48	0
Gray, Hou	21	197	9.4	40	0
McDuffie, Mia	20	186	9.3	19	0

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Vanover, K.C.	28	742	26.5	97t	1
Spikes, Mia	25	615	24.6	89	0
Holmes, Den	31	694	24.2	58	0
Martin, Buf	48	1139	23.7	97t	1
Woods, K.C.	25	581	23.2	66	0
Broussard, Sea	43	979	22.8	88	0
Bailey, Ind	37	842	22.8	50	0
Mitchell, N.E.	31	705	22.7	54	0
A. Coleman, S.D.	52	1167	22.4	57	0

Scoring

Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Martin, N.E.	17	14	3	0	104
Davis, Den	14	12	2	0	84
Martin, S.D.	14	0	14	0	84
Jackson, Buf	11	0	11	0	70
Pickens, Cin	11	0	11	0	66
Bettis, Pit	11	11	0	0	66
Abdul-Jabbar, Mia	10	10	0	0	60
Brown, Den	10	0	10	0	60
Brown, Oak	10	0	10	0	60
Smith, Jac	10	8	2	0	60
Alexander, Sea	9	0	9	0	54

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Blanchard, Ind	44-44	29-39	53	131
Del Greco, Hou	32-32	31-37	53	125
Vinatieri, N.E.	33-33	28-34	53	117
Carney, S.D.	33-33	28-33	53	108
Elam, Buf	33-33	25-29	47	108
Stoyanovich, Mia	28-28	26-32	53	104
Anderson, Pit	29-29	25-30	49	104
Hanson, Oak	27-27	25-29	49	102
Kasay, Car	29-29	24-30	54	101
Christie, Buf	31-31	22-28	48	97

National Football Conference

Quarterbacks

	Att	Cmp	Yds	TD	Int
S. Young, S.F.	322	201	3214	12	6
Favre, G.B.	520	310	3897	39	13
B. Johnson, Min	377	178	2047	16	9
Dilfer, Tb	369	216	2555	15	12
Collins, Car	325	183	2259	13	9
Aikman, Dal	465	298	3126	12	13
K. Graham, Ariz	259	142	1578	12	8
Carrier, Was	438	246	3107	12	10
Krieg, Chi	361	209	2139	14	11
Mitchell, Det	410	238	2807	16	17

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Sanders, Det	279	1379	4.9	54t	10
Watters, Phi	322	1312	4.1	80t	12
Allen, Was	321	1286	3.9	49t	16
E. Smith, Dal	327	1204	3.7	42	15
Johnson, Car	277	1053	3.8	29	5
Anderson, Atl	221	1000	4.5	52t	5
Hampton, NY-G	254	927	3.6	55	1
Bennett, G.B.	204	760	3.7	23	1
R. Harris, Chi	185	722	3.9	23	3
Rob. Smith, Min	162	692	4.3	57	3

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Rice, S.F.	103	1205	11.7	39	8
Moore, Det	98	1237	12.6	60t	9
Carter, Min	93	1117	12.0	40	9
Centers, Ariz	93	723	7.8	38	7
Perriman, Det	90	990	11.0	44	6
Fryar, Phi	84	1147	13.7	42	11
Bruce, St.L	77	1241	16.1	70	6
Conway, Chi	72	929	12.9	69t	7
Emanuel, Atl	69	854	12.4	53	6
Mathis, Atl	69	771	11.2	55	7

Punters

	No	Yds	LG	Avg
Turk, Was	72	3276	63	45.5
Saunstrun, Chi	76	3362	72	44.2
Landeta, St.L	72	3180	70	44.2
Thompson, S.F.	70	3080	65	44.0
Feagles, Ariz	73	3211	66	44.0
Royals, Det	66	2951	60	43.9
Barnhardt, T.B.	67	2967	62	43.1
Jett, Det	68	2902	60	42.7
Hentrich, G.B.	65	2763	63	42.5
Hutton, Phi	70	2975	60	42.5

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Kennison, St.L	36	407	15.7	78t	2
Howard, G.B.	54	791	14.6	82t	3
Oliver, Car	47	548	11.7	84t	1
Metcalf, Atl	24	278	11.6	39	0
Mitchell, Was	21	240	11.4	71t	0
Palmer, Min	22	218	9.9	69t	1
Dawsett, Ariz	32	292	9.1	35	0
Martin, Det	41	373	9.1	22	0
Ingram, Chi	31	282	9.1	34	0
Carter, S.F.	34	303	8.9	52	0

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Bates, Car	31	939	30.3	93t	1
Walker, Dal	26	716	27.5	89	0
Milburn, Det	59	1657	28.4	65	0
Hughes, N.O.	67	1711	25.5	68	0
Witherspoon, Phi	50	1209	24.2	97t	2
Ja. Jackson, Chi	22	531	24.1	90	0
Ingram, Chi	24	561	23.4	45	0
Mitchell, Was	53	1195	22.6	50	0
Sloan, T.B.	28	628	22.4	54	0
Carter, S.F.	40	876	21.9	71	0

Scoring

Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Allen, Was	16	16	0	0	106
E. Smith, Dal	15	12	3	0	90
Watters, Phi	12	12	0	0	72
Fryar, Phi	11	0	11	0	66
Kennison, St.L	10	0	8	2	60
Sanders, Det	10	10	0	0	60
Carter, Min	9	0	9	0	54
Centers, Ariz	9	2	7	0	54
Freeman, G.B.	9	0	9	0	54
Jackson, G.B.	9	0	9	0	54
Rice, S.F.	9	1	8	0	54
Wells, Car	9	0	9	0	54

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Kasay, Car	59-34	36-42	53	155
Turk, Was	37-37	29-33	49	124
Wilkins, S.F.	37-37	29-33	49	124
Boniol, Det	29-34	31-35	53	122
Jacke, G.B.	46-46	20-26	53	106
Blanton, Was	39-39	23-29	53	108
Anderson, Phi	38-38	20-24	49	98
Anderson, Atl	29-29	21-27	54	92
Sisson, Min	29-29	21-26	44	92
Lohmiller, St.L	29-29	21-28	50	91
Daluiso, NY-G	20-20	22-25	46	86

They're not good

Remembering the worst teams in history

By Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

The New York Jets have no sense of history. If they did, they wouldn't have bothered to beat Arizona on Oct. 27. And they would have had a shot at the first 0-16 season in NFL history.

If the Jets lose to Miami on Sunday, they'll finish 1-15, joining four other horror shows with the worst record in NFL history over a 16-game season. Their year has been laughably similar to that of the 1980 Saints, 1989 Cowboys, 1990 Patriots and 1991 Colts, their partners in abysmal failure.

Just think — the Jets committed more than $80 million in long-term contracts to free agents and rookies. They hoped to have clinched a playoff berth before the final week of the season. Instead, they clinched the first pick in the draft for the second straight year.

"What will I remember about this season?" says Adrian Murrell, who somehow managed to rush for more than 1,100 yards, earning the team's most valuable player award. "Not much. It's definitely been a nightmare, you can't get away from that. I'll try to remember one win and forget all the losses."

That's a lot of forgetting to do. He'll also need to erase from memory:

— Losing $25 million quarterback Neil O'Donnell with a separated shoulder. When O'Donnell was due to return against Houston, he pulled a calf muscle in pregame warmups after slipping on the lettering that spells J-E-T-S in the end zone.

— Seeing both free-agent offensive tackles, Jumbo Elliott and David Williams, go down in training camp. By the time they were in top shape, O'Donnell was gone.

— An 0-8 mark at home if they lose to Miami.

— A record 55,985 no-shows against Houston.

— Blown leads or blowout losses. There were plenty of both.

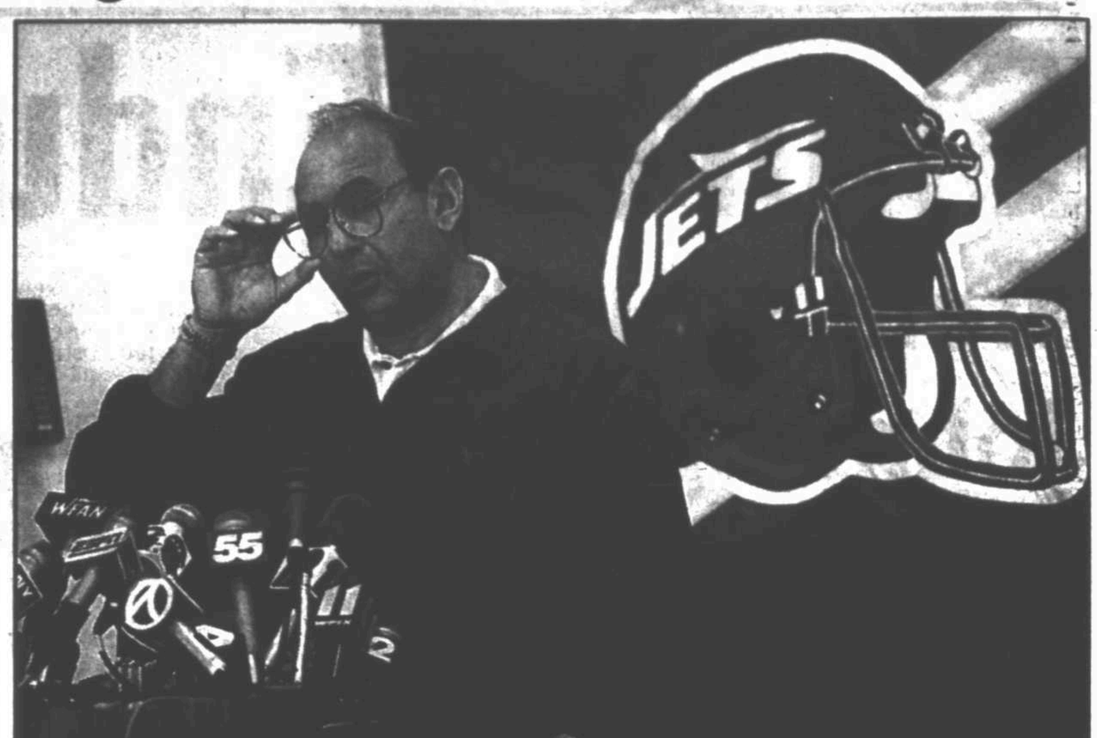
"You watch ESPN and say, 'We could have won that game,'" Murrell said. "It's mind-boggling that we feel we could compete with teams going for the playoffs."

Right. And Jimmy Johnson would relish going through another 1-15 season, as he did in his first year in Dallas.

"You look at that kind of season and you know it is going to get better. That's what allows you to keep going every day," Johnson says.

Like the Jets, the Cowboys were 3-13 the year before posting 15 losses. Unlike New York, Dallas fired its front office staff when Jerry Jones bought the team and brought in Johnson; the Jets kept Rich Kotite around after going 3-13, but on Friday Kotite announced he was stepping down as coach after Sunday's game.

"When you're 3-13 and 1-14, that just doesn't cut it," Kotite said. "We've been everything but respectable. A change has to be made. I hold myself accountable. ... It hasn't worked.



AP Laserphoto

New York Jets coach Rich Kotite, seen here during a news conference to announce that he was stepping down, coached a team that was close to being one of the worst in league history, according to record. The Jets are close to finishing the season in the infamous 1-15 club.

"If you take emotion out of this and I did, it's clear that the head coach should step down."

Johnson was able to endure 1-15 because he was planning for the '90s, when the Cowboys would become the league's dominant team, in part by trading his only Pro Bowl player away for draft picks that laid the foundation for the champion teams.

"Going through that first year in Dallas was as miserable a year as I've had, ever," Johnson said. "But it allows you to go through some tough times, because you know there is light at the end of the tunnel.

"As long as you believe in what you're doing and you're confident, it works out, being able to go from the worst football team to ... the best team in football for quite some time. It gives you a hope you can suffer through tough times."

Few NFL players suffered through tougher times than Archie Manning. One of the great college players in history, his 11 seasons in New Orleans were characterized by consistent losing. Manning was by far the team's best player on a Saints team that went 45-109-3 with him as quarterback.

"Things kind of snowball on you," Manning says of the 1980 season, when fans began attending games with paper bags over their heads and A-I-N-T-S written across the front. "It's the darkest side of football.

"We were supposed to have a pretty good team and had gone 7-9 and 8-8 the two years before and were building something. We were very productive offensively and better defensively and picked to win the division.

"But bad things happened early. We got beat on a last-second play in Miami, lost some close ones and the disappointments set in. We wound up having attendance problems, trading some players, and then we had rumors of coaches being fired and it makes it tense."

Coach Dick Nolan was fired after 12 games, all losses. And, as was revealed after the season by defensive lineman Don Reese, some players were using cocaine.

"It is so long from Sunday to Sunday, when you tee it up again," Manning says.

New Orleans' lone victory in 1980 came against the Jets in Week 15. It came six days after the Saints blew the biggest lead in league history, a 35-7 edge, and lost in overtime to San Francisco.

"The players are at each others' throats — it might be offense vs. defense, or just guys on the same side of the ball," he said. "But we got our first win at Shea Stadium. We have the Jets beat if we can go get a first down and then run the clock out. I go into the huddle and it was cold and windy and, all of a sudden, at the open end of Shea Stadium, there is this real dark cloud heading toward us. It was snowy and the wind was really blowing.

"I just told my guys, 'One first down and we're going to win.' But I'm thinking the world is going to end and we aren't going to win a game.

"I don't know what a winning Super Bowl locker room is like, but I'm not sure it would be much wilder than that."

No season could get much wilder than 1990, when New England truly was a patsy.

Ten times, the Patriots scored 10 points or fewer. They had the worst offense and the next-to-worst defense.

But they were even more of an embarrassment off the field. Zeke Mowatt, Michael Timpson and Robert Perryman were fined after an NFL investigation into reporter Lisa Olson's allegation she was sexually harassed in the locker room.

"That was the only newsworthy thing we did all year," said Brian Hansen, the punter for the Patriots then and the Jets now. "That certainly didn't help matters. It was such a big distraction. It got blown up so much."

The team made more news of the wrong kind when receivers Irving Fryar and Hart Lee Dykes were involved in a fight outside a Providence bar. Owner Victor Kiam was even charged with false advertising for his Remington Products company.

The next year, it was the Colts' turn to suffer.

Linebacker Fredd Young retired shortly after training camp started, and the Patriots started them on their way to 1-15 in the season opener. Then injuries hit, with 10 players going on injured reserve in the first nine weeks of the season.

The team never recovered. Dissension was rampant. Coach Ron Meyer was fired after five games.

"Personally, I wouldn't come out and watch a game," Eric Dickerson said when Indianapolis was 0-8. "No way I'd pay to see someone play the way we are."

Another Oiler experience thankingfully ending

By Michael Lutz
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — There was symbolism everywhere as the Houston Oilers played their final home game of another season gone sour.

Umpire Neil Gereb became nauseated late in the fourth quarter Sunday and (how shall we put this?) lost his lunch at the 10-yard line in the Astrodome before the smallest crowd ever to see the Oilers play in Houston.

Fans know the feeling. They were ill, too, after watching the Oilers do what they have done best the second half of the season: make enough mistakes to finally get booted out of the playoffs.

Cris Dishman, who says he'll try to retire if God tells him he must play for the Oilers next season, tossed his helmet to a cheering fan after the game as if saying goodbye to his Oilers career.

Dishman, who will become an unrestricted free agent on Feb. 15, claimed he was just showing appreciation for one of the few fans to stick by the Oilers, who plan to move to Tennessee after next season.

"I figured since he was such a big fan, I'd give him the helmet," Dishman said. "He'll be able to use it more than me."

The Oilers play out the string on Sunday at Baltimore in a far different scenario than coach Jeff Fisher had hoped.

"At the start of the season our goal was to contend and not be the team that was eliminated with three or four games left in the season," Fisher said. "All along, I felt it would come to the last play in Baltimore on Dec. 22 to make the playoffs.

"There is a lot of frustration now that we fell short of our goal."

With another full season playing in the Astrodome, the Oilers will have eight more chances to set new attendance lows. They played before only 15,131 fans in Sunday's home finale against the Bengals, a 21-13 loss.

That broke the record of 15,839 who watched the Oilers beat the Denver Broncos in the final game of the 1964 season.

Fisher refuses to blame the Oilers' 2-6 home record on the silent Astrodome.

"That's not new, we've shown that we can deal with it at times and at times we didn't deal with it," Fisher said. "But that's not under my job description. My job is to win games."

It's becoming increasingly difficult to explain what has happened.

They've all tried patiently, but the players can't explain the slide that started after a thrilling Oct. 20 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers that left them with a 5-2 record.

"We're always one inch away from winning the ball game and somehow there's a problem there and it can't continue happening," cornerback Blaine Bishop said. "That's a problem that needs to be addressed."

Linebacker Micheal Barrow shakes his head and smiles, holding up a copy of book by Miami Heat coach Pat Riley.

"If I knew what was wrong, I could write a book like 'The Winner Within,'" Barrow said. "I just don't know what's happened. It's just a sad situation to have this much talent and not add up to victory."

Here's another possibility. It could be the Jack Gallagher curse.

The late Gallagher covered the Oilers for The Houston Post in the early days of the league and after getting into a fight (literally) with owner Bud Adams, proclaimed the Oilers would never win a championship with Adams as owner.

And they never have.

Oilers Capsule

HOUSTON (7-9) AT BALTIMORE (4-11)
Noon, NBC

LINE — Baltimore by 3.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Oilers 9-6; Ravens 5-9.
SERIES RECORD — Ravens (as Cleveland Browns) lead series 30-22.
LAST TIME MET — Oilers beat Ravens at home 29-13 in Week 3.
LAST GAME — Oilers lost at home to Bengals 21-13. Ravens lost to Panthers on the road 27-16.

OILERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 6), PASS (No. 23), OVERALL (No. 20)

QB Chris Chandler completed 16 of 29 passes for 178 yards and threw three interceptions in loss to Bengals. Steve McNair relieved and went 6-for-10 for 72 yards and a touchdown. McNair will start this week. Rookie RB Eddie George rushed for 76 yards on 24 carries to lead club vs. Cincinnati. WR Chris Sanders caught six passes for 89 yards last week.

RAVENS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 14), PASS (No. 2), OVERALL (No. 3)

QB Vinny Testaverde leads AFC with 30 touchdowns and is second in conference with 3,870 yards passing. RB Bam Morris has 272 total yards in last two games, including 208 yards rushing. WR Michael Jackson had five catches for 65 yards and a touchdown in loss to Carolina.

OILERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 2), PASS (No. 9), OVERALL (No. 5)

Allowing only 84.3 yards rushing per game. Unit held Bengals to 79 yards on ground last week. DE Anthony Cook had a half-sack on loss to Bengals and leads club with 7 1/2. CB Darryll Lewis has team-high five interceptions.

RAVENS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 23), PASS (No. 30), OV

Hog Heaven

Redskins bid farewell to venerable RFK

By Joseph White
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — It has become one of the signature panoramas in television sports: The blimp's camera focuses on the Lincoln Memorial, then slowly pans past the Washington Monument and Capitol dome until it zeros in on the oval shape of RFK Stadium, filled, as always, to capacity.

It's another tradition about to succumb to the modern era. When Sunday's game between the Washington Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys ends, the NFL will say goodbye to the nation's capital.

Next season, the Redskins will move into a new home, one that's only five miles away in distance but light years behind in tradition. The NFL's smallest stadium with the crummy locker rooms will be replaced by a 78,600-seat facility being built in the Maryland suburbs.

"I think that one of the greatest things about my coaching career was getting to coach at RFK," said Joe Gibbs, who led the Redskins to three Super Bowl titles as coach from 1981-92. "These days, these big modern stadiums all feel the same, all look the same. RFK was totally different."

Totally different because it was totally hostile to visiting teams, which emerged as winners only 37 percent of the time over 35 seasons. Perhaps visitors were deceived by RFK's bland outward appearance, only to discover the unfriendly conditions within.

"The locker room's cold," said Russ Grimm, one of the linemen known collectively as the "Hogs" in the 1980s. "From the time you walked out, it's a cold, eerie feeling. You come through the tunnel, it's damp, it's got moss growing on it.

"You walk out on the field. In the early '80s, it looked good on TV, but it was painted dirt. The fans are up close, they're screaming and yelling. ... I see people with hog noses, and stands bouncing up and down, and that's what football's all about. It was a great place to play."

Built in 1960, the stadium from the outside resembles a huge spaceship, a style that typified the architecture of the day. But on the inside it was in many ways a throwback to earlier times.

In the lower sections, fans sat so close to the field that the scent of cleat-torn turf would waft into the stands. By November and December, when it seemed the Redskins were always playing the Cowboys in the late-afternoon gloom, a dank mist from the nearby Anacostia River usually hung over the place. The field was often a quagmire, leaving players wet and mud-stained.

And no matter how cold it got, the fans kept up their relentless din, cheering all the louder to make up for the muffling effects of gloves.

Temporary stands on the far side of the field — sitting in what was left-center field during RFK's baseball days — would shake and sway, driven by the frenetic stomping of thousands of feet.

Redskins coach Norv Turner remembers what it was like coming to RFK as a Cowboys assistant.

"I know in '91 we came in here and the Redskins were undefeated and, shoot, that first quarter I don't think we got a first down," he said. "We had guys jumping offsides. We had missed audibles, those things. It wasn't until we made a big play and got a big first down that the thing finally quieted down enough where we could operate."

Gibbs, like George Allen before him, openly implored Redskins fans to get into the game; while many other NFL coaches pay lip service to the concept of a home-field advantage, the Redskins coaches really believed it.

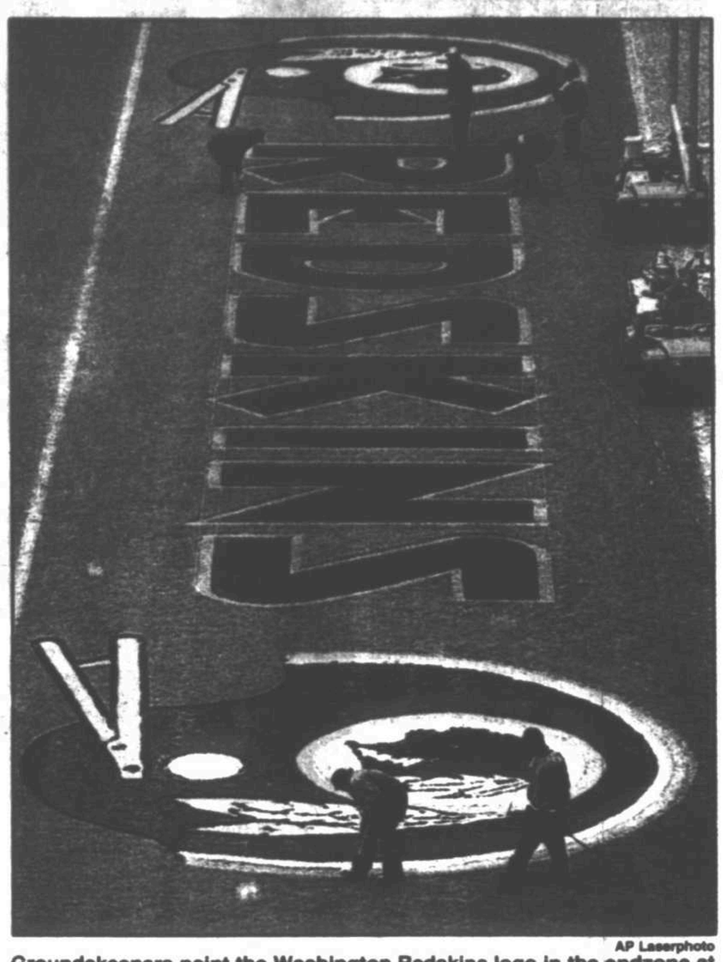
"The unique part was that George Allen would have signs put up in the stadium," former Cowboys president Tex Schramm said. "He was always trying to intimidate the officials. He knew I was a good friend of (commissioner) Pete Rozelle, so there would be a big sign that read, 'Schramm, Rozelle can't help you here.' "

RFK was home to some of the unforgettable games of NFL lore. The 72-41 victory over the Giants in 1966 — a scoring outburst unparalleled in league history; the 14-7 victory over the Cowboys in 1973 that ended with what became known as The Tackle — Ken Houston's wrestle-down of Walt Garrison on the 1-yard line on the game's final play; the "We Want Dallas!" 31-17 victory over the Cowboys in the 1982 NFC Championship game; and The Seat Cushion Game, the muddy 24-7 playoff win over the Falcons in 1992 that saw thousands of yellow promotional seat cushions fly from the stands in the celebratory fourth quarter.

Sunday's game will be the Redskins' 229th consecutive home sell-out at the 53,000-seat stadium, an NFL record. Incredibly, the streak began in the mid-1960s, when the Redskins were still perennial NFL doormats. In 1961, the team's first year in the stadium then known as D.C. Stadium, the only victory in a 1-12-1 campaign came in the season finale against Dallas.

The winning began in 1969 with the arrival of Vince Lombardi and continued under Allen, but even subsequent tough times under Jack Pardee and Turner failed to dampen fans' enthusiasm.

The motivation for the Redskins' move out of RFK is the usual one — owner Jack Kent Cooke says he needs more luxury boxes and seats, and he's digging into his own fortune to build the new $160 million stadium.



AP Laserphoto

Groundskeepers paint the Washington Redskins logo in the endzone at RFK Stadium Wednesday as they set up for the team's last football game at the stadium today against the Dallas Cowboys. The Redskins will start next season at a new stadium in nearby Maryland.

'Hail to the Redskins'

RFK Quotes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reflections on RFK Stadium from players, coaches and football executives:

"I think that one of the greatest things about my coaching career was getting to coach at RFK. These days, these big modern stadiums all feel the same, all look the same. RFK was totally different. Crummy seats, crud hanging from the ceilings, people hanging on top of you, but that was a special feeling." — **Joe Gibbs**, who led the Redskins to three Super Bowl titles as coach from 1981-92.

"The locker room's cold. From the time you walked out, it's a cold, eerie feeling. You come through the tunnel, it's damp, it's got moss growing on it. You walk out on the field. In the early '80s, it looked good on TV, but it was painted dirt. The fans are up close, they're screaming and yelling. ... I see people with hog noses, and stands bouncing up and down, and that's what football's all about. It was a great place to play." — **Former lineman Russ Grimm**, one of the so-called "Hogs" who played for Gibbs.

"When she got home, there were a lot of cigarette burns in the back of her jacket where the fans put their butts out. Now, that's good old-fashioned hate." — **Dallas safety Bill Bates**, whose wife once made the mistake of wearing a Cowboys jacket in the stands.

"When that happened, it was just amazing. It was so spontaneous. It was like it was planned. Just one guy started throwing them, and everybody else joined in. If they had planned it, it probably wouldn't have worked out as good." — **Return specialist Brian Mitchell**, recalling the Seat Cushion Game, a 24-7 victory over Atlanta in the 1992 playoffs in which fans tossed yellow seat cushions on the field in the fourth quarter.

"The way they've been bouncing on that thing for years, those slats got to be about to break by now, so maybe we're getting out right on time." — **Cornerback Darrell Green** on the temporary stands that shake when the crowd gets raucous.

"You can't survive in a stadium like RFK, but when you get into these new stadiums, these state-of-the-art facilities, they are nice, but there's something missing." — **Former general manager Bobby Beathard**.

"It's the only stadium where I had to leave the sidelines to go to the bathroom." — **Dallas coach Barry Switzer.**

RFK Highlights

WASHINGTON (AP) — Highlights of the Washington Redskins' 36 years at RFK Stadium:

Dec. 17, 1961 — **First victory:** Washington 34, Dallas 24. The Redskins were on the verge of a fruitless first year in their new home, then known as D.C. Stadium, when Dickie James scored four touchdowns in the season finale. The win broke a 23-game winless streak for the Skins, who finished the year 1-12-1.

Nov. 26, 1965 — **Sonny's Rally**: Washington 34, Dallas 31. Down 21-0, Sonny Jurgensen ignored the crowd's boos and rallied the Redskins by throwing for three touchdowns and running for another. The game was the highlight of Bill McPeak's five losing seasons in Washington.

"I'm glad the crowd let me stay in," a sarcastic Jurgensen told reporters after the game. "It was decent of them, and maybe Bill McPeak appreciates it, too."

Nov. 27, 1966 — **The Record-breaker**: Washington 72, New York Giants 41. One hundred-thirteen points. Six scoring plays of 50 yards or more. The NFL has never seen anything like it before or since. Surprisingly, the other stats from the game appear tame by today's standards. Jurgensen, for example, was just 10-for-16 for 145 yards.

"That was one of those crazy days," Hall of Fame receiver Bobby Mitchell said. "I was put into the backfield — I hadn't been back there in some years — and as soon as I touched the ball, I ran for a touchdown."

Dec. 31, 1972 — **Super Bowl Bound:** Washington 26, Dallas 3. The highlight of George Allen's tenure as coach was the victory that gained the Redskins their first Super Bowl berth. "The future is now," "40 men together can't lose," and the "over-the-hill gang" were the catch phrases of the day as Billy Kilmer hit Charley Taylor for two touchdowns and the defense shut down Roger Staubach.

Oct. 8, 1973 — **The Tackle:** Washington 14, Dallas 7. Monday Night Football, 24 seconds left, fourth-and-goal from the 6, Walt Garrison catches Staubach's pass just in front of the goal line but is met by safety Ken Houston. Houston grabs Garrison around the waist and wrestles the 6-foot, 205-pound back to the ground for a game-saving, open-field tackle.

"I've got nothing but bad memories there," Garrison said.

Jan. 22, 1982 — **"We want Dallas!"**: Washington 31, Dallas 17. The Redskins had gone 8-1 in the strike-shortened regular season, and the only loss was to Dallas. Revenge would come in the NFC Championship game when crowd started its deafening chant hours before kickoff.

"You were sitting on the stool in the locker room, and you could hear it," lineman Russ Grimm said.

Nov. 18, 1985 — **Theismann's Break**: Washington 23, New York Giants. This game will be remembered for the gruesome television replay of Joe Theismann's leg breaking the wrong way under the weight of linebacker Lawrence Taylor, and Taylor's frantic motions urging the Redskins medical staff to get on the field. Theismann's tibia had torn through the skin, and he would never play again. Seldom-used Jay Schroeder entered and became an instant star, rallying the Redskins to victory with a fourth-quarter pass to Clint Didier.

Jan. 4, 1992 — The **Seat Cushion Game**: Washington 24, Atlanta 7. It rained rain, and it rained cushions. On the way to their third Super Bowl title under Gibbs, the Redskins dominated the Falcons in a muddy playoff game, and the fans celebrated by throwing their promotional-giveaway yellow seat cushions on the field in the fourth quarter.

"When that happened, it was just amazing," return specialist Brian Mitchell said. "It was so spontaneous. It was like it was planned. Just one guy started throwing them, and everybody else joined in. If they had planned it, it probably wouldn't have worked out as good."

Frosty Favre looks forward to cold

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Brett Favre swears he hates the Wisconsin winters, yet he's perfect when the temperatures plummet. The forecast for Sunday when the Minnesota Vikings come calling? Snow, wind-chill below zero.

In other words, perfect.

Vikings coach Dennis Green tried to prepare his players for their trip to Green Bay by throwing open the doors on their indoor practice facility this week after trying unsuccessfully to clear a space on their outdoor fields.

The Packers didn't dare practice on their frigid field.

"I heard where Dennis Green is taking them out for one day this week. I'd be begging him not to," Favre said. "You can't get anything accomplished in it. You just go out there Sunday and you say 'Man, it's cold!'

"Mentally, you can say you can be prepared for it, but really you can't," added Favre, who is 16-0 at home when game-time temperature is 35 or below.

Favre said he's stumped over his remarkable record in cold conditions, and he insists he has no secrets to share.

"How often do you stay out there for three hours? I don't think any of us are going to go out in the yard for three hours tonight and mess around with Christmas lights," Favre said. "I don't assume you know that would be the smart thing to do, but we'll have to do it Sunday."

Coach Mike Holmgren said opponents can't help but be bothered by the cold, and he recalled two bitterly cold games, one against the Rams in 1992 and one against the Raiders in 1993.

"Heck, the Rams' starting running back (David Lang) was trying to get his foot de-iced and his shoe caught on fire and he missed two quarters," Holmgren said.

AP Laserphoto

Green Bay Packers' quarterback Brett Favre swears he hates the Wisconsin winters as much as anyone, yet he's perfect when the temperatures plummet and make it hard to grasp the frozen football.

That certainly affected him.

Favre said the blasts of Arctic air tend to intimidate opponents.

"It's not fun for either side, but mentally we might have a little bit of an advantage because we live in it. We call it our home. It's our turf. It's our frozen tundra, all those things you want to talk about," he said.

The NFC Central champions (12-3), who have won 25 of their last 26 games at Lambeau, would have to lose to the Vikings (9-6) by 19 points on Sunday to lose home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs — provided Carolina wins against Pittsburgh.

That's where the weather could make all the difference, said Favre, who, despite his disdain for the snow, would like nothing more than to have another "Ice Bowl" next month.

"I know Dallas and San Francisco, and those teams are going, 'Gosh, we may have to go up there and play them.' And that's good. We want them thinking about that," Favre said.

Minnesota linebacker Jeff Brady, who played in Green Bay in 1992, said the Vikings, despite playing in the climate-controlled Metrodome, are no strangers to the cold.

"We're walking in and out of the Arctic tundra ourselves," he said. "It's just going to be a survival test out there.

"It's a situation where you're going to be next to the heater until your number is called, then you're going to fly out there and make some plays and then get on over there back next to the heater," Brady added.

Vikings quarterback Brad Johnson said he didn't know what to expect.

"I've never played in the snow," he said. "I don't think I've ever gone out by myself and thrown a football in the snow."

This is what it's like, said Favre: the football, which is slightly oily anyhow because it's fresh out of the box, freezes up like an ice-covered rock.

"It's greasy. Now imagine it, stick your arm in an icebox for couple of hours with the ball," Favre said. "Sit there and try to squeeze on it, get a good feel for it, it's tough. And I'm pretty lucky, I've got big hands."

Favre, who grew up in Kiln, Miss., near the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, is the NFL's ultimate cold-weather quarterback. In Lambeau's icy weather, he's completed 344 of 525 passes for 4,035 yards, 36 TDs and only eight interceptions.

That doesn't mean he's looking forward to Sunday, however.

"I'd love to be down in Florida this week playing Minnesota," Favre said. "Let's play them in a neutral site or something, you know?"

Notebook

Associated Press

Five coaches are packing

By Dave Goldberg
AP Football Writer

Rich Kotite is already gone from the Jets and Dan Reeves and the Giants will depart after Sunday's finale.

Rick Venturi, the professional "interim coach" in New Orleans, is also gone; add Wayne Fontes in Detroit and June Jones in Atlanta, and there are five NFL coaches directing their final games this weekend.

They may have company.

"I don't think it's going to end on a good note," Reeves said last week, acknowledging the end of his four-year tenure with the Giants. "It's sort of like a lot of things in life. There are certain ways you'd like it to end, but I don't think it's going to end that way."

Reeves probably shouldn't fret.

If he doesn't get another job, he'll collect $1.3 million next year for not coaching.

And his transgressions in the Meadowlands were alienation of management rather than poor coaching, the same reason he left Denver. He and Jim Mora, who quit the Saints job at midseason, are at the top of the list for any team that wants a recycled coach rather than a fresh young assistant.

But there will be other vacancies, perhaps as many as the nine after the 1991 season.

Among the possibilities (in order of likelihood):

— Rich Brooks, St. Louis. He could finish with six wins, not bad for a teams starting rookies at five offensive skill positions.

Of course, four of the six wins (if he beats the Saints on Sunday) will be against New Orleans and Atlanta. And a front office that dumped Jerome Bettis, Sean Gilbert and Troy Drayton for less than market value would be just the front office to dump a coach trying to turn things around with young players.

— Mike White, Oakland. Al Davis used to be proud that his team led the NFL in penalties every year, but 20 in one game is a bit much. White's been on a rollercoaster all season, and Davis may have someone in the wings (see below).

— Dennis Green, Minnesota. He's told friends he'll be in Oakland next season, although his fourth playoff trip in five seasons might make his off-field problems more palatable to Vikings' management.

Still, two of the team's five-member board of directors want Lou Holtz and there's also sentiment for Pete Carroll, the 49ers' defensive coordinator and a former Minnesota assistant.

— Bill Parcells, New England. His contract is up and there are rumors about him heading back to New York. Forget the Giants — they won't take him back. Two sources say he's already renegotiating a new deal with the Patriots.

— Barry Switzer, Dallas. Jerry Jones keeps giving him votes of confidence. But there are rumors and Switzer may be the fall guy for the Michael Irvin-Leon Lett transgressions if the team stumbles early in the playoffs.

Two others — Bobby Ross of San Diego and Marty Schottenheimer of Kansas City — are longer shots to go. Schottenheimer is less likely to go than general manager Carl Peterson, whose $1 million a year contract is up. Lamar Hunt, the Chiefs' owner, doesn't seem in a hurry to renegotiate.

AND TO SUCCEED THEM: Assume that Parcells, Ross and Schottenheimer stay put. That leaves Reeves, Mora and maybe Green and Mike Ditka at the top of the list for teams that want coaches with track records.

Knock Fontes off that list.

"Why would I want to go through it?" he says. "To be butchered every day, to be knocked down. No. I don't want to do it."

The less experienced contenders:

— Rick Neuheisel, head coach, University of Colorado. He's just 36, and Detroit and New Orleans are interested. But does he want to leave or is he pulling a Steve Spurrier, trying to get more money from his current employer?

— Carroll, who could land in Detroit, Minnesota or even with the Giants. He's this year's "hot assistant," an irony not lost on the Jets, who gave him one season as their head coach. The Jets also had Bruce Coslet, who's 6-2 since succeeding Dave Shula in Cincinnati and has been rewarded with a new four-year deal.

— Nick Saban, head coach, Michigan State. He was a successful defensive coordinator in Cleveland. The Lions and Giants like him.

— Jim Fassel, offensive coordinator, Arizona Cardinals, who may already have the Giants job locked up. He was quarterback coach under Ray Handley and tutored Dave Brown. Longshots for the Giants: Mike Nolan, the team's defensive coordinator, and Pete Mangurian, the offensive line coach who has openly been campaigning for the job.

— Joe Bugel, assistant head coach, Oakland. The Giants like him and he could move up to the head job at the Raiders. He's a recycling job, but he's respected for the job he did in Arizona before Bill Bidwill ushered him out the door.

Longshots: Sherman Lewis, offensive coordinator, Green Bay; Emmitt Thomas, defensive coordinator, Philadelphia; Jon Gruden, offensive coordinator, Philadelphia; Rusty Tillman, special teams coach, Oakland. They're all guys who'll interview this year, then become serious contenders in the next few years.

TIE ONE FOR THE GIPPER?: The NFL office actually got calls this week wondering if Kansas City coach Marty Schottenheimer and Buffalo coach Marv Levy might collude on a tie that would get both teams into the playoffs.

That's because a tie is the most likely way for both teams to make it. The loser of their game probably will be out.

Redskins owner plans to miss final game at RFK Stadium

WASHINGTON — Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke won't be attending Sunday's historic final game at RFK Stadium.

Doctors have recommended the 84-year-old Cooke stay at home because of his osteoarthritis.

"Although he is recovering nicely, undergoing physical therapy for osteoarthritis, his doctors prefer he not attend the game," the team said in a release.

The final NFL game to be played at RFK Stadium matches Washington against the rival Dallas Cowboys. Next season, the team moves into a newer — and much larger — facility in suburban Landover, Md.

Cooke began to feel ill as he sat in the owner's box at RFK on Nov. 10 during the Redskins' overtime loss to the Arizona Cardinals.

He spent five days in Georgetown University Medical Center undergoing treatment for the degenerative arthritis condition.

In the team's statement, Cooke calls missing Sunday's game a "sad and bitter disappointment," but adds, "I will most certainly be on hand for the grand opening of the Redskins new stadium."

Dirty Dozen

The top six and bottom six teams based on current level of play:

1. Green Bay (12-3)
2. Denver (13-2)
3. San Francisco (11-4)
4. Carolina (11-4)
5. Indianapolis (9-6)
6. Dallas (10-5)
25. Philadelphia (9-6)
26. St. Louis (5-10)
27. New Orleans (3-12)
28. New York Giants (6-9)
29. Atlanta (3-12)
30. New York Jets (1-14)

DEC 22 1996

College Notes

Associated Press

Longhorns arrive in Arizona for Fiesta preparations

TEMPE, Ariz. — Figuring time constraints helped lead to last season's Sugar Bowl loss, Texas coach John Mackovic is taking no chances this time.

The Longhorns arrived Friday to begin preparation for facing No. 7 Penn State (10-2) New year's Day in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. They begin twice-daily workouts on Saturday.

"When you get to a bowl game there are so many things to do," Mackovic said after the Longhorns touched down at Sky Harbor International Airport.

"Last year we arrived in New Orleans after Christmas and never got into game week the way we should have," he said of led to a 28-10 loss to Virginia Tech.

Texas' trip to the Sugar Bowl last year was marred by the controversy over a reserve defensive back who turned out to be a 30-year-old imposter.

Joel Ron McKelvey was revealed to be Ron Weaver, whose eligibility had been exhausted in 1989 at Sacramento State. Three years later, he went to a California junior college under a friend's name and started a new career.

Weaver/McKelvey left the team unannounced after the revelation, and the Longhorns went on to lose 28-10 to Virginia Tech.

Mackovic said Texas plans to maximize their pre-bowl opportunities.

"It was more convenient for us to come to Arizona early so we could get some good quality practices in and also allow our team the chance to enjoy themselves.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Mackovic. "I think they were playing as well as anybody in the country at the end of the season."

No. 20 Texas (8-4), which knocked off Nebraska in the Big 12 championship to earn its first Fiesta appearance, enters the game on a roll.

The Longhorns lost four of their first seven games but finished with five straight wins, including the 37-27 victory over Nebraska.

Despite their early arrival, the Longhorns still start out behind their opponents. Penn State (10-2) arrived in the Phoenix area on Thursday.

Bowl Rematches

(4 sweeps; 6 splits)

Texas A&M vs. LSU

Oct. 9, 1943 — Texas A&M 26, No. 17 LSU 13

Jan. 1, 1944 — LSU 19, Texas A&M 14 (Orange)

Iowa vs. Oregon State

Oct. 6, 1956 — No. 20 Iowa 14, Oregon St. 13

Jan. 1, 1957 — No. 3 Iowa 35, No. 10 Oregon St. 19 (Rose)

LSU vs. Mississippi

Oct. 31, 1959 — No. 1 LSU 7, No. 3 Mississippi 3

Jan. 1, 1960 — No. 2 Mississippi 21, No. 3 LSU 0 (Sugar)

Michigan State vs. UCLA

Sept. 18, 1965 — Michigan St. 13, UCLA 3

Jan. 1, 1966 — No. 6 UCLA 14, No. 1 Michigan St. 12 (Rose)

Ohio State vs. UCLA

Oct. 4, 1975 — No. 2 Ohio St. 41, No. 13 UCLA 20

Jan. 1, 1976 — No. 11 UCLA 23, No. 1 Ohio St. 10 (Rose)

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma

Nov. 11, 1978 — No. 4 Nebraska 17, No. 1 Oklahoma 14

Jan. 1, 1979 — No. 4 Oklahoma 31, No. 6 Nebraska 24 (Orange)

UCLA vs. Michigan

Sept. 25, 1982 — No. 12 UCLA 31, No. 20 Michigan 27

Jan 1., 1983 — No. 5 UCLA 24, No. 19 Michigan 14 (Rose)

Michigan State vs. Southern Cal

Sept. 7, 1987 — Michigan St. 27, No. 19 Southern Cal 13

Jan. 1, 1988 — No. 8 Michigan St. 20, No. 16 Southern Cal 17 (Rose)

Florida vs. Florida State

Nov. 26, 1994 — No. 4 Florida 31, No. 7 Florida St. 31

Jan. 2, 1995 — No. 7 Florida St. 23, No. 5 Florida 17 (Sugar)

Toledo vs. Nevada

Sept. 23, 1995 — Toledo 49, Nevada 35

Dec. 14, 1995 — No. 25 Toledo 40, Nevada 37, OT (Las Vegas)

Florida State vs. Florida

Nov. 30, 1996 — No. 2 Florida St. 24, No. 1 Florida 21

Jan. 2, 1997 — No. 1 Florida St. vs. No. 3 Florida (Sugar)

UIL Q&A

Associated Press

Some questions and answers about key points of the University Interscholastic League:

Q: What is the UIL?

A: As the largest interschool organization of its kind in the world, the UIL oversees the extracurricular academic, athletic and music contests in Texas public schools. The UIL is subsidized by membership fees paid by the schools and is a non-profit organization. Member schools have consistently voted not to allow private schools to join the UIL.

Q: Who makes UIL rules?

A: Rules are developed by the UIL's Legislative Council, which is made up of 28 superintendents, assistant superintendents and principals elected from each of the four regions in all five classes across the state. There are eight at-large representatives appointed by the chairman of the Legislative Council to ensure a balanced representation of student and ethnic populations as well as women. The current chairman is Bill Mayfield, the superintendent of Happy Independent School District in the Panhandle.

Q: Does the public have rule-making input?

A: The UIL takes comments and proposals on its rules every year at Legislative Council public hearings held in October.

Q: Is the UIL planning to adopt any significant new rules?

A: Yes. The UIL is now preparing to adopt a rule that would provide a penalty for schools that withhold information regarding eligibility of students at other schools. Both the school employee who withheld information and his or her school could be assessed a penalty, including disqualification from district honors. The proposed rule would also give the State Executive Committee the option not to remove the team with the ineligible player from the playoffs in such a situation.

Q: Would the rule change be a significant departure for the UIL?

A: Yes and no. It would allow the State Executive Committee to crack down on 11th hour eligibility complaints that regularly come up at season's end or playoff time. But UIL officials say they'll allow a team to continue in the playoffs with an ineligible player only if the school has made good-faith efforts to check out the player's eligibility and was somehow deceived.

Q: How does an eligibility challenge arise?

A: The UIL attempts to investigate, to some degree, all complaints that arrive in their office, whether they be from a known source or anonymous. Most are self-reported by a member school. The complaint is then heard by a committee at the district level. The district executive committees are composed of one school administrator from each school in a UIL district. They have original jurisdiction over all eligibility questions within the district.

Q: What is the State Executive Committee?

A: An appeal of a district executive committee ruling goes to the UIL State Executive Committee, made up of nine members appointed by the Texas Education Commissioner. The Executive Committee comprises five school administrators and four at-large, or public, members. The Executive Committee can ask the UIL staff for a recommended ruling in a case. That staff recommendation is usually formed by UIL Director Bill Farney, UIL Athletic Director Charles Breithaupt and UIL Policy Director Bonnie Northcutt.

Q: What if there's an appeal of a State Executive Committee ruling?

A: When a school is unhappy with a UIL ruling, it can seek a temporary restraining order from state court. Until the mid-1980s, those lawsuits could be filed in the high school's county. That, UIL leaders say, led to conflicts between judges. At the UIL's request, the Texas Legislature made it a law that all such lawsuits would have to be filed in Travis County, safe from local politics.

Q: Is court action against the UIL usually successful?

A: No. First, the courts have determined the UIL is not a state agency but an association of voluntary members, much like the NCAA. Second, courts have held that participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right protected by the Constitution.

Q: Are there as many complaints of rules violations in the UIL's music and academic competitions as there are in athletics?

A: No. C.R. Daniel, the UIL's compliance officer, says that athletic complaints of rules violations outnumber those in music and academic competitions by 5-1. Rules violations in academic competitions are often procedural mistakes, Daniel says. Complaints in music competitions usually involve a school attempting to get the music used in sight-reading contests ahead of time or a band director allowing an ineligible student to compete, Daniel said.

Change became a trend

Overtime, coaching moves marked wacky year

By Richard Rosenblatt
AP Football Writer

Florida's Danny Wuerffel ended college football's longest regular season with a six-touchdown flourish against Alabama, the same way BYU's Steve Sarkisian started it against Texas A&M.

In between, from Arizona State's 19-0 upset of two-time defending national champion Nebraska to Florida State's ascension to No. 1 with a win over rival Florida, the '96 season was filled with cruel defeats, command performances, coaching changes ... and more coaching changes.

Lou Holtz, sticking with his "right thing to do" explanation, resigned at Notre Dame, and Gene Stallings retired at Alabama. Lots of other coaches are gone, too, as 23 major teams will have new coaches in 1997. Grambling coach Eddie Robinson, however, will return for a 55th and final season despite efforts to force him out.

Overtime made its big-time football debut and had an impact on the national title chase — the No. 2 Sun Devils (11-0) beat Southern California 48-35 in two overtimes on Oct. 19 en route to a perfect season and Rose Bowl berth against No. 4 Ohio State (10-1).

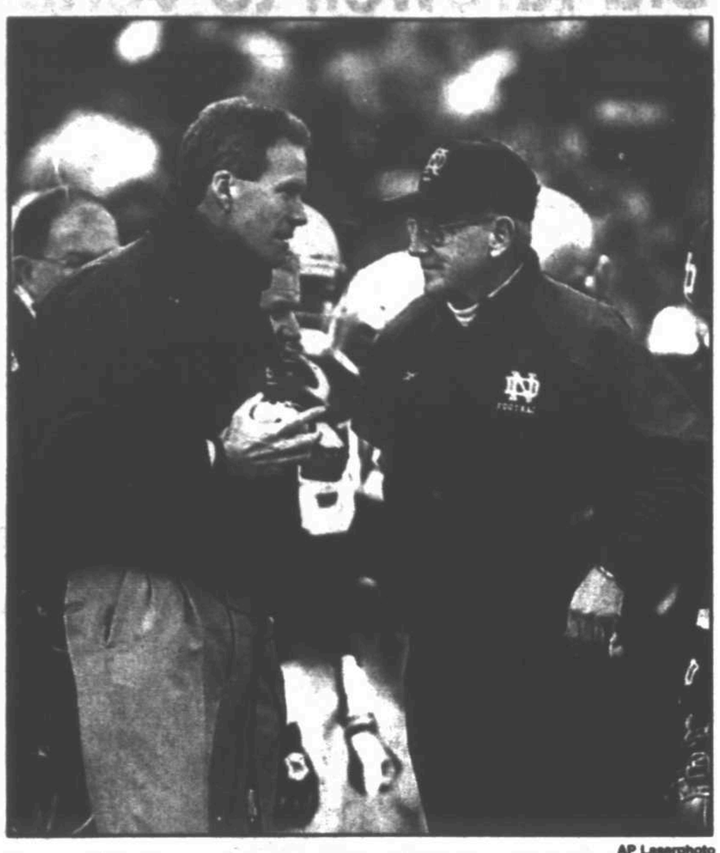
There were 25 overtime games this season, with Pac-10 teams involved in eight of them. The longest OT game was in I-AA, where Florida A&M beat Hampton 59-58 in six extra sessions.

Overtime cost Notre Dame an $8.5 million bowl payday. The Irish, needing a win over USC on Nov. 30 to clinch a Fiesta or Orange bowl bid, were beaten 27-20 in OT and won't play in the postseason. Bob Davie, the Irish's defensive coordinator, replaces Holtz next season.

The top bowl alliance game this season is the Sugar, where the Gators (11-1) get a rematch against the Seminoles (11-0) on Jan. 2. Fifth-ranked BYU (13-1), meanwhile, racked up more regular-season wins than any major team but was left out of the alliance, settling for a Cotton Bowl berth against Kansas State.

The year began with Nebraska winning its second straight national title after a 62-24 rout of Florida in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2. Little did the Huskers know that nine months later, on the same field they won the title, they would be humbled by the Sun Devils.

In the Rose Bowl, Southern California ended Northwestern's magical run with a 41-32 victory.



AP Laserphoto

Former Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz, right, talks with defensive coordinator Bob Davie, who replace the Irish legend after the 1996 season.

Wuerffel, the triggerman for the Gators' Fun 'N' Gun offense, rebounded well from the Fiesta Bowl loss. He won the Heisman Trophy by passing for 3,625 yards and 39 touchdowns. Iowa State's Troy Davis ran for 2,185 yards and Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard had 2,084, the first time two I-A runners topped the 2,000-yard mark. Wyoming's Marcus Harris, with 109 catches for 1,650 yards, set an NCAA record for career receiving yards with 4,518.

In Division III, Dante Brown of Marietta (Ohio) set an NCAA all-divisions single-game rushing record with 441 yards against Baldwin-Wallace on Oct. 5.

The season was dominated by three teams — Nebraska, Arizona State and Florida — before Florida State took over at No. 1.

Nebraska, shooting for an unprecedented third straight national title, was shut down by the Sun Devils' Jake Plummer & Co. Plummer passed for 292 yards, the 23 1/2-point underdog Sun Devils produced three safeties and the Huskers lost their 26-game winning streak.

"We're all embarrassed and ashamed ... to go out there and lay a goose egg on the scoreboard," Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost said.

But the Huskers won out in the new Big 12 to reach the conference title game against Texas on Dec. 7. Favored by 20 points, the Huskers were no match for Longhorns quarterback James Brown, who predicted a win and delivered a 37-27 upset that ended the Huskers hopes of a three-peat.

The Gators inherited the No. 1 spot on Sept. 23 after Wuerffel outdueled Tennessee's Peyton Manning. Wuerffel threw four TD passes in the first 19 minutes and Tennessee never had a chance. The game was played before 107,608 at Neyland Stadium, an NCAA record for an on-campus crowd.

Florida State, meanwhile, kept winning with a fierce defense and moved into the No. 2 ranking just in time to create 1 vs. 2 game against the Gators on Nov. 30.

Wuerffel was sacked six times, hit about two dozen other times and threw three interceptions as the Seminoles won 24-21 in Tallahassee. Warrick Dunn ran for a career-best 185 yards to help the Seminoles move within a win of a second national title in four years.

The surprise team turned out to be the Sun Devils. Ranked 20th in the preseason, Arizona State rocketed to No. 6 with its win over Nebraska. Plummer directed thrilling come-from-behind wins against UCLA and USC and wound up third in the Heisman voting behind Wuerffel and Davis. He may not have been the most outstanding player in the country, but Plummer certainly was among the most exciting.

There were plenty of exciting finishes, topped by Northwestern's 34-30 win over Wisconsin on Oct. 19. With the Badgers ahead 30-27, Ron Dayne fumbled with 49 seconds left, the Wildcats recovered and Steve Schnur threw a 20-yard game winning TD pass to D'Wayne Bates with 37 seconds left.

The win helped Northwestern (9-2) tie Ohio State for the Big Ten title after the Buckeyes pulled their annual collapse against Michigan, losing 13-9 on Nov. 23. It was the second straight year the Wolverines ended the Buckeyes' shot at a perfect season and national title.

The military academies also flexed their muscles, with Army (10-1) posting its first ever 10-win season by edging Navy 28-24. The result sent the Cadets to the Independence Bowl against Auburn and the Midshipmen (8-3) to the Aloha Bowl against California. Air Force went 7-4, with a win over Notre Dame, as quarterback Beau Morgan became became the first player to run and pass for more than 1,000 yards in two seasons.

Columbia failed to win the Ivy League, but its 8-2 record was the Lions' best since 1945.

Northern Colorado beat Carson-Newman (Tenn.) 23-14 to win the Division II national title and Mount Union (Ohio) beat Rowan 56-24 to take the Division III title.

Off-the-field problems plagued several teams. At Boston College, 13 players were suspended for betting with bookies. By the end of the season coach Dan Henning resigned.

Clemson, Miami, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Virginia Tech, among others, suspended players for incidents including assault and drunken driving.

UIL again criticized after Plano ruling

By Chips Brown
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — The hate mail is still pouring into Bill Farney's office.

The letters are from Odessa, where perennial football powerhouse Permian High School was banned from the state playoffs in 1990 and 1993. And they're from Dallas, where Carter High School was stripped of its 1988 Class 5A state championship after two years of legal wrangling over a player ruled academically ineligible.

The writers rip a Nov. 13 decision by the University Interscholastic League's to reinstate another traditional football power, Plano High School, to the Class 5A playoffs this year.

The UIL is being accused of inconsistency, bias and even racism for reinstating Plano, a predominantly white school, to the playoffs after fighting extensively in court to make sure that Carter, which is predominantly black, didn't keep its title.

"All phases of the ruling need to be reviewed in light of race, socioeconomic status, all of it," said Joseph Brew, the principal of Dallas Carter. "Any time you are not consistent with a rule, your effectiveness is diluted."

The Plano and Carter cases are different because the Plano case deals with residency and the Carter case dealt with whether a student had a passing grade, said Farney, the UIL's director.

"These are emotional situations," Farney said. "Because people don't blame their local schools or coaches, they blame the UIL staff. It's natural. We become a lightning rod."

The Plano controversy involved the residency of Rashad Gunn, the leading rusher for the Wildcats, who've been in the playoffs a record 30 straight times.

Gunn and his mother, Gayle Jackson, signed UIL documents stating they had moved to Plano from Irving before the season and were living at a friend's house until they could afford their own apartment.

After a tip from Plano's rival high school, Plano East, which stood to get into the playoffs if Plano was disqualified, the District 9-5A executive committee found that Gunn did move in with Keith and Debbie Roberts, but that his mother never followed. That's a violation because the UIL bases residency on a parent's address.

The district committee voted 4-3 to rule Gunn ineligible, thus forcing Plano to forfeit all games Gunn played in and knocking Plano out of the playoffs. Plano East was penciled in as Plano's replacement.

But the State Executive Committee later ruled that the 4-3 vote was invalid because the chairman of the district committee, who broke the tie, was from the Mesquite school district, which already had a voting member on the committee.

At a hearing in Austin, lawyers for Plano's booster club said that Gunn's mother had been coerced to sign an incriminating affidavit by Plano East supporters. She said if she didn't sign the document saying that she had never moved to Plano, the Plano East supporters would go public with the fact that her son had plead guilty to sexual assault.

Testimony was presented that Plano had done everything it could to make sure Gunn, who transferred from Irving MacArthur, had met residency requirements.

The State Executive Committee, saying that the evidence showing Gunn had violated the UIL's residency rule was inconclusive, reinstated Plano to the playoffs. The committee suspended Gunn from future UIL activities until he could clarify his residency.

Committee members frowned on the fact that an unidentified Plano East supporter turned Plano in only after Plano had beaten Plano East late in the season.

Plano lost in the first round of the playoffs to Allen.

The UIL is preparing to adopt a rule that will give the State Executive Committee the option of punishing the school that files an 11th-hour eligibility complaint about students at another school.

The proposed rule would also give the State Executive Committee the option not to remove the team with the ineligible player from the playoffs in such a situation.

"It's my personal opinion ... that some of these late eligibility residence issues are frivolous, capricious and arbitrary to some degree, when we're ruling on the validity of residence at a time beyond the district championship," said State Executive Committee Chairman Larry Butler.

Farney says the majority of the time, schools are still going to be forced to forfeit contests if an ineligible player is discovered. He also said that the UIL isn't planning to start giving schools a lighter punishment if a player found ineligible is a small contributor on a team, such as a backup player.

"It would be dangerous to make exceptions like that," Farney said.

"No amount of conversation is going to change the minds of folks who have made up their minds that they're being wronged," Farney said. "We just have to keep going and let the total record show that we are consistent, and the reason why it looks to be inconsistent is because of different facts surrounding each case."

The Key Players

By The Associated Press

A breakdown of key University Interscholastic League officials and their jobs:

BILL FARNEY

—Position: UIL Director
—Age: 56
—Salary: $100,000
—Education: B.A., University of Tulsa; M.A., Baylor University; D.Ed., Baylor University
—History: Joined the UIL in 1977 as athletic director after serving 14 years as teacher-coach, high school principal and superintendent of schools. Was named director on March 1, 1995, succeeding longtime director Bailey Marshall.
—Duties: Supervises staff of 40 responsible for professional and administrative guidance for all UIL athletic, music and academic interschool competitions.
—Other activities: Served on the National Basketball Rules Committee, National Swimming and Diving Rules Committee and NCAA Football Rules Committee.

CHARLES BREITHAUPT

—Position: UIL Athletic Director
—Age: 43
—Salary: $68,850
—Education: B.S., Lamar University; M.S., Lamar; Ed.D., University of Texas at Austin.
—History: Became athletic director on March 1, 1995. Joined the UIL in 1992 as assistant athletic director after serving as head basketball coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal at Hardin-Jefferson ISD. He coached the Hardin-Jefferson basketball team to the Class 3A state title in 1991.
—Duties: Administers all UIL athletic programs and serves as tournament director for boys' basketball, football and track and field. Assigns members schools to conferences and districts and coordinates the entire athletic department.
—Other activities: Member of the National Federation Committee for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity and serves as an ex-officio member of the Southwest Officials Association.

BONNIE NORTHCUTT

—Position: UIL Director of Policy
—Age: 54
—Salary: $65,724
—Education: B.Ed., University of Texas at Austin; Post graduate work, UT and Southwest Texas State University.
—History: Has been with the UIL since 1972. Became director of policy in 1983 after serving as administrative clerk, training specialist and assistant athletic director.
—Duties: Gives guidance to schools concerning eligibility, serving as liaison to the Legislative Council and State Board of Education. Assists with the supervision of classified staff and equipment purchases, overseeing revision of the Constitution and Contest Rules and serves as a resource witness at Texas Senate and House committee hearings. Assists and advises legal counsel with litigation.
—Other activities: Has served on the National Federation of Volleyball Rules Committee; National Softball Rules Committee; U.S. Olympic Committee; U.S. Olympic Games Preparation Committee; and National Federation Trust Board.

UIL STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

—Chairman: Larry Butler, superintendent, Stephenville Independent School District.
—Lloyd Choice, principal, Houston ISD
—Charles Zepeda, superintendent, Odem-Edroy ISD
—Sandra Lowery, superintendent, Slocum ISD
—Kenneth Judy, superintendent, Crawford ISD
—Greg Sherwood, athletic director, Lubbock ISD (at-large appointee)
—Sydna H. Gordon, Garland (at-large)
—Terry Long, Austin (at-large)
—George Vaults, Bryan (at-large)

AP Laserphoto

Bill Farney, center, University Interscholastic League director, questions a witness during an appeal by varsity football players from Plano.

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By Bob Mims
Associated Press Wr

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By Terrance Harr
Fort Worth Star-Tele

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Not what Ute expect

Van Horn: More than a scoring, rebounding machine for Utah

By Bob Mims
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Ask Utah coach Rick Majerus about Keith Van Horn, and you won't hear the obvious — that the preseason All-American is averaging 20.2 points and 10.5 rebounds a game.

And don't expect to be told the senior who shunned the NBA's millions for one more campaign with the ninth-ranked Utes also grew an inch over the summer to 6-foot-10.

In fact, Majerus' first words about Van Horn have nothing to do with college basketball: "He's a beautiful person, he's kind, he's sensitive, he's a nineties kind of guy, a renaissance guy. He's a good friend to have.

"He's almost too good to be true."

Understand that the relationship between Utah's eighth-year coach and his star forward transcends the courts of the Western Athletic Conference, and you might begin to fathom why Van Horn delayed his professional debut.

Shunning NBA millions meant driving his aged 1987 Nissan another year, a 107,000-mile pickup that refused to start Thursday, making him hours late for an interview Thursday.

"Yeah, a Lexus probably would have an extra battery," Van Horn chuckled. "But I have no regrets about staying."

It all began not long after Van Horn — a highly sought prep star out of Diamond Bar, Calif., where he averaged 29.2 points and 10.1 rebounds a game — chose Utah and Majerus.

Life soon changed for the quiet, good-natured kid from the San Gabriel Valley in ways both dramatic and tragic.

Van Horn was WAC Freshman of the Year his first season, an honor dimmed by the loss of his father, Ken, to a heart attack.

Heartbroken, Van Horn found Majerus more than a coach. The balding, burley 48-year-old, himself a survivor of heart bypass surgery his first season at Utah, became a friend and, Van Horn says, a surrogate dad.

"A lot of what he teaches on the basketball floor really translates to everyday life. He's talked about how hard work and discipline will carry you through," Van Horn said.

"He's always said he likes me better as a person than a player, so hopefully that's good."

So, Van Horn worked. And, Majerus will tell you, then worked some more. His junior season ended with the Utes winning the WAC and a trip to the NCAA's Sweet 16 — and Van Horn being named WAC Player of the Year for a second straight season.

He began this year as a preseason All-America first team pick, with the Utes once again favored to win the WAC and make a strong postseason showing.

"I have to call him aside sometimes and tell him, 'Keith, make sure you're enjoying all this,'" Majerus said. "Another thing that's refreshing is his coachability quotient. He wants to learn; he enjoys being challenged.

"He worried about having time to take his daughter trick-or-treating on Halloween, and she's only 2 — that's the kind of guy he is.

"I could not be more fond of a player."

Van Horn credits his priorities: "God, family and work — and work hard at whatever you do."

Stability for his wife, Amy, with whom he attends a local Roman Catholic parish church, and daughter Sabrina figured heavily into the sociology major and honor roll student's decision to complete his education.

"Family will always be a priority over basketball," Van Horn said. "(They) help me escape from basketball, a bad practice or what have you, and realize the things that are really important in my life."

He sputtered at the start of this season, shooting just 35 percent (well below last season's 54 percent) through the first five games — including just 15 points on 3-for-12 shooting in the Utes' only loss, a 69-61 setback to No. 6 Arizona.

But going into Saturday's game here with 13th-ranked Texas, Van Horn was coming off a career-best 41 points and 15 rebounds in Utah's 83-48 rout of Weber State.

"I really feel comfortable on the court now," he said. "It's just a game and a very small part of life, but it's something I love."

He looks forward to an NBA career. But "if anything should happen to me, I think social work could be a career. I really like working with underprivileged children."

Scott Layden, vice president of basketball operations for the Utah Jazz, suspects Van Horn will find time for both.

"Keith has a lot of things going for him, both on and off the court. He'll do a fine job in the NBA," he said. "The important thing to note is he's gotten better each year, and that's exciting."

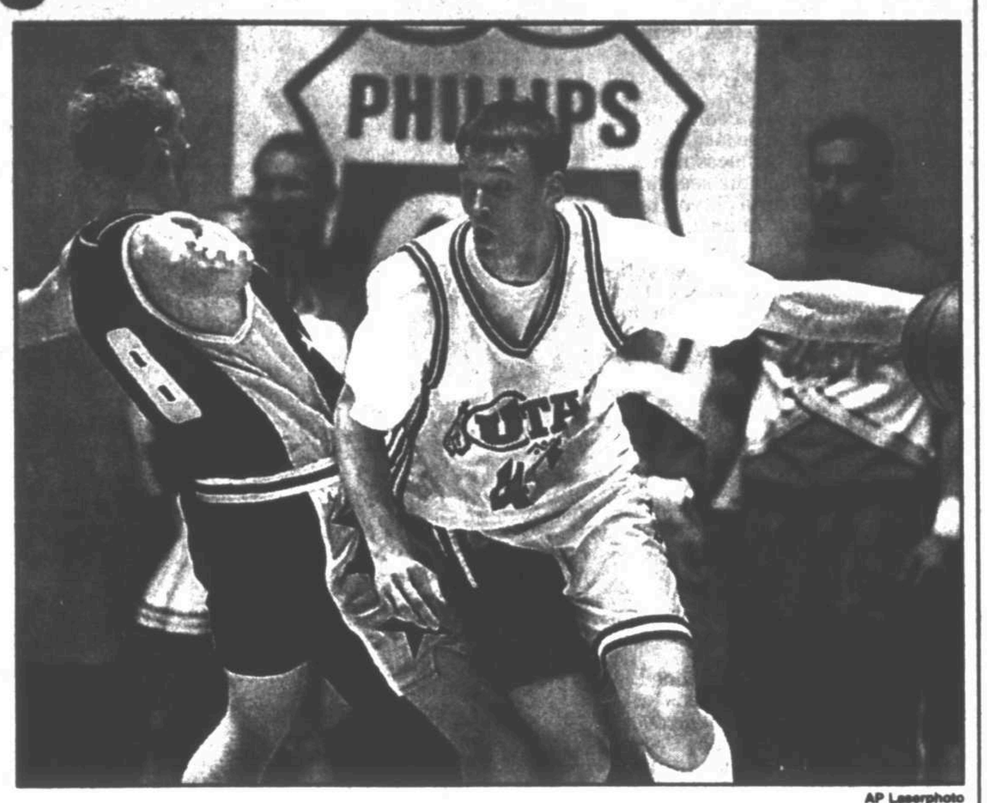
Another year of college ball, especially under Majerus — praised by Layden as one of the finest basketball minds around — can only make Van Horn more valuable, the Jazz official said.

Layden's only regret: That Van Horn likely will go high in next year's college draft — too high for the Jazz.

"We'd have a lot of interest in Keith. The problem is the way he's playing and the way we're playing," Layden sighed. "Realistically, we'll be at different ends of the draft."

Such praise makes Van Horn squirm.

"I'm trying to put all that in the back of my mind until the end of this season," Van Horn said. "But anytime you can make a living at something you love, that's great."



AP Laserphoto

University of Utah star forward Keith Van Horn drives into a member of the Australia National team during a preseason game in Salt Lake City.

Harrick says Lavin will not coach UCLA next season

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Deposed UCLA coach Jim Harrick says he doesn't believe his interim replacement, Steve Lavin, will keep the job beyond this season.

"Steve is a very, very bright young guy, potentially a very fine basketball coach," Harrick said in an interview on ESPN's "Up Close," which aired Friday. "An interim job is very, very difficult.

"When you get your first job and it's a high-profile job like UCLA, it's very, very difficult. I do not think so (Lavin will coach UCLA next season), that's just my opinion."

Harrick, 58, was fired Nov. 6 — two weeks before the start of the season — because he falsified an expense account and later lied about it.

"I've been fine," Harrick said. "It's a day-to-day thing. I'll get through it, it's not easy. You just have to go on with your life."

Harrick, who said he hopes to coach again and wouldn't be adverse to being an assistant, coached the Bruins for eight seasons. His teams compiled a 191-63 record and his 1994-95 team won the NCAA championship — UCLA's first in 20 years.

Harrick expressed the opinion that UCLA was trying to dig up dirt on him to justify the firing.

"Without a doubt," he said. "I believe that with all my heart."

He also said a broadcasting job with CBS is still a possibility, and a financial settlement with UCLA is close. He described it was "very little, but that's fine."

And while Harrick said he wasn't aware that the dinner expense for UCLA players Charles O'Bannon and Cameron Dollar had been put on his tab, he admitted making "probably an error in judgment" in the matter.

"What I did hurt no one," Harrick said. "What they did hurt a lot of people."

Transfer gives TCU a pulse in clutch

By Terrance Harris
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — There are nights on the basketball court when Malcolm Johnson even impresses himself.

Johnson recalls one such night last season when he set a Seminole (Okla.) Community College single-game scoring record with 59 points against Redlands Community College. Spotting up around the 3-point arc, rotating off picks and even falling backward and shooting off-balance from unreasonable distances — Johnson couldn't miss.

His scoring line: 21-of-30 from the field, 7-of-11 from 3-point range and 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

"The basket was just so big; I was doing anything I wanted," said Johnson, the memory conjuring a broad smile. "I was calling them off the glass, hitting off the glass and just scoring from any and everywhere."

The fans who made it to Daniel-Meyer Coliseum for TCU's past two games probably feel as though they have been there with Johnson.

Providing key points down the stretch, the 6-foot-4 small forward has been instrumental in stunning back-to-back Horned Frogs victories, first against Boston University (81-80) last Thursday and against then-No. 18 Texas Tech (93-89) on Saturday.

Johnson scored TCU's final eight points — two 3-pointers and a 2-point jump shot — against Boston University, including the game-winning basket from the top of the key with 12 seconds remaining. Against Texas Tech, he scored 10 of TCU's final 14 points, including a 3-pointer from the left wing to put the Frogs ahead for good, 88-86.

He scored 23 points in each game.

"The thing about Malcolm is he really wants the ball in his hands in those tough situations, and I like that," TCU coach Billy Tubbs said. "I thought his performances in those two games were great, but not surprising."

Tubbs would know. As coach at Oklahoma, he became interested in Johnson, who played high school ball at Lawton (Okla.) High.

"I've seen Malcolm do those kinds of things during late-game situations in practice and I've watched him do it in junior college.

"He has played well, but people have not seen the best of Malcolm Johnson yet. I tell you, the better he plays, the better I'll coach."

And the better the Frogs will be. At 7-1, TCU is off to its best start under Tubbs, in his third season.

The Frogs received votes in The Associated Press media poll and USA Today-CNN coaches poll this week after mustering their first victory against a ranked opponent since beating No. 12 Arkansas during the 1989-90 season.

"I think we're just proving what we've been saying all along, and that is this TCU basketball team is capable of beating any team out there," said Johnson, who leads the Frogs in scoring with an 18.1 average, converting 23 of 64 3-pointers (35.9 percent). "There isn't a team out there that can't be beat."

Working hard is all Johnson seems to know; it's what has delivered him to this point in his academic and playing career.

The lack of the core academic requirements necessary to go to a four-year college forced the Division I programs to back off Johnson coming out of high school. Despite averaging 26.3 points and 11 rebounds as a senior, being selected the Oklahoma Class 6A player of the year and receiving a nomination to the 1994 McDonald's High School All-American Team, the big-time was going to have to wait.

That was just as well, because Johnson said he needed an opportunity to make the transition from playing the post in high school — where he was the tallest player on the team — to working the perimeter in college.

"Looking back on how things worked out, going to junior college really helped with the transition into college, both in the classroom and on the court," said Johnson, an education major who selected TCU over Arizona State.

Johnson said that although he had always been a scorer, often working close in with his back to the basket, junior college gave him the chance to work on his outside game and develop his jump shot.

He became a prolific scorer away from the basket. Johnson averaged 24 points and 7.1 rebounds as a sophomore at Seminole to earn JUCO All-America honors.

AP Laserphoto

TCU's Malcolm Johnson has given the Horned Frogs basketball club big-time play.

Notebook

Associated Press

College basketball coaching carousel starting early

By Jim O'Connell
AP Basketball Writer

Coaching changes have become an expected part of the college basketball offseason and this past one was no different, with almost 50 schools having a change on the sideline.

But since Nov. 6, nine days before the season began, there have been another five coaching changes and each had its own distinct reason.

Jim Harrick was fired by UCLA on Nov. 6, 1 1/2 years after he led the Bruins to the national championship. The school said Harrick was fired because he lied during an internal investigation into an expense account of a meal involving recruits.

On Nov. 15, the day of the season opener, Ralph Underhill was fired by Wright State after 16 seasons there. The school said Underhill refused to respond to or meet with university officials after he was charged with shoplifting vitamins from a store near the campus.

On Dec. 13, former NBA player Craig Hodges was fired by Chicago State. Hodges has been embroiled in a lawsuit against the NBA over what he says was a blacklisting of him after he was released by the Chicago Bulls after their first title in 1991. The school, which had granted Hodges an indefinite leave of absence for personal reasons earlier in the month, cited the team's 2-27 record last season and its 16-game losing streak when it announced the firing.

This week, Roger Reid was fired by Brigham Young after seven successful seasons there. The school cited declining attendance when it announced the firing without ever mentioning the Cougars' 1-6 start or the incident when Reid chastised a recruit for letting down the Mormon Church when he decided to attend Duke.

On Friday, Jacksonville replaced George Scholz so it could evaluate its program after an 0-6 start. The move came one day after Aaron Fox walked out of practice, saying he was tired of taking verbal abuse from Scholz.

"He makes me not like basketball anymore," said Fox, the Sun Belt Conference player of the year and brother of Boston Celtics guard Rick Fox.

Scholz said Fox was thrown out of practice. He declined further comment, saying it was an internal matter.

College football is wrapping up a season with a surprising number of coaching changes and it looks like college basketball won't even wait for the season to end to start to catch up.

Firing Frosh

It's too early to make anything big of it, but a freshman is leading the country in scoring.

Donnie Carr of La Salle averaged 30.4 points over the Explorers' first five games of the season and was the only freshman among the top 50 scorers.

Carr, a 6-foot-4 guard from Philadelphia, isn't shy about shooting and took less than 20 shots only once so far. He took 38 percent of the team's shots in the first five games as La Salle got off to a 3-2 start.

"He's just an offensive machine. He's a scorer," La Salle coach Speedy Morris said. "I knew he would be a good offensive player but not this early, and he's making big baskets and taking tough shots."

Morris had a pretty good player at La Salle just a few years ago and he feels Carr is off to a much better start.

"I remember Lionel Simmons' first games, he had about 10 turnovers," Morris said. "It's very early but I've never seen a player do what Carr's doing as a freshman."

OLD TEAMS: While California coach Ben Braun was talking about his team and its game against Penn State in the Jimmy V Classic, he was asked about his old team, Eastern Michigan, and its victory over Syracuse in the championship game of the Carrier Classic.

"It makes me very proud, it makes you feel good," he said. "Eastern was a great place and obviously I was attached to the players. When I decided to take (the Cal) job, what made me feel really good was that they were supportive. That showed what type of players and people they are."

Braun then showed what kind of ex-coach he is.

"I have to go to that dinner Thursday night for the V Foundation but Eastern is playing Cincinnati on TV at the same time," he said. "I'll have to find a way to get a TV in there."

Maybe it would have been better for Barun to be cable-less. Cincinnati beat handed his former team its first loss of the season, 102-79.

IMPEACHED GAMES: Two games to be played in Canada were cancelled when the promoter, Peach Basket Productions, reached a point of insolvency.

Monday's DePaul-Montana State game that was to be played in Hamilton, Ontario, has yet to be made up but both schools said they are hopeful of playing the game this month.

The Pacific-Georgetown game was scheduled for Dec. 28 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. That game will be played on the same date but in a slightly different climate — Las Vegas.

BIG PROBLEMS: As dominant as the Big East was in the mid-to-late '80s, the league is struggling along at the bottom of the major conferences.

Big East teams are 0-9 this season against ranked teams from other conferences. Its combined overall record against the Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference is 1-10. Things could be worse, no Big East teams have played any members of the Big 12 of Pac-10.

No. 10 Villanova is the only Big East school in the Top 25, the first time there has been only one ranked team from the conference since the last two polls of the 1992-93 season. It hadn't happened before those two polls in over 10 years.

Having seven NBA draft picks helps explain the poor start, especially when two — junior Ray Allen of Connecticut and sophomore Allen Iverson of Georgetown — were in the top five. But the Big East has had just one Final Four team in the last seven years — runner-up Syracuse last season.

DRESSING RIGHT: The fashion evolution of rookie UCLA coach Steve Lavin did not come easily.

When Lavin came to Westwood six years ago, he owned a tweed jacket, a navy jacket and had borrowed a camel jacket that he rotated with three pairs of gray slacks. He couldn't afford much beause his job as a Purdue graduate assistant only covered room and board and a small stipend.

"At Purdue, no one cared because people are farmers coming into the stadium, and (coach Gene) Keady wasn't an image guy," he said, "but here, because of the way L.A. is, coach (Jim) Harrick said we need to take care of you."

Harrick, whose November firing led to Lavin's promotion, and the other assistants took Lavin to a downtown Los Angeles store where he purchased three double-breasted suits, including one discounted by $500 because a button was in the wrong place.

"So now, my dad says, 'What happened to my son? He looks like a mafia guy,'" Lavin said, laughing.

To go with his stylish clothes, Lavin wears his dark hair slicked back with gel — which earned him a mention in Sports Illustrated as "hair apparent" to former L.A. fashion guru Pat Riley.

WINNING WEBB: Webb Institute, an 84-student school considered one of the nation's top centers for naval and marine engineering, beat Connecticut-Stamford 79-57 this week. The victory ended a 97-game losing streak that stretched all the way back to 1987.

Freshman Nate Taylor had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Webb, located in Glen Cove, N.Y., which finished the season with a 1-9 record. Students at Webb must partake in a seven-week, off-campus program after final exams so the season is squeezed into the first semester.

"After we won the game the kids cut down the nets," first-year coach Ed Primeggia said. "It was like we won the Final Four."

DEC 22 1996

Notebook

Associated Press

Can Bulls achieve 82-0? No. But 72-9 is attainable goal

By Chris Sheridan
AP Basketball Writer

Perfection is out of the question. You won't see the Chicago Bulls go 82-0 this season.

But what about 73-9? Can they have a better record than the 72-10 mark that set an NBA record in 1995-96?

That's the question that's going to be asked if the Bulls keep rolling over teams the way they have been. It's certainly a legitimate one.

They were winning by an average of 19 points and hadn't even had a tough game as they entered the weekend with a 12-0 record.

Once again, no one can touch them. But this season, the difference is even more pronounced — especially in the Eastern Conference.

Who's going to beat these guys?

The Knicks? They won't get a chance until Jan. 21, and they won't have the Bulls in Madison Square Garden until March 9. After 11 games, none of New York's big-money acquisitions has distinguished himself. And the Knicks have stumbled to their 8-3 record.

Larry Johnson is averaging only 12.2 points and has spent several recent fourth quarters on the bench, Chris Childs has played only two games after injuring his leg in training camp, and Allan Houston has been streaky and turnover-prone.

The Pistons? They've already had one shot at the Bulls and lost by 18 points. Detroit's 10-1 start has been impressive otherwise, but they looked awestruck playing the Bulls.

"No one in this locker room is jumping up and down because we are 10-1," Grant Hill said Thursday night. "We know that we could very easily hit a stretch where we lose 10 of 11 or something."

Detroit's next chance will come Christmas Day at the United Center, part of NBC's holiday doubleheader. Think Michael Jordan will let the Bulls lose that one?

Chicago has already beaten Miami twice, and Orlando poses no serious threat unless Penny Hardaway is fully recovered from knee surgery by the time the first Bulls-Magic game rolls around on Jan. 3.

Orlando used to be nearly invincible at home (37-4 last season), but the Magic have already lost two games at the O-rena this season.

After playing at Utah on Friday night, Chicago will have only 12 Western Conference road games remaining. The Bulls have 21 sets of back-to-back games, but they've already put four of them behind them with ease.

Coach Phil Jackson is breaking the current seven-game trip into two parts, bringing the team back to Chicago for a three-day Thanksgiving break in the middle of next week.

The Bulls won't go on another long road trip until the last week of January, at which time they will have played 42 games — including two against Houston, two against Utah, and one against New York.

After 42 games last season, the Bulls were 39-3. A repeat seems entirely possible in the first 42 games this season.

If it happens, the chase for 73-9 will be on.

LOW SCORES: Scoring is off dramatically this season.

It's a continuation of a five-year trend toward lower-scoring games that has many observers alarmed. But at the NBA offices, it is not a cause for concern.

"More than anything else, it's a product of regular-season games being played like playoff games," NBA vice president Rod Thorn said. "Teams are playing more in the halfcourt offense, they're utilizing the shot clock more and teams are better-prepared from a coaching standpoint to find ways to shut the other team down."

Ten years ago, every team averaged at least 103.8 points. Five years ago, only three teams averaged fewer than 100 points. Last season, league average was 99.5 points, with 13 teams averaging more than 100.

This season, the dropoff is off the charts.

The NBA average is down to 93.6, and only three teams are averaging over 100.

Last season, the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies were only the second team in NBA history to average under 90 points per game. This season, six teams are averaging fewer than 90 and 12 are averaging fewer than 95.

The reasons?

— Expansion. The league is diluted with so many teams. Not too long ago, every team had one or two players who could come off the bench and provide instant offense. Now, teams are lucky to have one such player.

— Closer 3-point line. By moving the line from 23 feet, 9 inches to 22 feet three summers ago, the NBA encouraged outside shooting. The trouble is, outside shots are low-percentage shots. That's why the average shooting percentage (43.7) is down substantially from five years ago and 3-point shots are up 763 percent since 1979-80 — the first season such shots were allowed.

— Defense. Coaches emphasize it much more than they did in the past. Teams would rather foul than give up a layup, breakaways are broken up with intentional fouls and illegal-defense rules encourage other types of zone defenses that technically skirt the law.

Thorn doesn't feel pressured to find a solution.

"You're always looking to tweak a little bit here or there, but people like our product," he said. "Our ratings are higher than ever and people are coming to our games."

Still, there could be support for moving the 3-point line back to its original distance. Even commissioner David Stern, in a recent interview, admitted the league might have erred by moving the line in so much.

"I thought they should have moved it in a skosh," Stern said.

BALLOT BOX: All-Star balloting began Tuesday, and some of the outsider choices so far are Toni Kukoc, Dale Ellis, Latrell Sprewell, Kendall Gill and Tom Gugliotta.

Bench players almost never get chosen for the All-Star team. Kevin McHale did it in 1984, but it hasn't happened since. But Kukoc may be deserving purely because he gives the Bulls a weapon no other team has — a dominant player off the bench who does more with his 25 minutes than some players do with 42.

Ellis, the NBA leader in career 3-pointers made and attempted, has been an All-Star only once in his 13-year career (1989). This season, he is averaging 21.7 points — currently 14th in the league and Ellis' best effort since 1989-90 when he averaged 23.5 for Seattle.

Sprewell, a two-time All-Star from Golden State who was left off the Western Conference team last season, is among the league leaders in scoring (fifth), assists (16th), steals (15th) and free throw percentage (7th).

Gill, like Sprewell, is a good player on a bad team. And like Sprewell, Gill is having a strong season despite what's assembled around him. He has played both guard positions and small forward for the New Jersey Nets while averaging 19.7 points, 7.7 rebounds and 3.3 assists.

Gugliotta, who represents the only decent trade the Timberwolves ever made (from Golden State for Donyell Marshall), is having an even better year (22.7 points, 9.4 rebounds) than his better-known teammate, 20-year-old Kevin Garnett, who is proving to be a bona fide NBA talent.

THEY CALL THIS SHOWTIME?: Unsold ticket totals from the last four Lakers' home games at the 17,505-seat Forum.:

Wednesday night vs. Utah: 1,383.

Nov. 16 vs. the Clippers: 1,296.

Nov. 11 vs. Atlanta: 1,408.

Nov. 4 vs. Minnesota: 2,096.

Lakers owner Jerry Buss was undoubtedly counting on a big rush for tickets when he signed Shaquille O'Neal for $120 million over the summer, and he even admitted that he'll need a stream of sellouts — plus a few more in the playoffs — to make a profit.

The Lakers have sold out the Forum only once — their season opener.

Not-so smooth sailing

Owners finds Mavs' vessel following wrong course

By Richie Whitt
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

DALLAS — Blinded by arrogance, numbed by naivete and intoxicated by enthusiasm, the Mavericks' new ownership somehow overlooked the enormous anchors that threatened to sink its prized new vessel.

When Ross Perot Jr., David McDavid and Frank Zaccanelli purchased majority control of the floundering franchise last May, the ultra-successful businessmen confidently focused on the seemingly fertile potential for a playoff team and a new-arena financial windfall.

Unrecognizable amid the jubilation and optimism was the stark reality that their $125 million toy had serious defects in the form of front-office mismanagement, a decaying fan base and a noxious chemistry from 16 years under the paternally passive regime of Donald Carter.

"It didn't take us long to realize we inherited a mess, from top to bottom," McDavid said. "It was a sinking ship. You've got to plug all the holes before you can go sailing."

So instead of smooth sailing on the unchartered waters of professional sports management, the trio has been forced to dig out and drag along anchors embedded in the sludge of invariable mediocrity before it can even leave the dock.

"It's safe to say things were worse than we ever imagined, on and off the court," Zaccanelli said. "We've had our hands full, but clearly there are signs of progress."

Maybe, but the Mavericks' new captains certainly haven't patched all their leaks.

They have gone nine weeks without a veteran basketball voice in their front office and have yet to soothe a volatile relationship with star point guard Jason Kidd. Despite a drastic decrease in his effectiveness and statistics, Kidd maintains publicly he is satisfied with his role and the team's direction.

His agent, Aaron Goodwin, reveals otherwise, admitting the two have recently pondered the possibilities and consequences of a trade.

"He's not having fun and it shows in his game," Goodwin said. "C'mon, he's not missing layups because he's all of a sudden a stiff. It's because his heart just isn't in it. His game is running, and they've got him walking. I get calls daily from people in the league wondering what's wrong with him. As his agent, it's my job to get the smile back on his face. I'm talking with Frank and the Mavericks to see how we can do that, and hopefully we'll reach a positive conclusion. If not, getting him in another environment is something we'll have to pursue."

Zaccanelli, who recently had an hour-long, late-night telephone conversation with Goodwin, said he will urge Kidd to vocalize his displeasure, if he has any, to coach Jim Cleamons.

"It's our understanding that Jason has bought into coach Cleamons' system and that he is happy in our pursuit of trying to turn this thing around," Zaccanelli said. "We'd also like to see his level of play improve, but that's something for coach and Jason to talk about and sort out."

On the positive side, the Mavericks' quarterly report in an 82-game season at least balances that major snafu, with strong trends that indicate their ship is slowly setting sail in the right direction.

"Overall, I'm certainly not satisfied," McDavid said. "But you could say I'm reasonably pleased."

A basketball team that finished last in the NBA in six major categories (field-goal percentage, points allowed, field-goal defense, defensive rebounding, overall rebounding and blocked shots) last season has no cellar statistics. Players who turned vengeful and apathetic under laid-back coach Dick Motta are for the most part peacefully coexisting and playing harder under the no-nonsense style of Cleamons. And, despite key injuries to Jamal Mashburn and Samaki Walker and a shaky 3-9 start, the Mavericks have matured into a team that can cautiously set its sights on the franchise's first postseason berth in seven years.

"On this team, there's always the chance of a big blowup or something," Kidd said. "Winning is the only thing that will keep the volcano from erupting again. But I think the worst is behind us. The one big difference is our attitude. It's all about winning. The coaches won't tolerate losing and that point is starting to sink with us. After the All-Star break, we've got a chance to be a real good team if we can hold it together."

New ownership hit big on free-agent super-sub Chris Gatling, selected a perennial starter in first-round draft choice Walker and has mixed enough ego-stroking with ultimatum-bashing to keep stars Jim Jackson, Mashburn and Kidd at least publicly content.

"That stuff's so far behind us we don't even think about it anymore," said Jackson, involved in damaging feuds with Mashburn and Kidd last season. "It was like another lifetime."

Overshadowing those baby steps of improvement, however, have been the expected stumbles.

The Mavericks have suffered lagging attendance, key personnel departures and ownership hierarchy changes off the court. On it, they are still plagued by lethargic starts, baffling shot selection and questionable game plans.

The Mavericks are undeniably playing better defense, trimming almost 10 points per game off last season's opponents' scoring average.

But Kidd and other players questioned whether they were necessarily playing smarter defense after they surrendered 15 3-pointers Dec. 4 in choosing to stubbornly double-team away from the Miami Heat's hot outside shooters. With his young and restless players falling in and out love with his philosophy almost on a game-by-game basis, Cleamons acknowledges he and his ideas haven't yet been totally embraced.

"I said it wasn't going to happen overnight, but I truly believe we're getting there," Cleamons said. "Remember, if this thing wasn't badly broken, I wouldn't have been hired to fix it."

Interestingly, the Mavericks' best player (Gatling) doesn't start and they run a conservative offense despite having one of the NBA's most creative fast-break artists (Kidd.)

While Gatling is producing All-Star numbers in minimal minutes off the bench, Kidd has regressed into a shadow of the energized leader that started the All-Star Game last season. With his average minutes, shooting percentage, rebounds, assists and points decreased and having not yet flirted with a trademark triple-double, Kidd was booed this month for the first time in his otherwise charmed three-year career.

"We've got to somehow spring Jason loose and get him playing his game again," forward George McCloud said. "He's not doing the things he did last year, and we're all suffering because of it."

The front office has also experienced its share of turbulence, from the shocking resignation of former general manager Keith Grant, to Zaccanelli's unscheduled rise to seemingly eternal power, to disappointment over sagging attendance and television ratings.

New ownership has delivered on its No. 1 promise made when it raised ticket prices, some as much as 50 percent. As advertised, the Mavericks are more modern and aggressive, spending $21 million to sign Gatling, trading for Eric Montross, suspending Tony Dumas for missing practice, unveiling a "Mavs Man" dunking mascot, supplying alcohol at team functions and dressing its once-drab dancers in risque, body-hugging outfits.

The new approach has attracted regulars like Cowboys cornerback Deion Sanders, Olympic gold-medal sprinter Michael Johnson and pro golfer Fred Couples to Reunion Arena, but has yet to inspire the rebirth of the 1980s Reunion Rowdies. Season-ticket purchases are down 1,700 from last year's 12,000, average attendance decreased 1,552 per game through the first nine home dates and Reunion Arena has been sold out only twice. "I'm disappointed with the attendance, but, then again, I hoped we'd better a little better off in wins and losses," McDavid said. "I was probably too optimistic. I understand the fans want a better product. For the most part they seem entertained at the games. Now we've just got to give them a winner."

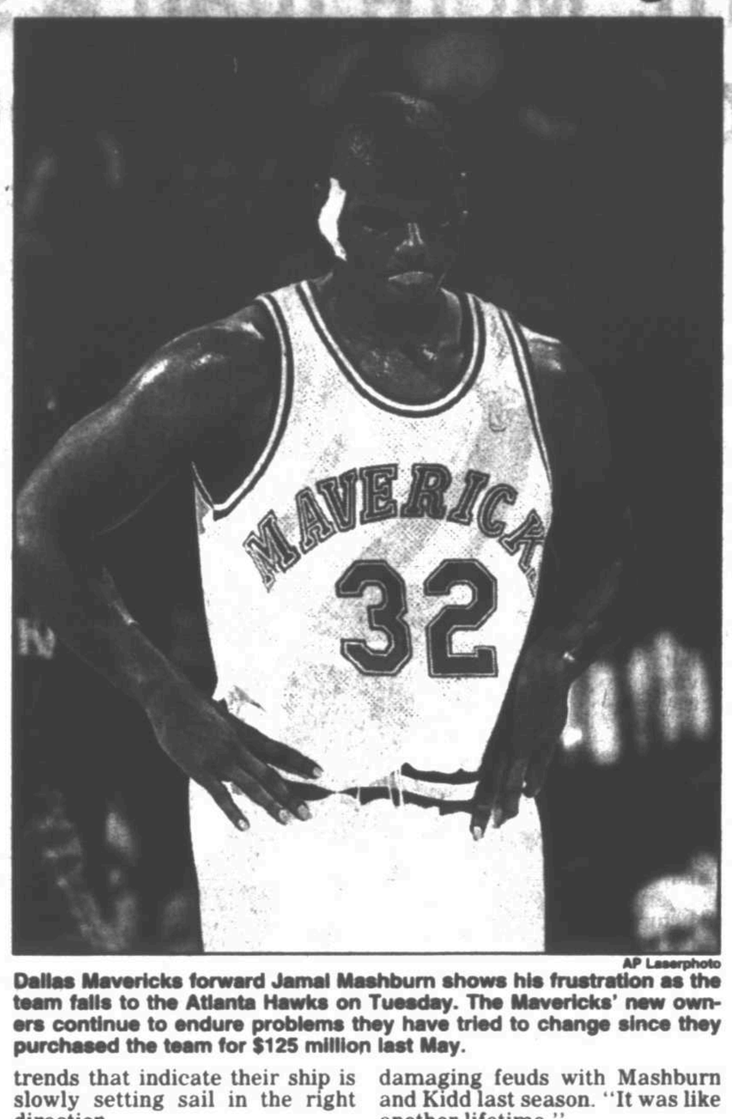
Television ratings are also down — but also possibly skewed because of KXTX Channel 39's collapsed signal tower — almost a half-point. Last season's visit by the Chicago Bulls pulled a 9.1 share; last month's somehow only a 4.3.

Ownership is concerned, but not panicked, by those numbers. The raise in ticket prices has significantly increased gate receipts and, therefore, increased overall revenue 23 percent from last year.

"The bottom line looks real good," said vice president of business operations Jim Livingston. "But fans are taking a real skeptical approach. Even though things are new, we're coming off a 26-win season and it seems like (the fans) have a show-me attitude. This is a can-do ownership and that is our challenge."

Another high priority seemingly would be hiring a veteran basketball mind to replace Grant, who left his vice president of basketball operations position before the season because of numerous philosophical conflicts with new ownership. Zaccanelli, who said at the time he would address the vacancy with "utmost urgency," has since served as the team's general manager with major input into personnel decisions and trade discussions.

While consistently denying he wants the position permanently, Zaccanelli said recently the team would interview former Heat executive Dave Wohl.



AP Laserphoto

Dallas Mavericks forward Jamal Mashburn shows his frustration as the team falls to the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday. The Mavericks' new owners continue to endure problems they have tried to change since they purchased the team for $125 million last May.

Hill makes Pistons run at full throttle

By Clifton Brown
N.Y. Times News Service

He is a work in progress, but Grant Hill's progress has been rapid.

Thanks largely to Hill, the Detroit Pistons are 20-4 and surprising their fans, their opponents and even themselves. Hill was already a star before this season, but Detroit's multitalented 6-foot-8-inch forward has become something more. Hill has become an unquestioned leader, elevating his teammates and his stature among his peers.

How good is Hill? A more intriguing question is: how good will he become? He is only 24 years old, in only his third professional season, and he has clearly established himself one of the game's best and most versatile players.

Like Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway, Hill is one of the National Basketball Association's young superstars, expected not only to attract a new generation of fans, but to deliver a championship or two along the way.

Those kinds of expectations can be overwhelming, but Hill has deftly adjusted to the responsibility of being a franchise player.

Hill leads the Pistons in scoring (20.8 points a game), rebounds (7.8), assists (6.1), steals (1.76), minutes played (37.7), autographs, interviews and commercials. That's what people expect from him now. And Hill expects to deliver.

"I've learned a lot the last few years, and I think I'm ready to step forward," Hill said.

"Criticism comes with being a leader. It's like being a quarterback. When things go well, you get a lot of credit. When things go wrong, you get a lot of the blame. Am I really willing to deal with that? Yeah, because I want to win, and I want to be a top player. That means you put yourself out there, hold yourself accountable. That's what I'm trying to do. And hopefully, that attitude will help me get a ring, or two, or three before I'm through."

After helping the United States Olympic team win a gold medal during the off season, Hill returned to the Pistons more confident, more determined, more focused. He is a player who must be watched closely to be fully appreciated.

Thirty-point games are rare for Hill, but he is extremely consistent, and he quietly accumulates impressive numbers. Monday's 98-92 victory over Toronto was typical for Hill — 27 points, 12 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals. And when the outcome was in doubt, the Pistons made sure the ball was in Hill's hands.

When he entered the league in 1994, he had already won successive national collegiate titles at Duke, but he had to prove that his game was as good as his polished, well-mannered image. One criticism of Hill was that he was too nice, too unassuming, to take control on the floor and in the locker room.

Forget that. The Pistons are Hill's team now, and veterans like Joe Dumars, Otis Thorpe and Rick Mahorn have gladly stepped aside and let Hill blossom in that role. When Hill was a rookie, Dumars insisted that his locker be placed next to Hill's, enabling the veteran to school the rookie. Hill is an intelligent player who absorbs information like a sponge. When Dumars sensed it was Hill's time to lead, Dumars gave the word.

"Grant always wants to do the right thing, but he can be that way to a fault," Dumars said. "For us to be a contender, he had to step up. I told him not to worry about stepping on anyone's toes. Don't worry about stepping on mine, and please don't worry about anyone else's."

But Hill's biggest strength is on the court, where he exploits his tremendous abili' to get to the basket. When isolated one on one, Hill has an uncanny knack for freezing his defender with his dribble, than exploding to the baske with long loping strides.

Not only is Hill a great leaper, but he jumps quickly. That explains his ability to rebound despite his wiry frame. Often, defenders believe they have an angle on Hill before he jumps, only to watch him dunk, convert a layup or draw a foul.

Wednesday night's matchup against the Knicks will be an emotional one for both teams, as Knicks guard Allan Houston returns to face the team he left as a free agent.

Hill said he has not spoken to Houston since he left Detroit. And while Hill said he wished Houston had stayed, the Pistons have not stopped winning without him.

"I wasn't around when Allan left, I was with the Dream Team," said Hill. "Before I left, I thought he was staying. When I got back, he was gone. No one really understands why he left."

And for Hill, life is good. He has become comfortable shooting jumpers from 15 to 18 feet, and his added strength has made him a better inside defender. Hill is still not a consistent threat from 3-point range, but give him time.

On paper, the Pistons are not imposing, but they have solid veterans who know their roles. Joe Dumars, Thorpe, Terry Mills and Grant Long have all played consistently. And Lindsey Hunter has switched from point guard to shooting guard, filling the void left by Houston.

But Hill is the player leading them. And he believes the best is yet to come.

"It's nice that people might think I'm among the best, but I don't think I'm there yet," said Hill.

Glo

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By Mike Helka
Fort Worth Star-Te

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beating the Flor

Glove man, and a good one

Moog — Just one of the great goalies

By Mike Helka
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The assignment seemed simple enough — find out what makes Andy Moog tick.

But as fact after fact unraveled, the truth became less apparent. "He's a nice guy, a great guy," interview after interview revealed. What about interesting Andy Moog stories? Anecdotes? "No, nothing special," his friends would say. "He's just a normal guy."

Normal! Argghh! What kind of story would that make?

"He's the antithesis of Dennis Rodman," Stars general manager Bob Gainey said. "I guess that means the media wouldn't like him."

There has to be more to Moog. He is one of the greatest goaltenders in NHL history, ranking sixth all-time in victories at 339. And among goalies with 300 victories, he has the highest winning percentage at .627.

Something drives Moog to this lofty plateau. Something has to be behind his renaissance at age 36 — he has bounced back from the only two losing seasons of his 17-year NHL career to reclaim a spot among the top goaltenders in the NHL.

"Maybe he eats peanut butter out of the jar with his fingers," Gainey deadpanned. "You should check into that."

Andy Moog, the man, the myth, the normal guy. Ouch.

"It's funny, but I think he makes a real effort to be normal. It's important to him," said Karla Moog, the high school sweetheart from Billings, Mont., who married the baby-faced goalie when he was playing junior hockey in her hometown. "It's kind of goofy, but people have all these perceptions about professional athletes. People don't like to believe they're normal or that they have a normal family, but we do. We are just like every other family in the neighborhood."

The Moog's Coppell home is certainly nice — earning nearly $1 million a season gives you a few benefits. And the pristine 1964 Mustang convertible is something he has coveted for years. But he doesn't look out of place in Coppell, and he certainly hasn't lost the moral compass that was installed in a seven-member household in Penticton, British Columbia. As one of five kids, he had to do his share of the chores and still pursue a career in hockey.

"He was just a normal kid," his mom, Shirley, said from Penticton. "He still is. If he doesn't take out the trash, I can still yell at him. After all, I am his mom.

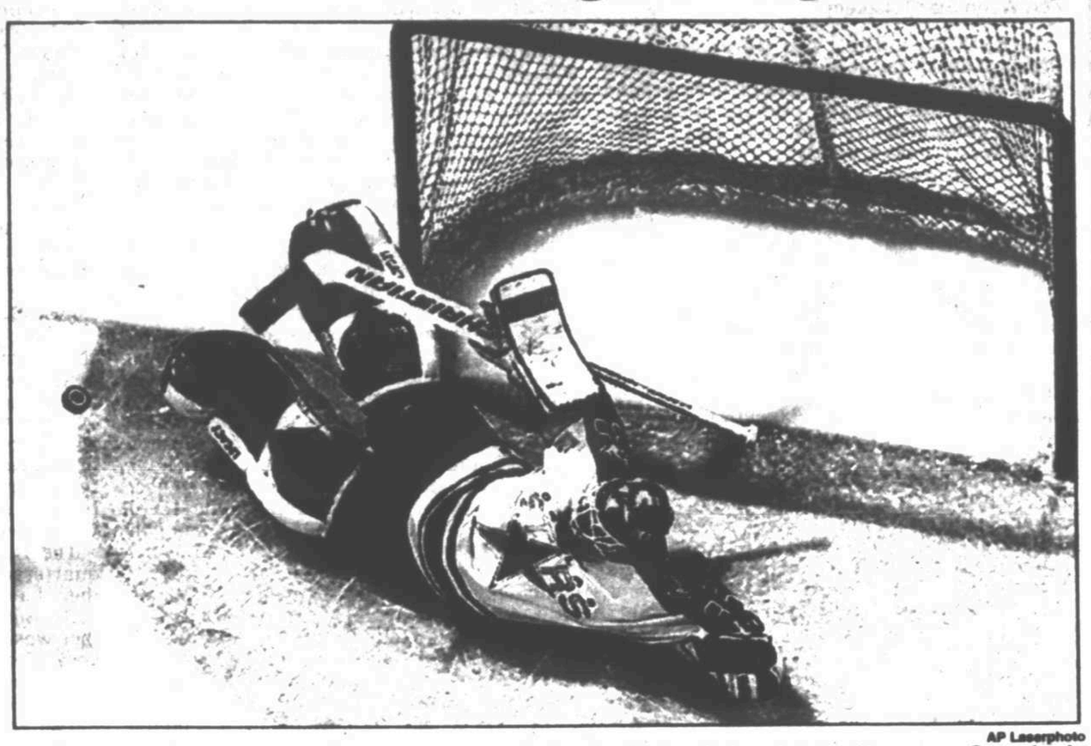
"Mostly we're just normal," she said. "I guess we're not a very interesting family."

Rats. Never an agitator

There had to be more. Moog was involved in a bitter goaltender battle with Grant Fuhr in his days with the Edmonton Oilers. The two waged war for six seasons trying to determine who was the No. 1 goalie. Moog would lead the team in regular-season victories almost every year, and then coach Glen Sather would switch horses and ride Fuhr through the playoffs — it happened three times on the way to three Stanley Cup championships.

That had to make them hated rivals, right?

"No, no," Fuhr said. "Andy and I always got along. It wasn't about him and me fighting. It was about we both wanted to play and we both couldn't play there. We've always been friends; he's just a great, great guy."



AP Laserphoto

Dallas Stars goalie Andy Moog (35) defeicts a shot during the first period againts the Vancouver Canucks in Dallas. Moog stopped 24 shots for his 340th career victory in the Stars' 2-1 win.

In the end, the snubs became too much to take for the competitive Moog. He asked for a raise to make the same as Fuhr — in truth asking not so much for money, but for more respect. When the Oilers wouldn't comply, he quit and took a personal services contract from the IGA Food Stores chain for $175,000 to play for the 1988 Canadian Olympic Team.

Now, that's interesting.

"I had been doing some stuff for them for about $10,000 and they came up with the idea," Moog said. "It seemed a perfect thing to do."

Moog was something like the Curt Flood of the NHL at the time. There was no real free agency, and Sather was ready to let Moog sit out a season. But when he saw he couldn't force Moog into a lower salary, he traded the goalie to the Boston Bruins for Geoff Courtnall, Bill Ranford and a second-round draft pick in 1987.

Moog's own frustration led him to break out for all players and he continued that role as a union leader through the 1994 lockout, where he served an important role as one of the vice presidents of the NHL Players Association. But even then, Moog (henceforth known as "The nice guy") couldn't be contentious.

"He had a way of listening to your opinion, stating his opinion and letting you know exactly how he felt without getting into a yelling match," said Doug Armstrong, the Stars executive responsible for negotiating all contracts. "He's just a very intelligent, very level-headed guy."

Armstrong lives around the corner from the Moogs and sometimes employs their oldest daughter, Alyssa, as a baby sitter. The 16-year-old is saving for a car, because she'll have to buy her own.

"It was a hard decision, but it's something we both felt strongly about," Karla said. "We worked when we were kids, and I think we both gained a lot from it. It's something we want our children to learn, too.

"Just don't ask the oldest about her dad right now. I don't think she'll tell you he's such a nice guy."

Andy defends himself by saying Alyssa already has her choice of just about any of the family cars. "She can drive any one but the Mustang," he said. And if the dad ever doubted his parenting techniques, he only has to listen to himself at the age of 36. From good stock

Moog's father, Donald, died in 1993 of cancer. It is an emotional issue for the son, who was very close to the man who backstopped the Canadian National Team to the 1955 World Championship. But as he remembered his dad's funeral, Andy smiled.

"There were thousands of people there, and Penticton is really a pretty small town," he said. "It was really nice. He was just a soft-spoken guy who had a lot of friends."

Funny, that's what everyone says about his son.

And all Alyssa, 16, Arielle, 12, and Abby, 7, need to do to learn about hard work is watch their parents. When Moog was traded from Boston to the Stars in 1993, Karla continued her education, gained her teaching certificate and became a substitute teacher in the Coppell school district.

"I think that's as much a testament to the work ethic of the family as anything," Armstrong said. "She didn't have to work that hard, but she wanted to."

And in doing so, the Moogs wanted to remain a "normal" house.

"We talked about a nanny, but that was something we decided against," Karla said. "He's always been of the mind that we're the parents and we'll raise the kids."

Moog follows that line in dishing out fair-handed discipline that doesn't always seem that fair — see car issue. But he has a real soft spot in his heart for kids. His charity golf tournament in Penticton has raised $300,000 for Special Olympics in British Columbia. He is still a large contributor to the Make-A-Wish foundation in Boston and the Diabetes Foundation in Edmonton. He and KDFW/Channel 4 sponsor "Reading 4 the Stars," a program to promote literacy among North Texas youth.

"I mean, we're very fortunate to have the positions we do," Moog said. "You gain a little perspective when you give something back, and I enjoy doing it. Sometimes, I almost think it's selfish, because when you see the looks the kids give you, it does as much for you as it does for them."

But that's not the only place he gives. Moog also is a regular participant in the neighborhood street hockey games. It's the only place he doesn't have to play goalie, and it's what any normal parent would do, right?

"I honestly have kids who come over and ask, 'Can Andy come out and play?'" Karla said.

Midway through the two-week interview process, Moog chuckled at the incessant questions of the frustrated reporter.

"Don't knock yourself out," he said. "I'm not that interesting."

Yeah, just like Nolan Ryan isn't interesting.

"I think the most important thing you can say about Andy Moog is he plays the game for the right reasons," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said. "He isn't a real big talker, but he loves the competition, he appreciates the history and he respects the future of the game. Andy understands as well as anyone what it means to be a professional athlete.

"He cares about the game, where it's been and where it's going, because it's very special to him."

Armstrong sat back in his chair and surveyed the sports scene of the 1990s in his head.

"Andy is a pretty rare breed, when you think about it," Armstrong said. "He has your respect as a person just because of the way he does things. And he can step on the ice with the best players in the world and have their respect as a player. If your son were to become a pro athlete, you'd want him to be as close to Andy Moog as possible. Nowadays, that's not boring, it's refreshing."

NHL Notebook

Associated Press

Shanahan is winging it with Detroit Red Wings

By Ken Rappoport
AP Hockey Writer

From coach to the franchise history, Brendan Shanahan makes no secret about his delight playing with the Detroit Red Wings after coming over in an early season trade from Hartford.

"There is a special excitement that goes along with playing on an original-six team and you feel it in the dressing room and feel it when you put on the sweater," Shanahan says. "And, I think the fans are a part of that as well."

Shanahan says the Red Wings are "extremely focused" on winning the Stanley Cup, which escaped them last season after they set a record for most victories in a season.

"If you look at teams like the (Edmonton) Oilers before they won their Cup or even Pittsburgh or the (New York) Islanders before they went on their string, they had some incredibly heartbreaking losses in the playoffs before (they won)," Shanahan said. "I saw a video where Mark Messier was saying he didn't feel that (the Oilers) could have won a Stanley Cup without being able to draw from the experience and the heartbreak of (losing)."

As for playing under Scotty Bowman, the NHL's all-time winningest coach:

"His mind works like a computer as far as having knowledge for the game ... other teams and their players and personnel. He can make subtle adjustments to our game, to respond to the style in which the team plays or even an individual player. He is very smart that way."

Paper chase

John Spano will have to wait until January now to find out officially if the NHL board of governors will approve his purchase of the New York Islanders.

The board failed to rule on the sale at its meetings last week in Phoenix because the paperwork wasn't in their hands.

The problem, according to Islander spokesman Pat Calabria, was that some of the necessary paperwork was delayed due to the Thanksgiving holiday period from reaching the league's offices in time to meet a deadline for having the sale on the governors' agenda. The spokesman said the paperwork will make the NHL office in plenty of time for the next board of governors meeting, set for January at the All-Star Game in San Jose.

Million milestone

The American Hockey League is looking like a million these days. At the gate, at least.

With 51,786 fans attending nine AHL games on Nov. 30, the AHL surpassed the one million mark in attendance. It was the earliest in the league's 61-year history that it had reached the mark.

No minor achievement

Doug Lawrence certainly made his point in a recent game for the Tulsa Oilers of the Central Hockey League. In fact, he made seven of them — all on assists — to set a CHL record as Tulsa beat San Antonio 10-5. The old record of six was set by Wichita Thunder forward Ron Handy on March 1, 1994, against the Fort Worth Fire.

Changing roles

These are strange days in Tampa Bay for Dino Ciccarelli and Rob Zamuner.

As of Wednesday, Ciccarelli had only two goals in 16 games since pulling off a hat trick on Nov. 8 against Pittsburgh. Zamuner, meanwhile, has 7 goals and 17 assists for 24 points to rank third in team scoring, one point behind Ciccarelli.

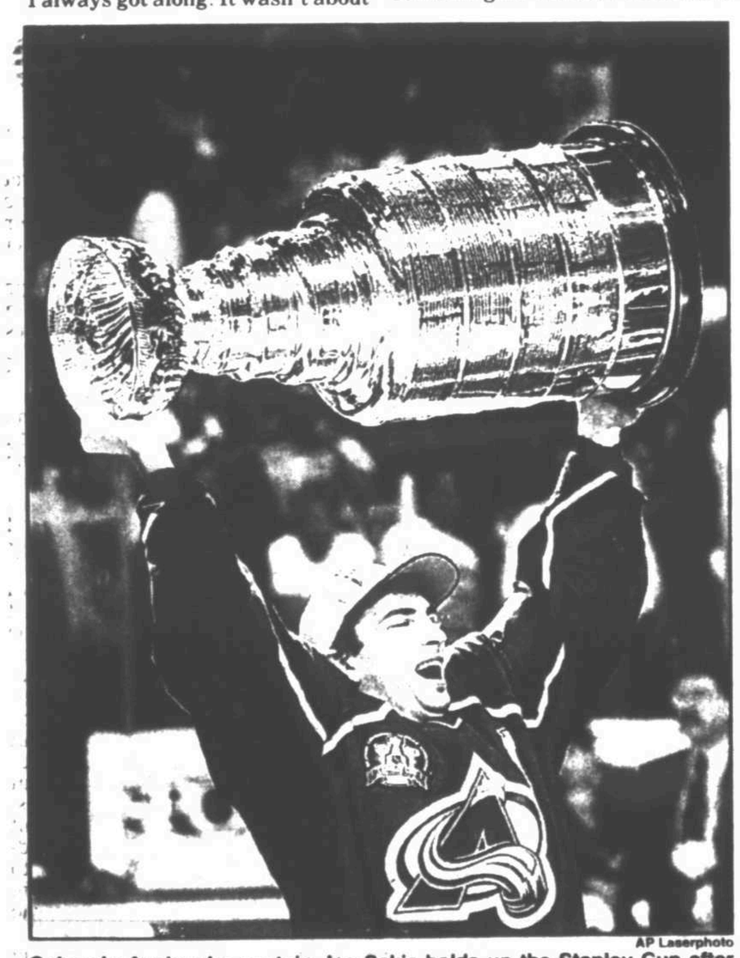
Ciccarelli is an offensive specialist and Zamuner a defensive specialist, and Lightning coach Terry Crisp doesn't want to see a reversal of roles.

"It's nice to see Zamuner get the accolades, but I want to caution him that his job is still to kill penalities," Crisp said.

NHL Scoring Leaders

NEW YORK (AP) — NHL scoring leaders through Dec. 20

Player,Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jagr, Pit	33	30	19	49	32
Lemieux, Pit	32	20	28	48	24
Gretzky, NYR	35	14	34	48	6
Sakic, Col	33	14	31	45	14
Sundin, Tor	34	19	25	44	20
Selanne, Ana	33	18	26	44	14
Forsberg, Col	31	12	31	43	20
Yzerman, Det	34	11	30	41	28
Shanahan, HFD-DET	33	18	20	38	56
Koivu, Mon	30	13	25	38	20
Palffy, NYI	31	20	17	37	31
Francis, Pit	33	10	26	36	4
Leclair, Phi	34	19	16	35	28



AP Laserphoto

Colorado Avalanche captain Joe Sakic holds up the Stanley Cup after beating the Florida Panthers 1-0 in Game 4 Stanley Cup Finals.

1996: Rats, moves and international success

By Ken Rappoport
AP Hockey Writer

It was the "Year of the Rat" in Florida, the year of the Avalanche in Colorado and the year of the United States in international hockey. And generally a year of changes in the NHL.

In 1996, a new team won the Stanley Cup, another team moved south of the border from Canada and the United States moved to the top of the international ladder with its stunning victory in the World Cup of Hockey Tournament.

It was also a year of great player movement, one that saw the greatest player of them all change teams twice.

En route to the Stanley Cup finals, the Florida Panthers created a craze and a trend.

"The Year of the Rat" was born when Scott Mellanby killed a rodent in the Florida locker room before the Panthers went out and knocked off an opponent. Florida fans began bringing plastic rats to the Miami Arena and throwing them on the ice whenever the Panthers scored.

Never having made the playoffs in their two previous years of existence, the Panthers went all the way to the Stanley Cup finals with a balanced attack and a smothering defensive style that took a page out of the Devils' playbook. The only "star" in the lineup was goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck

The Panthers played tight, low-scoring games, and won more than their share of them. Everywhere the Panthers played, coach Doug MacLean faced the same question: Was he surp ed by his team's performance? But after the Panthers had whipped Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in the preliminary rounds before the finals, he didn't have to answer the question any more.

But the "Year of the Rat" eventually gave way to Colorado, which showed it was the best team in hockey. The Avalanche swept the Panthers in a four-game final to claim their first Cup, barely a year after moving to Denver from Quebec.

"We were a more disciplined team and a more balanced club than the other teams that faced them," said Colorado forward Claude Lemieux, explaining why the Avalanche beat the Panthers.

The Avalanche had fashioned the second-best record in hockey, behind the Detroit Red Wings who had set an NHL record with 62 victories.

The Red Wings were just about everyone's pick to win the Cup, but the Avalanche knocked them out in six games before beating the Panthers in a series that saw Joe Sakic come of age and Patrick Roy come up big.

Once known as the NHL's most anonymous superstar, Sakic didn't have to worry about that after winning the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the playoffs. Sakic scored 18 goals, including six game-winners.

And while Sakic was scoring goals, Roy was keeping them out of the Colorado net. The reverberations had to be heard all the way to Montreal, where Roy spent most of his career.

The distinguished goaltender forced his trade from the Canadiens after a blowup with coach Mario Tremblay, whom he thought embarrassed him by leaving him in a game while Roy was having a subpar night.

He didn't have many once he was traded to the Avalanche, particularly in the playoffs. His work in the fourth game of the finals was a masterpiece, as he outdueled Vanbiesbrouck in a 1-0 thriller won by Uwe Krupp's goal in the third overtime. Before Krupp connected from the right point, Roy and Vanbiesbrouck had combined to stop 118 shots.

"We just tried to concentrate on good habits, simple execution," Colorado coach Marc Crawford said after becoming the first coach to win a major team championship for Denver.

While the Avalanche proved to be the best in the NHL, the United States claimed an historic victory in the season-preceding World Cup tournament, which replaced the Canada Cup. New York Rangers goaltender Mike Richter starred as the U.S. won a stirring three-game final series from longtime power Canada, including the 5-2 clinching victory in Montreal.

The victory was devastating for Canada and huge for the United States, which posted its biggest international triumph since the 1980 Olympics.

"Canada has the greatest heritage in hockey, they taught us so much through those losses (in past years)," said Buffalo Sabres center Pat LaFontaine. "But it sure is nice to be able to say that we're the world's best. I hope that something like this can only enhance and help younger boys and girls to set big dreams for them to go further in hockey."

Wayne Gretzky called the defeat "a hard loss to swallow" for Canada.

Adding to the sting of the defeat was another team defection to the United States. The Winnipeg Jets packed up and moved to the Sun Belt, where they became the Phoenix Coyotes.

The Coyotes got off to a slow start in their new home, despite the infusion of new talent that included Jeremy Roenick and Mike Gartner.

Roenick and Gartner weren't the only players to change teams in a year of lively personnel movement that included Gretzky in the free-flowing free agent market over the summer and Paul Coffey and Brendan Shanahan in early-season trades.

DEC 22 1996

Fishing Report

Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear; low; very few fishermen out.

KEMP: Water fairly clear; lake level 1139.62; black bass are slow; striped bass are fair on live bait; catfish are good on cut and prepared bait and shrimp; very few fishermen out.

OAK CREEK: Water clear; low; 62 degrees; crappie are good on minnows and jumpbait and white jigs fished over deep water brush piles; very few fishermen out.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear on main lake, murky in upper end and tributaries; lake low ; 64 degrees; very few fishermen out; catfish are fair on trotlines baited with cut bait; yellow catfish are fair on live perch fished in the river; very few fishermen out.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; lake level 899.10; 65 degrees; crappie are good on minnows fished in 10 to 30 feet of water; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with cut bait and shrimp; very few fishermen out.

SPENCE: Water clear; very low; 56 degrees; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs; blue and channel catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with shad; very few fishermen out.

WHITE RIVER: Water fairly clear; low; 55 degrees; very few fishermen out.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear; low; 58 degrees; black bass are slow to fair on crank baits and worms; crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished in deep water; catfish are slow to fair on Mike King's Punch Bait and shrimp; very few fishermen out.

BELTON: Water fairly clear; lake level 595.23; 66 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows and Fla-Flies fished around boat houses; catfish are fair on shrimp, cheese bait and night crawlers.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear; spillway level; 68 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs; catfish are good on rod and reels baited with minnows and prepared bait.

BUCHANAN: Water fairly clear; lake low; 61 degrees; black bass are slow; striped bass are slow; white bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows fished over deep water brush piles and at Crappie houses; catfish are fair on rod and reels and trotlines baited with cut and prepared bait; few fishermen out.

DECKER: Water fairly clear; crappie are fair to good on minnows fished over brush; catfish are good on shad and live minnows; very few fishermen out.

FAYETTE: Water fairly clear; 70 degrees; black bass are slow; channel and blue catfish are slow to fair on water dogs fished around the dam.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear; low; black bass to 7 pounds are slow to fair on worms, spinners and lizards; catfish are slow; very few fishermen out.

LBJ: Water clear to stained; 58 degrees; very few fishermen out.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky; lake level 420.03; 66 degrees; very few fishermen out.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; lake level 237.99; 56 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows fished over brush; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with cut bait and shad; very few fishermen out.

TRAVIS: Water clear; lake level 670.43; 67 degrees; black bass are slow; striped and white bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished in deep water; catfish are fair to good on rod and reels baited shad and prepared bait.

WACO: Water murky; lake level 455.59; 65 degrees; very few fishermen out.

WHITNEY: Water clear; lake level 535.01; 58 degrees; black bass are slow; striped and white bass are fair on live bait; crappie are slow to fair on minnows and jigs fished over deep brush; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with shad and shrimp and fished around boat docks.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water fairly clear; very few fishermen out.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear; lake level 337.53; 57 degrees; black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and worms; crappie are good on minnows and jigs; catfish are fair to good on night crawlers and shad; few fishermen out.

CADDO: Water murky; lake level 169.90; very few fishermen out.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water fairly clear; low; 56 degrees; very few fishermen out.

FORK: Water fairly clear; 3 feet low; 58 degrees; black bass to 7 pounds are slow on diving crank baits and worms fished in deep water; crappie are good on minnows fished in deep water; no report for catfish; few fishermen out.

GRAPEVINE: Water fairly clear; lake level 535.26; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows fished over brush piles in deep water and around boat docks; catfish are fair to good on night crawlers and shrimp.

JOE POOL: Water fairly clear; lake level 520.80; 56 degrees; very few fishermen out.

LEWISVILLE: Water murky; lake level 522.11; blue and channel catfish are good on rod and reels and trotlines baited with cut bait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear; normal level; black bass are slow on crank baits and live water dogs; catfish are fair on shrimp fished in deep water.

PALESTINE: Water fairly clear; 58 degrees; very few fishermen out.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear; lake level 434.42; 58 degrees; black bass are slow to fair on worms and Rat-L-Traps; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished over brush and around the marinas at night and early in the morning; catfish are spotty.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; lake level 632.66; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on small minnows and jigs fished around boat docks.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water fairly clear; lake level 308.27; 64 degrees; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs; very few fishermen out.

TAWAKONI: Water clear; low; 66 degrees; very few fishermen out.

TEXOMA: Water fairly clear; 68 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished in 9 to 30 feet of water and around boat docks; blue and channel catfish are fair on shrimp frozen shad and cheese bait; yellow catfish are good on live bait.

SOUTHEAST

B.A. STEINHAGEN: Water murky; lake level 82.39; 66 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows fished around boat docks and over main lake brush piles; very few fishermen out.

CONROE: Water clear; low; 67 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are slow to fair on minnows fished over brush piles and under the bridge; channel catfish are slow.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; normal level; black bass to 8 pounds are good on live water dogs and diving crank baits; crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished around the islands and at the dam; catfish are good on shrimp and worms fished at the dam.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; lake level 131.38; black bass are fair on crank baits and worms fished in deep water; white bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished in 12 to 25 feet of water; white bass are fair on Charlie Stoke; channel and blue catfish are good on rod and reels and trotlines baited with live and cut perch; flathead are slow.

RAYBURN: Water clear; lake level 164.02; 58 degrees; black bass to 8 pounds are fair on crank baits and worms fished in deep water; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs fished around boat houses; no report for catfish; few fishermen out.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 8 feet low; 57 degrees; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows fished over deep water brush piles; catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut bait and night crawlers.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear; very low; 71 degrees; catfish are good on rod and reels baited with shrimp, cut and cheese bait fished in 40 to 110 feet of water; very few fishermen out.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; normal level; black bass are fair on worms and spinners; hybrid stripers are slow; redfish are fair on perch fished from the bank and by boat; channel and blue catfish are slow.

CALAVERAS: Water fairly clear; normal level; black bass are fair to good on Power Worms, and live crawfish; hybrid stripers are fair to good on live bait; slow; redfish are fair to good on cut bait; no report for corvina.

CHOKE: Water murky to fairly clear; low; black bass are fair on deep-diving crank baits and Carolina-rigged worms fished in deep; crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished in the river; very few fishermen out due to cold weather.

COLETO CREEK: Water fairly clear; black bass are slow; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs; catfish are fair on cheese bait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

SOUTH SABINE: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

BOLIVAR PENINSULA: Very few fishermen out; a few croaker have been caught at Rollover Pass; live bait is scarce.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Redfish are fair on dead shrimp and trout; a few sheepshead are being caught fishing from the banks; very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

TEXAS CITY: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

FREEPORT: Redfish are fair on shrimp and fished in San Luis Pass; trout are scattered; flounder are slow; live bait is scarce.

PORT O'CONNOR: Very few fishermen out; reds are fair on dead shrimp; live bait is scarce.

EAST MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good on Sassy Shad and dead bait; trout are slow to fair on Mirrolures and Rat-L-Traps under the birds; live bait is scarce at $11 a quart.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair on live and cut bait; trout are fair to good on live bait and Shrimptails fished under the birds; live bait is scarce.

ROCKPORT: Very few fishermen out.

PALACIOS: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are fair on shrimp, Rat-L-Traps and Cocahoe Minnows fished along major points; trout are fair on live shrimp and Mirrolures; offshore fishing shut down due to weather; live bait is available, but scarce.

BAFFIN BAY: Very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce at $12 a quart.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fair on dead shrimp and cut bait fished from the sea wall and along the beach jetties; trout are slow; offshore fishing shut down to weather; live bait is scarce.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish are fair on crab and Rat-L-Traps; trout are slow on Shrimp Tails and Cocahoe Minnows fished under the birds; black drum are good on dead shrimp and crab; offshore fishing shut down due to weather; live bait is scarce.

SOUTH PADRE: Very few fishermen out due to rough surf and cold weather.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish are good on live bait and Cocahoe Minnows fished around the bridges; trout are slow to fair on live bait and spoons; black drum are fair on dead shrimp; very few fishermen out; live bait is scarce at $10-12 a quart.

Skiing Report

Associated Press

NEW MEXICO

Angel Fire — packed powder 33 base 49 trails 6 of 6 lifts am

Pajarito Mtn — packed powder 26 base

Red River — packed powder 20-34 base 50 trails 5 of 7 lifts am

Sandia Peak — packed powder 24 base 9 trails 2 of 7 lifts

Santa Fe — packed powder 69 base 94 trails 7 of 7 lifts 9a-4p

Sipapu — packed powder 28 base 19 trails 2 of 3 lifts 100% open am

Ski Apache — packed powder 27-44 base 15 trails 7 of 11 lifts 27% open am 8:45a-4p

Taos — packed powder 40 base 68 trails 11 of 11 lifts 90% open

COLORADO

Arapahoe Basin — 6- new powder 51-65 base 56 trails 5 of 5 lifts 99% open

Aspen — packed powder 43-45 base 76 trails 9 of 9 lifts 100% open 9a-3:30p

Aspen Highlands — packed powder 51-54 base 84 trails 8 of 8 lifts 99% open

Beaver Creek — 2- new powder 36-50 base 15 of 15 lifts 9a-4p

Breckenridge — 3-5 new powder 51-61 base 139 trails 19 of 22 lifts 84% open 8:30a-4p

Buttermilk — 1- new packed powder 39-57 base 42 trails 7 of 7 lifts 90% open

Copper Mtn — 1- new powder 45 base 18 of 20 lifts

Crested Butte — 6- new powder 48-68 base 12 of 15 lifts 90% open 9a-4p

Eldora Mtn — 4- new powder 48 base 9 of 9 lifts

Keystone — 3- new powder 55-68 base 91 trails 16 of 20 lifts 100% open 8:30a-4p

Loveland — 9- new powder 65 base 10 of 10 lifts

Monarch — 2- new powder 65 base 4 of 4 lifts

Powderhorn Resort — packed powder 32 base 3 of 4 lifts

Purgatory — 3- new powder 60-82 base 78 trails 10 of 10 lifts 100% open 9a-4p

Silver Creek Resort — packed powder 30 base 21 trails 6 of 6 lifts

Ski Cooper — 7- new powder 53 base 4 of 4 lifts

Snowmass — 1- new packed powder 49-69 base 73 trails 16 of 17 lifts 94% open

Steamboat — 8- new powder 84-77 base 114 trails 21 of 22 lifts 8:30a-4:30p

Sunlight — 3- new powder 37 base 3 of 4 lifts

Vail — 10- new powder 66-87 base 28 of 30 lifts 8:30a-3:30p

Winter Park — 11- new powder 57-80 base 112 trails 18 of 22 lifts 99% open 9a-4p

Wolf Creek — packed powder 69-80 base 60 trails 6 of 6 lifts 100% open 9a-4p

UTAH

Alta — 1- new packed powder 72 base 6 of 9 lifts 90% open 9:15a-4:30p

Beaver Mountain — 10- new packed powder 61 base 16 trails 3 of 3 lifts 100% open

Brian Head — packed powder 42 base 83 trails 6 of 6 lifts 100% open 9a-4p; 4:30a-10p

Brighton — 3- new packed powder 79 base 64 trails 7 of 7 lifts 100% open 9a-4p

Deer Valley — 1- new powder 73 base 66 trails 13 of 13 lifts on 9a-4p

Elk Meadows — powder 65 base 30 trails 5 of 5 lifts 100% open

Nordic Valley — 17- new packed powder 48 base 2 of 2 lifts 100% open

Park City — 1- new packed powder 69 base 85 trails 13 of 14 lifts 9a-4p

Powder Mountain — packed powder 67 base 33 trails 4 of 7 lifts 100% open 9:30a-10p

Snowbasin — 14- new powder 70 base 5 of 5 lifts 80% open

Snowbird — 2- new powder 76 base 9 of 11 lifts 100% open 9a-6p

Solitude — 4- new powder 77 base 7 of 7 lifts 100% open 9a-4:30p

Sundance — powder 49 base 3 of 3 lifts 80% open

Wolf Mountain — 9- new packed powder 70 base 60 trails 6 of 7 lifts 80% open

An original score

Sandhill cranes grace the West Texas skies

By Bob Hood
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

LUBBOCK — The skies were busy with flights of ducks and geese, but Chad Carter and Scott McGill were lying on the frozen ground in wait of a much larger, perhaps more mysterious game bird on a cold, clear early-morning in West Texas recently.

In the distance, behind a wave of Canada geese and just above a harvested maize field, they came — sandhill cranes by the scores, gawking noisily as they soared over the flat farmland.

Carter and Seth Davis operate the Black Goose Hunting Lodge in Knox City, and McGill guides for them. The three have hunted sandhill cranes for several years, and they have gained a certain respect for the large, graceful game bird.

"Sandhill cranes have exceptionally keen eyesight, and their big wings often make them appear to be barely flying along when in reality they are really moving on," Carter said from within a decoy spread he and McGill had set out earlier.

Like geese and some ducks, the sandhill crane feeds on grains in harvested fields. It is the wheat, maize and corn fields that attract them to this area of West Texas, Carter said.

As the birds neared, their chattering calls became even louder. A West Texas sunrise is beautiful at any time of the year, Carter said, but in the fall, when the sandhill cranes arrive, their loud chorus seems to bring a special enjoyment to the birth of a new day.

Residents and passersby witness it from a distance, but it is the hunters who reap the full enjoyment of such an event. Lying in a field where the birds will feed or near a playa lake the birds will use as a resting place, the hunters are able to get closer to the magnificent birds than anyone.

As we lay on our sides on the frozen ground, covered by small pieces of burlap for concealment, we waited for the cranes to notice our spread of several dozen crane and geese decoys.

The decoys were cardboard-type silhouettes with photo-finished patterns of sandhill cranes or Canada geese giving them the appearance of real birds. Held in place by sticks stuck into the hard earth, the crane silhouettes were in one group not far from the geese decoys, similar to the way the two species of birds position themselves when feeding together in a grain field.

The surrounding fields and a nearby playa lake rapidly grew in size and clarity as the morning rushed in through clear, bright skies and 30-degree temperatures.

A slight breeze sent ripples across the playa lake. Ducks began to gather in small groups. The ducks reminded one of fighter jets, zipping across the flat terrain with buzzing wing beats, then dropping almost straight down to the water as if they all had run out of gas at the same instant.

The clear skies were not conducive to good hunting conditions, but Carter and McGill remained confident. Like geese, cranes generally fly high and do not decoy readily when the skies are bright and the wind is slight.

Soon, numerous flights of cranes were overhead. A young black lab retriever at Carter's side squirmed excitedly for his moment to arrive as several cranes began to circle. Finally, six began a tighter circle over the spread, dropping slowly in altitude.

For these cranes, we had loaded our shotguns with No.2s and BBs in steel and bismuth — nontoxic shot that is required for waterfowl. Sandhill cranes are not waterfowl and may be hunted with lead shot, but we had brought only nontoxic shot in anticipation that we might get into some action on the geese, too.

The daily bag limit on sandhill cranes is three per person, while the daily limit on geese is five, not to include more than one speckled-belly goose.

When the six cranes crossed over the decoys, we dropped two of them and then watched Carter's black lab retrieve the birds.

Many hunters don't realize just how dangerous a retriever's job is when he goes after a downed sandhill crane, Carter said.

"You've got to make sure the bird is dead before sending a dog after him," Carter said. "The cranes have long, sharp beaks, and if they are only crippled, they can injure a dog. Lots of times, they will go for the dog's eyes."

The cranes continued to come in waves, but many stayed high. Some circled to investigate the decoys, then moved on. But it was the abundance of birds that would make this a good hunt.

A single often is the easier to decoy, and that's exactly what Carter and McGill enticed next. The bird dropped amid the goose decoys and was soon retrieved by the lab.

Later, two more cranes and a Canada goose were added to our bag. When only a few waves of cranes could be seen only occasionally, we pulled up the decoys and headed back to our trucks, which had been parked about 200 yards away behind a small pond.

The Black Goose Hunting Lodge is headquartered at Knox City, and Carter's hunters there have been bagging limits of geese almost daily. But the best sandhill crane hunting is farther west of Knox City to this area near Lubbock, Carter said.

"There are a lot of cranes in the area now, but it will only get better as the season grows," Carter said. "A lot of cranes just haven't gotten here yet. All it is going to take is another good cold front to push more birds down. And when that happens, we will be getting our limits early."

The sandhill crane hunting season ends Feb. 9. Hunters are required to possess a Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit in addition to a valid Texas hunting license. The permits are free of charge and are available from all license dealers.

The Amazon: Where the fish really bite

By Ken Schultz
N.Y. Times News Service

PORTO TROMBETAS, Brazil — The guide Ejio slipped over the side of our aluminum boat into piranha-inhabited waters in what was beginning to be a common occurrence. For the fourth time that day, the lure of my companion, Yutaca Honda, was stuck about 8 feet below the surface on a flooded bush.

Ejio grabbed Yutaca's line and submerged. His red shorts vanished, followed by the white bottoms of his paddling feet. A moment later his black hair surfaced and Ejio came up with the lure and a grin. The grin was for my sake, because he was aware that I found his act astonishing. Especially since we just caught a 3-pound piranha nearby.

That piranha was in a well underneath my seat, destined as a gift to a local family. When Ejio boosted himself back into the boat with the smoothness of a gymnast mounting a pommel horse, I sat down and the piranha thrashed a bit in the well. "Nah," I thought, "it can't bite through metal."

Ejio grabbed his hand-carved paddle and moved the boat forward, then spotted something. He started the motor and rushed toward a spot in the dense flooded timber where tucunare are pummeling baitfish, creating a frenzy of splashes and swirls. I cast into the melee and got a strike so violent that the rod was nearly pulled from my hand.

A big yellow and black tucunare vaulted into the air, streaked for the bushes, darted at the boat, and rocketed two feet out of the water just a paddle's length away. Then Yutaca hooked a fish. We landed and released the savage battlers, and in 10 minutes caught several more and lost nearly as many.

Then the curtain dropped and all was quiet. Unseen birds made strange calls from the dense jungle. In the distance a shirtless man paddled a dugout canoe. Here, at midday in the Brazilian state of Para, 1 degree south of the equator, the heat and humidity were relentless; Ejio's clothes were soaked from his swim, mine from perspiration.

There are many ferocious, explosive and attractive fish in these waters, but tucunare, known as peacock bass, capture the most attention from American anglers, who are increasingly being welcomed in the Amazon, particularly here in Para, the second-largest state in Brazil.

Para has yet to develop its sportfishery, but it's larger neighbor, Amazonas, is already well established with several operators running houseboats for up to 20 anglers per week for three to four months, all to the tune of about $3,500 per week. In a country where 80 percent of the people do not have a telephone, this is a welcome event.

It is also welcome to the energetic commander of the new enterprise that employs Ejio, Jean-Pierre Schwartz. The 34-year-old Schwartz came to Brazil from Geneva, Switzerland, 17 years ago and eventually settled near the heart of the Amazon in Santarem.

This frontier has been a constant adventure to the enterprising Schwartz, who speaks six languages, outfits jungle explorations and leads ecotours. He has traded with Indians, worked in a gold mine, provided logistical support for several Hollywood movies, including "Medicine Man," and met not only their stars, but also Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger and Jacques Cousteau.

Schwartz has leased a 65-foot houseboat for traveling far up the Nhumanda and Trombetas Rivers, both Mississippi-sized tributaries to the Amazon. Schwartz will need his linguistic skills, energy and charm to succeed in an area ripe for sportfishing but with little knowhow and infrastructure, and where some of the best angling waters are off limits or too flooded most of the year.

One of the latter is the Trombetas Biological Reserve, strictly controlled by the Brazilian federal parks agency (IBAMA), which Schwartz has asked for permission to start a pilot catch-and-release angling program. This, bureaucracies being what they are, will be difficult.

Skiing has more than its fair share of questions

By Tony Chamberlin
c.1996 The Boston Globe

To expensive. Too much of a hassle. Too much work. Too cold. Too crowded. Too much ice. Boots too tight. Too many snowboards. Too ... Too ... Too ...

Sometimes when I listen to skiers' complaints I am reminded of the old Casey Stengelism: "No one goes to that joint anymore; the place is too crowded."

Somehow, despite the hassles and expenses, people still go to the great white cure as often as they can, and a few even maintain a long relationship with skiing as a kind of religion.

But many have argued that while skiing will always have its place in their hearts, the sport is not clicking with the new generation as it once did. Too much competition today from every corner — the proliferation of outdoor thrills unavailable in generations past.

Or, put another way, will a person who's been bungee jumping, hang-gliding, free-fall sky-diving and snorkeling in the Carribean still find a way to get kicks on the slopes?

Have Boomers finally had their blood thinned and energies dropped as their enthusiasm for skiing fades?

And has the generation coming in their wake found so many other diversions that skiing will never be the thrill of thrills it once was?

I don't know. Having heard it argued both ways, I now exercise the measure of my journalsitic courage. Take a stand? No, take a poll.

I give you Couple No. 1: They are 50ish, in the empty nest with kids in college. In the summer they always have sailed on weekends and vacations, and they have chartered boats in the British Virgins. They both love it, though he probably enjoys the sailing more than she does.

Their winter activity, from the time their two boys were young, has been skiing. Weekends, holiday weeks, vacations to the Colorado Rockies. Typical stuff, the parents learning along with two young boys, then getting left behind as the kids grew. Now that the kids are gone, Couple No. 1 skis only occasionally; he's rather lukewarm about it, while she is still fanatical.

Skiing Quiz

1. Given two weeks of winter vacation spent either skiing at the place of my choice or going to a warm vacationland, I would: A: Do all skiing; B: Do all warm weather; C: Split the weeks between the two.

2. For the sheer physical thrill, give me: A: Skiing (boarding); B: Sailing (boating, fishing); C: Golfing; D: Write in other.

3. I lean more toward the following statement. A: Skiing is a heroic sport that still bespeaks one's vigor; I'll have time for those warmer activities when I'm in my 80s; B: I've suffered through winters long enough; and now it's time to head to the warmth no matter what the sport.

4. If I had to spend the rest of my life in one place, it would resemble: A: Juneau, Alaska; B: Jackson Hole, Wyo. ; C: Boston; D: Key West, Fla. ; E: Bitter End, Virgin Gorda, BVI.

5. Which of the following most closely resembles your ski life: A: I have rarely skied more than six days in a season; B: I used to ski 20 times a year, but now less than 10; C: I ski at least 15 times a year and hope to do more; D: I ski every chance I get. If I had more time and money, it would be spent skiing.

6. I would ski more if: A: The slopes were groomed better so there was no ice; B: The prices of everything dropped significantly; C: There was something more to it, more challenge, more thrills, more adventure; D: I still had some kids around to take to the slopes; E: The warm weather vacations were harder to obtain.

7. I started skiing between ages: A: 6-12; B: 13-18; C: 19-28; D: 29-40; E: older.

8. Which statement do you most closely agree with. The skiing-ski revolution making skiing easier will: A: bring lots more skiers into the sport; B: not make much difference, there are so many other factors; C: Bring in fewer skiers because the challenge to ski is not as great.

9. Which is your skiing style: A: Long, smooth rides on wide swaths of perfect packed powder; B: Answer A with some steep terrain thrown in; C: Some parts of the mountain left steep, deep and bumpy; D: As Hunter Thompson says, "It ain't got to crazy for me."

10: Skiing: A: Will always be with us, though perhaps diminished; B: Always keep the new young recruits coming in; C: Is a growth sport; D: Is on the decline.

And in every discussion with her friends about retiring to the southland where the sailing and warm sun are always at hand, she balks at the idea.

So here we are at the start of another "snowriding" season, with the whole white world still reeling toward huge centralized corporations.

Les Otten, of American Skiing Co., has declared war against cruise lines, sunny southern vacations and European travel. In other words, he is betting that skiing, made attractive enough, can go after the larger pool of vacation dollars.

East Texas seniors enjoy the hunt

By Steve Brigman
The Paris News

CHICOTA — She never went hunting as a kid, and never thought about it as an adult — that is until she heard how much fun the rest of the family was having at the deer lease.

Today, 72-year-old Nonzalee Johns cannot wait to get back to the family deer lease to hunt with her two younger sisters: Dena Erwin, 67, and Neva Palmer, 70.

"Three years ago, we went and got this lease in Mills County," Johns said. "The man told us we could have the lease as long as we want it, and we told him we would need it about 10 years."

Folks around her seem surprised that sisters past retirement age go hunting together, but to Johns, it is not big deal.

"People say they can't kill a deer — I thought that too. I can," Johns said. "It's a great feeling."

And these Chicota natives do it all. There are no children or grandchildren doing work to prepare for the hunts. Johns and her sisters begin to go to the lease in September to put corn in the feeders and to spend time with each other. They each have their own personal blind and take care of their own deer after it has been shot.

Neva tagged along, and once she was hooked, she began to hunt with Johns' husband.

"Neva used to hunt with my husband," Johns recalled. "Her husband didn't hunt and mine did, and I didn't hunt, so she went with him."

Johns started going along on the hunts, and when she killed her first deer, a doe, she knew she would become a regular member of the hunting party. But Johns will not hunt without her sisters, or her stocking hat.

"I can't close my left eye and leave my right one open," she explained. "I have to pull my cap down over my eye so I can see through the scope. An' I can't shoot from my life side because of my pacemaker."

Johns uses her son's 243. rifle, and his four-wheel-drive truck when she is hunting.

Erwin and Palmer both shoot 30.-06.s. Erwin said their method of hunting is not too scientific.

Despite the basic approach that Erwin and her sisters take, she says women make better deer hunters than men, "because they are more patient."

It would be hard to dispute the claim based on their success. This season was the third time in three years that the group has harvested five bucks on the opening weekend.

Evenings around camp are pretty tame. Time is passed in the trailer by reading, playing games and crocheting. When the alarm goes off at 4:30 a.m., it is Erwin who gets up and cooks breakfast.

"That's because I am the best cook," she quipped.

On

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By Ron Sirak
AP Golf Writer

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On different fairways

Woods soars in PGA debut; Norman not-Masterful during historic collapse

By Ron Sirak
AP Golf Writer

The real wrapup of golf in 1996 will be written 20 years from now, when historians decide whether Tiger Woods lived up to his enormous promise and evaluate the impact of the Masters collapse on Greg Norman.

Woods, who turns 21 two days before the new year, pushed golf onto the front pages in the biggest way since the heyday of Bobby Jones 70 years ago. But Norman's downfall at Augusta — and the noble way he handled it — made headlines, too, as did a newly energized LPGA.

Woods won the NCAA individual tournament, then captured an unprecedented third consecutive U.S. Amateur championship, turned professional and signed the richest endorsement deals ever by a golfer, then backed up the hype by winning two of his first seven tournaments on the PGA Tour.

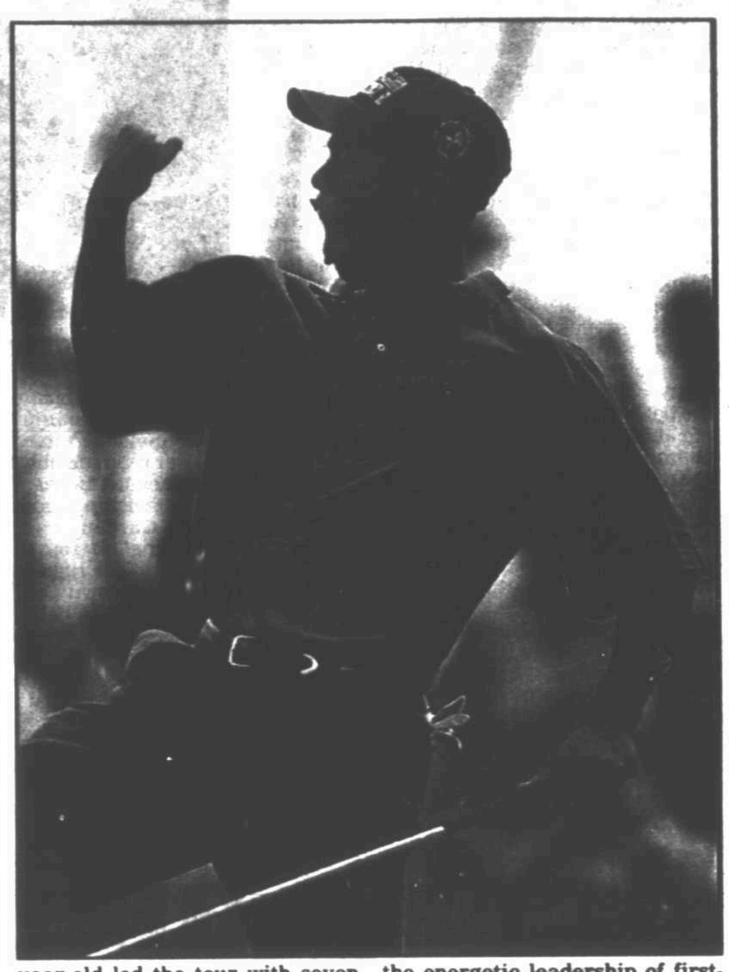
"We have not seen someone come along like Tiger since the days of Palmer and Nicklaus," said two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw. "This is incredible for our sport and our game. I think we are lucky to have him in our sport."

When Crenshaw was born 45 years ago it would not have been possible for Woods, whose father is black and mother is from Thailand, to be a member of the tour. The PGA didn't drop the "Caucasians-only" clause from its constitution until 1961.

Woods' emergence was so spectacular it almost overshadowed everything else in a memorable year in golf, particularly Norman's disaster at the Masters.

Golf Roundup

Greg Norman, above, gave golfers a performance he would rather forget. Tiger Woods, right, is making his mark on the PGA Tour in just his first year.
AP Laserphoto



Taking a six-stroke lead into the final round, Norman had the misfortune of being paired with Nick Faldo, perhaps the fiercest match-play golfer in the world.

Faldo applied relentless pressure, shooting a closing-round 67, and Norman lost all rhyme and rhythm, stumbling to a 78 and falling from six ahead to five behind. It was the largest lead ever blown in a major golf championship.

Almost lost in Norman's collapse was the fact that Faldo won his third Masters and sixth major championship. Only 10 players in the history of golf have won more majors than Faldo, who at 39 has a chance to move up on that list.

Norman, meanwhile, finished second in a major championship for the eighth time. It was also the sixth time he took a lead into the final round of a major and failed to hold it.

There were many other good stories in golf in 1996.

Phil Mickelson won four times and Mark Brooks took three tournaments, including the PGA Championship. Steve Jones won a dramatic U.S. Open when Davis Love III and Tom Lehman made bogeys on the final hole.

Lehman, 37, emerged as perhaps the best of the American golfers, winning the British Open and the Tour Championship, setting a record with $1.8 million in prize money and finishing in the top 10 in 13 of his 22 tournaments.

He was one of six players to win twice on the PGA Tour, including Woods, Mark O'Meara, John Cook, Loren Roberts and Steve Stricker.

Stricker is one to watch. The 29-year-old led the tour with seven top-three finishes and displayed a calm maturity to go along with his impressive power game. He could emerge as one of the game's best players.

At the Memorial, Tom Watson brought tears to the eyes of golf traditionalists by winning his first tournament in nine years. And the U.S. team turned back a determined rally by the International squad to win the second Presidents Cup in September.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem announced at the Presidents Cup the creation of three new "world" events that would be slipped into the schedule when the tour can restructure things after the TV contracts expire in 1998.

The LPGA Tour had one of its most promising years ever behind the energetic leadership of first-year commissioner Jim Ritts.

Laura Davies won two major championships and Annika Sorenstam won a second consecutive U.S. Open, but it was 21-year-old rookie Karrie Webb who won four times and became the first woman to win more that $1 million in a season.

The U.S. women successfully defended the Solheim Cup in Wales by overwhelming the European team in the singles matches.

With an infusion of good young players, the future looked particularly bright for the LPGA. The long stretches of off-weeks were eliminated in 1997 with the addition of four new tournaments, pushing the tour's total to 43 events and boosting prize money by nearly 20 percent.

Notebook

Associated Press

The Shark not hungry for attention at Australian Open

By Ron Sirak
AP Golf Writer

Annika Sorenstam has a chance to do something in 1997 that has been done only once before in the history of golf, and never by a woman — win the U.S. Open three consecutive times.

Willie Anderson won the men's Open in 1903-05 and is the only person to win three straight. When Sorenstam won for the second consecutive year at Pine Needles in June, it made her one of only six women to successfully defend the Open championship.

Now she goes for history.

"Yeah, I guess I do think about it," Sorenstam said Monday as she accepted the Vare Trophy for having the best scoring average in the LPGA in 1996.

"It's always in the back of my mind," she said. "Especially with the Open being at Pumpkin Ridge where Tiger Woods did the three-peat.

Woods won an unprecedented third consecutive U.S. Amateur Championship at Pumpkin Ridge in August.

ON THE TUBE: Mike Tirico, an ESPN studio regular since 1991, has joined ABC Sports as its golf anchor, replacing Brent Musburger.

"Mike has a passion for golf and the rare ability to connect with viewers," Steve Anderson, ABC Sports senior vice president of production, said Monday. "He has already proven that he is one of the brightest young stars in this business."

Tirico, who will team with new color analyst Curtis Strange, will make the assignment next month with ABC's coverage of the PGA Tour's season-opening Mercedes Championships.

Tirico will continue as the primary host of ESPN's "NFL Prime Monday" and also will be involved with the network's "College Football Scoreboard" and ESPN Radio's "The NFL."

FALDO FILE: Three-time Masters champion Nick Faldo will bring a bit of his knowledge to the average golfer at the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott, a teaching facility scheduled to open in March at Marriott's Grande Vista in Orlando, Fla.

"This is something I have wanted to do for some time," Faldo said. "The people at Marriott share my desire to develop a complete golf instructional facility with programs for all age groups and skill levels."

The Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott will consist of a nine-hole golf course, a 27-hole putting course and one of the largest practice facilities in the country. Teaching professionals approved by Faldo will staff the facility.

The institute will debut in conjunction with the opening of the newest Marriott Vacation Club Resort, the Grande Vista in Orlando.

"This is an outstanding addition to our existing portfolio of golf resorts," said C. Stephen Bradley, senior vice president of Marriott. "We are delighted to be working with Nick Faldo."

CELEB STATUS: The second annual Lexus Challenge, hosted by Raymond Floyd Dec. 19-21 at the La Quinta Resort, has 12 celebrities playing with 12 senior tour pros in a 36-hole better-ball event. NBC will televise the final round of the tournament that will raise money for Childhelp USA, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse.

Floyd and Michael Childs of the TV show "The Commish" will try to defend their title. The other 11 teams will be chosen by a blind draw.

The celebrities include: Kevin Costner, Richard Dreyfuss, Dan Jenkins, Sean Connery, Clint Eastwood, Glenn Frey, Ken Griffey Jr., Chris O'Donnell, Joe Pesci, Don Shula and Robert Wuhl.

The Senior pros include: George Archer, Jim Colbert, Jim Dent, Hale Irwin, Bob Murphy, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Dave Stockton, Lee Trevino and Tom Weiskopf.

COLLEGE GOLF: The University of Arizona women and the UNLV men closed out the fall season ranked No. 1 in the latest Rolex Collegiate Rankings.

Arizona had the top spot in all four fall polls while UNLV moved from fourth in the preseason poll to No. 1 by the second time the rankings were published and held onto it through the end of the fall season.

Arizona is chased by Arizona State in the No. 2 spot followed by San Jose State, Stanford and Duke. UNLV saw its lead narrowed by Oklahoma State, which is followed by TCU, Arizona and East Tennessee State.

The top-ranked woman is Arizona sophomore Marisa Baena. The Colombia resident leads San Jose State senior Janice Moodie of Scotland. The No. 1 male is Mark Wilson, a University of North Carolina senior, followed by Bo Van Pelt.

CHIP SHOTS: The LPGA produced a holiday video in which many players confess their wish for the new year. "I want the Swedes to go back home," Kris Tschetter said, in a good-natured reference to the strength of the Swedish golf program. Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann finished third and fourth on the money list. Tschetter was 14th. ... Laura Davies, asked about the difficulties of playing a full schedule of both the LPGA and European tours, said: "I just turn up in a new country and set the watch." Then, remembering the sponsor of the player of the year award she received, said: "You just check the Rolex." ... Tiger Woods will appear on a special edition of The Golf Channel's "Golf Talk Live" Wednesday Dec. 18 from 8-9 p.m. EST. The live viewer call-in show is hosted by Peter Kessler.

Sports Quotes of the Week

Compiled by Mary Ellen Williams

"I came to Florida knowing that I would be learning from the best offensive coach in the country, but I didn't know I would get to learn from the best offensive player in college football history." — Brian Schottenheimer, Danny Wuerffel's backup (and son of Marty).

"He gets up at 6 a.m., regardless of what time of day it is." — Lou Duva, on why Andrew Golota is so easy to train.

"How can you win with the refs, everyone against you? I asked the refs, 'Is it going to be like this all night? We don't have a chance to win. We might as well get on the bus right now.'" — Oakland safety Lorenzo Lynch, after losing at Denver 24-19. The Raiders had 20 penalties for 157 yards compared with the Broncos who had 10-101.

"Sure there's bad blood, but that's hockey. It's a physical game, it's not tennis." — Colorado's Eric Lacroix after Colorado lost defenseman Alexei Gusarov and right wing Rene Corbet after hard hits by the Red Wings.

"We should have made a run at them. We just never did. We went from the penthouse to the outhouse, all in a span of 24 hours." — New York Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy explaining his team's 34-point loss to Detroit after an impressive victory over Utah just a night earlier.

"I was not fired, I am not quitting." — Rich Kotite, ending two years as coach of the New York Jets with a 4-27 record.

"Anytime you get traded to a team on a roll like this, you don't want to rock the boat. For my first game to go so well, I couldn't ask for anything better." — Paul Coffey after getting three assists in his Flyers debut as Philadelphia beat the Islanders 5-0 for its third straight shutout.

"I would have come here under coach Holtz and been a three-year starter. ... It would have been time for me to move on. ... I don't feel as if I'm settling for Notre Dame or I'm coming back because I have to. The changes at Notre Dame are positive ones. They're something I want to be a part of. It's an opportunity to come back and have a great time." — Notre Dame quarterback Ron Powlus, announcing he would be back for a fifth year of eligibility under new coach Bob Davie.

America's minitours try to stay alive in golf range war

By Bill Huffman
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX - The minitour scene in the Phoenix area has all the promise of a birdie putt tracking slowly toward the cup.

With three such minor-league circuits in existence — the Grand Canyon State Players, the Sonoran and the Western States — there seemingly is enough tournament golf being provided to satisfy the 50 to 100 professionals living here who have yet to break through to the bigger tours.

But just like that promising birdie opportunity that has not yet rattled the cup, the three local "minis" could fall off line at any time, as the Phoenix-based Team Players Tour did earlier this year when it went belly-up.

The big losers, of course, would be the local play-for-pay guys who are attempting to survive financially while gaining the necessary experience they need to move on to greener fairways.

As it stands now, the three factions are essentially stepping all over each other in what has turned out to be a golf range war. Instead of providing the players with one- and two-day tournaments five days a week, as well as bigger purses, a fragmentation is under way with no truce in sight.

The biggest conflict involves scheduling, with two or even three of the minitours setting up events on the same day. The result is a watered-down field with a purse to match.

"It's too bad they can't get along and maybe even band together," said Joey Snyder, a former All-American at Arizona State who is competing this week in the Western States Tour Championship at the Raven at South Mountain — the most lucrative local minitour event of the year with a $24,000 purse.

"I'm heading out to play the Asian Tour soon, but I'd stay here if we had a minitour that paid out good money. And I'm not saying this is bad money we're playing for this week. It's actually very good. But it's not like this all the time, which means that the better players have to go elsewhere to make a living."

For Snyder and many of the notables playing in the Western States Tour Championship, it's the level of competition more than the money that keeps them coming back. Still, you've got to eat.

"Two things have to happen for a minitour to flourish here," Snyder added. "They need to find a corporate sponsor to put up some money, and the three tours have to get together and work with each other. If that would happen, we'd have guys from California and Florida streaming in, because we've got the courses and the weather."

For some reason, past minitours in Arizona all died slow deaths until Melanie Cisler started the Western States four years ago. Cisler paid out $5,000 during her first year, but her total payout has jumped the past three years, from $200,000 to $300,000 to more than $400,000 this season.

All of the money comes from players' entry fees, which range from $130 to $350 per event.

"It's a tough situation, having three tours with scheduling conflicts that essentially split up the fields," said Cisler, who organizes and manages each tournament for "less than" 10 percent of the purse.

"But I can't worry about what the other (tours) are doing. I'm too busy trying to provide a quality tournament and a non-stop schedule for the players that support our tour."

Cisler said she agrees with Snyder that a corporate sponsor is the key to the future success of any minitour. Unfortunately, she doubts that an agreement can be reached with her counterparts — Bill Monk of the Grand Canyon State Players and Ron Williams of the Sonoran.

Monk, a longtime member of the golf community in Arizona, runs his tour without "making a dime." He said the Grand Canyon State tour is modeled after the "best tour in the world" — the PGA Tour, which also is non-profit. He thinks if he does a solid job, sticks with it, that good things, maybe even riches, will follow.

"It's just too bad that we can't get together," said Monk, whose tour has paid out $100,000 since debuting this year. "You look at everything we have going for us here — the weather, the courses, the players — and you ask yourself, 'Why is it that Florida is generating so many tours and turning out tons of players, and we're not?' "

A quick scan of any Golfweek or Golf World reveals that minitours in the Southeast, such as the Tommy Armour, South Florida, Gulf Coast, Space Coast, Emerald, Sunshine and Powerbilt, are thriving while attracting fields of 100 or more players. The Florida minitour stops are consistently offering purses in the $25,000 range.

No doubt, part of the Florida craze comes from quick access. A pro can play four or five events a week via car, if the various tours space them out.

Plus, several tours in the Southeast have landed that coveted corporate title sponsor. The Arizona-based tours say they have knocked on the doors of some of the state's biggest companies, only to be ignored.

Williams, who charges $10 per pro to play in Sonoran events, agrees that Arizona's potential is being undersold.

"The players know what's going on," said Williams, who paid out $124,000 in what also was his first year in the minitour business. "They read those golf publications, and they see that the money is not in Phoenix."

Williams suggested that a neutral interest, perhaps a group of players, get together to try to resolve the conflict among the Arizona minitours.

"I don't want to sound like Rodney King, but why can't we all get along?" he said.

Probably for the same reason that the players are divided in support of the three circuits. Some play them all, while others remain loyal to just one league.

Jerry Foltz, a Nike Tour player from Chandler, is one of those solely in the Western States camp.

"I've played on tours all over the country, and all I can say is nobody does a better job than Melanie," Foltz said. "She's organized and always is there, week in and week out. I'm loyal because she was here first, and there's only room to support one (minitour) and really make it go."

On the other hand, Tom Kalinowski, a young player from Scottsdale who was the leading money winner on the Western States this year with $13,200, tees it up on all three.

"If (the local minitours) could all just work out a schedule where they wouldn't play on top of each other, that would be a start in the right direction," said Kalinowski, who qualified for three PGA Tour events. "I guess they all want to do their own deal, but it hurts the local guys, and really keeps things from taking off here."

Warren Vickers, a young pro from Oregon, takes it a step further. Yes, he said, the Arizona minitours need corporate sponsors and a lesson in cooperation. But they also could use some incentives, too.

"The only way a minitour can survive is to have a lot of players," Vickers said. "And the only way to have a lot of players is to have decent purses, as well as incentives, such as bonus pools and other perks. Those things create atmosphere and keep people coming back."

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1996 Sports Stars

Associated Press
Some of the stars of 1996

By Hal Bock
AP Sports Writer

OLYMPICS

Michael Johnson

Won unprecedented 200-400 double, twice smashing 17-year-old 200 record, first in trials and then in games ... Lowered 200 mark from 19.72 to 19.32, an astonishing advance ... Set Olympic record of 43.49 in 400 ... Stretched 400 winning streak to 55 races ... Has lost only once in 200 since 1994.

Kerri Strug

Ignored injured left ankle to nail final vault and clinch first Olympic gold for U.S. women's gymnastics team ... Carried to victory podium for medal ceremony by coach Bela Karolyi ... Passed on college gymnastics for tours and endorsements and is coaching part time as freshman at UCLA.

Michelle Smith

Won 400 freestyle and 200 and 400 medley swimming gold medals ... Also took bronze in 200 butterfly ... Medals were first ever in swimming for Ireland.

David Reid

Scored stunning one-punch, last-round knockout over Cuba's Alfredo Duvergel to salvage lone U.S. boxing gold medal ... Right hook to face reversed result in light middleweight final.

Naim Suleymanoglu

Turkey's "Pocket Hercules" became first weightlifter to win three Olympic golds ... Broke own world record with combined lift of 738 1/2 pounds in snatch and clean-and-jerk ... Fan favorite at just 4 feet, 11 inches.

BASEBALL

John Smoltz

Continued Atlanta's Cy Young tradition, joining teammates Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine as winner of award ... Led majors in wins (24) and strikeouts (276) and National League in innings pitched (253.2) and winning percentage (.750) ... Also won four postseason games ... Lost first start and then won 14 straight with 1.83 earned-run average.

Juan Gonzalez

American League MVP ... Despite missing 28 games, hit 47 home runs and drove in 144 runs, second in AL, while batting .314 ... Batted .438 and hit five home runs in AL playoffs against New York, tying major league record shared by Reggie Jackson and Ken Griffey Jr. for homers in one postseason series.

Ken Caminiti

Enjoyed career year, batting .326 with 40 home runs and 130 RBIs for San Diego; earning National League MVP Award ... Hit home runs from both sides of the plate in the same game four times ... Had a half-season triple crown, leading all NL hitters in average, homers and RBIs after the All-Star break.

John Wetteland

World Series MVP saved all four victories for New York Yankees ... Saved 43 games in regular season with 2.83 ERA as Yankees closer ... Set major league record with saves in 24 consecutive appearances ... Missed only four of 47 save opportunities ... Signed as free agent with Texas.

FOOTBALL

Larry Brown

Super Bowl MVP ... Two interceptions led to Dallas touchdowns and 76 interception return yards set Super Bowl record ... Starter on three Dallas Super Bowl champions ... Signed as free agent with Oakland Raiders and went through difficult adjustment to new defensive scheme.

Brett Favre

Considered among the top quarterbacks in NFL ... MVP 1995 season included league leading 38 touchdowns and 4,413 passing yards ... Led Green Bay to first division title since 1972 ... Entered 1996 season with fourth highest quarterback rating (86.6) in NFL history, trailing only Steve Young, Joe Montana and Dan Marino ... Battled substance abuse problem in offseason.

Heisman Winner

Danny Wuerffel

Florida quarterback won college football's top award 30 years after coach Steve Spurrier did it ... Led Florida into national championship game for second straight year ... Most accurate passer in NCAA history, completing 207-of-360 passes for 3,625 yards and 39 touchdowns ... Set 47 school, SEC and NCAA records.

BASKETBALL

Michael Jordan

Won record eighth NBA scoring title, averaging 30.4 points per game ... Doubled as regular season and playoffs MVP for third time ... Owns a total of four regular season and four playoff MVPs ... Career scoring average of 32.0 points per game is highest for any player in history.

Tony Delk

Led Kentucky to NCAA championship ... MVP of Final Four with 24 points and seven rebounds in championship game against Syracuse ... Tied championship game record with seven 3-pointers ... Finished college career as fourth-highest scorer in school history with 1,890 points ... First-round draft choice of Charlotte Hornets.

HOCKEY

Mario Lemieux

Overcame Hodgkin's disease and back surgery to make one of the most remarkable comebacks in sports history, winning third NHL MVP award ... Led league in scoring with 69 goals and 161 points, his fifth scoring title ... Passed 500-goal plateau in landmark season.

Joe Sakic

Led all playoff scorers and earned NHL playoff MVP award with 18 goals in 22 games as Colorado won Stanley Cup ... Scored six power play goals and six game-winners, including two overtime goals ... Had 51 goals and 120 points in regular season.

TENNIS

Pete Sampras

Overcame death of coach Tim Gullikson to win fourth U.S. Open and third in four years ... Increased Grand Slam singles victory total to eight, four short of Roy Emerson's record ... Capped year by winning ATP championship in five-setter against Boris Becker.

Steffi Graf

Won every Grand Slam she entered, French, Wimbledon and U.S. Open, and ended year with her fifth WTA title and third in four years ... Finished No. 1 for eighth time and fourth straight ... With 21 career singles Slams titles, just three away from Margaret Smith Court's record.

GOLF

Tiger Woods

Energized sport, winning two of first seven pro tournaments ... Won unprecedented third straight U.S. Amateur title ... Instant hit with advertisers at age 20, earning $8 million in endorsement income.

Karrie Webb

LPGA Rookie of the Year ... 21-year-old Australian won four tournaments ... First woman to win $1 million in single season ... Won season-ending Tour Championship to edge Laura Davies for money title.

BOXING

Evander Holyfield

Stunned sport by knocking out Mike Tyson to win WBA heavyweight title ... Joined Muhammad Ali as only three-time winner of heavyweight crown ... Earlier in year, beat Bobby Czyz to set up Tyson match.

Oscar De La Hoya

Certified as one of sport's top drawing cards after winning WBC junior welterweight title, stopping Julio Cesar Chavez in four rounds for 22nd straight win ... Knockout came in Chavez' 100th career fight.

HORSE RACING

Cigar

Won first four races of year, stretching winning streak to 16, matching Citation's record at Arlington Park in a race called The Citation Challenge ... Streak ended in August at Del Mar when, racing as 1-10 favorite, was beaten by 39-1 longshot Dare and Go.

AUTO RACING

Terry Labonte

Won NASCAR's Winston Cup for second time ... Other title was 12 years ago, longest stretch ever between championships ... Failed to win a race from 1990-93 and was a forgotten driver ... Won just two minor races during the year but piled up points almost every week, finishing 24 of 31 races in top 10 to capture championship.

Jimmy Vasser

Captured four of season's first six CART races, capped by inaugural U.S. 500, competition for the Indianapolis 500 ... Hung on through summer-long winless streak to win PPG Cup, beating out Michael Andretti for title ... Scored points in 15 of 16 races and was only driver to finish all 16.

Holyfield tops boxing's year

By Ed Schuyler Jr.
AP Boxing Writer

AP Laserphoto

Newly crowned WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield throws up his arm in victory after defeating Mike tyson by TKO in the eleventh round at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

Evander Holyfield's was up, Mike Tyson's and Riddick Bowe's were down, and Andrew Golota's was dirty.

That's the way it was with some heavyweight reputations in 1996.

Holyfield assured himself a niche in boxing lore, becoming a heavyweight champion for the third time by stopping Tyson in the 11th round of a Nov. 9 fight in Las Vegas. It wasn't as shocking as Tyson's 10th-round knockout loss to Buster Douglas in 1990, but it was a major upset.

Tyson won WBC and WBA titles in his first two fights of the year against opponents who were obviously intimidated. Holyfield not only wasn't intimidated, he guaranteed victory.

"I knew what I was going to do and I was going to be ready for it," Holyfield said. "With me, it's not about losing, it's about giving my all."

Bowe won both of his fights during the year, but only because Golota was disqualified in the seventh round July 11 at Madison Square Garden in New York for low blows. In the rematch Dec. 14 in Atlantic City, a low blow in the ninth round disqualified him.

The native of Poland was headed for victories both times before the low punches made him a loser and cost him millions of dollars as a major player in the heavyweight division.

After the second fight, people were praising the battered Bowe's courage rather than talking about the former undisputed heavyweight champion's skills, which appeared to be in sharp decline.

At the beginning of the year, Holyfield's career as a world-class fighter appeared over at age 34. He had been stopped in the eighth round of a rubber match with Bowe on Nov. 4, 1995, and had retired because of a diagnosed heart problem.

After getting a second opinion and medical clearance to return, Holyfield came back and stopped Bobby Czyz in the fifth round May 10 in Madison Square Garden. He did not, however, look impressive, and there was concern about his physical well-bei ; if he continued to fight.

Tyson, a former undisputed champion, won the WBC title by stopping Frank Bruno of Britain in the third round March 16 and then won the WBA championship Sept. 7 by stopping Bruce Seldon in the first round.

After relinquishing the WBC title rather than fight Lennox Lewis, Tyson defended the WBA championship against Holyfield in the MGM Grand Garden.

Staying on top of Tyson, Holyfield took charge of the fight in the sixth round, knocking Tyson down and cutting him over the left eye. Tyson was being battered along the ropes and about to go down when he was saved by the bell ending the 10th round.

Tyson, who said he didn't remember anything after the third round, was stopped early in the 11th. It was his first loss in five fights since he was released from prison in March 1995. His total purse money for those fights was $105 million.

"I have tremendous respect for you," he told Holyfield after the fight. "Hopefully we'll do it again."

When Bowe took on Golota in the Garden for a $5 million payday, he weighed 252 pounds, a career high. Golota was 26-0 at the time, but his opposition had been mediocre at best.

Despite being penalized two points for low blows, Golota was leading on all three official cards before being disqualified, touching off a riot that led to 16 arrests and injuries to 22 people.

Spencer Promotions, Bowe's promoter, was later fined $250,000 by the New York State Athletic Commission.

The crowd was better behaved in the rematch, but Golota wasn't. He had knocked down Bowe twice, gotten up from a knockdown and was leading on all three cards, despite being penalized for hitting low and for headbutting.

Wacky and just Weird

Fans see it all in '96: Rodman in wedding white, streaker at Wimbledon

By Ben Walker
AP Sports Writer

Even for Dennis Rodman, this was dragging new depths of self-promotion.

There he was in all his glory — white wedding gown, bright red lipstick, blonde wig, twin nose rings — in a horse-drawn carriage in the middle of New York City on a summer afternoon.

On Fifth Avenue for a book signing, the tattooed one vowed he was going to get married the next day in Rockefeller Center.

No nuptials ever took place. But it really didn't matter — sports fans saw a lot of things that were hard to believe in 1996.

A streaker at Wimbledon. A 12-year-old boy nearly making the biggest catch of the baseball season. A 40,000-pound scoreboard crashing to the ice at Buffalo's new NHL arena.

Hard to believe what some people heard, too.

Isaiah Rider got an earful from his mother. She walked halfway across the court in Minnesota, telling her Timberwolves son to leave after being ejected from an NBA game.

Jim Stahl heard it from Tom Weiskopf. Stahl, the U.S. Senior Amateur champion, was berated by the former British Open winner for — among other things — marking his ball with a shiny quarter rather than a non-reflective penny during the first round of the U.S. Senior Open.

Michael Jordan and Rodney Dangerfield also had it rough.

Jordan, perhaps the most popular athlete in the world, was booed by fans at the All-Star game who felt Shaquille O'Neal should have won the MVP award.

Dangerfield made the mistake of telling an off-color joke during a performance at an NBA playoff game in Utah, of all places. Not only did Dangerfield get no respect, he got the silent treatment.

"Tough crowd here, tough crowd," Jazz guard John Stockton said.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, meanwhile, received death threats when he refused to stand during the national anthem before NBA games. The Denver guard was suspended after he called the flag a symbol of tyranny and oppression. He later agreed to stand and pray.

And, the craziness certainly didn't end there.

What about the chair-waving melee at Madison Square Garden after Andrew Golota was disqualified for landing low blows against Riddick Bowe? Never mind that Golota was disqualified again for the same thing in their rematch — minus the brawl — in Atlantic City.

How about the high school football player in New Mexico who wore a razor-sharp helmet buckle to cut opponents? He was banned for one year after injuring five players.

Or those bus drivers hired for the Olympics? Some got lost, others quit and one woman, supposed to shuttle reporters from downtown Atlanta to suburban Lake Lanier for rowing events, broke into tears when she confessed she wasn't used to driving on highways.

The weirdness began with Ron Weaver. Never heard of him? Neither had the University of Texas football team.

That's because the 30-year-old Weaver was an impostor, playing as 23-year-old Ron McKelvey. The escapade was discovered right before the Longhorns played in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Eve, yet the episode continued until July when he appeared in federal court to satisfy a charge of misusing a social security number.

Jeffrey Maier was unknown, pretty much, until he reached over the right-field fence at Yankee Stadium and tried to catch a fly ball by Derek Jeter. The ball wound up being called a home run, Maier wound up on front pages and the Yankees eventually wound up as World Series champions.

Melissa Johnson made her mark, so to speak, at Centre Court in Wimbledon. Topless, the 23-year-old woman ran past Richard Krajicek and MaliVai Washington as they posed near the net for photographs before the final match, lifting up her tiny maid's apron as she passed.

"Whilst we do not wish to condone the practice, it did at least provide some light amusement for our loyal and patient supporters," The All England club said in a statement.

For wacky, there was Dani Tyler's trip around the bases at the Olympics. Her home run would've been enough for the U.S. softball team to beat Australia, except that she forgot to touch home plate. Instead, the Americans lost 2-1 in 10 innings.

For odd, there was Mark Calcavecchia. The PGA pro looked at the morning newspaper and saw himself down for a 73 in the final round of the Texas Open.

Calcavecchia, though, was certain he'd shot a 74. So he called the PGA, pointing out that he had inadvertently signed for a 4 on a hole when he knew he'd gotten a 5.

The result was a disqualification, costing him the $10,817 he had won. That act of honor, however, was certainly worth a lot more.

TV sports' motto: Duck or go forward!

By John Nelson
AP Sports Writer

While CBS and ABC ousted sports division bosses, NBC extended Dick Ebersol's contract to 2004, and Fox put David Hill in charge of just about everything but "dead guys."

That's the kind of year 1996 was in the big-time business of sports on TV: Duck or go forward! And NBC, with the Super Bowl and Olympics, and Fox, with the World Series, made the greatest leaps forward in broadcast television.

At the same time, cable TV continued to find more room for sports, especially of the all-news variety, launching dueling networks ESPNEWS and CNN-SI.

Despite his half-joking threat to fire any baseball announcer who "talks about dead guys during a broadcast," Hill didn't fire a soul, that we know of. He might have been too busy.

During the summer, Fox owner Rupert Murdoch put him in charge of his entertainment division and the new Fox Sports Net on cable as well as network sports.

"It's his world. We just live in it," said Fox Sports coordinating producer Scott Ackerson, who helped Fox bring the Saturday game of the week back to TV and then televise its first World Series.

The aim was to reclaim a generation of fans lost during the strike, and that was the genesis of Hill's "dead guys" remark.

"I think they've lost a generation by dwelling on the past," Fox Sports executive producer Ed Goren said. "Baseball's rich tradition is its greatest asset and its greatest enemy."

While CBS dumped David Kenin for the more dynamic Sean McManus and ABC moved Dennis Swanson out to make room for ESPN whiz Steve Bornstein, NBC gave Ebersol the longest contract ever offered to one of its high-level executives.

"I think this is just an awfully nice way of them saying thank-you for a lot of things," Ebersol said, and NBC had a lot to say thank-you for.

With Super Bowl commercial units averaging $1.2 million per 30 seconds, NBC grossed $90 million on the game last January. Six months later, the network earned an estimated $70 million on the Olympics, four years after losing an admitted $99 million on the Barcelona pay-per-view fiasco known as Triplecast.

Despite the financial success, NBC was criticized in Atlanta for its manipulation of taped and live broadcasts, which became known as "time shifting," and its concentration on swimming and gymnastics at the expense of some lesser sports.

Even Ebersol admitted it might have been a mistake to show tape-delayed highlights of rhythmic gymnastics during the U.S. women's softball victory.

"I wish we could have found a way to put on the women's softball," he said. "But we already had committed to gymnastics."

He didn't have many regrets, however. And why should he? NBC averaged a 21.6 prime time rating, 26 percent better than it did in Barcelona.

McManus, an expert in international TV rights who worked for NBC before going to Trans World International, took over officially at CBS on Dec. 16.

With the emergence of NASCAR as a major sports property and CBS' acquisitions in college football, the network indeed was on its way back under new Westinghouse ownership when McManus took over.

Swanson was an even more blatant victim of corporate change than Kenin. Disney had just taken over the ABC-ESPN empire, and Swanson saw it coming.

"When Disney came in, I talked to our younger people, and I told them, 'Whenever somebody new comes in, there will be change, and some people will be negatively impacted.' I was one of them," Swanson said.

Corporate maneuvering also had an impact on cable.

Fox finally consolidated all the Prime Sports regional networks it had acquired into Fox Sports Net, and Time Warner launched CNN-SI on Dec. 12, scant weeks after completing the takeover of Turner Broadcasting.

The question now was: Is there room for more than one all-news all-the-time sports network?

On Nov. 1, ESPN launched its third U.S. network, ESPNEWS. Now, the race is on for subscribers. ESPN has the brand name, but CNN-SI might have a tactical advantage, being owned by the nation's third largest cable distributor.

ESPN viewers already had gotten a bonus less than a month earlier.

For the first time in its history, baseball put postseason action on cable TV when ESPN shared the first round of the playoffs with Fox and NBC. It was about time.

"In the last seven years, ESPN has done more for baseball than anybody else, and I don't think baseball has been as appreciative as it should be," ESPN analyst Joe Morgan said.

The year also marked the passing of one of the industry's giants, Mel Allen, who was 83 when he died on June 16.

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By William C. K
c.1996 N.Y. Time

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By Dan Shaug
c.1996 The Bost

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By Marvin Pave
The Boston Globe

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Leaving School Early

A Real Student-Athlete

Lopez gives reason to believe in education

By William C. Rhoden
c.1996 N.Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — Everyone has something to say about Felipe Lopez. From the Bronx, where men stand around and debate over lunch, to Minnesota, where a young pro basketballer from Brooklyn offers him advice. Everyone has something to say.

Last Sunday against the University of Minnesota, Lopez, a junior, hit rock bottom. He missed all seven of his field goal attempts, six from 3-point range. Lopez's only points came on two free throws late in the second half.

Stephon Marbury, that philosopher king who spent a season at Georgia Tech and is now with the Minnesota Timberwolves, offered Lopez some advice. "I think he should go pro next year," Marbury said. "Playing in college isn't helping him. It's hurting him. He's not helping himself advance to the next level. And that's what we're all playing for."

Transmuted logic: College is too hard; jump to the pros.

"He's concentrating too much on his jump shot and he's not running and dunking anymore, and that was what he was known for," Marbury said. "He can do that in the NBA. He can't do it in college."

What Lopez can do in college is earn a degree, a minor detail of college life that is buried amid the gold rush. And in New York, Lopez's followers seem to be interested in his development, even if it means four years at St. John's. At the same time, they want him to become one of the first homegrown Latino basketball stars.

Wednesday afternoon, Jose Rodriguez, the manager of Jimmy's Bronx Cafe, admitted he still hopes that Lopez is more than an invention of a frenzied news media.

"This is going to be the year where he learns the ins and outs of the half-court game, 'cause he knows how to run," Rodriguez said. "Once he gets that half-court down this year, I think next year he's going to have a breakthrough season."

But where? In college?

Three years ago, Lopez's face was plastered on the cover of Sports Illustrated; if you believed the hype, he would play with the Knicks right out of high school. Now, this very same Lopez, the product of our pens and our imaginations, our self-sustaining need to build and demolish, stands before us for what he is: Diligent student. Role model. Good player.

"He should have gone to UCLA," Rodriguez said. "He didn't get a chance to be the kind of player everybody thought he was going to be, and he still scores 20 points game. Could you imagine if he was going to UCLA? He'd probably be scoring 30 points per game."

Lopez is averaging 15.2 points per game this season.

Rodriguez admitted that Lopez was a product of hype — and need. "They put him up too high, too quickly," he said. "He was a New York product, Dominican. Dominicans have never had a basketball player, never mind a great one. So they blew him up too high."

Jimmy's Cafe has a heavy sports flavor. One large wall holds photos of stars, mostly athletes, with the owner. Framed jerseys of great Latin baseball players also hang on the walls.

Yet amid all the baseball are two basketball jerseys: Patrick Ewing's No. 33 and Lopez's St. John's No. 13.

For Rodriguez, the presence of Lopez's jersey carries a special significance.

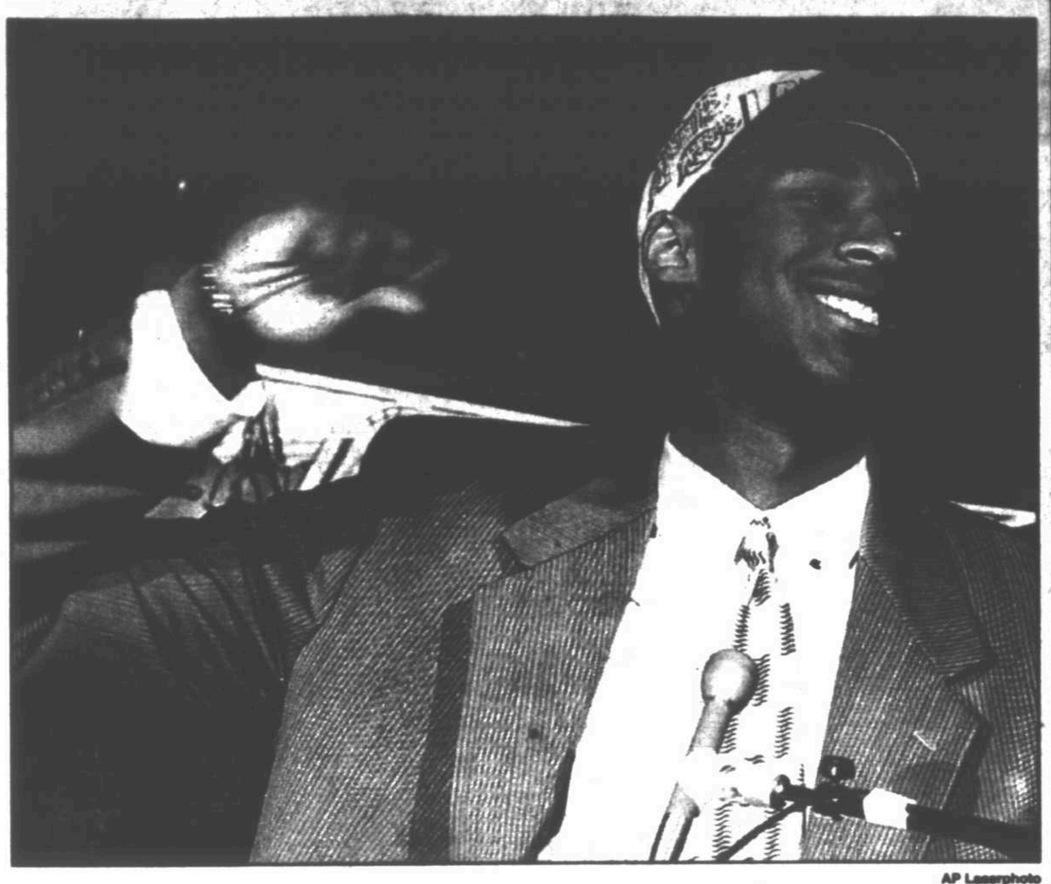
"He's the first Latino — Dominican, Puerto Rican — player who has ever been at that level," Rodriguez said. "We never had anyone that close to the NBA. We want him to do well — and do well in New York."

Tony Torres, citing the historic absence of Latin payers in the National Basketball Association, doubted that Lopez would make it big in the pros. "A Latin player will never make it in the NBA for more than two years," he said. "We don't have legs, not for basketball."

Rodriguez groaned. He feels that Lopez's significance lies in soaring beyond limitations. "If you think you aren't going to make it, you aren't going to make it, he said."

The pains of being an icon, or the first of anything. Lopez has measured his steps, trying to keep the proper profile. In retrospect, Rodriguez thinks that Lopez should have come into St. John's with both barrels blazing.

"That's the only way he would have been able to live up to the hype," he said. "He tried to be humble, but he became soft. I think one day he's just going to get angry and fed up and say, 'Enough.' When he finally gets it in his head that 'I'm going to do it my way,' when he does that, he's going to take off."



AP Laserphoto

Kobe Bryant, 17, whips his arm through the air as reaction to being drafted by the Lakers. He skipped his whole collegiate career to go pro. St. John's Felipe Lopez stayed in and it is paying off.

Keenan's legacy the same: winning record, bitterness

By Jim Litke
AP Sports Writer

■ Commentary

He leaves bitterness and a winning record behind, because that's what Mike Keenan always does.

He gets hired. He turns an organization upside down. He wins. He grabs for more power and makes powerful enemies instead. Then he gets fired.

That pattern is evident between the lines of Keenan's resume.

It now lists four towns, four trips to the Stanley Cup in a dozen NHL seasons and zero references. He has gone through too many bosses, assistants, players and even locker room attendants the hard way to begin soliciting testimonials now.

The only reference Keenan seems to think he will ever need is his record. He might be right. A coach who can win anywhere is always in demand somewhere. Besides, the way Keenan sees it, attachments are just another hindrance to moving. His only loyalties are to people who help him win — and only for as long as the streak plays out.

In that sense, at least, Thursday's hit-the-road edict must have come as less of a shock than the previous ones. Keenan already had the St. Louis fans on his back and he was losing a power struggle with local hero Brett Hull. But his biggest sin might have been giving the St. Louis Blues an easy out when the time came. Keenan's record was 15-17-1 when Blues chairman Jerry Ritter stepped up to the microphone at an afternoon news conference.

"We looked as if we were about to make our move," Ritter said. "Instead we've had constant unrest."

That's the way it was with Keenan-coached teams. That's the way it was in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York before St. Louis, even with teams that made it all the way to the top. There was always unrest because Keenan was always making a move of some kind or other.

Sometimes, he was trying to move a management rival out of town. That happened with general manager Neil Smith in New York, which led to Keenan's departure after only one season and the Rangers' only Stanley Cup title in a half-century.

Sometimes, Keenan was trying to move superstars, veterans, grunts, Europeans, anybody who didn't fit his constantly evolving vision of a team. Suffice it to say that an All-Star team could be easily assembled from players Keenan moved at his four stops, starting with Wayne Gretzky at center. Of course, sometimes his vision of a team would change, and just as abruptly, Keenan would move to rehire any or all of the same players.

People outside the game never understood why players would come back and play for him. His practices could be brutal. He doled out praise as if it was ice shavings — in small handfuls, just before it melts. Yet, the players who stay and the ones who return always say the same thing: Keenan taught them to win; he got more out of them than they ever could have pulled from themselves.

In Philadelphia, where Keenan got his first pro job, players would give him a Heil Hitler salute sometimes when his back was turned. He would never admit it, but that was precisely the kind of obedience he was searching for, even as a rookie coach. In Chicago, he once threatened to bench one of the Sutter brothers unless the other one played harder.

He was always obsessive about winning, too much so for most of the people who hired him. In the same way he burned out players, he burned out bosses. Somewhere along the way, he quit making distinctions. In every place he worked, that was what ultimately cost him his job.

Anyone who thinks this latest setback will change how Keenan goes about his business has no idea what Keenan is about.

During his stay in Chicago, Keenan and a reporter had a discussion about who deserved to be voted coach of the year. There was a range to choose from: sentimental favorites, coaches good jobs in tough situations, either because of low budgets or injuries.

"So who do you vote for?" Keenan was asked.

He didn't have to think about an answer.

"The guy who wins the most," Keenan said. "'End of story."

Ex-UMass Star has bottomed out

By Dan Shaughnessy
c.1996 The Boston Globe

Citizens of Massachusetts, here are your tax dollars at work:

A 6-foot-11-inch young man from Connecticut, Marcus Camby, goes to the University of Massachusetts on a basketball scholarship and leads the Minutemen to a 35-2 record and a No. 1 ranking. But during his stellar junior season, he connects with a seedy agent who pays him money, gets him rental cars, buys him jewelry and sets him up with prostitutes.

Last December, during UMass' Final Four season, Camby, teammate Charlton Clarke and a third male friend allegedly had group sex with a prostitute in a UMass dormitory room while pimp/sports agent Wesley Spears stood guard in the corridor.

Spears is a lowlife who Thursday was arrested for larceny in the first degree by extortion. But it should be clear by now that Marcus Camby is a pig who didn't belong in college.

Poor Marcus. First, the big, bad Globe printed his hideous grades in the newspaper for all the world to see. That was wrong, we were told by the UMass folks. It might cause irreparable harm to his gentle psyche. People might unfairly conclude that he's stupid.

We don't need to look at the grades anymore. Now we know he's stupid. And worse. He's scum. He and Spears deserve each other.

When Camby gave his statement to the authorities June 24, he said he was "concerned with protecting UMass from possible NCAA violations."

Obviously, Marcus wasn't thinking about anybody but himself for most of last season. And where was Mr. Wonderful, Coach Cal? Why wasn't John Calipari watching over his players and keeping them on the straight and narrow?

The affidavit released by the Hartford County states attorney's office reveals that during last year's Atlantic 10 championship season, Marcus admitted visiting the home of Spears 10-12 times with his pal, Tamia Murray. Marcus told the authorities that he believed Spears had prostitutes in his home and that Spears encouraged him to "have some fun" with the women. Marcus admitted that on one occasion, he had sex with a woman who said she was a stripper from Springfield. Marcus said that he and Murray had sex with her simultaneously and that the agent took photographs of them.

Gee, I wonder if Marcus was wearing his Refuse to Lose T-shirt in the Polaroid.

Where does this seedy story end, folks? For a few giddy months last year, we all believed in the rags-to-riches story of Calipari's gallant Minutemen. Now we can see that the whole thing was an explosion in a cesspool. We know beyond any doubt that UMass' 1995-96 season deserves the big asterisk because the Minutemen won all those games with a player who should have been declared ineligible because he was taking gifts (material, and material girls, apparently) from an agent.

Nice job, Coach Cal. You certainly knew what was going on. And you certainly knew when to get out. And no doubt Marcus is going to go back to Amherst to get his degree like the rest of your guys, right?

This is from the affidavit:

"He (Camby) indicated that the first time he had met Spears was in December when Tamia Murray brought him to his dorm at UMass. Camby stated that Spears and Murray arrived with a woman whom he had never met before and has since forgotten her name. Camby stated that after they brought the woman to him at the dorm, both Spears and Murray left him alone with her. While they waited outside in the hallway, Camby stated that he had intercourse with the woman. Later that same night, Spears again left the room and Camby, Murray and another UMass basketball player, Charlton Clarke, had group sex with the girl."

Yikes. What ever happened to old-fashioned panty raids?

No doubt former UMass academic adviser Dave Glover (now serving as academic adviser of the New Jersey Nets) was monitoring the corridors of Camby's dorm whenever Coach Cal took a break from the night shift. When you really think about it, given how closely Calipari and his men tracked their own players, it's surprising that Calipari and Glover didn't bump into Spears while the agent was standing in the hallway outside Marcus' dorm room during the Camby/Murray/ Clarke/Prostitute orgy.

Poor Marcus. He gave in to temptation, was blackmailed by Spears and took a chance on taking down the whole program with him. Now Marcus and Calipari are making thier millions in the pros, Spears is under arrest and the folks in Amherst are trying to pick up the pieces of their broken dream.

Refuse to lose? While playing center and flushing his school down the toilet, Marcus Camby didn't refuse much of anything.

All things said, free agency cruel to Yanks

By Murray Chass
N.Y. Times News Service

■ Commentary

Pat Gillick, the Baltimore Orioles' general manager, was on the telephone asking about the status of the Yankees' negotiations with David Wells. Told the numbers they were discussing, he said, "I like my contract better than the one they're talking about."

A few hours later, the Yankees and Wells's agent, Greg Clifton, reached agreement on a three-year contract for a guaranteed $13.5 million. If Wells, in each season of the contract, pitches as frequently as he did last season for Gillick's team, that package will inflate to $14.65 million, only $950,000 less than twice the $7.8 million the Orioles gave Jimmy Key for two years.

That's why Gillick liked his contract more. That's why, in retrospect, the Yankees may wish they had given Key the contract Gillick gave him.

Now that they finally have pieced together their pitching puzzle, the Yankees can step back and scrutinize the overall effect of their moves. They have swapped Jimmy Key and the unbeatable bullpen tandem of John Wetteland and Mariano Rivera for David Wells and the untested bullpen alignment of Rivera and a committee that includes Mike Stanton, the staff's other new pitcher.

The Yankees did not sign Key, who wanted to stay, because they did not want to give him a second year. They did not sign Wetteland, who wanted to stay, because they did not want to spend the kind of money he wanted on each of two pitchers and they preferred giving it to a starter.

They tried to give Roger Clemens $8 million or more a year, but he opted for Canadian money, so they turned around and guaranteed Wells $4.5 million a year.

It's George Steinbrenner's money to spend, but he seemed to lose his sense of direction in his obsession to snare Clemens. He lost sight of his real goal.

The Yankees, in December 1996, are not looking ahead to 1999 and figuring out how to win the pennant that season. In this era of hit-and-miss baseball, teams cannot live for the distant future unless they are starting from scratch.

Teams of the caliber of the Yankees and the Orioles can think of the future with their younger players, like Andy Pettitte and Derek Jeter, and make sure they keep their best prospects. But with division championships and pennants so elusive in the era of free agency, their priority first and foremost is to win now. In December 1996, that means 1997.

By signing Wells, the Yankees have not improved their 1996 pitching staff for 1997; they have not added a good veteran starter to their rotation. By signing Wells, they have simply swapped left-handed starters with the Orioles. Just like the Yankees with Key, the Orioles did not run to re-sign Wells because they did not want to pay his price.

"Last summer, they told us they'd take $9 million for three years," Gillick added, referring to Wells and his agent. "We said no then. In this day and age, you've got to be flexible."

If the Yankees had kept their focus on 1997, they might have found more sense in giving Key a second year than in giving Wells three years. But after refusing to pay Key's price, the Yankees paid for Wells, and he will cost them far more than the $7 million or $7.5 million Key would have accepted to stay in New York.

He also has cost them Wetteland. If they had given Key the second year at a lower annual salary than they gave Wells for three years, the Yanks wouldn't have faced the conflict of starter versus No. 1 reliever.

When Rivera and Wetteland pitched last season, they took care of one-third of the game. Rivera overwhelming hitters for two innings and Wetteland scaring the Yankees for one inning but getting the final out nevertheless.

Jones: Omission from list for the birds

By Marvin Pave
The Boston Globe

BOSTON — Celtics assistant coach K.C. Jones was reminiscing about a bird Thursday afternoon, and it wasn't one that that wore No. 33 and was nearly 7 feet tall.

It was the summer of 1958 and Jones, just out of military service, was trying out for the Los Angeles Rams under coach Sid Gillman. Never mind that K.C. was better known as a member of the University of San Francisco basketball team that won two national championships with a fellow named Bill Russell at center and Jones in the backcourt. Or as a part of the 1956 US Olympic basketball team that won a gold medal.

Despite never having played football in college, Jones showed enough grit and athleticism on the basketball court to be drafted by Rams general manager Pete Rozelle. And he nearly made it, but for a preseason collision with blocking lineman Roosevelt Brown of the New York Giants as Jones was trying to stop a sweep around end by Frank Gifford.

It was the beginning of an odyssey of eight consecutive championship rings as a Celtics player, two more as the team's head coach in a five-year stint during which Jones coached the team to four NBA Finals, and two more pieces of jewelry as an NBA assistant. Jones left the head coaching ranks in 1988, a decision made during the playoffs, to become the team's player personnel director.

His head coaching record, which included a trip to the Finals with the Bullets in 1974 and a 373-139 regular-season and playoff mark during his Celtics run from 1983-88, spoke for itself, since Jones was a quiet leader, both as a coach and defense-oriented player.

But when the NBA announced this week its list of the top 10 coaches of all time, selected by the media, Jones' name was not on it. And it was clear from his reaction Thursday that the snub hurt a lot more than the hit he took from a Giants lineman 38 years ago.

"Well, Pat (Riley) should be there," he said. "Phil Jackson, sure. Red. But then I said to myself, 'Wait a minute. There's one coach on the list who has never been to a Final (Don Nelson) and other coaches who won a lot of games but lost almost as many (John Kundla, Jack Ramsay)." "So I wonder, what is the criteria? Is it based on record, or on what the media thinks of you as a coach?" mused Jones.

DEC 22 1996

WEEK 17 MATCHUPS

Sunday

ARIZONA (7-8) AT PHILADELPHIA (9-6)
Noon, FOX

LINE — Philadelphia by 5 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Cardinals 10-5; Eagles 8-7.
SERIES RECORD — Series tied 46-46-5.

LAST MEETING — Cardinals edged Eagles at home in wild finish 38-30 in Week 13.

LAST GAME — Cardinals nipped Redskins 27-26 in Arizona. Eagles rallies to beat Jets on Saturday 21-20.

CARDINALS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 26), PASS (No. 4), OVERALL (No. 6)

QB Kent Graham started in place of the benched Boomer Esiason and was 20-for-46 for 232 yards, two touchdowns and an interception vs. Redskins. RB Larry Centers had eight catches for 58 yards and a touchdown in win over Washington. Rookie RB Leeland McElroy started ahead of LeShon Johnson and rushed for 59 yards on 18 carries.

EAGLES OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 8), PASS (No. 5), OVERALL (No. 4)

QB Ty Detmer threw for 196 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions on 17 of 34 in win over Jets. WR Irving Fryar caught four passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns vs. New York. RB Ricky Watters was held to 75 yards on 17 carries last week.

CARDINALS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 21), PASS (No. 21), OVERALL (No. 21)

DE Simeon Rice had two sacks vs. Washington and leads club with 12 1/2. CB Brent Alexander and LB Eric Hill each had team-high seven solo tackles in win over Redskins. Yielded two touchdowns and three field goals in Redskins' five trips inside 20-yard line.

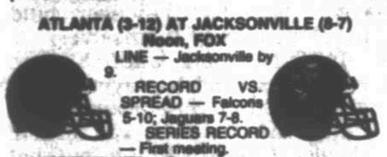
EAGLES DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 10), PASS (No. 6), OVERALL (No. 6)

S Michael Zordich had two interceptions vs. Jets and is tied for club lead with three. DE William Fuller had no sacks last week, but paces team with 10. Did not allow New York to convert a third down (0-8) and held team to 53 yards rushing.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Cardinals punted six times for 40.3 yards per kick in win over Washington. ... Philadelphia KR Derrick Witherspoon has average of 24.2 yards per return, including two touchdowns this season.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Eagles clinched playoff spot last week. ... Witherspoon returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown with Philadelphia trailing by nine and only three minutes remaining in earlier meeting with Arizona. Eagles then recovered onside kick and took one point lead on a field goal. Cardinals then won game with a touchdown with 14 seconds left. ... Fryar has 10,063 yards receiving in his career and is 13th player in NFL history to go over 10,000. ...Watters has career-high 1,312 yards rushing this season. ... Arizona WR Rob Moore needs 5 yards receiving for his second 1,000-yard campaign in seven seasons. ... Graham is 4-2 as Arizona's starter. ... Rice matched NFL rookie record for sacks with 12 1/2, set by San Diego's Leslie O'Neal in 1986. Reggie White had 13 sacks in his first year in the NFL after two seasons with the USFL's Memphis Showboats.

ATLANTA (3-12) AT JACKSONVILLE (8-7)
Noon, FOX



LINE — Jacksonville by 9.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Falcons 5-10; Jaguars 7-8.
SERIES RECORD — First meeting.

LAST TIME MET — First meeting.

LAST GAME — Falcons lost at home to Rams 34-27. Jaguars beat Seahawks at home Sunday night 20-13.

FALCONS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 26), PASS (No. 7), OVERALL (No. 14)

QB Bobby Hebert was 28-for-49 for career-high 383 yards and two touchdowns, but threw six interceptions vs. Rams. Team turned ball over seven times in loss to St. Louis. WR Bert Emanuel caught nine passes for 173 yards and a touchdown last week. Rams held RB Jamal Anderson to only 37 yards on 13 carries.

JAGUARS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 19), PASS (No. 1), OVERALL (No. 2)

QB Mark Brunell completed 19 of 26 passes for 231 yards and two touchdowns in win over Seahawks. WR Jimmy Smith had eight catches for 124 yards vs. Seattle. RB Natrone Means paced running attack with 92 yards on 23 carries last week.

FALCONS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 26), PASS (No. 27), OVERALL (No. 28)

LB Jessie Tuggle had team-high six solo tackles last week. Unit recovered three fumbles and S Brad Edwards held club's only interception in loss to St. Louis. He leads team with two pickoffs. Allowed 480 yards of offense to Rams. St. Louis scored a touchdown and two field goals in three appearances inside 20-yard line.

JAGUARS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 17), PASS (No. 17), OVERALL (No. 16)

Rookie DE Tony Brackens had first career interception and returned it 27 yards last week. DE Clyde Simmons had only two solo tackles and an assist in win over Seahawks, but leads team with 7 1/2 sacks. Yielded 159 yards rushing to Seattle, 4.9 yards per carry.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Falcons only punted twice vs. St. Louis for 41-yard average. ... Jacksonville allowed Seahawks 124 yards on five kickoff returns last week.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Jacksonville can earn first playoff berth in only second year of team's existance with win. ... Atlanta's streak of scoring on 29 consecutive possessions inside 20-yard line ended when Hebert threw interception in second quarter vs. Rams. ... Falcons K Morten Anderson has 13 seasons with at least 20 field goals, one short of NFL record held by Philadelphia K Gary Anderson. ... Hebert tied his team record for interceptions in a game, set in 1993. ... Atlanta's Eric Metcalf went over 2,000 yards in his career on punt returns, making him only second player to reach that mark in four different categories (rushing, receiving, punt returns and kickoff returns). ... Brunell became 19th player to throw for 4,000 yards in a season. He ranks in top eight in six major statistical categories — attempts, completions, yards, touchdowns, completion percentage, average gain — and is only quarterback in league who has taken every snap for his team this season.

CHICAGO (7-8) AT TAMPA BAY (5-10)
Noon, FOX

LINE — Tampa Bay by 2 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Bears 8-7; Buccaneers 7-8.
SERIES RECORD — Bears lead series 29-8.

LAST TIME MET — Bears beat Buccaneers in Chicago 13-10 in Week 10.

LAST GAME — Bears defeated San Diego in Chicago 27-14 Saturday. Buccaneers lost to Vikings on the road 21-10.

BEARS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 11), PASS (No. 22), OVERALL (No. 23)

QB Dave Krieg was 24-for-38 for 217 yards and three touchdowns in win over Chargers. RB Raymont Harris ran for a team-high 64 yards on 21 carries last week. He also caught five passes for 36 yards vs. San Diego. WR Curtis Conway had one touchdown reception last week and leads club with seven this season.

BUCCANEERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 21t), PASS (No. 28), OVERALL (No. 28)

QB Trent Dilfer completed 13 of 32 passes for 104 yards and two interceptions vs. Vikings. Team only picked up 169 yards in loss to Minnesota. Rookie RB Mike Alstott was held to seven carries and 50 yards rushing last week and also made five catches for 10 yards in the loss.

BEARS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 11), PASS (No. 18), OVERALL (No. 13)

Rookie CB Walt Harris had team-high nine solo tackles vs. San Diego. CB Donnell Woolford had one interception last week and paces club with six. Held Chargers to 66 yards on the ground in win last week. DE Alonzo Spellman has team-best seven sacks in 1996.

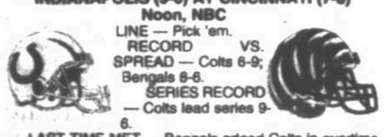
BUCCANEERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 24), PASS (No. 3), OVERALL (No. 8)

Forced four Vikings turnovers in loss last week, two interceptions and two fumbles. CB Martin Mayhew had game-high eight solo tackles and added two assists vs. Minnesota. Yielded 339 yards to Vikings and one touchdown in their two trips inside 20-yard line.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Chicago kick returners Bobby Engram and Jack Jackson have combined for 1,092 yards on 46 returns (23.7 average). ... Buccaneers returner Karl Williams returned four punts for 109 yards, including a 72-yarder, and three kickoffs for 81 yards in loss to Minnesota.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Cooway needs 71 yards to become first Bears player with back-to-back 1,000-yard receiving seasons. ... Engram is closing in on rookie record for kickoff returns. He has 24 for 561 yards, five shy of Brian Baschnagel's mark set in 1976. ... Bears TE Ryan Wetnight's touchdown vs. Chargers was first scoring reception by a Chicago tight end this season.

INDIANAPOLIS (9-6) AT CINCINNATI (7-8)
Noon, NBC



LINE — Pick 'em.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Colts 6-9; Bengals 8-6.
SERIES RECORD — Colts lead series 9-6.

LAST TIME MET — Bengals edged Colts in overtime 24-21 last September in Indianapolis.

LAST GAME — Colts beat Chiefs in Kansas City 24-19. Bengals beat Oilers in Houston 21-13.

COLTS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 27), PASS (No. 16), OVERALL (No. 25)

Rookie WR Marvin Harrison had three touchdowns and 103 yards receiving on only six catches in win over Chiefs. He has had two consecutive 100-yard games to tie club rookie record. QB Jim Harbaugh completed 16 of 28 passes for 227 yards and the three scoring tosses vs. Kansas City. RB Marshall Faulk carried 20 times for 71 yards last week.

BENGALS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 13), PASS (No. 14), OVERALL (No. 15t)

QB Jeff Blake was 13-for-23 for 158 yards and a touchdown in win over Houston. WR David Dunn caught seven passes for 95 yards vs. Oilers. WR Carl Pickens had only two receptions for 10 yards last week. He has 94 catches on the season. RB Ki-Jana Carter rushed four times for 25 yards and a touchdown vs. Oilers.

COLTS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 15), PASS (No. 23), OVERALL (No. 19)

DE Bernard Whittington had five tackles and a sack in win over Chiefs. CB Jason Belser and CB Eugene Daniel each have three interceptions to hold team lead. Unit is allowing 346.9 yards per game. LB Stephen Grant recovered fumble vs. Kansas City for club's only turnover. DE Richard Dent paces team with 6 1/2 sacks.

BENGALS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 16), PASS (No. 28), OVERALL (No. 25)

S Ashley Ambrose needs one interception to match team season record of nine. DT Dan Wilkinson has team-best six sacks. LB James Francis had two interceptions, including 42-yard return for touchdown, and a sack in win over Houston. S Bracey Walker had seven solo tackles and two assists vs. Oilers.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Indianapolis K Cary Blanchard has NFL-best 35 field goals to tie league season record. ... Bengals K Doug Pelfrey has scored 103 points, all 37 extra-point attempts and 22 of 27 field goals.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Bengals have lost five of last six meetings with Colts, all in Cincinnati. ... Colts have not had 10-win season since going 10-4 in 1977 and are trying to make consecutive playoff appearances for first time since three straight trips from 1975-77. ... Pickens is trying to lead AFC in catches for second straight season after having 99 last season. He is six away from becoming first Bengals player to have 100 receptions in a season. ... Cincinnati victory would give Bengals best record since going 9-7 in 1980.

KANSAS CITY (9-6) AT BUFFALO (5-8)
Noon, NBC

LINE — Buffalo by 5.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Chiefs 6-8; Bills 8-7.
SERIES RECORD — Bills lead series 16-13-1.

LAST TIME MET — Bills routed Chiefs 44-10 at home in October 1994.

LAST GAME — Chiefs lost to Colts 24-19 in Kansas City. Bills edged by Dolphins in Miami 16-14 on Monday night.

CHIEFS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 4), PASS (No. 26), OVERALL (No. 21)

QB Rich Gannon was 5-for-8 for 57 yards and a touchdown vs. Colts and was replaced by Steve Bono after straining his right hamstring. Bono threw for 194 yards and a touchdown on 18-for-33 passing. RB Marcus Allen carried the ball 12 times for 51 yards last week, and RB Greg Hill added 48 yards on eight rushes. RB Kimble Anders led receiving corps with nine catches, 96 yards and two touchdowns in loss to Indianapolis.

BILLS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 7), PASS (No. 20), OVERALL (No. 15t)

QB Jim Kelly completed 17 of 29 passes with two touchdowns and an interception in loss to Dolphins on Monday night. WR Andre Reed caught six passes for 127 yards, including 67-yard scoring play vs. Miami. RB Thurman Thomas was limited to 34 yards on 11 carries on Monday.

CHIEFS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 14), PASS (No. 20), OVERALL (No. 17)

S Mark Collins had five solo tackles, two assists and a sack vs. Indianapolis. Collins is tied for third in AFC with six interceptions. LB Anthony Davis had club's only turnover in loss to Colts with fumble recovery. LB Derrick Thomas leads team with 11 sacks.

BILLS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 12), PASS (No. 8), OVERALL (No. 9)

LB Chris Spielman was credited with 13 solo tackles and two assists in loss to Dolphins. DE Bruce Smith had three tackles vs. Miami and is tied for second in conference with 12 1/2 sacks. Squad is yielding 299.2 yards per game. Unit has allowed opponents AFC-low 40 1/2 percent conversion rate inside 20-yard line (17 touchdowns in 42 trips).

SPECIAL TEAMS — Kansas City K Pete Stoyanovich has made all 34 extra-point attempts this season, but only 14 of 21 field-goal tries. ... Bills K Steve Christie has scored 97 points.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Either team will clinch playoff berth with win. Both teams will qualify with a tie or a Jacksonville loss. ... Chiefs are aiming for seventh straight playoff season, longest active streak in NFL. ... Kansas City has won every season finale since Marty Schottenheimer became coach in 1989. ... Home team has won nine of last 12 meetings between the clubs. ... Allen leads NFL with 90 percent conversion rate on third downs (9 of 10). ... Reed is 40 yards receiving away from fourth 1,000-yard campaign in 12 seasons. ... Thurman Thomas has 990 yards rushing and can become second player to run for 1,000 yards in eight consecutive seasons. Barry Sanders was the first, earlier this year.

MIAMI (7-8) AT NEW YORK JETS (1-14)
Noon, NBC

LINE — Miami by 3 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Dolphins 6-9; Jets 7-8.
SERIES RECORD — Dolphins lead series 31-29-1.

LAST TIME MET — Dolphins beat Jets at home 36-27 in Week 3.

LAST GAME — Dolphins held off Bills 16-14 in Miami on Monday night. Jets squandered lead at home to Eagles 21-20 on Saturday.

DOLPHINS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 24), PASS (No. 11), OVERALL (No. 17)

QB Dan Marino completed 26 of 37 passes for 263 yards and a touchdown in win over Buffalo. Rookie RB Karim Abdul-Jabbar ran for 76 yards on 27 carries vs. Bills. WR Fred Barnett led receivers with five catches and 68 yards last week and WR O.J. McDuffie had five receptions for 43 yards and a touchdown against Buffalo.

JETS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 23), PASS (No. 10), OVERALL (No. 10)

QB Glenn Foley made second NFL start and was 16-for-39 with four interceptions and 140 yards in loss to Eagles. Wide receivers Wayne Chrebet and Keyshawn Johnson each had four catches for 59 and 77 yards, respectively, vs. Philadelphia. RB Adrian Murrell has gained 1,180 yards rushing this season, but was held to only 46 on 18 carries last week.

DOLPHINS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 9), PASS (No. 24), OVERALL (No. 18)

Rookie LB Zach Thomas had two interceptions and four solo tackles in win over Bills. DE Trace Armstrong has team-high 10 sacks. CB Terrell Buckley is tied for third in AFC with six interceptions. Unit is allowing 327 1/2 yards per game.

JETS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 29), PASS (No. 15), OVERALL (No. 24)

DE Hugh Douglas had three sacks in loss to Eagles. He is two sacks shy of his 1995 rookie total of 10. LB Chad Cascadden was credited with team-high 10 solo tackles last week. Team lost despite forcing three Philadelphia turnovers.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Miami K Joe Nedney made all three field goal attempts in win over Buffalo. P John Kidd has NFL-best 48 1/2 average and is on pace to break Reggie Roby's team record of 45.7 in 1991. ... Jets K Nick Lowery has scored 73 points this season.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Jets clinched first overall pick in April draft for second consecutive season with loss to Eagles and Saints' victory over Giants last week. ... S Louis Oliver has three interceptions this season and 24 in his career, one away from fourth best in club history. ... Johnson, the 1996 No. 1 pick, has eight touchdown catches, a Jets club record. He has caught 60 passes, seven away from Chrebet's team rookie record set last season. ... Chrebet leads NFL with 30 third-down receptions and is third on New York's season list with 80 catches overall. ... Abdul-Jabbar needs 36 yards to become fourth Dolphins player to top 1,000-yard mark. ... Thomas became first Dolphins linebacker to make three interceptions in a season since Earnie Rhone in 1981.

MINNESOTA (9-6) AT GREEN BAY (12-3)
Noon, FOX

LINE — Green Bay by 11.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Vikings 9-6; Packers 9-6.
SERIES RECORD — Vikings lead series 36-33-1.

LAST TIME MET — Vikings beat Packers in Minnesota 30-21 in Week 4.

LAST GAME — Vikings beat Buccaneers at home 21-10. Packers routed Lions 31-3 in Detroit.

VIKINGS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 21t), PASS (No. 9), OVERALL (No. 9)

RB Leroy Hoard had 101 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries in win over Buccaneers. QB Brad Johnson was 25-for-35 for 221 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions vs. Tampa Bay. He has completed 63 of 90 for 654 yards, eight touchdowns and only two interceptions in last three games. WR Cris Carter caught eight passes for 89 yards and a touchdown last week.

PACKERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 16), PASS (No. 8), OVERALL (No. 6)

QB Brett Favre threw for 240 yards, one touchdown and an interception vs. Detroit. WR Don Beebe had team highs with four catches and 79 yards receiving in win over Lions. RB Edgar Bennett had 12 carries for 60 yards last week.

VIKINGS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 20), PASS (No. 7), OVERALL (No. 12)

DT John Randle leads team and all NFL defensive tackles with 11 1/2 sacks. He had one last week vs. Tampa Bay. LB Jeff Brady picked up six tackles and a sack in win over Buccaneers. Yielding average of 309.8 yards in 15 games.

PACKERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 5), PASS (No. 2), OVERALL (No. 2)

Allowing only 260.3 yards per game. DE Reggie White leads team with 7 1/2 sacks. Packers S Eugene Robinson had two batted passes and an end-zone interception in win over Lions. He is tied for second in NFC with six interceptions. CB Doug Evans had six tackles and four assists last week.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Vikings K Scott Sisson has kicked 21 field goals in 28 tries and has made 28 of 29 extra point tries this season. ... Green Bay PR Desmond Howard had 167 yards and a touchdown on five punt returns in win over Detroit.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Hoard has 379 yards rushing in five games vs. Vikings. ... Favre has 49-27 record as a starting quarterback. ... Minnesota WR Jake Reed ranks first in NFL with 1,246 yards. ... Carter needs seven receptions to join Jerry Rice as only players to have three straight 100-catch seasons. ... Green Bay is 26-8 in last 34 regular season games and has captured last 14 home contests. ... Packers have outscored opponents 91-16 in second half. ... Favre has thrown 30 or more touchdown passes in each of last three seasons. ... Teams are a combined plus-18 in turnover differential, with Green Bay holding NFC best plus-15.

PITTSBURGH (10-5) AT CAROLINA (11-4)
Noon, NBC

LINE — Carolina by 5 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Steelers 8-6; Panthers 12-3.
SERIES RECORD — First meeting.
LAST TIME MET — First meeting.

LAST GAME — Steelers lost in Pittsburgh to 49ers 25-15. Panthers beat Ravens at home 27-16.

STEELERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 2), PASS (No. 25), OVERALL (No. 13)

QB Mike Tomczak completed 23 of 43 pass attempts for 253 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions in loss to 49ers. RB Eric Pegram ran for 103 yards on 20 carries vs. San Francisco. WR Kordell Stewart caught two passes last week for 56 yards and a touchdown and WR Andre Hastings had eight receptions and 83 yards to pace club.

PANTHERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 12), PASS (No. 21), OVERALL (No. 22)

QB Kerry Collins was 26-for-39 passing for 268 yards and two touchdowns in win over Ravens. TE Wesley Walls caught six passes for 81 yards to lead club vs. Baltimore. RB Anthony Johnson picked up 81 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries last week. Averaging 305.7 yards per game.

STEELERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 4), PASS (No. 5), OVERALL (No. 3)

LB Chad Brown needs two sacks to tie club season record of 15. He is tied for first in conference with 13. Team has 49 sacks this season, six away from Pittsburgh record set in 1984. LB Jerry Olsavsky had team-best eight solo tackles in loss to San Francisco.

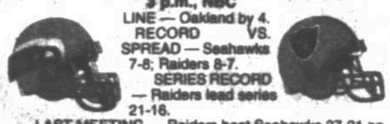
PANTHERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 8), PASS (No. 16), OVERALL (No. 10)

Unit is allowing only 91.8 yards on the ground, third best in NFC, and has yielded NFL-low 58 second-half points in 1996. Former Pittsburgh LB Kevin Greene leads league with 14 1/2 sacks and Lamar Lathon holds the second spot with 13 1/2.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Pittsburgh K Norm Johnson has scored 104 points this season, making all 35 extra point tries and 23 of 30 field goals. ... Panthers K John Kasay leads NFC with 34 field goals, one away from NFL record already tied this season by Indianapolis K Cary Blanchard.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Carolina will clinch NFC West title and first-round bye with win, as long as Dallas doesn't beat Washington by more than 76 points. ... Johnson became first running back to rush for 1,000 yards for Carolina. He has 1,052 yards and six touchdowns on the season. ... Game features top sacking defenses in NFL. Carolina has league-best 56 quarterback drops. ... Steelers WR Charles Johnson needs 26 yards to become sixth player in club history with a 1,000-yard season and only second in last 11 seasons.

SEATTLE (8-8) AT OAKLAND (7-8)
3 p.m., NBC



LINE — Oakland by 4.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Seahawks 7-8; Raiders 8-7.
SERIES RECORD — Raiders lead series 21-16.

LAST MEETING — Raiders beat Seahawks 27-21 on the road in Week 13.

LAST GAME — Seahawks lost in Jacksonville 20-13. Raiders were beaten by Broncos in Denver 24-19.

SEAHAWKS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 5), PASS (No. 17), OVERALL (No. 12)

QB Rick Mirer completed only 16 of 31 for 156 yards, a touchdown and an interception in loss to Jaguars. TE Carlester Crumpler had six catches for 58 yards vs. Jacksonville. RB Chris Warren rushed for 47 yards on 11 carries, but sustained injured ribs last week. RB Lamar Smith replaced him and had team-high 59 yards in 16 attempts.

RAIDERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 3), PASS (No. 24), OVERALL (No. 11)

QB Jeff Hostetler threw for 146 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions vs. Broncos before sustaining fourth-quarter concussion. Managed only 255 yards of offense in loss to Denver, 150 via the pass. RB Harvey Williams picked up 61 yards rushing on only three carries last week to lead team.

SEAHAWKS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 27), PASS (No. 14), OVERALL (No. 23)

DE Michael Sinclair has team-high 12 sacks. The club-record is 16, set in 1983. S Darryl Williams' five interceptions pace club. S Robert Blackmon had six solo tackles and two assists, tops on team, in loss to Jacksonville. Unit is yielding 338.7 yards per game.

RAIDERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 13), PASS (No. 11), OVERALL (No. 11)

LB Greg Biekert had eight tackles and an assist in loss to Denver. DT Chester McGlockton has team-high seven sacks. CB Terry McDaniel paces club with five interceptions.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Seattle K Todd Peterson has converted all five field goal attempts in last two games vs. Oakland. ... Raiders PR Tim Brown is fourth on NFL's career punt return list with 3,036 yards.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Seahawks have lost three of last four games vs. Raiders by a total of only 14 points. ... Seven of eight Oakland losses this season are by six points or less. ... Galloway needs one touchdown to tie career-high of seven. He is 52 yards away from becoming fourth player to have 1,000 yards receiving in each of first two seasons. ... Oakland's 20 penalties in loss to Broncos were three more than old team mark set on three different occasions. The total also was fourth-highest in an NFL game and most by any team in 20 years.

DENVER (13-2) AT SAN DIEGO (7-8)
7 p.m., ESPN

LINE — Denver by 1 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Broncos 9-5; Chargers 7-8.
SERIES RECORD — Broncos lead series 38-34-1.

LAST MEETING — Broncos beat Chargers 28-17 in Week 6 meeting in Denver.

LAST GAME — Broncos beat Raiders at home 24-18. Chargers lost in Chicago 27-14 on Saturday.

BRONCOS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 1), PASS (No. 12), OVERALL (No. 1)

QB John Elway was 19-for-31 for 206 yards and a touchdown in win over Raiders. RB Terrell Davis rushed for only 80 yards on 27 carries vs. Oakland. Team is averaging 153.1 yards rushing, led by Davis, who has run for 1,517 yards. TE Shannon Sharpe needs seven catches to tie his career high of 87 set in 1994.

CHARGERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 29), PASS (No. 13), OVERALL (No. 26)

QB Stan Humphries completed 23 of 38 passes for 217 yards with a touchdown and an interception in loss to Bears on Saturday. WR Tony Martin caught seven passes for 74 yards vs. Chicago. Unit is averaging 295.1 yards per game, but only managed 283 last week.

BRONCOS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 1), PASS (No. 10), OVERALL (No. 4)

CB Ray Crockett had seven tackles and an interception in win over Oakland. DE Alfred Williams has career-best 13 sacks this season to lead team. S Tyrone Braxton had one interception in win over Raiders and leads NFL with nine this season. Allowing 281.7 yards per game, second fewest in AFC.

CHARGERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 18), PASS (No. 25), OVERALL (No. 29)

LB Junior Seau made 11 solo tackles, three assisted tackles and had two sacks in loss to Bears. His seven 1996 sacks match career season best set in 1991. Club did not force any Chicago turnovers last week. S Rodney Harrison paces team with four interceptions.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Broncos K Jason Elam has made all 45 extra point attempts and 20 of his 26 field goal tries for 105 points. ... San Diego P Darren Bennett is third in AFC with 45.6 average.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Broncos are playing third game since snapping up home-field advantage for entire AFC playoffs. ... Denver has tied club record of 13 wins, established in 1984. ... Elway set NFL record with his 126th victory as a starting quarterback. He 17 wins, including seven comebacks, over San Diego are most vs. any opponent. ... Chargers have won all four season finales since coach Bobby Ross took over in 1992. ... Martin has had 100-yard receiving games vs. all AFC West teams except Denver.

Monday

DETROIT (5-10) AT SAN FRANCISCO (11-4)
8 p.m., ABC

LINE — San Francisco by 12 1/2.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Lions 4-11; 49ers 8-7.
SERIES RECORD — 49ers lead series 27-26-1.

LAST MEETING — Lions edged 49ers 27-24 last September in Detroit.

LAST GAME — Lions were routed by Packers at home 31-3. 49ers beat Steelers in Pittsburgh 25-15.

LIONS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 15), PASS (No. 15), OVERALL (No. 19)

RB Barry Sanders was held to only 78 yards on 21 carries in loss to Packers. With 122 yards this week he can become first player to have 1,500 yards rushing in three straight seasons. WR Herman Moore is second in NFL with 96 catches. He had five catches for 50 yards vs. Green Bay. QB Scott Mitchell completed 23 of 40 for 207 yards and an interception last week.

49ERS OFFENSE — RUSH (No. 10), PASS (No. 6), OVERALL (No. 5)

QB Steve Young was 24-for-36 passing for 253 yards and three touchdowns in win over Pittsburgh. Young was also club's leading rusher with 22 yards on six carries. Team scored a touchdown and a field goal in its two trips inside 20-yard line. WR Jerry Rice caught eight passes for 63 yards and a touchdown vs. Steelers. Unit's 56 yards rushing last week were a season low.

LIONS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 25), PASS (No. 19), OVERALL (No. 22)

DE Robert Porcher leads squad with 10 sacks after picking up one in loss to Packers. He had two tackles and a sack vs. Green Bay. Allowing 338 yards per game. CB Ryan McNeil has team-leading five interceptions.

49ERS DEFENSE — RUSH (No. 3), PASS (No. 13), OVERALL (No. 7)

DT Bryant Young had seven tackles and a sack vs. Steelers. DE Roy Barker has team-high 11 1/2 sacks on the season. CB Marquez Pope is tied for second in conference with six interceptions. Team is yielding 292.3 yards per game.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Detroit KR Glyn Milburn ranks third in NFL with 26.4-yard average. ... 49ers K Jeff Wilkins has made all 37 extra points and 29 of 33 field goal tries for 124 points.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — San Francisco can capture NFC West title and earn a first-round bye with a win and a Carolina loss to Pittsburgh. ... 49ers are NFL's best team in December since 1986 with 35-9 record. ... Rice became first player in league history to have 100 catches in three straight seasons. ... S.Young, Rice, B.Young and S Merton Hanks are San Francisco's representatives for the Pro Bowl. ... Moore is two receptions away from being first Lions wide receiver to have two consecutive 100-catch campaigns. He extended his consecutive games streak with at least one reception to 80, including five playoff games, last week.

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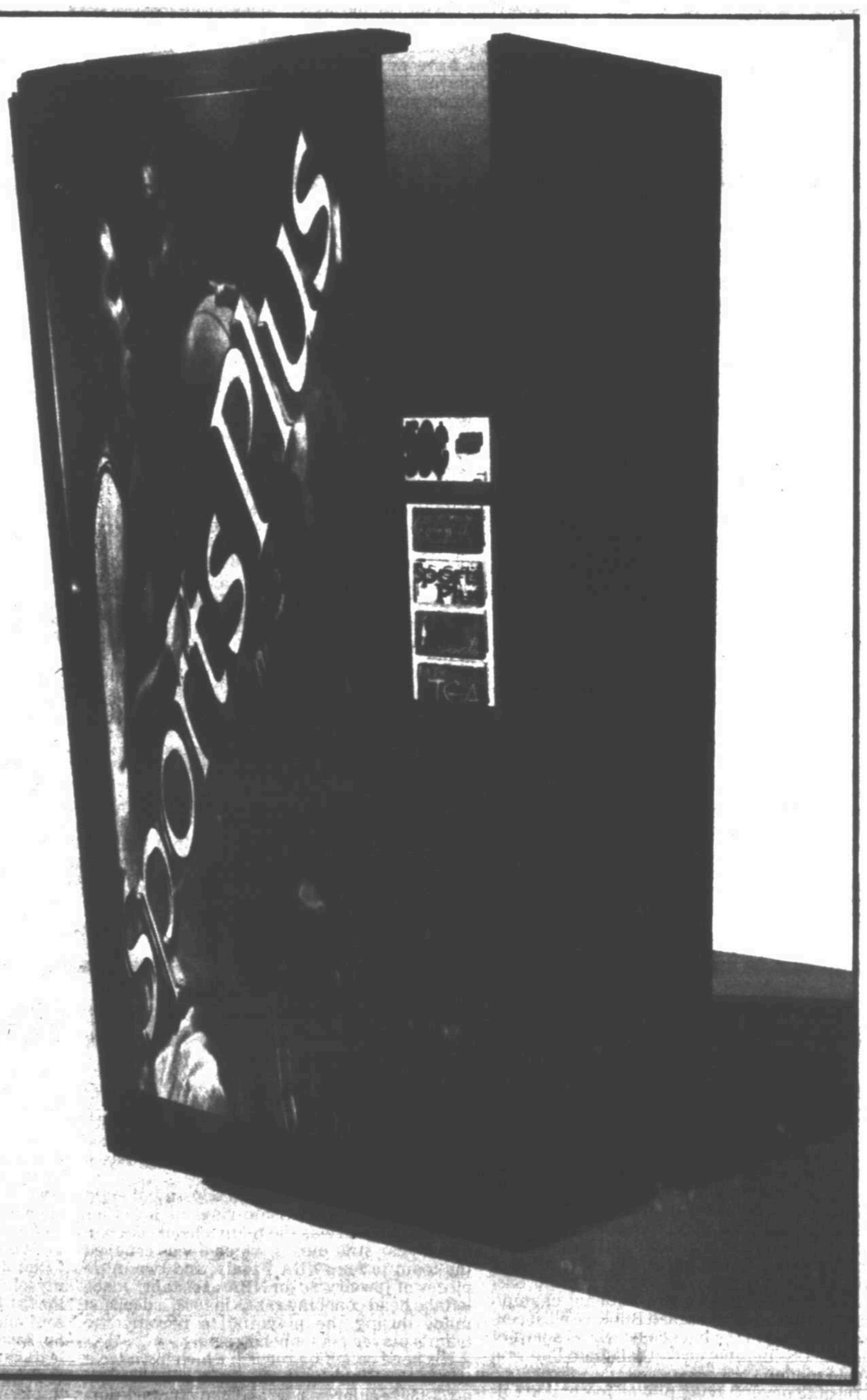

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