



FASHION

Caveman revival

The one-shoulder dress, once more caveman than cosmopolitan, is ripe for revival for day and night./8B



SPORTS

Putting off NFL

Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning announced Wednesday he will postpone the riches of the NFL for one last season of college football./1C

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

Vol. 70, No. 15

GOP renews abortion fight

Republicans push for legislation to ban late-term abortions

■ Congressional supporters of bill were emboldened when key pro-choice advocate admitted he lied about number of procedures performed annually.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Emboldened by the admitted lie of a key abortion rights supporter, congressional Republicans renewed the push Wednesday for legislation banning a certain late-term abortion procedure.

A principal GOP leader in the anti-abortion movement said President Clinton, who vetoed the bill last year, should "have a chance to get it right" now that activist Ron Fitzsimmons says that he lied.

Abortion rights supporters pledged to keep fighting the bill.

"The facts have not changed; they've just been discovered by the media and now the general public," said Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., the prime House sponsor. "And the outrage about partial-birth abortion which began as a strong current is now at flood stage."

Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers in Alexandria, Va., said last week he lied in 1995 when he said just a few hundred of the abortions were performed annually — and then only to save the mother's life or abort deformed fetuses.

He now says several thousand are performed yearly, and not only in the third trimester, but on some healthy women in the middle of pregnancy.

Now, congressional Republicans are calling on Clinton, who supports a woman's right to an abortion, to reverse course and agree to the ban.

"I think we ought to give the president another chance to get it right," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., a long-time abortion opponent.

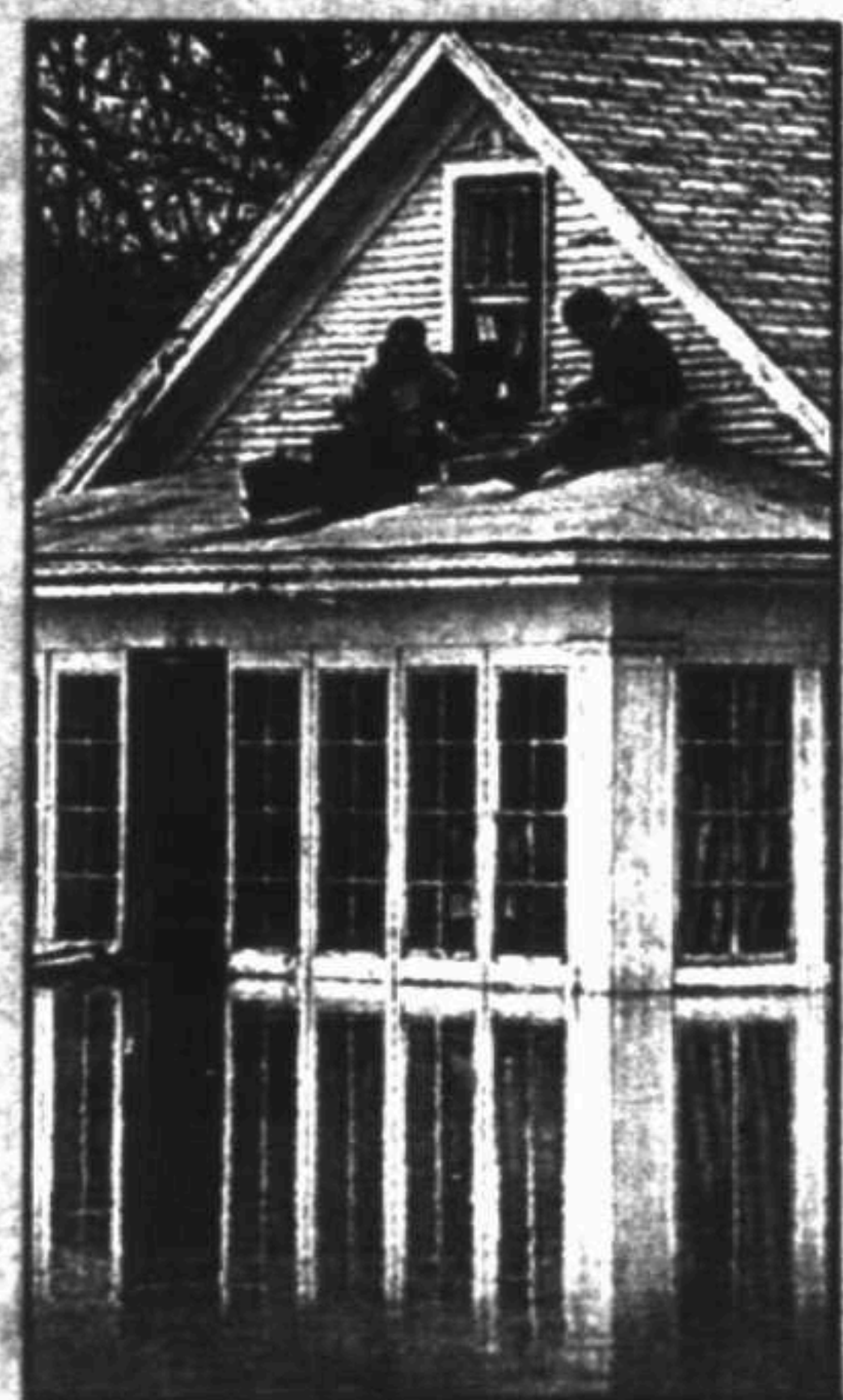
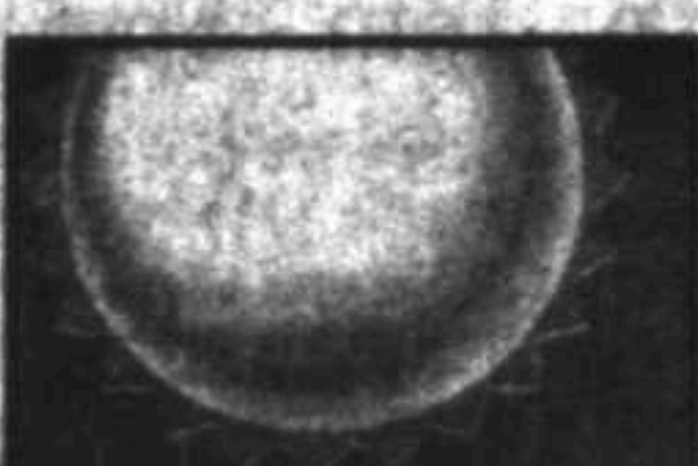
Clinton said he vetoed the bill because it didn't make an exception for the mother's health. But the ban's sponsors say there is no health reason to perform the procedure, in which the fetus is partially delivered through the birth canal and killed when a doctor removes its brain.

The new bill, which is identical to what Congress had passed, does permit use of the procedure if there is no other way to spare the mother's life.

Please see FIGHT/4A

TODAY

Sunny with high in mid-60s. Weather on 4A



AP Laserphoto

Staying dry

Two men use a camp stove to cook breakfast while staying dry with a dog and cat on the porch roof of a home surrounded by flood waters in the east end of Cincinnati, Wednesday. The Ohio River is expected to crest above 64 feet Wednesday evening.

Story page 9A

Handgun reaction

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, reacting to the Empire State Building shootings, moved Wednesday to make it harder for foreign visitors to purchase handguns and called on Congress to pass a measure banning such sales to foreigners. Clinton's directive also included orders that all federal agencies place child-safety locks on handguns issued to federal law enforcement agents.

Story page 4A

No winners

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The ticket would have been worth an estimated \$4 million. The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 4-24-29-32-38-50. Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$9 million.

INSIDE TODAY

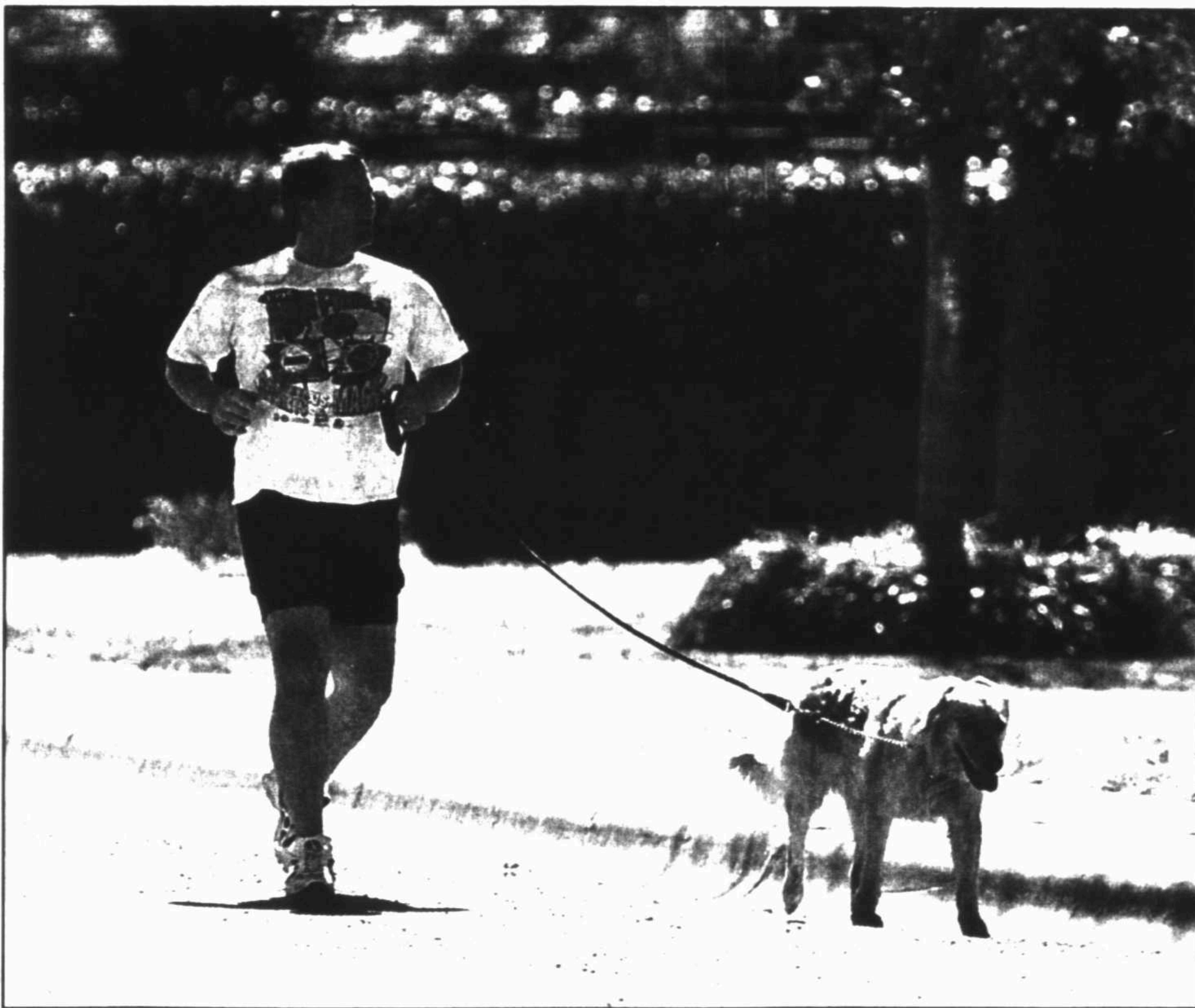
Bridge 6C
Business & Oil 10C
Classified 2D
Comics 6C
Crossword 7C
Deaths 2B
Local 1B
Movies 4B
Opinion 8A
Sports 1C
TV Schedule 7C
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Day with the dog



Midlander Joe Stubbs enjoyed the warm weather Wednesday as he jogged with his dog Mason, a golden retriever. Wednesday's high was 61; today's high is expected to reach near 70.

Photo by Curt Wilcott

Presidents often leave reporters, nation in dark

By Nancy Benac
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans know an awful lot about how President Clinton spends his time. From morning exercises to evening outings, people can read all about it.

Well, not quite. Some of Clinton's activities may not become known for months or years to come — if at all.

The extent of the White House coffee klatches that Clinton held with hundreds of Democratic donors and the legions of overnight guests he entertained before the 1996 elections didn't become common

'... We in the press corps don't really know what the president is up to.'

— Ken Walsh

White House reporter for U.S. News & World Report

knowledge until months later, with details still trickling out now.

Clinton's periodic meetings with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan go undisclosed to reporters encamped

just yards away in a White House press room. Reporters were in the dark when Henry Kissinger brought a group of outside experts to the White House to discuss China policy with Clinton.

It was ever thus.

Presidents reveal what they choose to — or are forced to.

The world thought Franklin Roosevelt was fishing off the coast of Cape Cod in August 1941 when he held a secret wartime rendezvous with Winston Churchill off Newfoundland.

President Bush invited Richard Nixon

Please see QUIET/4A

Midlanders' dining-out habits reflect state trend

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

Dining out is a popular pastime for Midland residents and is growing in popularity.

Midland-Odessa ranks sixth statewide in the rate of growth of restaurant sales, according to the Texas Restaurant Association. The area averages 4 to 5 percent growth annually.

Total restaurant sales in 1996 for the two cities was \$214.8 million.

Larry Forehand, president of the association, attributed the high number of dollars Midlanders spend dining out to higher income per capita.

"The higher the income, the more residents eat out," he explained.

Forehand, founder of the Casa Ole restaurant chain, was in town Wednesday to address the "President's Dinner" of the Permian Basin chapter of the association. Noting that 40 percent of America's food dollar is

spent in restaurants across the country, he said the TRA projects that will increase to 50 percent by the year 2,000. The reason, he said, is the fast-paced lifestyle Americans lead and the ease of dining out compared to cooking at home, especially for two-income or single-parent families.

The association also expects that Texas, currently second in the nation in terms of restaurant sales, will overtake leader California by the year 2,000. Sales are expected to reach approximately \$20 billion in Texas this year.

As they strive to feed hungry Midlanders, local restaurateurs face several challenges.

The first challenge recently arose with Gov. George W. Bush's determination to eliminate or reduce property taxes.

"His proposals are detrimental to the restaurant industry," said Forehand. "It's a shift from asset-inten-

Please see DINE/4A

Mauro sees bright future for oil, gas industry in Texas

By John Paul Pitts
Oil Editor

State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro had some good news for the Texas oil and gas industry Wednesday.

Mauro said the outlook was good for Texas oil and gas and the upcoming lease sale in April has the potential to be the biggest in history, exceeding the 1996 lease sale in Midland that brought in \$13.2 million from 136 tracts.

"We have already received 3,000 nominations on 2,010 tracts spread across a million acres," Mauro said at a luncheon of the Permian Basin Chapter of Division Order Analysts.

"We have also had a unprecedented 25 quadruple nominations and a first-ever quintuple nomination."

Mauro attributes the resurgence of interest in leasing to higher oil and gas prices and the 3-D seismic revolution. He said the land office had already issued 34 geophysical permits statewide, compared to 120 for all of 1996.

"The fact that independents can now use personal computers to analyze 3-D data, on a par with the big oil companies, has brought many more independents into the lease game."

With improved incentives, technological improvement, a wide spectrum of energy companies and petroleum demand growing at the rate of 3 percent a year, Mauro said the outlook for Texas oil and gas was very good indeed.

"I don't mean to imply that we'll equal the 4,300 rigs working of 15 years ago, but oil and gas will continue to contribute significantly to the Texas economy for years, which means the leases on school fund lands will continue to underwrite education," said Mauro, whose visit to Midland was delayed by plane trouble.

He said the importance to education of



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro spoke to members of the Permian Basin Chapter of Division Order Analysts Wednesday.

Please see SPEAK/4A



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
Larry Forehand, president of the Texas Restaurant Association, was in town Wednesday to address the "President's Dinner" of the Permian Basin chapter of the association.

Peru announces plan to end hostage crisis, but no indication rebels will settle

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's president has drafted a plan to end the crisis that has kept 72 hostages in the hands of rebels for 11 weeks, but the guerrillas show no sign that they are ready to go along with it.

They continue to insist on freedom for hundreds of their jailed comrades, and there is no sign that they will settle for the exile or asylum President Alberto Fujimori is suggesting.

Fujimori said his negotiators would present his proposal to the rebels at their

ninth round of talks Wednesday afternoon across the street from the Japanese ambassador's house where the hostages have been held since Dec. 17.

The opposition newspaper La Republica reported Wednesday, citing unidentified government officials, that the plan included the following points:

- None of the jailed Tupac Amaru rebels would be freed;
- Cuba and the Dominican Republic would offer asylum to the rebels;

■ There would be no legal proceedings against the hostage-takers;

■ The rebels would be immune from extradition to Peru or any other country. But it is far from that simple.

■ Rebel leader Nestor Cerpa has ruled out going to another country, and insists on returning to the Peruvian jungle.

■ Cerpa is unlikely to compromise on his main demand, the freedom of his comrades, because that would further weaken his movement just when the takeover

has brought it back from the edge of oblivion.

■ And many Peruvians would be unhappy with an outcome that saw the rebels get away without prosecution. "It is going to take a much greater effort to make the world see a trip (by the rebels) to Havana as a victory over terrorism," La Republica columnist Mirko Lauer wrote.

In Tokyo, meanwhile, a television network said Wednesday that it is cutting the pay of its president and 14 other officials

over the handling of secret radio contacts with the hostages in Lima.

Reporter Tsuyoshi Hitomi, from an affiliate of TV Asahi, walked into the diplomatic compound Jan. 7, filmed an interview with the rebels and left a radio transmitter with the hostages. Initially, the network didn't tell the government about the transmitter.

Government officials said the unauthorized contact could have endangered the hostages and interfered with Peru's attempts to free them.

Swiss use gold to set up fund for Holocaust victims

N.Y. Times Service

BERN, Switzerland — The Swiss government Wednesday proposed the creation of a \$4.7 billion fund whose interest would be used to help victims of the Holocaust and other calamities, vastly increasing Switzerland's financial commitment.

Under the proposal, Switzerland would increase the stated value of its gold reserves to correspond to current world market prices, and use the difference to create the principal for the new fund. The plan represents the boldest financial maneuver yet by the Swiss to gain moral high ground in the dispute over the country's dealings with Nazi Germany in World War II.

At the same time, the Swiss National Bank offered to donate about \$70 million to a separate fund

set up last week for short-term help to Holocaust survivors, doubling the value of that fund.

Both proposals require the Swiss Parliament's approval to take effect, and they could face major opposition if right-wing Swiss politicians decide to campaign against them.

The government's proposal Wednesday, announced at an unusual breakfast-time session of Parliament by President Arnold Koller, represented not only a far greater copy commitment of money than previously discussed but also an attempt to walk the thin line between international pressure and domestic reluctance to use taxpayers' money for what many Swiss regard as an unjustified acknowledgment of wartime guilt.

The plan would not involve extra spending by the government.

Switzerland, which has been under increasing pressure from the World Jewish Congress and its political allies in New York and Washington to atone for both its wartime dealings with Nazi Germany and the resistance of its private banks to helping relatives gain access to bank accounts and other assets belonging to Holocaust victims.

Last month the Swiss government finally agreed to share with Jewish organizations the administration of a separate fund, financed principally by Swiss private banks and, as of Wednesday, the Swiss National Bank, to compensate Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe, Israel, the United States and elsewhere.

But the proposal Wednesday went much further, offering, as Koller told a meeting of the upper and lower houses of Parliament in

Bern, to create a "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity" drawn from funds accruing from the increased estimate of the value of its gold deposits.

Switzerland has kept the value of its gold fixed low by estimating the worth of its deposits at about one-third of the price they would bring on world markets.

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Muslims handed over by U.S. face Serbian trial

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Seven Muslims detained by U.S. troops last year and handed over to Bosnian Serb police will be tried this month, four of them on murder charges, their lawyer said.

The seven say they escaped an alleged massacre of thousands of Muslim men in the town of Srebrenica after it was captured by Bosnian Serbs in July 1995. They say they survived months living in the wild until they spotted the U.S. soldiers in May 1996 in eastern Bosnia, and surrendered to them.

However, spokesmen for the NATO-led peacekeeping force were skeptical of the men's account at the time. Some of them were wearing military uniforms, carrying sidearms and had fresh haircuts, and they did not immediately tell the American soldiers they were Srebrenica survivors, U.N. officials said.

Their lawyer, Bakir Pasic, said Wednesday the men say they had heard about the U.S.-brokered peace agreement through a radio report and gave themselves up to the first international soldiers they saw.

Their trial by a Bosnian Serb court has been set for March 20, Pasic said.

Three are charged with murdering four Serbs and could face the death penalty. They deny the charges, and Bosnian Serb authorities have so far not identified the murdered Serbs or provided any

evidence the murders actually took place, Pasic said.

One of the three, along with a fourth man, also is charged with murdering a fellow Muslim. The others are charged with illegal possession of weapons, for which they can be jailed up to one year, Pasic said.

U.N. officials who visited the men said some had been beaten in police custody in Zvornik, a town on Bosnia's eastern border with Serbia. Reported confessions from the group were apparently gained through torture, said U.N. officials.

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Jets

SARANDA Government town government deeded tanks craft guns erupted into southern Albania. The two sides across a river city at the Albania's for while, acknowledgment in Vlorina was "out Wednesday Saranda an operation la Berisha's de ly and the gr At least five a dozen armers manded day near F Tirana. Other points also w In Rome, I ter Lambert ian counter told him the tured three weapons and the capital. The gover "isolate" the without arm said. Southern ermment not "If they Albania will shed ever," tester, Ilias Two month nians who l

Gover but Z

TINGI-TI The govern series of batt ed a U.N. c day, while strategic ri give them o third of Zair The rebels turing the Kisangani a may not be r arms right a then maybe rebel spok we. Refugees advance rep people wer took over a Tingi-Tingi man said at Since Sep ng to overth President M captured a ritory in ea 31-year di resource-ric largest coun Kazadi, s Salaam, Ta manders to were 14 mil gani and c "within day That woul River, a key with few g runs into l south to the In New Y United Nat dition of an sensus was perate to st the rebels l provincial first and the was anything The Zairia while, order ers and 38 o specialists e try, saying i ern Zaire sp ic over the rebels a advance tow "Enough minister for ri-Thomas k Associated f fer to pull o somewhere Rebel lea forces captu once house Hutu refuge of Rwanda dead of nigh rebels, the Hutu retribution f a half-millio Rwanda. Th has armed soldiers and the refugees Jonathan rebels' com refused to d during the journalists camp. But outsi no sign of n day, not eve About a do seen, all bu emaciated died of natu Paul Rwa the camp w la's fighter pursued the the town of were stoppe "Some w count the r than 100," F "There w ran," add cent Saidi, killed, but many" In the pa

Jets bomb town in southern Albania

SARANDA, Albania (AP) — Government jets bombed a southern town Wednesday and anti-government militants commandeered tanks and fired off anti-aircraft guns as weeks of unrest erupted into an armed revolt in southern Albania.

The two sides fired at each other across a river east of Vlora, the city at the center of the conflict. Albania's foreign minister, meanwhile, acknowledged that the situation in Vlora, Saranda and Delvina was "out of control."

Wednesday's bombing near Saranda and a major security operation launched by the government reflected President Sali Berisha's determination to quickly end the growing insurrection.

At least five T-55 tanks and half a dozen armored personnel carriers manned a checkpoint Wednesday near Fieri, 35 miles south of Tirana. Other government checkpoints also were set up.

In Rome, Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said his Albanian counterpart, Tritan Shehu, told him the insurgents had captured three tanks and many other weapons and aim to seize Tirana, the capital.

The government is seeking to "isolate" the three southern cities without armed conflict, Shehu said.

Southerners warned the government not to provoke them.

"If they move into Saranda, Albania will see the worst bloodshed ever," said one armed protester, Ilias Sideris.

Two months of protests by Albanians who lost savings in shady

investment schemes culminated in an orgy of anti-government violence that led Berisha to declare a state of emergency Sunday.

The rebellion has exposed a deep north-south divide in this impoverished Balkan nation, between Berisha's supporters in the north and those who back the opposition Socialists in the south. Overall, southern Albanians are wealthier — and therefore lost much more than northerners in the shady schemes.

Some opposition leaders accuse the government not only of negligence in connection with the schemes but also of profiting from them.

Fearing an attempt to free Fatos Nano, the Socialist leader jailed on corruption charges, the government moved him to a jail near Tirana, his wife said.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen said there was no need yet to evacuate Americans in Albania.

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said President Clinton was concerned about the situation in Albania and "views with some alarm" Berisha's re-election earlier this week by parliament.

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Berisha must respect the rule of law if he wants to get crucial financial aid from other European nations.

"We are not prepared to give support when he acts in an authoritarian and dictatorial way and that, sadly, has been an increasing feature of his regime," Rifkind

said Wednesday.

The air attack came early Wednesday, when MIG-15 warplanes dropped a bomb next to two houses in the village of Delvina near Saranda. Journalists witnessed the bombing and saw smoke from two bombs dropped on nearby mountains.

About 400 families, mostly ethnic Greeks, live in Delvina. It was not clear if anyone was hurt. Anti-aircraft guns overlooking Saranda fired at the jets that flew over the port.

In Athens, Greek officials warned the Albanian military to avoid using force against Albania's ethnic Greek minority, who reside mostly in the south.

Earlier Wednesday, the Defense Ministry denied that the government had ordered jets to bomb protesters.

Four men were reported wounded in a firefight with Albanian army troops at Stiri, near Delvina, which began when truckloads of troops opened fire on a roadblock.

In Saranda, 100 miles south of Tirana, the mood was defiant after the nearby air attack.

"This is it! We are now at war," yelled Ardiyan Sinanis, as he squeezed off a burst from the AK-47 assault rifle strapped around his chest. "We will either live or die for Albania!"

Government accepts cease-fire, but Zaire rebels say not so fast

TINGI-TINGI, Zaire (AP) — The government, reeling from a series of battlefield losses, accepted a U.N. cease-fire on Wednesday, while rebels closed in on a strategic river port that would give them control of the eastern third of Zaire.

The rebels, on the verge of capturing the provincial capital of Kisangani after weeks of fighting, may not be ready to put down their arms right away. "First we talk then maybe a cease-fire," said rebel spokesman Kazadi Nyembwe.

Refugees fleeing the rebel advance reported that scores of people were slain when rebels took over a huge refugee camp in Tingi-Tingi over the weekend. One man said at least 100 refugees died.

Since September, rebels wanting to overthrow the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko have captured a 900-mile swathe of territory in eastern Zaire. Mobutu's 31-year dictatorship has left resource-rich Zaire, Africa's third-largest country, desperately poor. Kazadi, speaking from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, said that commanders told him their forces were 14 miles northeast of Kisangani and could take the town "within days."

That would put them at the Zaire River, a key location in a country with few good roads. The river runs into Kisangani, and then south to the capital, Kinshasa.

In New York, diplomats at the United Nations who spoke on condition of anonymity said the consensus was that Zaire was desperate to stop the fighting, while the rebels likely would take the provincial capital of Kisangani first and then decide whether there was anything to talk about.

The Zairian government, meanwhile, ordered 19 U.N. relief workers and 38 other international aid specialists expelled from the country, saying their flight from eastern Zaire sparked a refugee panic over the weekend and gave rebels a clear path in their advance toward Kisangani.

"Enough is enough," the vice minister for foreign affairs, Henri-Thomas Kolondo Yoka, told The Associated Press. "Since they prefer to pull out, they can go do it somewhere else."

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila's forces captured Tingi-Tingi, which once housed 170,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees. Tens of thousands of Rwandans left the camp in the dead of night to avoid approaching rebels, the refugees said.

The Hutus fled to Zaire to avoid retribution for the 1994 slaughter of a half-million minority Tutsis in Rwanda. The rebels claimed Zaire has armed the former Rwandan soldiers and militiamen among the refugees.

Jonathan Ndirosonga, the rebels' commander at Tingi-Tingi, refused to discuss what happened during the takeover and barred journalists from entering the camp.

But outside the camp there was no sign of mass killings Wednesday, not even the smell of death. About a dozen corpses could be seen, all but one of whom were emaciated and appeared to have died of natural causes.

Paul Rwasondo, a refugee, said the camp was empty when Kabila's fighters arrived. The forces pursued the refugees four miles to the town of Lubutu, "and there we were stopped."

"Some were killed. ...I cannot count the number. It was more than 100," Rwasondo said.

"There was shooting, and we all ran," added another refugee, Innocent Saidi. "Some people were killed, but I don't know how many."

In the past 10 days, the rebels

have increased considerably the territory they hold, capturing the mining towns of Manono and Kabalo in the Shaba region and the river port and rail center at Kindu to the north.

Defense Ministry spokesman Leon Kalima disputed that, saying there were no rebels in either mining town Wednesday.

Regardless, the rebels appear to be holding the upper hand, saying they may take some time before agreeing to an immediate cease-fire.

"We're not against negotiations but, after all, they have to be serious," said Kazadi.

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List \$3199 New **\$2199⁹⁵**

Warm pine group (not as shown above) is created with great pride & skill. Group features King bed, two nightstands and dresser and mirror.

List \$2099 New **\$1499⁹⁵**

Black Lacquer mirrored headboard & matching pair of nightstands adapts to queen or king size bed.

List \$719 New **\$399⁹⁵**

Queen wall bed with pliers, storage headboard, mirror and light bridge is PRICED TO MOVE!! Crafted in medium oak finish.

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CAMP SHIRT

A. A clean-cut, put-together blouse with a convertible notch collar and hidden button placket. In citrus, red, yellow, sand, white or black. Rayon/polyester. From **Fred David**; misses sizes 6-16.



SHAPED, TAILORED BLOUSE

B. A feminine form blouse that's all business. Of machine-washable polyester microfiber that feels like silk, in lime, orange, red, khaki, navy or white. From **Erena**; misses sizes 8-18.

LONG, SLIM SKIRT

C. A long, lean, slenderizing skirt in seasonless, fully lined gabardine. Of machine-washable rayon/polyester. In black, navy, red, taupe or off white. From **Simon Ellis**; misses sizes 8-18. • Misses Career Sportswear

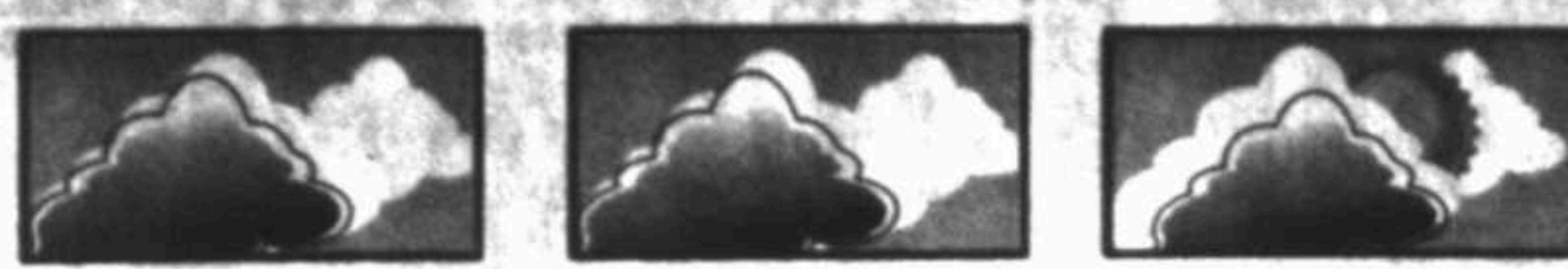


Dillard's

WEATHER

Midland forecast

3-day forecast



Friday
Mostly cloudy
High 71
Low 43

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
High 75
Low 46

Sunday
Partly cloudy
High 75
Low 45

Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high expected between 65-70. Winds will be from the south at 10-20 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Tonight's forecast calls for fair skies with a low expected near 40.

Friday's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high expected around 70.

The high for Wednesday was 61, compared with the record of 89, set in 1991.

Yesterday's precipitation
Rainfall Monday00 in.
Rainfall Tuesday00 in.
Total for monthtrace
Total for year1.90 in.

Yesterday's temperatures
High61
Low34
Normal high68
Normal low37

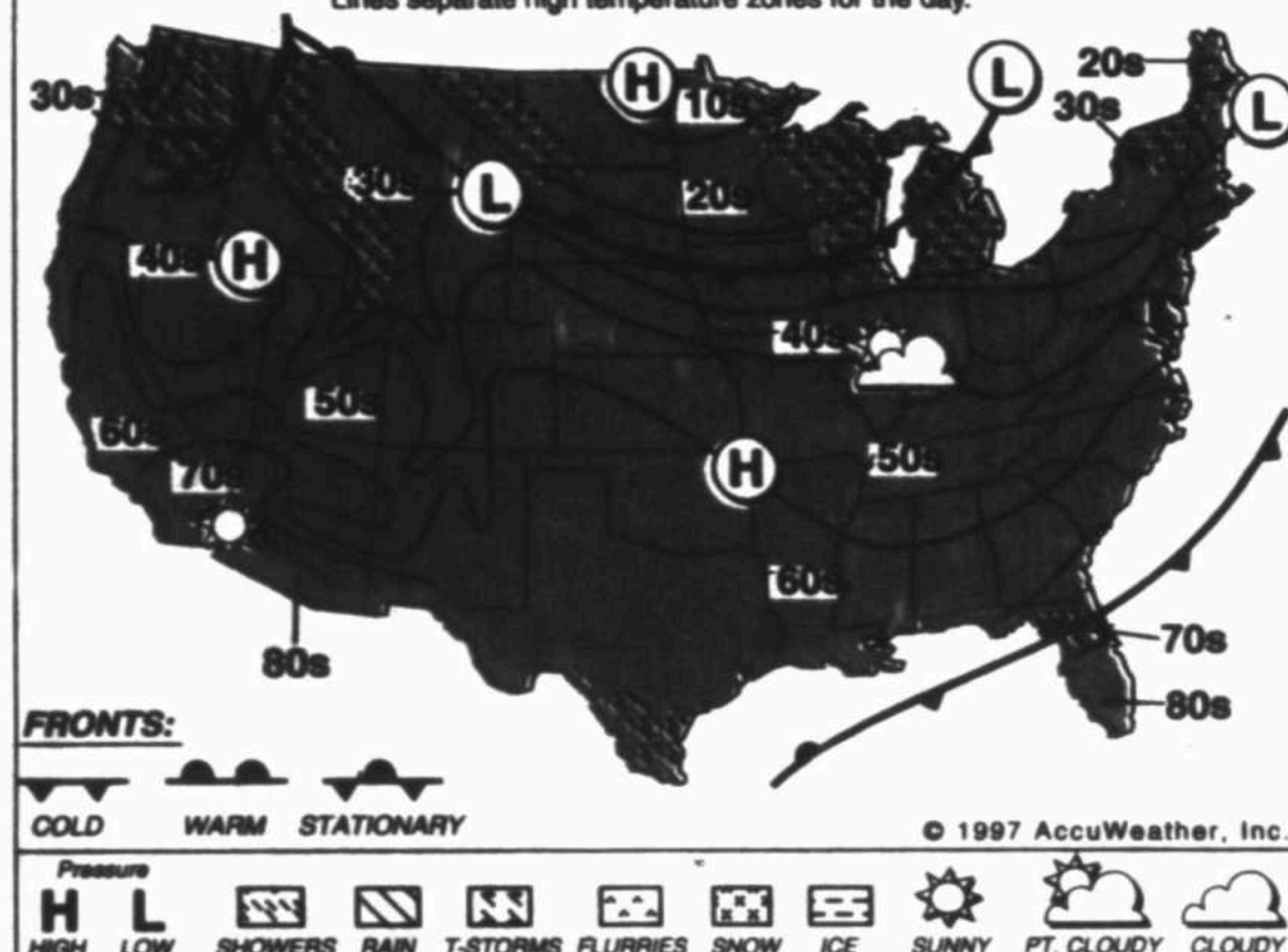
Sunrise: 7:10 a.m.

Sunset: 6:50 p.m.

National forecast

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Thursday, March 6.

Lines separate high temperature zones for the day.

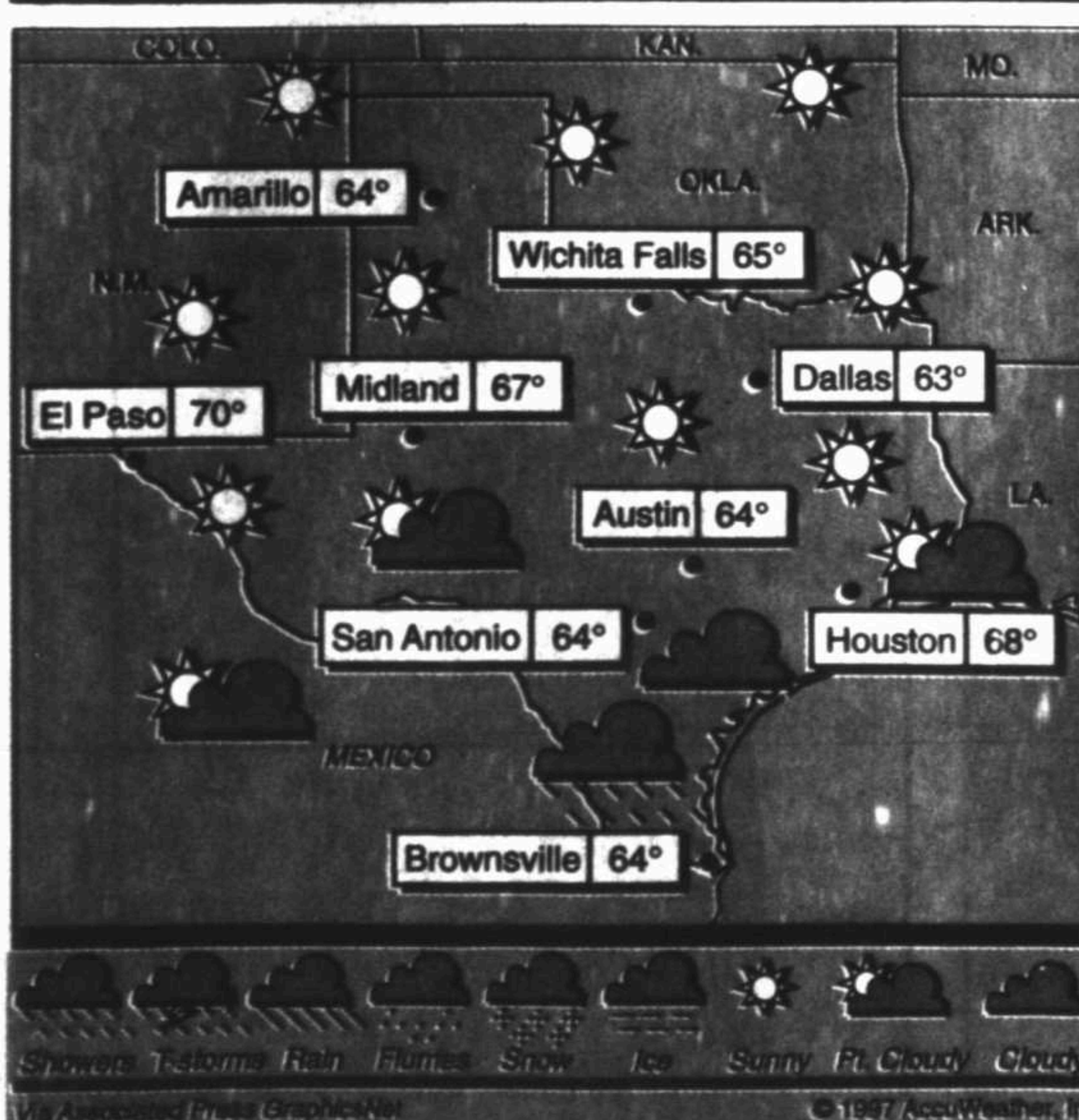


United States temperatures

Temperatures indicate previous day's high and overnight low to 7:30 p.m. EST.

City	High	Low	Prev	Out	City	High	Low	Prev	Out
Albany, N.Y.	44	31	02	dr	Las Vegas	63	39	dr	
Albuquerque	53	27	dr		Little Rock	65	54	1.12	dr
Anchorage	28	19	an		Los Angeles	80	48	dr	
Asheville	73	38	25	dr	Louisville	55	48	15	dr
Atlanta	80	54	dr		Memphis	68	65	2.00	dr
Atlanta City	45	29	dr		Miami Beach	83	73	dr	ody
Baltimore	48	43	08	dr	Minneapolis	37	28	01	ody
Birmingham	30	24	ody		Mobile-St. Paul	21	6	ody	dr
Bismarck	80	52	17	dr	Nashville	62	51	2.03	dr
Boise	29	7	02	ody	New Orleans	81	67	dr	
Boston	53	35	dr		New York City	45	37	dr	
Brownsville	85	71	ody		Norfolk, Va.	58	45	dr	
Buffalo	29	7	02	ody	North Platte	47	12	ody	
Burlington, Vt.	30	28	an		Oklahoma City	51	32	dr	
Casper	34	11	dr		Omaha	41	14	ody	
Charleston, S.C.	85	59	dr		Orlando	87	63	ody	
Charleston, W. Va.	56	37	41	dr	Philadelphia	46	36	dr	
Charlotte, N.C.	80	48	dr		Phoenix	77	46	dr	
Cheyenne	39	10	ody		Pittsburgh	77	46	dr	
Chicago	37	29	ody		Portland, Maine	45	27	an	
Cincinnati	51	43	08	ody	Portland, Ore.	46	38	20	m
Cleveland	46	39	08	an	Providence	48	34	dr	
Columbia, S.C.	84	51	dr		Raleigh-Durham	75	44	dr	
Columbus, Ohio	49	41	10	ody	Rapid City	37	9	ody	
Concord, N.H.	49	25	an		Reno	65	19	ody	
Dayton	49	42	08	ody	Richmond	52	40	10	ody
Denver	46	15	ody		Sacramento	68	34	ody	
Des Moines	34	18	ody		St. Louis	39	34	02	dr
Detroit	45	33	05	ody	St. Louis City	46	25	ody	
Duluth	23	6	01	dr	San Diego	74	50	dr	
Evansville	51	46	01	dr	San Francisco	60	41	ody	
Fairbanks	24	-11	ody		San Juan, P.R.	81	71	11	ody
Fargo	12	-22	ody		Santa Fe	48	19	dr	
Flagstaff	42	18	dr		St. Ste. Marie	34	20	an	ody
Grand Rapids	38	31	ody		Seattle	46	38	05	ody
Great Falls	25	4	ody		Shreveport	70	67	78	ody
Greensboro, N.C.	73	42	20	dr	Sioux Falls	21	6	ody	
Hartford, Spfld.	48	33	dr		Spokane	40	29	ody	
Havana	42	27	ody		Syracuse	51	33	an	
Honolulu	79	71	08	m	Tampa-St. P. Bay	84	68	ody	
Indianapolis	43	41	40	dr	Toronto	46	39	dr	
Jackson, Miss.	83	67	20	dr	Tucson	74	40	dr	
Jacksonville	87	61	ody		Tulsa	52	33	07	dr
					Washington, D.C.	59	44	03	dr
					Wichita	54	27	dr	

State forecast



Texas temperatures

Highest temperature last 12 hours, lowest past 18 hours and precipitation for 24 hours ending at 7 p.m. CDT.

City	High	Low	Pop.	City	High	Low	Pop.
Abilene	56	37		Houston	78	59	0.02
Alto	81	64		Junction	73	46	
Amarillo	70	52	0.01	Kingsville	83	62	M
Beaumont-Port Arthur	81	64		Lubbock	76	62	
Brownsville	85	71	0.17	Lufkin	74	56	0.19
Bryan-College Station	89	71		Marfa	57	39	
Childress	59	29		McAllen	86	69	
Corpus Christi	82	60	0.14	Midland-Odessa	81	34	
Corpus Christi NAS	79	60		Mineral Wells	88	42	0.01
Cotulla	82	60		Palacios	79	58	M
Del Rio	69	42		Paris	83	43	0.27
Del Mar	83	42		San Antonio	81	40	
Dallas Love Field	88	45	0.08	San Diego	70	57	0.08
Del Rio	69	42		Shreveport, La.	70	57	0.78
El Paso	83	42		Tamworth, Ark.	89	57	0.02
Fort Stockton	88	41	0.09	Tyler	89	46	0.04
Fort Worth	88	43	0.03	Victoria	78	69	
Garland	78	61	0.07	Waco	88	47	
Houston Hobby	78	61		Wichita Falls	86	36	0.01
				Wink	82	36	

QUIET: Americans know little about president's day

(From 1A)

to visit him in the White House, and reporters stationed full-time in the building didn't have a clue.

Lyndon Johnson secreted Thurgood Marshall into the White House through a tunnel to ensure his Supreme Court nomination would come as a surprise.

"It's very common that some big story will emerge very much later, after an event occurs, because we in the press corps don't really know what the president is up to," said Ken Walsh, a White House reporter for U.S. News & World Report who has written a book about press coverage of presidents.

"The American people have a very limited and probably distorted idea of any president's day," Walsh said, putting the blame on the limited access and information provided to White

House reporters.

With Clinton, some days his time is accounted for from morning jog to midnight policy meeting. On other days, there are big gaps. There can be large blocks of what aides describe as "phone and office time" or vague descriptions of meetings with "supporters" or the like.

In addition, reporters are confined to a small section of the White House except when escorted to specific events, making it harder for them to keep tabs on who's coming and going.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry defends the idea that some things should be kept secret. Timely word of Greenspan's visits with Clinton, for example, could needlessly roil financial markets, he said.

"The president needs to have opportunities from time to time to hear privately from people

who've got information he needs for conducting the presidency," McCurry said.

Marlin Fitzwater, White House press secretary to George Bush and Ronald Reagan, estimates that about 75 percent of a president's time can be publicly accounted for. That's plenty, in his view.

"The president has to have some ability to meet with people privately," Fitzwater said, citing matters such as delicate diplomatic negotiations and meetings with opposition leaders who might be embarrassed if word got out.

Historians tend to agree, although they like to pore through presidential papers after the fact to reconstruct the fullest possible record of a presidency.

"The idea is, he's supposed to run the country well, not necessarily that every bob and weave is documented at the time it takes

place," said John Mueller, a historian at the University of Rochester.

But they also see the potential for abuse.

"Any time the capacity for secrecy exists, it can be used for good or ill," said Cal McKenzie, a history professor at Colby College in Maine.

President Kennedy's liaisons with women are one example frequently cited.

U.S. News' Walsh believes that all of a president's activities should be publicly disclosed unless there is an overriding argument for secrecy. Disclosure, he says, helps to limit ethical abuses by making officials more careful about what they undertake.

"I have to be convinced case by case that something should not be disclosed — not that we in journalism have anything to say about it," Walsh said.

FIGHT: GOP again calls for late-term abortion bill

(From 1A)

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton insists that the bill safeguard a woman's health and life. He recalled that Clinton issued the veto in the presence of women who said the procedure saved them and said those memories are "very fresh in his mind still."

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., co-chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, and other abortion rights supporters charged Republicans were playing politics with women's health. They maintained that the procedure is rarely done.

She also said Fitzsimmons'

admission doesn't change the fact that "Republicans don't want a law; they want a political issue."

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, said the bill is an "unacceptable political intrusion into private medical decisions," and promised a strong fight.

The House voted 288-139 to pass the bill, and subsequently voted to override Clinton's veto. The Senate passed it 54-44, but couldn't muster enough support to overturn the veto.

A joint House-Senate committee has scheduled a hearing on the bill

for next Tuesday, and the House is expected to vote on it by Easter.

Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., a co-sponsor, said he knew of 62 "yes" votes, enough for Senate passage but still five short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

Meanwhile, congressional Republicans are getting help from the outside.

The Christian Coalition launched a grassroots campaign in support of the bill Wednesday that will target up to 100 congressional districts in 36 states. The Family Research Council also is

running radio ads featuring pleas from GOP conservatives William Bennett and Jack Kemp for Congress to pass the bill quickly.

Santorum said he was confident that lawmakers who knew little about the abortion procedure or who voted against the Republican majority in 1995 would be more willing to examine the issue in light of Fitzsimmons' admission.

"So I'm asking members, new members that have not voted on this issue and other members who have voted the other way to take a look at this issue and start doing your homework," he said on the floor of the Senate.

DINE: Restaurant industry works to meet challenges

(From 1A)

sive industries to labor-intensive industries."

He called the proposed business activity tax a hidden tax — included in the menu prices — that would make it appear restaurants are raising their menu prices.

"When the Legislature needs additional revenues, they could raise the tax rate and we'd have to raise our prices and the public wouldn't be aware it was due to the tax," he said.

He said the association plans to work with the governor on tax reform and wouldn't mind the tax base being increased, but not completely shifted.

Another challenge involves the minimum wage, which is higher in Texas than the federal mandate.

Forehand, a Houston resident, was active in the opposition to an AFL-CIO-backed plan to increase Houston's minimum wage, which he said could have devastated the city's economy.

"One city with a higher minimum wage than elsewhere in the state would be at a distinct disadvantage," he said.

Yet another issue for restaurants across the state is a shortage of qualified labor.

The association has formed the TRA Foundation to work with the state's schools on offering an entrepreneurship course and educate students as well as educators and counselors about opportunities in the restaurant industry.

"Our image is that of a minimum wage, dead-end job," Forehand said. "And that's just not

true. Forty percent of people in the business world at one time worked in a restaurant. And 70 percent of restaurant managers started out at minimum wage, low-end jobs like busboy or dishwasher. Today, the average restaurant general manager makes over \$40,000 a year. Opportunities abound in this business."

Forehand began in the industry in 1959 as a 14-year-old busboy at Monterey House Mexican Restaurant and advanced through the ranks of the company.

"I learned to love the business there," he said. After graduating from high school he became a manager for one of the company's restaurants. "It's been in my blood ever since."

He described himself as a "people person" and said what he miss-

es as founder and vice chairman of the Casa Ole chain — begun in 1973 — is the interaction with his customers and with his employees.

"I know of eight who came through Casa Ole and its management training and now own their own restaurants," he said. "That's a point of pride with me."

The association also has something for the small restaurateur, who owns one or two restaurants. The TRA has formed a purchasing group and is negotiating with supply manufacturers to get rebates and lower prices for those small businesses.

A test will be kicked off soon in Dallas, with the ultimate goal of saving 1 percent on food costs, increasing that to 2 to 3 percent, Forehand said.

Clinton moves to toughen sales on handgun sales

Hearst News Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, reacting to the Empire State Building shootings, moved Wednesday to make it harder for foreign visitors to purchase handguns and called on Congress to pass a measure banning such sales to foreigners.

Clinton's directive also included orders that all federal agencies place child-safety locks on handguns issued to federal law enforcement agents.

He renewed his call for legislation banning so-called cop-killer bullets, even though they are not currently being manufactured.

The president said he expected the Republican Congress to act on

the measures. He cited a "sea change in the shift of attitude in the Congress, as the American people have crystallized their opinions on these issues and made it known."

The National Rifle Association, however, issued a stinging statement accusing the president of attempting "to divert attention from his ethical and legal scandals by attacking American gun owners, their safety and their rights."

Last month, a Palestinian teacher opened fire at the Empire State Building in New York, killing one tourist and wounding six others before killing himself. The man, Ali Abu Kamal, bought a semi-automatic handgun in Florida after living in a motel there for

three weeks.

The president said "we were all shocked" that Kamal was able to purchase a weapon and attack tourists.

"Federal law requires legal aliens to live at least 90 days in a state before they are allowed to purchase a handgun," Clinton said. "But the application to buy a gun does not even ask how long an applicant has lived at his or her current address."

Clinton, surrounded by police officers and gun control advocates in the Oval Office, signed a directive ordering the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to amend its forms to require all handgun purchasers to attest they

are residents of the state in which they are buying the weapon.

The rule would not change existing residency requirements for citizens.

The new directive would require foreign visitors to prove they have met the 90-day residency requirement by providing documentation, such as a utility bill, as well as photo identification.

But Clinton said the restriction for foreigners "was not enough" and called on Congress to pass a bill "that will prohibit all foreign visitors from buying or carrying guns in the United States."

SPEAK: Mauro discusses oil, gas future in Texas

(From 1A)

the Permanent School Fund, which took in \$152 million from oil and gas leases in 1996, was the driving reason the land office sued Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, Marathon, Mobil, Phillips, Shell, Union Pacific Resources and Texaco in 1995 for underpayment of oil and gas royalties owed the state.

"We had to make certain the Public School Fund was getting every cent it had coming."

Mauro said the state was supposed to receive royalties on the oil's actual value and not the posted price, which the oil companies themselves set. Mauro said the General Land Office first became

aware of the problem when it began to receive royalties under the in-kind program, and realized it had been shorted seven cents to \$1.95 a barrel. "We were able to get premiums substantially higher than the posted price."

The land commissioner said a second wake-up call came four years ago when Atlantic Richfield voluntarily brought a check for \$584,721.53 to the land office as its share of proceeds realized from oil trading.

He said an oil pricing study conducted by Texas and three other western states determined that there was a substantial difference between the price used to calculate royalties, the posted

price and market price.

He noted that if the lawsuits, filed 18 months ago, are awarded class-action certification in June, anyone who has received royalty or overriding royalty payment based on the posted price will be part of the royalty owner class.

"They will be able to sue some of the biggest oil companies in the world without spending a dime."

Mauro said he was pursuing the case because that was his job.

He had harsh words for the courts that ruled against the General Land Office in the Canadian River lawsuit, which transferred 14,000 acres of oil and gas mineral rights in the river from the Public School Fund to the landowners.

"It is outrageous," Mauro said.

Mauro said the land office intended to appeal the case, which was created when the flow of the Canadian River was reduced to a trickle and changed the definition of "river banks."

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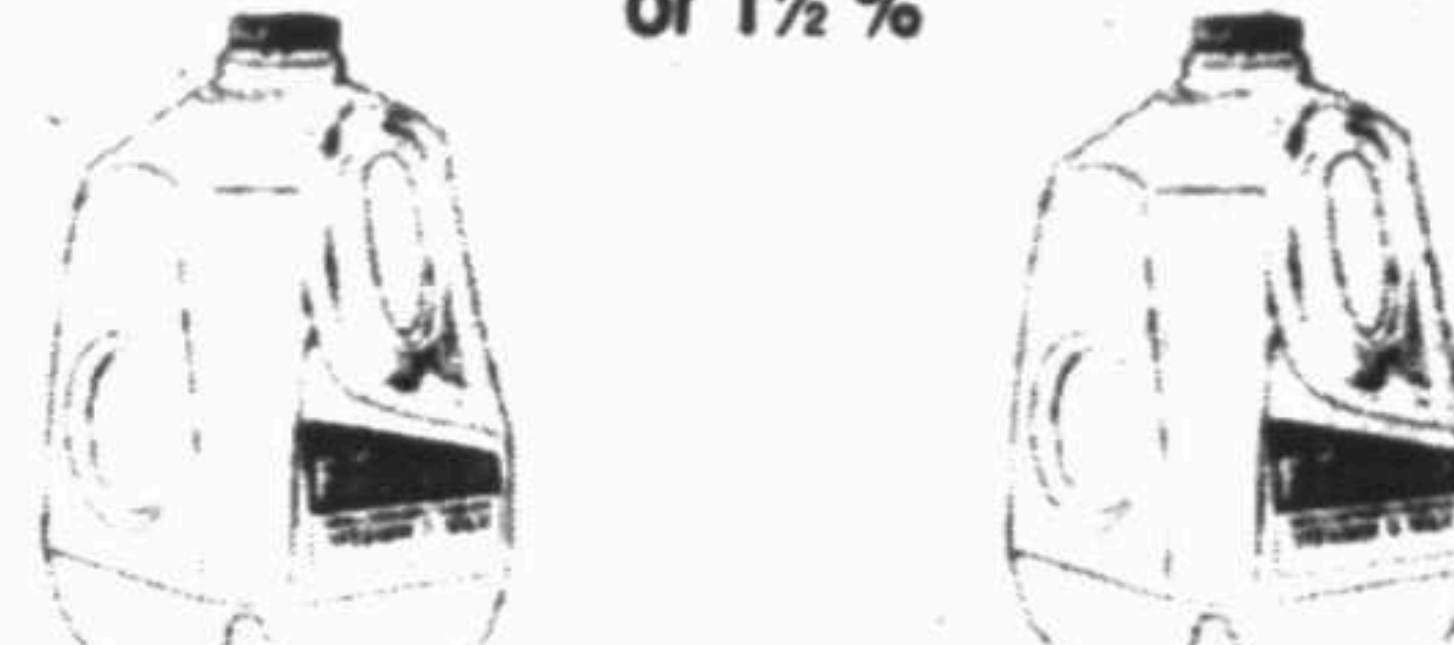


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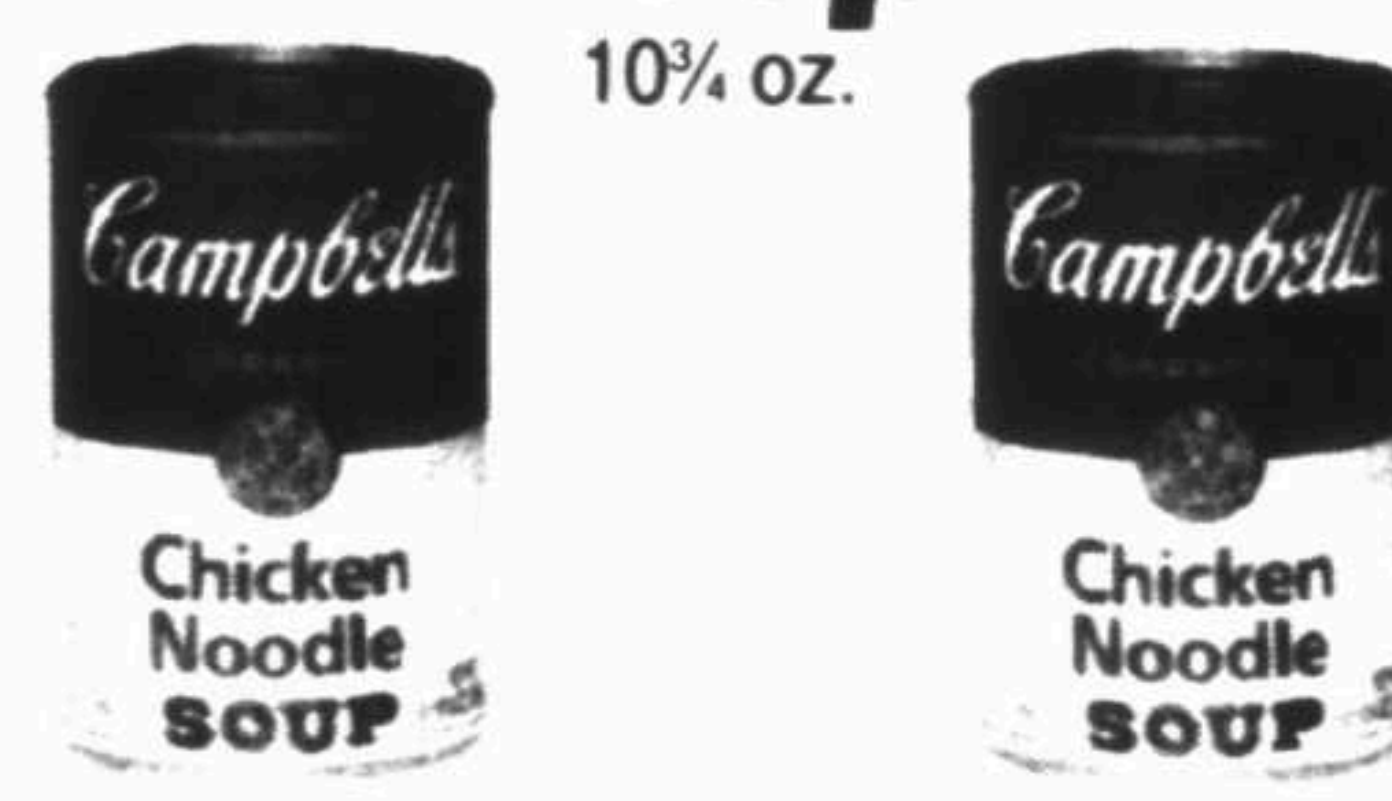


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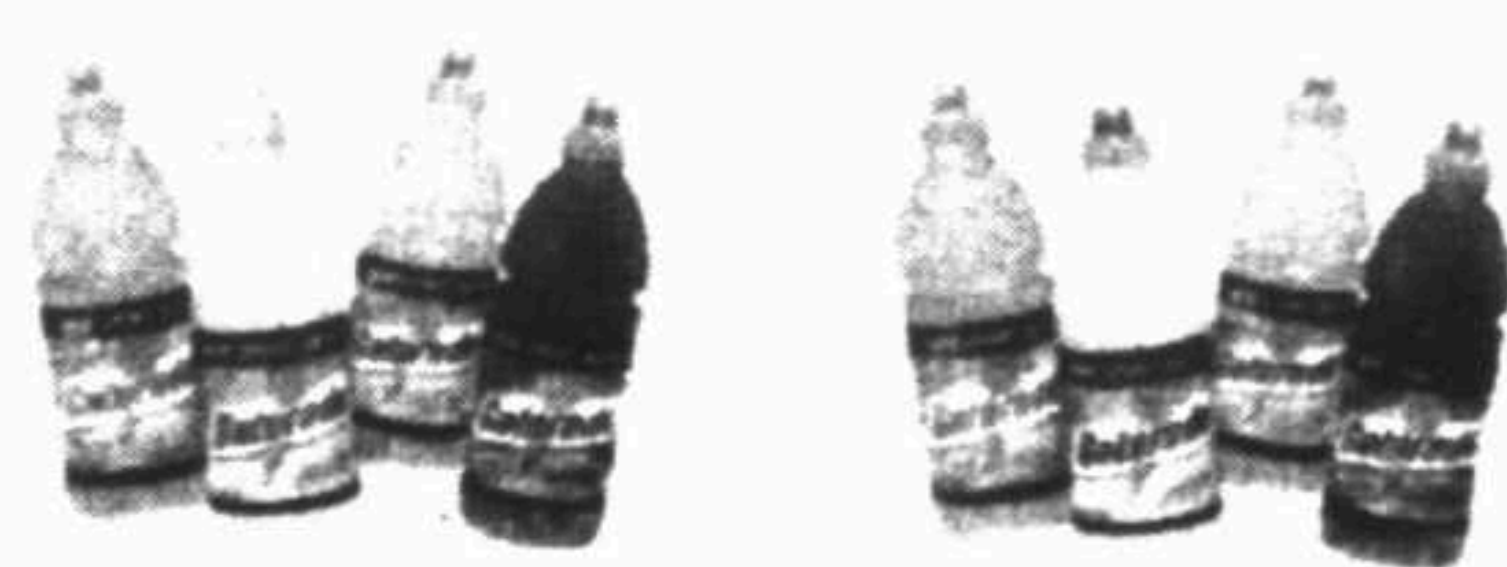
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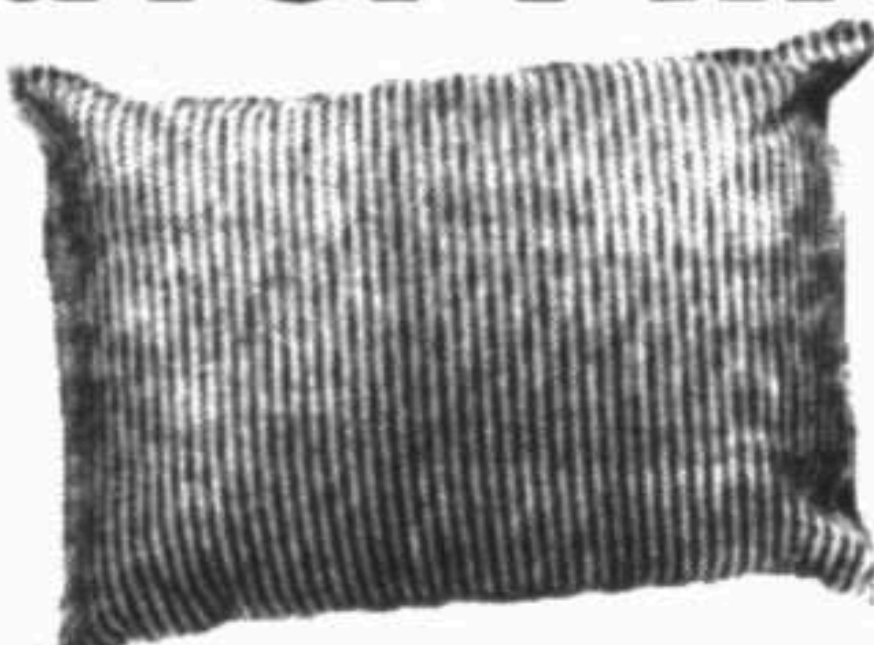
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Koreas meet to talk about peace

■ Meeting is first between North and South Korea in 25 years.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — North and South Korea met Wednesday for the first time in 25 years to talk about peace on the divided peninsula, with the United States sitting in and pressing North Korea to agree to enter formal negotiations. But the North Koreans said they needed more time to decide.

Exchanging smiles and pleasantries, high-level representatives of the rival Korea states met to discuss an end to hostilities on the Korean peninsula, one of the last flash points of the Cold War. In a New York hotel room, the Americans and South Koreans briefed the North Koreans on a proposal for four-power talks, including China, for a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War.

An armistice ended fighting in Korea in 1953 but created an uneasy truce along the heavily armed border between communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea. Some 77,000 U.S. troops also are stationed on the peninsula. A peace treaty ending the war was never signed.

After the daylong briefing,

North Korea's chief delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, said the discussions had taken place in a "sincere atmosphere."

"We are prepared to listen to any proposals considered beneficial to promote peace and stability," Kim said. But he added: "We need further study on this proposal" before deciding whether to enter four-power talks.

On Friday, the North Koreans will hold separate talks with the United States to address the search for remains of American soldiers missing in the Korean War and the opening of liaison offices.

Speaking before the closed-door briefings, South Korean officials said they would offer economic cooperation and help in coping with North Korea's critical food shortage as incentives to join the negotiations.

Despite the often-hostile atmosphere between the rivals, Wednesday's meeting began with handshakes and niceties. The heads of the three delegations — Deputy U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman, Kim of North Korea and South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Song Young-shik — joined hands for photographers.

The Korean delegations chatted pleasantly, a U.S. official said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns described the atmosphere as "serious and sincere" and "very businesslike." He said there were no breakthroughs but expressed hope that the talks will lead to North Korea joining four-party talks.

"They asked questions about the nature of the proposal we put together," Burns said. "We believe the United States and South Korea made a sincere and fair proposal and frankly we don't see any reason why the North Koreans won't respond to it positively."

Before the talks, U.S. and South Korean sources said they did not expect the North Koreans to agree immediately to the four-power negotiations. North Korea was expected to wait until after the third anniversary of the death of its late leader, Kim Il Sung, which comes this summer.

The North also could be waiting until the late leader's son, Kim Jong-Il, is formally given the reins of power. He has been the de facto leader since 1994.

But South Korean sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believe the North Koreans ultimately will agree to the talks because of the country's economic crisis and food shortage.

Nuclear waste reaches storage depot

GORLEBEN, Germany (AP) — After days of anti-nuclear protests, a six-truck convoy of nuclear waste finally rumbled into a storage depot Wednesday to a chorus of jeers from thousands of demonstrators.

Police helicopters whirled overhead and hundreds of riot police stood several men deep to secure the convoy as it crawled through the north German countryside on the final 12-mile leg to the storage site at Gorleben, in northern Germany.

The flatbed trucks were forced to stop every few yards to allow police to clear away protesters. Officers charged into fields, swinging batons and using water cannons to keep away demonstrators, who threw stones and bottles and set straw on fire along the route.

The protests were the biggest yet against the Gorleben site, the focus of Germany's anti-nuclear movement since it opened in 1995.

Activists said at least 153 demonstrators were hurt, including two taken to a hospital by helicopter with eye injuries. Police con-

firmed some injuries, but had no immediate details.

Anti-nuclear activists fear the Gorleben site — officially designated as temporary — will become permanent. They say their goal is to force the government to reconsider its support for nuclear energy by making the waste transports prohibitively expensive.

The security operation was the biggest — and costliest — in post-war Germany, with 30,000 police officers deployed to protect the shipment and to keep protesters from blocking it.

In a usually tranquil part of

northern Germany, farmers, students and elderly people banded together to vent outrage at the third waste shipment to the facility, the biggest so far.

"The earth is crying," read a roadside banner. "Is this democracy?" another sign said.

"There's been no decision about a permanent storage site, so we can't have transports to a temporary site," said protest organizer Rebecca Harms. "The nuclear waste can easily be left on the grounds of the power plants for now."

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Associated Press

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Associated Press

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Healthy Yeltsin now looks toward political recovery

■ State-of-the-nation address seen as chance for new beginning for long-ailing Russian president.

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin is looking to reinstate his presidency with a shakeup and a major speech Thursday, itching to drop a political bombshell or two after months on the sidelines.

After recovering from heart surgery and dishing out a series of tongue-lashings, the healthy "new" Yeltsin again resembles the battling Boris of old rather than a shuffling, absent leader in decline.

Thursday's new beginning — a state-of-the-nation address and government reshuffling — may or may not make a dent in the country's intractable problems. But barring a last-minute relapse, there will be no doubt who's running Russia when Yeltsin towers, stern-faced, over the podium in parliament to deliver an expected 30-minute speech.

That in itself is a step toward easing the political uncertainty that gripped Russia just weeks ago.

Cynical Russians, many of them unpaid by the government for months, won't be impressed by a flash of Yeltsin's famous tem-

per and a slew of new promises or new faces. But many are willing to give him another chance, after months of deep public gloom over his shaky condition and the resulting drift in the country's leadership.

Yeltsin skipped his inaugural address in August, didn't visit the Kremlin for months and has sat out most of his second term at his country home or in a hospital with heart problems, surgery, pneumonia and the flu.

Infrequent, alarming video clips showed a frail, hunched president who spoke with raspy, slurred words or not at all.

His opponents called him a sick old man and tried to oust him, but a flu-stricken Yeltsin took the wind out of that move in late January by merely showing up at work.

Now back in the Kremlin regularly as he nears full health, the 66-year-old president will be watched closely Thursday for how he holds up through his longest speech in months.

It's already clear from recent appearances that he has regained the color in his face, some of the weight he lost and, most significantly, his fighting spirit.

With Kremlin cameras suddenly present for every meeting, he has hauled several top officials on the carpet in past days. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Defense Minister Igor Rodionov and Russia's top prosecutor all

have been chastised for poor performance.

What's still missing is any major new initiative — something that is sorely needed.

Millions of state workers and pensioners have gone unpaid for months as the economy shrinks and taxes go uncollected. Public discontent is rising, and strikes are on the increase from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

But eight months after winning re-election, there's evidence for the first time in his second term that Yeltsin plans significant steps to shore up economic reforms and bring order to a government widely seen as floundering.

In one move that could be announced Thursday, leading Russian newspapers quoted unidentified officials as saying Anatoly Chubais likely will give up his job as Kremlin chief of staff to take charge of economic policy.

Such an action could signal a concerted new effort by Yeltsin to strengthen the government's gridlocked free-market reform efforts. Chubais is a veteran of Russia's original economic reform team.

Chubais also would be ideally placed to push through painful new measures. As one of Russia's least popular politicians, his involvement could deflect political heat from Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin.

Russian parliament approves bill to keep seized art

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Legislation that would block the return of most art seized from Germany at the end of World War II cleared parliament Wednesday, but President Boris Yeltsin is unlikely to sign the measure into law.

Yeltsin's government warned Tuesday that the bill preventing the return of so-called trophy art brought back by the triumphant Soviet army would contradict international law.

The upper chamber approved the measure 140-0 with one abstention on Wednesday. The bill, which was passed by parliament's lower house last month, requires the president's signature before becoming law.

An international debate has raged for years over Moscow's refusal to return the art. Most of the treasures were taken from Germany, which wants them back.

Many in Russia say the country is entitled to keep them as com-

pensation for the tremendous losses it suffered during the war against the Nazis.

Yeltsin's objection to parliament's bill appears based on an unwillingness to complicate relations with Germany, whose Chancellor Helmut Kohl is a personal friend and important ally in Europe.

The Russian government wants to be able to negotiate the return of trophy art with Germany and other countries involved, the deputy minister of culture,

Mikhail Shvydkoi, told reporters.

"We believe this bill will also complicate the return of Russian cultural treasures to Russia and any talks with our foreign partners," he was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

The bill says all works of art brought to Russia from Germany after the war are national assets. It requires a complex procedure involving a foreign government's request and parliament's approval for returning such objects.

Arafat appeals for U.N. support against Israeli settlement

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Yasser Arafat said Wednesday that Israel's decision to build a Jewish housing project in east Jerusalem brought the peace process to a "critical phase" — and U.N. diplomats are obligated to help save it.

Arafat also met with Jewish leaders, then left New York to deliver similar messages to two former U.S. presidents: Jimmy Carter in Georgia and George Bush in Texas.

The U.N. Security Council was to debate on Wednesday afternoon the Israeli decision to build the 6,500-unit Har Homa housing development in east Jerusalem.

European representatives circulated a draft resolution calling on Israel to avoid moves that threaten final talks on the status of the holy city, part of which the Palestinians want as a future capital.

Israel's acting ambassador, David Peleg, said council action would do nothing to advance peace. U.S. diplomats also said Washington opposed any binding resolution.

Arafat said he and council ambassadors discussed "how to implement accurately and honestly what has been agreed upon."

and "prevent any provocations" that endanger peace.

By approving the housing development, Arafat said, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "pushing the peace process in a very critical and crucial circumstance."

But diplomats said Arafat's message during the private meeting was restrained. He avoided threats to scuttle the peace process in retaliation for the proposed Israeli housing development.

Western diplomats who attended the meeting said Arafat told them the council had an "obligation" to play a role in the peace process.

Several diplomats, all speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted Arafat as saying that moves

toward peace had reached a "critical phase." They said U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson repeated President Clinton's statement that he regretted the planned Israeli construction.

Arafat, who met with Clinton this week, held separate meetings with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, General Assembly President Razali Ismail of Malaysia and ambassadors of the 15-member Security Council.

Annan said the United Nations would "continue to work with all the parties in the search for peace."

Israel and the United States traditionally have tried to play down any role for the Security Council in Israeli-Palestinian issues.

Peleg, the Israeli official, told Associated Press Television that if

the Palestinians refrained from taking issues to the Security Council, "we will move much more quickly in the promotion of the peace process."

Earlier Wednesday, Arafat told American Jewish leaders that the Har Homa housing complex might not have become an issue if Netanyahu had consulted with him beforehand.

In what Arafat called a "very warm, very positive" meeting, he also assured Jewish leaders that Palestinian tenets no longer call for the destruction of Israel.

"He told us that the 29 offending paragraphs in the (Palestinian) covenant have been annulled as inconsistent with the peace process," said Howard Squadron, a spokesman for the 11-member Jewish delegation.

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Commission wise to widen search

Midland County Commissioners are absolutely correct to cast a wider net in their search for an individual to appoint as justice of the peace following the recent death of longtime Judge Robert Pine.

After Pine's death on Feb. 14th, both his widow, Earleen Pine, and temporary justice Keith Jobe, who served in the office during Pine's illness, have expressed interest in being named to the \$35,000-a-year position.

Although it has been noted that Pine had requested prior to his death that his wife be appointed to serve out his term, commissioners have the duty to do what they believe will be in the best interests of the

people of Midland County.

As County Judge Jeff Norwood noted, "The important thing is that we select a highly qualified candidate who will be able to get the job done in that office because it is a very important office."

Commissioners have set a March 17 deadline for interested individuals to file an application for the Precinct 2 post. We hope all those interested in serving in this capacity do so.

Commissioners have taken the correct step to find the most qualified individual for this important judicial office. Now the people of Midland County only need for interested persons to respond.

GEORGE WILL

Gore held to lower standard than Gingrich

WASHINGTON—Al Gore, who seems equally proud of what he did and of his promise to stop doing it, says he only

did what his lawyer told him was permissible. When Newt Gingrich made that argument, the House ethics committee told him to pay \$300,000. Everyone knows the rules are different for Republicans but, really, this is getting ridiculous.

Gore hopes to take the oath by which chief executives vow to see that the laws are faithfully executed. Thus it is interesting that he does not construe laws strictly, by what they say in plain language, or based on common practices adopted to conform with the language. Rather he construes them permissively, by disregarding the language and focusing solely on the primary intent of the legislators.

At issue is an 1882 law that in Washington's mind-bending current atmosphere is generally referred to as both "obscure" and generally obeyed. It is generally obeyed because, far from being obscure, everyone knows it. It forbids the raising of funds on federal property. The primary intent of that law was to prevent federal officials from soliciting or receiving campaign contributions from federal employees susceptible to pressure. But the law's language refers to locations.

The Clinton White House—where, we are asked to believe, the former bar bouncer who handled the FBI files of Republicans got the files by innocent accident—has just sufficient vestigial conscience that it tried to feign compliance with the 1882 law by (George Stephanopoulos said last Sunday) installing on federal property special phone lines paid for by the Democratic National Committee. Gore must not have heard of such lines because he says he complied with the law by using a DNC telephone credit card. He should have asked his helpful lawyers if using a cell phone—after all, such a phone is not physically connected to federal property—would have sufficed.

Questions multiply. Was Gore alone in the room on government property when he called the numbers on the list of potential contributors? Or were other federal employees with him? Who handed him the list? Who compiled it? Was it compiled with the help of the computer database bought by \$1.7 million of taxpayers' money?



WILL

That is the database that the president's wife has said concerned only official White House business—guests and correspondence—not political affairs. Using it for political purposes would be illegal. However, a memo written by a political aide on White House stationery and marked "confidential" speaks of making "the new system" available "to the DNC or other entities we choose to work with for political purposes." Handwriting on the memo reads, "This sounds promising. Please Advise. HRC."

The country is becoming used to, or at least numb about, hairs of legality being split, and then split again, and then again. They are split by people who think they are cleverer than they are and that the country is dumber than it is. Presidential spokesmen (taking their cue and style from the fellow who once was the cleverest boy in Hope, Ark., and who says the Lincoln Bedroom was not "sold"—hey, it's still there) say:

The White House fund-raising coffees that some organizers of them referred to as fund-raisers were not fund-raisers because no specific price was put on them, or because giving money was not an explicit prerequisite for attending them. One spokesman says the coffees were a "component" of a fund-raising plan but were not fund-raisers.

Besides, many of the coffee drinkers, and cer-

tainly those sleepers in the Lincoln Bedroom, were "friends" or, in the priceless location of one White House spinner, they were persons who "weren't friends yet." If all these were more or less friends, the Clintons should have paid for these gatherings of personal friends from their personal pockets. Congressional committees may want to see the receipts.

And they will want to examine Gore's involvement in whatever caused the Immigration and Naturalization Service, responding to administration cravings for a million new voters, to abandon due process and open the floodgates so that the electorate could be swelled with immigrants, including 180,000 who escaped the required criminal background checks. The administration's Nuremberg defenses—everybody does it, and we were just doing what the lawyers in our pay told us we could do—will not quite cover the INS case.

Regarding this administration, what has been said of promises (Stephanopoulos, Feb. 15, 1996, on Clinton: "He has kept the promises he meant to keep") may be true as well of many laws and norms: They observe the ones they want to observe.

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



ANOTHER VIEW

Bipartisan effort on juvenile crime good

Some bipartisan efforts are more promising than others. While it might be hard for Republicans and Democrats to agree on such things as entitlement spending or budget balancing, they can come together more easily on other issues.

Optimistically speaking, it appears that one of the "easy" issues may be America's growing problem of juvenile crime.

President Clinton announced a crime bill last week that has several similarities with one that was earlier introduced by U.S. Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of the House Judiciary

Committee's crime subcommittee.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno promised House members from both parties that she would combine elements of both bills into a mutually acceptable bill.

A key part of both bills is the establishment of appropriate responses to every juvenile offense. Juvenile offenders would learn that breaking the law brings punishment and that the punishment becomes more severe with subsequent offenses.

—Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, March 6, the 65th day of 1997. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 6, 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio fell to Mexican forces after a 13-day siege.

On this date: In 1806, poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning was born in Durham, England.

In 1834, the city of York in upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1857, in its Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court held that Scott, a slave, could not sue for his free-

dom in a federal court.

In 1933, a nationwide bank holiday declared by President Roosevelt went into effect.

In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. died in Washington.

In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first American raid on Berlin during World War II. (A second raid took place two days later.)

In 1957, the former British African colonies of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent state of Ghana.

One year ago: A federal appeals court struck down Washington state's ban on doctor-assisted suicide.

CAL THOMAS

Liars teem among partial-birth abortion advocates

The admission by a prominent abortion advocate that he lied about the number of babies killed during the procedure

called "partial-birth abortion" is surprising only in its candor. Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, said he misled the public because he feared the truth would damage the abortion rights cause.

Recalling a November 1995 appearance on ABC's "Nightline," Fitzsimmons said, "I lied through my teeth" when claiming the procedure was rarely used and that only women who sought such abortions were those whose lives were in danger, or whose unborn children were severely damaged. President Clinton used nearly identical language in explaining his veto of a bill that would have outlawed the procedure.

The White House says it will take another look at the matter in light of Fitzsimmons' comments. But the administration is lock-step with the abortion rights movement, so look for more doublespeak. President Clinton frequently says he wants to make abortions "safe, legal and rare," but has done nothing to limit the procedure even in the most extreme of circumstances, such as partial-birth abortion.

Legal abortion was conceived in a lie. Nor-



THOMAS

ma McCorvey, "Jane Roe," claimed to have been raped. She later admitted lying in order to make her case more compelling to the Supreme Court. The justices who made abortion legal believed testimony that thousands of women were dying from illegal abortions, a "fact" asserted by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), but later acknowledged to be false by top NARAL official Dr. Bernard Nathanson, who was at the time operating the nation's largest abortion clinic in New York.

To maintain a policy of abortion on demand, proponents have had to continue telling lies. Planned Parenthood, which consistently argues for maintaining the abortion status quo, once told a different story. In 1965, a Planned Parenthood pamphlet called "Plan Your Children" said of family planning: "Is it abortion? Definitely not. An abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun. It is dangerous to your life and health. It may make you sterile so that when you want a child you cannot have it. Birth control merely postpones the beginning of life." Was Planned Parenthood lying then, or is it lying now?

On Dec. 11, 1993, NARAL's Kate Michelman was quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer as saying, "We think abortion is a bad thing. No woman wants to have an abortion." Five days later a NARAL statement claimed that Michelman "has never said — and would never say — that 'abortion is a bad thing.'" But reporter Jodi Enda taped the interview and stood by the quote.

Sandra Cano, the "Mary Doe" in Roe's companion case, Doe vs. Bolton, stated that she never wanted an abortion and signed paperwork

she thought was related to a divorce she sought from an abusive husband. The American Civil Liberties Union lawyer that Cano believed was helping with her divorce claimed that her client applied for an abortion but was turned down. Cano says she was lied to and that the lawyers handling the case did not explain to her what was happening and why.

During the partial-birth abortion debate last year, in which proponents claimed it is rarely done, the Bergen County Record reported that doctors in one New Jersey clinic perform 3,000 abortions annually, half of them the partial birth variety. Rather than admit the truth, abortion proponents attacked the professionalism of the reporter.

Also last year, pro-abortion groups claimed that anesthesia takes the life of the unborn child before the procedure in which its brains are sucked out. Though many physicians denied the claim, the media continued to spread the falsehood as if it were true, as if that would somehow make the procedure more ethically tolerable.

Then there are the daily lies told to women that their unborn child is not a baby, just tissue, and that having an abortion will solve the problems that lead them to seek one. And let's not forget the lie about no one being available to care for the child or the woman after birth.

Another lie needs to be introduced immediately that would outlaw partial-birth abortion before the public forgets that Fitzsimmons has added his name to a growing list of pro-abortion liars.

Cal Thomas' column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

WHOM TO WRITE

Following is a list of the names and addresses of various state and federal officials Midlanders may wish to contact from time to time:

PRESIDENT: Bill Clinton (D), The President, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500 or call (202) 456-1414, Fax (202) 456-2461.

Senators: Kay Bailey Hutchison (R), The Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or call (202) 224-5922, Fax (202) 224-0776; or write to Kay Bailey Hutchison, 1100 Commerce, Suite 7C14, Dallas, TX 75204.

Phil Gramm (R), 370 Russell Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 or call (202) 224-2934, Fax (202) 228-2856.

Representative: Larry Combest (R), District 19, 1511 Longworth Building, Washington D.C. 20515 or call 550-0743, Fax 550-0852.

Representative: Lamar Smith (R), District 21, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washing-

ton, D.C. 20515 or call (202) 225-4236, Fax (202) 225-8628; or 201 W. Wall Suite 104, Midland, Texas 79701, or call 687-5232, Fax 687-5234.

Representative: Henry Bonilla (R), District 23, 1529 Longworth, Washington, D.C., 20515 or call (202) 225-4511, Fax (202) 225-2237; or 4400 N. Big Spring, Suite 211, Midland, Texas 79705, or call 686-8833, Fax 686-8819.

Governor: George W. Bush (R), State Capitol Building, Austin, Texas 78701 or call (512) 463-2000, Fax (512) 463-1849.

State Senator: Teel Bivins (R), District 31, P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711 or call (512) 463-0131, Fax (512) 475-3733; or P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, Texas 79105 or call (806) 374-9933, Fax 806 374-4697; or P.O. Box 1673, Midland, Texas 79702, 682-0455, Fax (915) 694-7843.

State Representative: Tom Craddick (R), District 82, 408 W. Wall St., Midland, Texas 79701 or call 682-3000, Fax 684-4864.

ART BUCHWALD

Poor little clones who have gone astray — ba, ba, ba

The biggest news to hit the world is that man can now clone sheep. Economically speaking, you will soon be able to go

to your local Safeway and buy two legs of lamb for the price of one. But the next step is a little more frightening. If it is now possible to clone sheep, it won't be long before they can clone human beings — and not everyone is sure this is such a good idea.

My friend, Jack Keyes, worries about everything, and he said, "There's not one person on earth that I would like to see two of."

"Not even Michael Jordan? Just think how exciting it would be if you had a dozen Michael Jordans running around a basketball court." Jack disagreed, "It wouldn't be exciting at

all. One Michael Jordan is a big deal — two is too much.

"Besides, how could any team afford more than one Jordan?"

Jack saw great dangers in cloning. "Suppose I was able to get some of Madonna's DNA and I produced hundreds of Evitas, all of them singing 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina.' It would drive the movie business crazy."

I said, "I don't think they will clone just anyone, Jack. They'll be discreet. Suppose the Democratic National Committee decided to clone contributors to their political fund drives. They could take one businessman from China and produce hundreds of donors just like him."

Jack said, "I thought they were doing that already. My fear is that there will be a stampede to open up labs and the nuts will start producing weirdos by the dozen."

"There is something to that," I admitted, "but think of all the top-flight reproductions we could get — Newt Gingrich, Ken Starr, Alfonse D'Amato."



BUCHWALD

"They're all Republicans."

"The more clones, the merrier," I said, keeping my fingers crossed. "Jack, it's too late to turn back."

"What will be will be." "Don't be funny. This is serious business. If God wanted more than one of a kind he would have created look-alike hockey teams."

"I'm sorry I spoke in jest, but I'm just as scared as you. We now have to worry about bad guys being cloned because some people consider them good guys. For example, suppose Castro perfected the technique and started producing thousands of bearded look-alikes, who all smoked cigars?"

"The U.S. would have to respond by creating thousands of male Citadel graduates."

Jack and I agreed that the human race was in for it.

We both began to sing, "We're poor little lambs that have gone astray — if we don't get enough DNA."

Art Buchwald's column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

More

LOUISVILLE, ing at its highest ation, the Ohio more towns up a from Louisville or slow-motion disas let up until next v

Towering flood Kentucky's large river, which roiled flood stage. It w towns along the most vulnerable that weren't goin

"All we can do one to tell us 'You home,'" said Sue she waited in a c fleeing her trailer West Point, 30 mi

But the water n down, it rose so l that it swamped of the town of 1,2 people who did refused to leave.

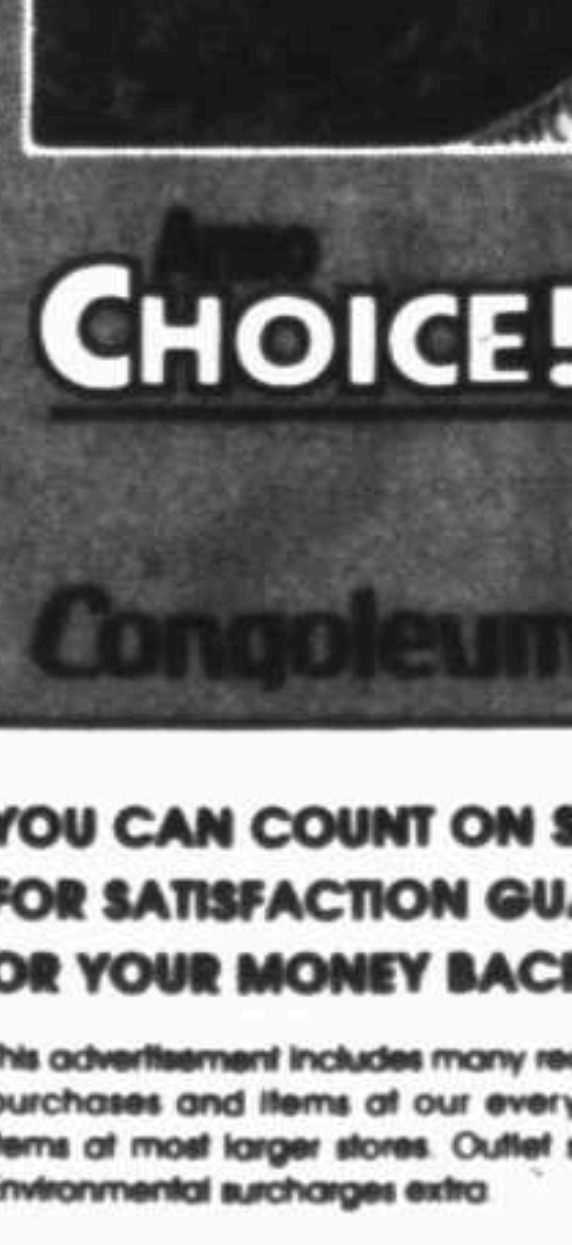
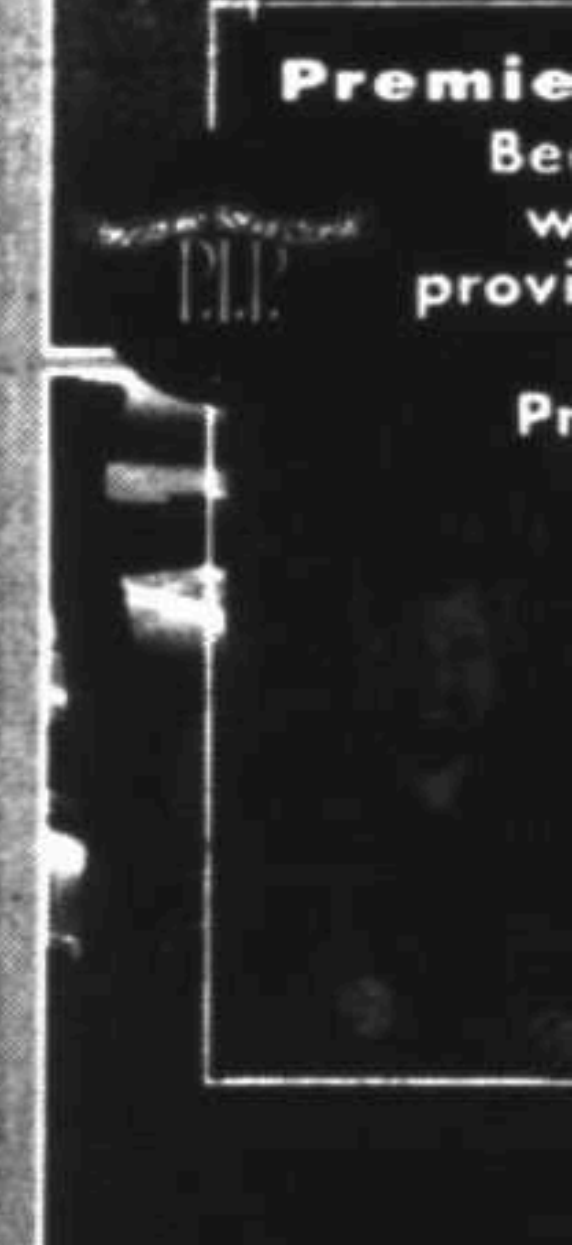
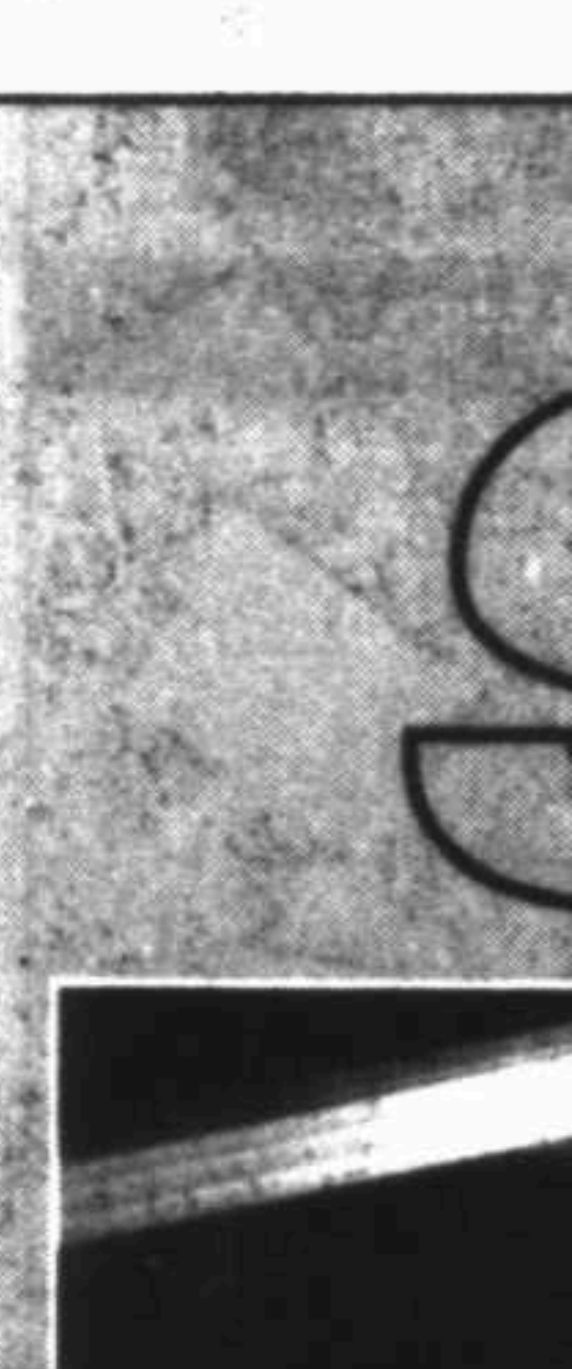
Ms. Colomb and mother took only carry when they week — a TV, VC do game and some freezer.

They put their b on kitchen chair bathroom sink trailers standing after day, they w will even have a h ing back to.

"It will never was," Ms. Colomb

Like a big bat water running, t was constantly l runoff from a foot weekend. Another rain Wednesday d

"It's kind of situ National Weather ogist Mike Callahan



More towns flooded by rising Ohio river

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Raging at its highest level in a generation, the Ohio River swamped more towns up and downstream from Louisville on Wednesday in a slow-motion disaster that may not let up until next week.

Towering flood walls protected Kentucky's largest city from the river, which roiled 14 feet above flood stage. It was the low-lying towns along the river that were most vulnerable to flood waters that weren't going away.

"All we can do is wait for someone to tell us 'You folks can all go home,'" said Sue Colomb, 30, as she waited in a church shelter after fleeing her trailer in the town of West Point, 30 miles down river.

But the water not only didn't go down, it rose so high Wednesday that it swamped roads in and out of the town of 1,200, stranding 60 people who didn't get out or refused to leave.

Ms. Colomb and her 63-year-old mother took only what they could carry when they left earlier this week — a TV, VCR, their Nintendo game and some meat from their freezer.

They put their bed and couch up on kitchen chairs, tables and a bathroom sink. But with their trailers standing in water day after day, they wondered if they will even have a home worth coming back to.

"It will never be the way it was," Ms. Colomb said.

Like a big bath tub with the water running, the Ohio River was constantly being filled by runoff from a foot of rain over the weekend. Another quarter inch of rain Wednesday didn't help.

"It's kind of sitting there," said National Weather Service hydrologist Mike Callahan. "It's going to

be a very slow fall. ... It might drift up a little bit."

In fact, the Ohio is expected to crest Friday a half foot higher in Louisville, where it reached 37.8 feet on Wednesday. That's worrisome news to evacuees, who wondered when they would ever get back to their homes, and raised the fear they could be in for another round of flooding.

The flood-prone town of Shepherdsville, 20 miles south of Louisville, is just now cleaning up from floods that swamped 90 percent of its downtown and forced 1,000 people to be taken out by boat. It is on the Salt River, which feeds into the Ohio, and many townsfolk fear they could get another dose of flooding when the Ohio crests.

"The old-timers say once the river leaves it doesn't come back — but we don't know," added Jack Porter, 27, as he helped clean out a downtown bank where floodwaters had been chest-high.

"All we're doing is hoping and waiting, hoping the Ol' Ohio doesn't throw us some more backwater," said Butch Sweat, a farmer in nearby Lebanon Junction. His two-story house, partly built with logs in 1865, had water up to the ceiling of the second floor. In much of the town, the only way to get around was by boat.

In Tell City, Ind., residents thought their town was safely protected by a 20-foot high concrete flood wall, until the river began gurgling from the ground behind the wall Tuesday night. Water was shooting through by Wednesday, and more than 120,000 sandbags were thrown into place by an army of National Guard soldiers, state prisoners and even schoolgirls.

In the hard-hit town of Fal-



Robert Landers uses a boat to move between a flooded tractor and pickup truck to tow it with Wednesday in Louisville, Ky. A resident along Louisville's River Road, Landers said he had six feet of water in his basement.

mouth, rooftop-high floodwaters finally receded to reveal homes off their foundations and sitting in the middle of streets. Everything was covered in coffee-colored muck — including the bodies of four more victims.

That put the death toll at five in the town of 2,700, where Vice President Al Gore was forced to cancel a tour after fog grounded his helicopter. Firefighters set up a temporary morgue and went about the grim task of searching house-by-house for more victims.

"I am praying that's all we've got," said police officer Ed Ward. "But I don't think it will be."

The floods already had forced thousands of people from their homes along the Ohio and smaller streams in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. Floods and tornadoes were blamed for a

total of 55 deaths.

The Kentucky National Guard ordered 1,100 Guardsmen into 25 of the state's hardest-hit counties. Humvees splashed through the streets of West Point, as guardsmen kept watch over the vacant homes and those stranded by the flood.

One man rowed his half-sinking fishing boat and some simply stood on their porches and watched the flood waters rise.

"They're mesmerized and hypnotized by the horror," said military police officer Ernest Jackson. "They're numb from all the devastation."

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SEARS

Government pays for bogus health care

A Medicare administrator estimates that one-quarter of all home health claims may be fraudulent.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The home health care visits were never needed, never authorized and never made. That didn't stop a Florida company from billing Medicare \$26 million.

It's just one of many tales of fraud in home health care, a skyrocketing program that cost Medicare \$18 billion in 1996, up more than 500 percent since 1990.

Now, the Clinton administration and Congress are struggling to eliminate what auditors call "significant fraud," coupled with a payment system that exercises virtually no control over costs.

In the case of St. Johns Home Health Agency of Miami Lakes, Fla., the government says 75 percent of 1993 claims were for visits never made, or for visits to people who were not homebound or whose doctors had not authorized the expense, as Medicare requires.

Nationally, about one-fourth of home health claims may be spurious, said Bruce Vladeck, administrator of the federal office that runs Medicare.

"Most of the erroneous claims are for care that simply is not necessary — that occurs solely for the purpose of earning money for the agency," Vladeck told a House subcommittee Wednesday.

Medicare pays for up to 35 hours

of "medically necessary" visits to the homebound elderly each week. Nurses and therapists bring skilled care, and home health aides help with daily activities like getting in and out of bed and using the toilet.

In theory, this saves money by keeping people out of more expensive hospitals and nursing homes. In reality, costs have spiraled.

Agencies are paid for each visit they make, and for as many as they make, giving them an incentive to continue care whether or not it's needed. Doctors are supposed to approve treatment, but — even if they authorize it in the first place — they usually don't check back to see if it should continue.

Medicare patients pay nothing toward the cost of care, so they have no reason to limit it.

Some agencies manage to provide sufficient care with relatively few visits, and it's not because they are caring for healthier patients, according to a government inspector general.

Rather, investigators found, for-profit home health agencies billed more visits than nonprofits did. And for some unexplained reason, agencies in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia averaged 100 visits a patient while the rest of the country averaged 54 visits.

In addition, health maintenance organizations, which work to control costs, spent only one-fourth the amount spent on patients in the traditional program, in which Medicare pays bills one by one.

The industry does not deny there is some fraud, but government estimates are overblown, said Eric

Sokol of the National Association for Home Care. He said there is no way to accurately estimate the amount.

Other factors contribute to home care's growth, he noted, including an aging population and shorter hospital stays.

In 1990, there were 5,656 home health agencies participating in Medicare; by 1996, more than 9,800.

Meanwhile, the government screens very few claims before paying bills. And it does virtually no on-site visits to check work, according to a recent General Accounting Office report, the latest in a series of critical reports.

"Most claims are paid without question," GAO, Congress' investigative arm, concluded last year.

Most people, including the elderly, believe health care fraud is a major problem, according to a survey to be released Thursday by the American Association for Retired Persons, which plans to launch an education campaign.

Ninety-three percent of Americans blame fraud for rising health costs and believe it is a major

problem, the survey found.

Hoping to weed out the worst providers, the Clinton administration on Wednesday proposed rules requiring agencies to conduct criminal background checks on home aides.

The rules, aimed at improving quality, would require agencies to give staffs feedback and to coordinate care for each patient. Agencies would also have to report a patient's condition using a standardized system, making it easier for inspectors to check.

But such ideas do not address the long-term problem. In his budget, President Clinton promised to develop a system that would set payments in advance, removing day-by-day charges that run up bills.

Congress needs to develop a better system this year, said Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the Ways and Means health subcommittee.

"Clearly," he said, "anything is better than what we've got now."

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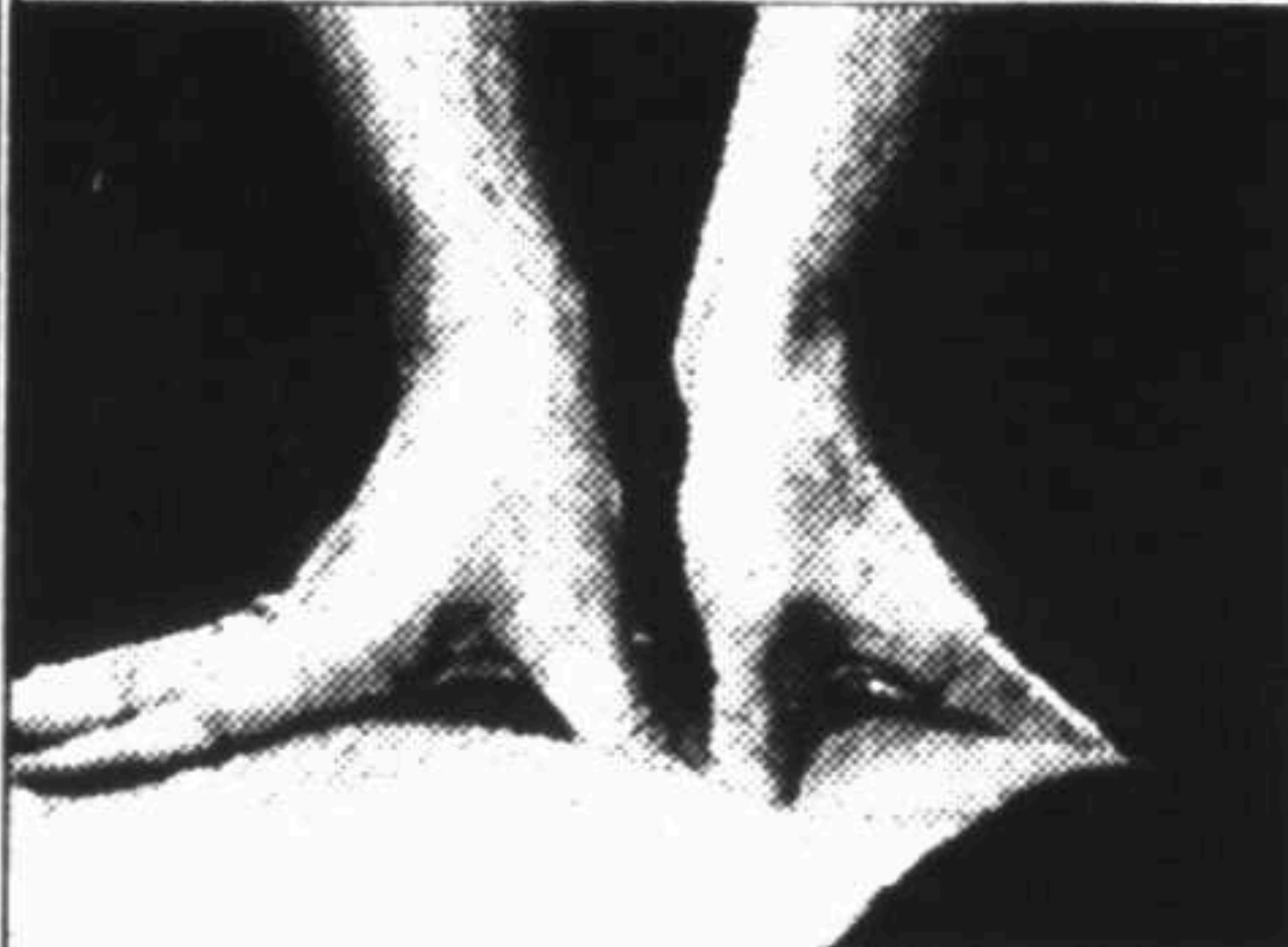
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Former employee says Avis wouldn't rent cars to Jews

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Sales agents at Avis Rent-A-Car's world reservation center in Tulsa, Okla., refused to rent to ultra-Orthodox Jews and used the code word "yeshiva" in referring to them, a former employee says.

"Telesales agents were instructed by supervisors to identify which customers applying for corporate accounts were 'yeshivas,'" Elaine

Rodgers, who spent 5 1/2 years in sales and customer service at the Tulsa center, said in a sworn statement.

A yeshiva is a Jewish religious school.

Rodgers left Avis in July. Her statement was filed Monday in federal court in Raleigh as part of a discrimination lawsuit filed earlier against the nation's second-largest rental car company.

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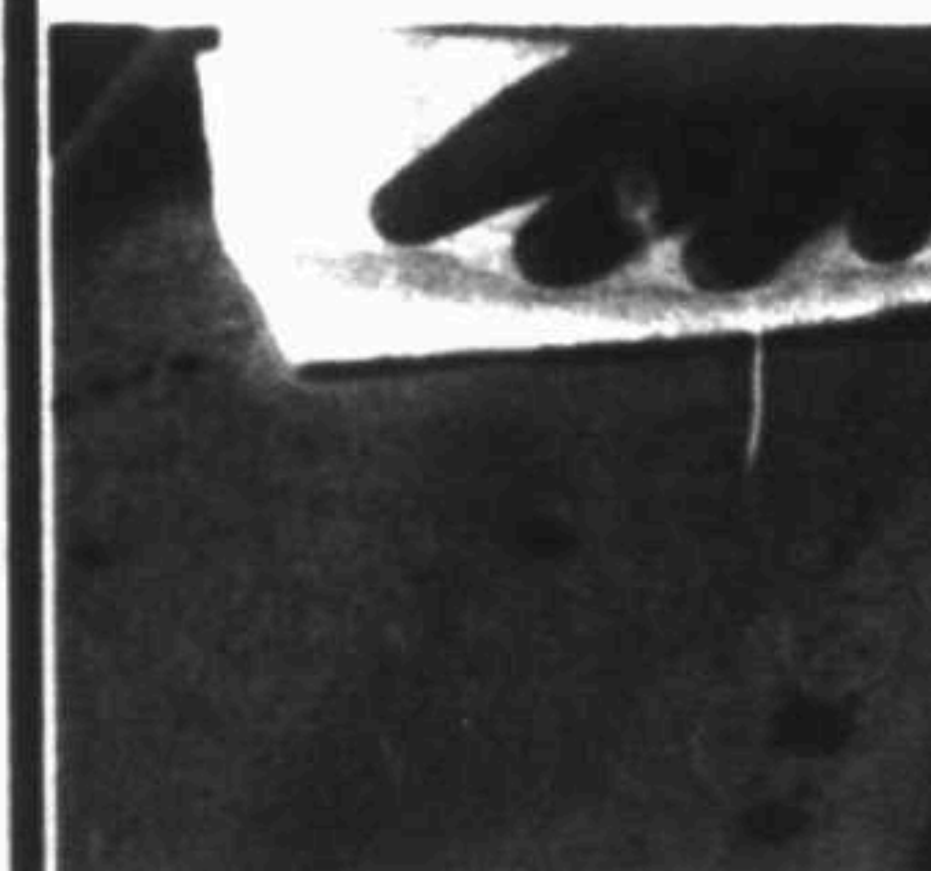
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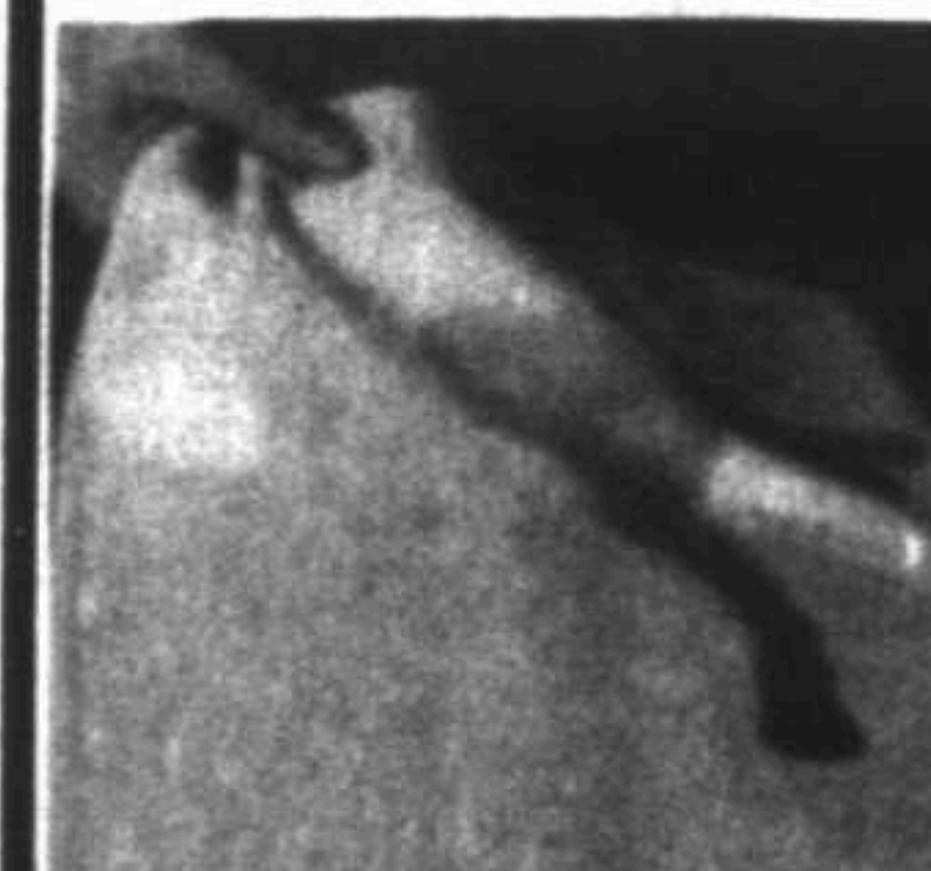
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BASIN BRIEFING

Lanes closed

Thermoplastic pavement markings are to be placed on State Highway 349 from Stokes Street, just north of Interstate 20, to County Road 140 beginning today if weather permits. Turning lanes at each intersection along SH 349 will be closed briefly while the material is put down, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Arts reception

The opening reception for Midland Arts Association Spring Show is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Museum of the Southwest. A minimum of \$2,500 in cash will be presented during the reception. The show will remain through April 13. The program is partially supported by the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Arts Assembly of Midland. The public is invited to attend. Call the show chairwomen, Jan Williams, 699-6812, or Ann McCoy, 694-8434, for more information.

Exhibit held

ODESSA — An exhibit of artwork by area artists Jeree Barnett and Jean Johnson, both of Odessa, and Midlander Mary Lou Holbrook is being held at the Mellie Van Horn's Historic Inn. A reception and sale is set for 4 to 7 p.m. today. The work may be viewed through March 16.

Tracks closing

In order to provide for uninterrupted practice time for track team students, and for the safety of the public, Midland Independent School District is closing the tracks at Memorial Stadium and Lee High School will be closed to the public from 2:30-6 p.m. weekdays until further notice.

Routier custody

DALLAS — Judge Charyl Shannon on Wednesday awarded permanent custody of 16-month-old Drake Routier to his paternal grandparents, Leonard and Sarilda Routier of Lubbock. Shannon also granted unlimited unsupervised visitation to Drake's father, Darin Routier.

Story 3B

Virtual Aggies

COLLEGE STATION — Animated ants marching across the movie screen and cinematic Martians ray-gunning for Earthlings have a secret force behind them. Aggies.

Story 3B

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.

Survivors Group for Sexual Abuse, Rape, Incest Victims, 6 p.m., Glenwood Hospital, 3300 South FM 1788, 563-1200.

Flatlanders Toastmasters Club, Chevron Building, 15 Smith Road, 11:30 a.m., 687-7286.

LOOPS, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 550-LOOP.

Hearts Alive, 7 p.m., medical staff room at Memorial Hospital, 684-3745.

Project ADAM, (Alternatives to Domestic Assault for Men) - Support group, 6:30-9:00 p.m., 689-8428 or 520-0277.

Toastmasters, Permian Club, noon, Permian Basin Graduate Center, 684-0044.

Novice duplicate bridge, Allison Bridge Center, 7 p.m., 682-4461. East Side Lions, 8 p.m., Los Enriquez, 1401B N. Lamesa Road.

Optimist Club of Midland, noon, Best Western Sidewalk Cafe. Bereavement Support group, 7 p.m., Hospice of Odessa, Texas Commerce Bank, fourth floor, 332-1431, 332-0991.

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Local administrator earns top honor

MHMC's Rubin granted 'Fellow' status by health-care executives

By Gary Shanks
Staff Writer

Harold Rubin, president of Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, was recently recognized as one of the top hospital administrators in the country.

During the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) 1997 Congress on Healthcare Management in Chicago, Rubin was granted "Fellow" status, the highest level of professional achievement in the organization.

"It's the highest recognition within this society," said Rubin, who was honored in Chicago for his achievements.

He had previously been honored with "Ambassador" status within ACHE, an international professional society representing more than 30,000 health-care executives.

To determine who will receive fellowships, the ACHE looks at the body of work done by a potential fellow, including such things as community service and case studies and other projects that increase the knowledge base of the organization as a whole.

To obtain fellow status, members must demonstrate their education, experience and leadership in the health-care field over a period of several years, MHMC Public Relations Director Laurie Johnson said.

Rubin joined MHMC in 1985 as senior vice-president and was later named to the position of president and

chief executive officer in 1991. He came to Midland after serving as senior vice-president for operations at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Rubin began his career in the medical field as a pharmacist, having received his degree from the University of Oklahoma. He later received a doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Michigan in 1972.

He also served in the U.S. Army Medical Services Corps in Yokohama, Japan.

The ACHE is dedicated to improving the quality of health care by promoting excellence in health-care management, Ms. Johnson explained.

Nationwide, about 2,800 hospital or other health-care executives have been granted Fellow status throughout the history of the ACHE.



MC campus fire

Midland Fire Department Capt. Russell Brooks contains the spread of a grass fire Wednesday afternoon at Midland College. Dry, windy conditions contributed to the spread of the blaze. No buildings were damaged in the fire. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Kes Gilhorne/Reporter-Telegram

Trinity unveils desert habitat on campus

■ Science studies to utilize area, which combines pond, native grasses, wildlife in micro-environments.

By Myra Lee Salcedo
Staff Writer

Bats, lizards, turtles and martins, oh my.

Trinity School students danced around the edge of the school's pond and waist-high grassy mounds searching for desert creatures Wednesday morning as the campus' native plant habitat was unveiled.

Six years in the making, the grassy area is a visual surprise for visitors to the school who round the corner of science classrooms to see a wildlife area with small mounds, trails, and insects skipping across the surface of the green pond.

The only thing missing was Texas General Land Commissioner Garry Mauro. Scheduled to present an environmental grant to the private school, his plane was forced to land in San Angelo because of a minor problem.

Despite Mauro's absence, Trinity was a hub of activity and excitement as visitors and students inspected the habitat that drew local and state attention.

Natural rock — picked up from sites south of Midland — bordered the pond and tufts of water plants, cat tails and reeds rise above its surface. The greenish water is somewhat murky, but clear enough for youngsters to see to the bottom.

"The pond was built in a natural flood zone," said Trinity parent Lynda Webb. "It's really amazing. You can stand in the center here and see several different micro-environments."

Ms. Webb said science curriculum will be developed that incorporates lessons involving the habitat.

Of Midland's semi-arid grassy desert land, Ms. Webb said, "People sometimes see wild areas in Midland as wasteland. But it has a subtle beauty and is a very valuable and beautiful resource."

Trinity spokesman Floyd James said that Burr Williams, local environmental expert and director of Sibley Learning Center, was instrumental in helping gather native plants and establish the area.

Please see HABITAT/2B

Conference to focus on protection of water

By Gary Shanks
Staff Writer

Ways to protect and improve the quality of drinking water at the local level is to be the topic of an upcoming community workshop sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Midland.

"Tools for Drinking Water Protection" is a combination of a broadcast video conference of national experts and a local forum with a panel of experts from around the Permian Basin, explained Donna Robertson, vice president of community relations for the League of Women Voters of Midland.

The workshop is to begin at 1 p.m. March 19 at First United Methodist Church, Main Street and Ohio Avenue. The 90-minute broadcast is scheduled to begin 1:30 p.m.; the local forum is set for

3 p.m.

"The purpose of this program is to stimulate discussion on methods for protecting drinking water at the local level," Ms. Robertson said.

The broadcast portion will cover regulatory and non-regulatory tools for preventing pollution of drinking water sources.

Successful water-protection programs from around the United States will be highlighted in the broadcast portion of the program, which will highlight strategies that can be adopted for implementation at the local level.

Topics to be covered include: land-use decisions, monitoring programs for sensitive areas, public education and awareness programs, management of contaminant sources, contingency planning, locating funding for water-quality efforts

and building a consensus within the community for water protection efforts.

The nationwide video link will allow the panel to answer questions from across the country.

The local forum will include representatives from the cities of Midland and Odessa; educators from Midland and Odessa colleges and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin; an environmental expert; and a representative from the judicial system.

The panel will first answer questions posed by members of the League of Women Voters and then the floor will be opened up to questions from the audience.

The workshop is open to the public and is free of charge.

Funding for the video workshop portion

Please see WATER/2B

Linebarger running for seat on MISD board of trustees

By Myra Lee Salcedo
Staff Writer

A proponent of parent involvement in the schools, Karen Linebarger, is running for election as school board trustee in District 3.

She and Midland College employee Terry Dummer are vying for the position currently held by trustee Jack Hightower. High-

tower is not seeking re-election.

Listening to school board trustees trying to work 12 hours' worth of architectural interviews into their agendas — in order to select architects for upcoming school renovations — at a recent school board meeting, Ms. Linebarger was undaunted by the time commitment involved in serving Midland public schools.

"Fortunately, I have the time," she said. "And it's something I want to do."

The native Midlander attended Bonham Elementary, Alamo Junior High and Lee High School

Please see CANDIDATE/2B



Linebarger



Mariachi madness

Diana Gomez entertained kindergartners and first-graders at Long Elementary School Wednesday afternoon with mariachi songs as part of the "March Music Madness" program.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Ed Todd

Method of discipline, punishment a difficult choice to make

The boy moped into the principal's office under the prodding of his teacher.

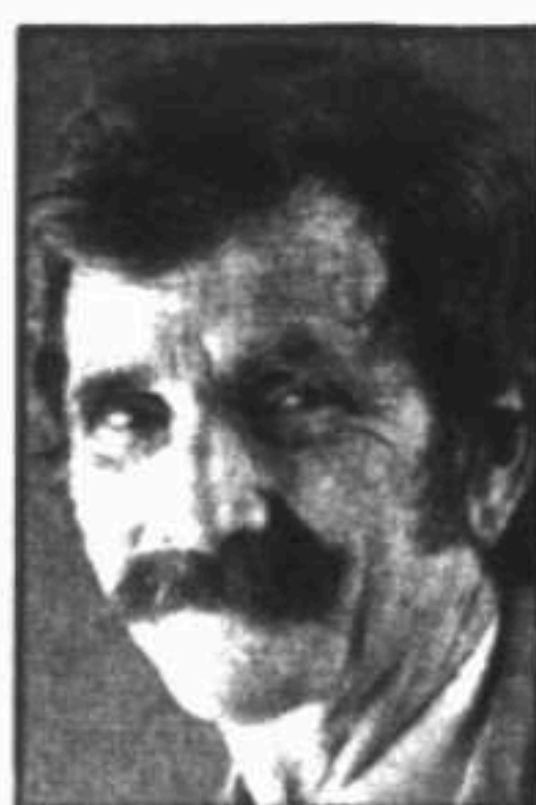
There was great reluctance in his gait down the hallway's familiar path.

"How come I'm always the one who gets picked on?" the lad complained.

He had plopped down in the straight chair, feet dangling, bottom lip puckering, young face frowning, voice moaning.

"Now, Hunter," the teacher said in an effort to bring reason and order to the child's mind and behavior, "acting that way isn't going to make the matter any better."

He continued to fret.



Todd

"How come I always get in trouble?" he pleaded. "I didn't do anything wrong."

His analysis of the situation invited the teacher's critique.

"Hunter," she addressed the boy, "you know very well that you spat on that little girl."

He knew he was cornered.

"Yes," he admitted. "But I wasn't the only one."

How come I'm always the one who gets caught?"

Well, what happened next was left to the crucial discernment of the teacher, the principal, the parents, and the lad himself as he, in years to come, reflects on that time and other times in which he "got caught."

That instance, which recently occurred in Midland, surely happens again and again in schools worldwide. (The boy's name was invented to protect no one in particular.)

The child who has not experienced the discipline of the paddle at school and the razor strap at home is missing the crack sharpness of the rod and kindly but stern lessons in life, or else he or she is fairer than Virtue and has no need of such a memorable event.

In reflection, you may wonder, "Which is the more severe: the sharp tongue or the crack of the whip?"

Indeed, which is the more effective in correcting the behavior of an errant child: A moment of reason in an exchange of dialogue or reason enforced by a memorable event and its lingering aftershock?

Whatever the course, rectification ultimately is the parents' — the caretakers' — choice and duty under the guidance of prudent mentors and the admonishments of the Proverbs and life's great teachers.

Ed Todd is a staff writer for the Reporter-Telegram.

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POLICE REPORTS

Warrant issued

Judge John Hyde of the 238th District issued a warrant Tuesday for Jose Luis Rojero, 42, who failed to appear for his trial on Monday.

Rojero was to be tried on a charge of aggravated assault of an 11-year-old girl in 1994, Hyde said.

Rojero, thought to be hiding in Marfa, had been released from Midland County Detention Center on \$20,000 bond.



Rojero

Rig collapse

Five people were injured, three seriously, after a drilling rig collapsed Tuesday morning about six miles southwest of Kermit.

James Kirby, 31, Robert McBride, 27, David Nunez, 34 were all listed in stable condition. The other two were treated and released at the scene, David Watson, deputy sheriff said.

The rig collapsed as the crew was about to run cement casing into the well bore.

"It tumbled sideways, jack-knifed and fell onto the platform," Watson said.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Texas Railroad Commission are investigating the cause of the collapse.

Midland Police Department Tuesday

Theft: A report was made at 3904 W. Wall St. by Hampton Inn at 2:34 p.m.

Theft: A license plate was taken at 4301 Harlowe Court, reported Sherry Trimble at 3:01 p.m.

Theft: A report was made at 601 N. Loraine St. by Kelly Baxter at 3:15 p.m.

Theft: A report was made at 3215 Travis Ave. by Karen Anderson at 3:43 p.m.

Sexual assault: A report involving two teen-agers, one under 17, was made in central west Midland at 4:24 p.m.

Vandalism: A window was broken at 4511 N. Midkiff Road, reported Lora Reyes at 5:58 p.m.

Theft: A computer was taken at 516 N. Loop 250 W., reported Jill Blake at 7:12 p.m.

Wednesday Vandalism: A vehicle window was broken at 2817 Haynes Drive, reported Maryann Mansour at 8:08 a.m.

Burglary of a building: A television, microwave and computer were taken at 1007 N. Fairgrounds Road, reported T. Bob Amthor at 7:55 a.m.

Burglary of a vehicle: Cash was taken at 2800 Maxwell Drive, reported Riordan Hartzog at 9:12 a.m.

Auto theft: A 1996 Pontiac Firebird was taken at 2600 W. Loop 250 N., reported Stan B. riga at 11:28 a.m.

Vandalism: A vehicle window was broken at 912 N. Midkiff Road, reported Diana Franco at 12:22 p.m.

Anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the Police Department at 685-7108 or Crime Stoppers at 694-TIPS.

OBITUARY



Shannon Sherri Lea

Shannon Sherri Lea of Phoenix, Arizona, died at a local

hospital on Tuesday, March 4, 1997. She was in town visiting her father, Jerry J. Lea Sr.

Shannon was the granddaughter of longtime Midlanders, Preston and Helen Lea, Jr. and Tom and Dolores Rasmussen, and the great-granddaughter of Leone & Alton Bentsen of Mission, Texas. She was a student at Arizona State University.

Shannon is survived by her father, Jerry J. Lea Sr. of Midland; her mother Lana C. Lea-Donato, of Santa Fe, New Mexico; a sister, Karrie Lea Moorhouse of Albuquerque, New Mexico; two brothers, Jerry J. Lea, Jr. of Santa Fe and Joseph J. Lea of Midland; a nephew, John Clark Moorhouse of Albuquerque; her grandmothers, Helen H. Lea of Austin, Texas, and Jacque Bentsen Hall of McAllen, Texas; two uncles, Brett Lea and Tommy Ras-

mussen; three aunts, Linda Lea Nalle, Jina Rasmussen Joss, and Candy Rasmussen; and a great-aunt and great-uncle, Helen & Tommy Bentsen of Mission, Texas.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Permi-an Basin Center For Battered Women & Their Children, P.O. Box 2942, Midland, Texas 79702.

Pallbearers will be Floyd Braaten, Lea Crump, Will Crump, Brett Lea, Clark Lea, and Tommy Rasmussen.

Funeral services have been set for Thursday, March 6, 1997, at 1 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity with the Rev. Stockton Williams officiating. Interment will be at Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

DEATH NOTICES

Lester S. Bankhead

MONAHANS — Lester S. Bankhead, 68, of Monahans, father of Midlander Carla Woods, died Tuesday, March 4, at an Odessa Hospital.

Services are to be at 2 p.m., Friday, March 7, at Harkey Funeral Home in Monahans with Gordon Cox officiating. Burial is to be at Monahans Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Harkey Funeral Home.

He was born Nov. 1, 1928, in Franklin County.

He was a Baptist. He married Robbie Nevia Morgan on Aug. 23, 1947.

Other survivors include his wife of Monahans; a son, Lester S. Bankhead III of Imperial; two other daughters, Zondra Diehl of Monahans and Donna Wilson of Hobbs, N.M.; two sisters, Rebecca Nelson and Dorothy Messer, both of Pittsburg, Texas; 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren

William H. Ligon

AUSTIN — Former Midlander William H. "Bill" Ligon, 73, of Austin, died Tuesday, March 4, in Austin.

Services are to be noon today, March 6, at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Masoleum Chapel in Austin. Arrangements are under the direction of Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills Funeral Home in Austin.

He was born Aug. 8, 1923 in Little Rock, Ark.

He was executive director for the Texas Service Station Association for more than 30 years, was involved in the Service Station Dealers of America, National Trade Association for the petroleum retailing industry, and was a member of the Gasoline Marketing Advisory Committee of the Federal Energy Administration. He lived in Midland from 1952 to 1967

and established Ligon Tool Co.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Rosalie Ligon of Austin; three sons, W. Austin Ligon of Naperville, Ill.; Reid B. Ligon of Richmond, Va.; and Scott F. Ligon of Washington, D.C.; a daughter, Rosalie B.H. Gray of Paris, Texas; and nine grandchildren.

John D. Hurst

RANKIN — John D. "Johnnie" Hurst, 78, of Rankin, died Monday, March 3, at a San Angelo hospital.

Services are to be at 11 a.m. today, March 6, at First Baptist Church in Rankin with the Rev. Jim Medley and Bill Spencer officiating. Burial is to be at Rankin Cemetery under the direction of Richard W. Box Funeral Home in Crane.

He was born Aug. 23, 1918, in Ozona.

He was a bank vice president before retiring in 1982. He was a

Obituary & Death Notice policy

There is no charge for death notices of residents or former residents of Midland or for those who have Midland relatives. We also publish death notices for residents of the surrounding West Texas area.

Free death notices include date and place of death, service and burial information, funeral home handling arrangements, date and place of birth, brief biography, survivors and memorials. A longer, more detailed obituary is available for a charge. It may include tributes, expanded biography, organizational affiliations, notes of appreciation, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and a photo.

Deadline for both free death notices and paid obituaries is 4:30 p.m. and information must be either received from or verified by a funeral home.

member of First Baptist Church in Rankin, Masonic Lodge Oil City Lodge No. 1256. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Survivors include two sisters, Jackie Trainer of Seguin and Evelyn Wheeler of Brady; and a son, Lonnie Ferrell of Arlington.

Margie Honey

Margie Honey, 77, died Tuesday, March 4 at a local nursing home.

Services are to be at 2 p.m. today, March 6, at Andrews Old Cemetery with the Rev. A.E. Smikal officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of McNett Funeral Home in Andrews.

She had worked at Buddy's Restaurant before retiring. She lived in Andrews from 1957 to 1994, when she moved to Midland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dick Honey.

Survivors include many nieces and nephews.

HABITAT: More wildlife to live in Trinity School natural area

(From 1B)

"We really started five or six years ago looking for a low place or a well," Williams said. "We also started off planting buffalo grass and have had some good crops of bluebonnets."

Williams said Trinity teacher Jack Hickman added other grass seeds and 20 to 30 different types of trees, shrubs and a turtle. "We have tried to introduce tadpoles but have not got any good populations breeding," Williams said. "There are some gambusia, or mosquitofish, and all sorts of aquatic insects."

Williams said there have also been some surprises in the habitat. "It's kind of remarkable, but a couple of things not seen in Midland County have shown up. A type of shrub seen in New Mexico, the baccharis, has sprung up. It may have been brought in with some dirt. There is also a sagebrush seen in Amarillo that has come up."

More creatures are due to arrive to Trinity's native area when the pond is filled with fish in April and bat houses are constructed.

Ms. Webb, recycling chairman for Trinity's parent association, and former director of the Keep Odessa Beautiful program, said she did not expect the bats to be a problem for nearby residents.

"We've already got the bats here. We will just be giving them a home and we will also construct a home for martins," she said.

Williams said he didn't see the bat houses as being a nuisance. "They may attract about 10 to 20 Mexican free-tail bats. There are probably that many around town already. They migrate a lot like birds and it would be a good opportunity to document the types migrating through here. We don't have any local reference on that."

All sorts of desert creatures are calling Trinity's natural habitat home. The multi-habitat area, complete with high plains grass, and cacti has attracted some insects and reptiles. Trinity youngsters also have a tendency to gravitate toward the pond between classes and after school. "Kids can't help but come out to look at

the pond. They have such a tremendous respect for the micro-environments," Ms. Webb said.

During Wednesday's unveiling, H-E-B's vice manager Bob Robinson presented Trinity Head of School Peggy Simmons with a \$660 environmental grant award. "We've enjoyed working with our closest neighbor. We take a lot of pride in Trinity," Robinson said. The grant was offered by H-E-B through the land commissioner's office.

Andrews High School also received a grant to test rain runoff in Andrews and analyze pollution levels from lead and oil and its effect on the area's water sources.

Trinity and AHS were two of 37 schools in the state to receive grants in the statewide Texas Environmental Challenge, which is financed by H-E-B.

James said Hickman has been developing the native plant area since 1990.

"We used to have a greenhouse and vegetable garden out here," James said, noting the greenhouse was removed when a wing of science classes were added in 1990. "Then this area began taking shape. We gathered the stone for the pond in the summer of 1992 and really started establishing the habitat."

Williams said he has seen Trinity's habitat change from a short-grass area to a tall-grass area. In order to encourage bluebonnets and other flowers to grow, he said some sections should be cut back.

Ms. Webb said there are lots of plans in store for the native plant area. "Students can witness the seasonal changes and learn to recognize native plants they see along road sides. Right now we have many plants dormant that will come up in spring."

"Students will also travel to the Chihuahuan Desert Institute — on a trip in May — to get more plants," she said. "It's very unusual to get a grant to develop a desert habitat. It's a great experience for kids to get out here and actually get some hands-on experience with digging in the dirt and observing. There is a real geological mix out here."

House panel examines property tax changes

AUSTIN (AP) — A House committee began considering late Wednesday a plan to reduce local residential property taxes for schools to 50 cents per \$100 valuation and to eliminate all homestead exemptions.

The plan was before the House Select Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding, which is considering Gov. George W. Bush's proposal to cut property taxes. However, the plan was not voted on and has not been formally adopted.

Currently, the average local

school property tax is about \$1.40 per \$100 of valuation. All homeowners get a \$5,000 homestead exemption, senior citizens get a rate freeze at age 65 and retired veterans also get a break.

Some lawmakers questioned whether they would be able to get rid of all exemptions, a move that would require a statewide vote.

The 50-cent rate with no exemptions would bring in \$3.8 billion a year.

Local residential property taxes currently bring in \$7.4 billion. That would be a cut of \$3.6 billion,

or 49 percent.

All local property taxes bring in about \$10 billion a year.

Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, said even if lawmakers agreed to a 50-cent residential rate with no exemptions, opponents would lock in on the elimination of the exemptions and would use that to "scare (voters) to death."

Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson and committee chairman, said if the panel can come up with a fair plan, other lawmakers and voters would approve it.

"There's enough people with

enough courage to vote on this thing is we solve the problem," he said.

The plan also contains a \$1 per \$100 valuation tax on all other properties. Including money already spent on education by the state, the plan still would need \$8 billion to provide the \$38 billion in education spending planned for the 1998-99 state budget years.

The committee continued to look for a way to replace that money — currently collected by local governments — with a state source of money.

CANDIDATE: Linebarger stresses return to basics, parental role

(From 1B)

and now has a 12-year-old attending Crockett Elementary School.

Ms. Linebarger is actively involved in the schools as a volunteer and serves on several Parent Teacher Association boards, and has served on Campus Education Improvement committees and the District Education Improvement Committee. She was a parent representative to the Code of Conduct Committee last year.

"I am for the schools getting back to basics with parental involvement being a key factor," she said. "We need to be sure that all our students have the tools they need to either go to college or into the work force as a viable part of our society."

She said lowering the dropout rate "is essential in keeping kids out of trouble."

"To keep those children at risk in school is both the school system and the parents' responsibilities," Ms. Linebarger said. "Teachers have the responsibility to teach our children, but it is the parents' responsibility to be sure that their children are in school, so that the teachers can do their job. It is a combined effort."

In order to increase parental involvement, Ms. Linebarger has suggested that the school district set up a board telephone line for parents to call in and voice their opinions. "Since many citizens are unable to attend MISD board meetings, I think this could help. I feel that citizen input is essential," she said.

Ms. Linebarger said that if a fed-

eral judge approves a choice system for Midland, "then the school system must provide the best education possible in all schools regardless of location. We need to establish trust in the community. Kids and parents alike need continuity in their lives."

Her husband, Dan Linebarger, is

president of W.D.W. Operators Inc. Ms. Linebarger has worked in his business in the facets of accounting, payroll and budgeting.

If elected, Ms. Linebarger pledges to "try to make sure that our schools are sound academically and socially while maintaining a vigil toward financial

responsibility."

"It will take both the community and the school system working together to face the challenges our educational system encounters," she said.

Filing continues through March 19 to run in the May 3 election.

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WATER: Forum to air on KOCV

(From 1B)

of the forum has been granted to the League of Women Voters Education Fund by the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The video conference will be broadcast on KOCV, the local PBS affiliate.

The national portion of the conference will include Douglas Hall,

environmental manager for the city of Dayton, Ohio; Ken Lustig, director of environmental health for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Jon Whitten, project manager for Wellhead Protection Tools; and Bonnie Holtz, director of environmental health for several counties in Minnesota.

Serving as moderator for the event will be veteran broadcast journalist and media consultant Doris McMillon.

The community of friends who honored the precious memory of **Judge Robert H. "Bob" Pine** and who gave him comfort in his latter days is deeply appreciated.

—Earleen Pine, widow of the Judge

I'M NOT REALLY 50...
I'M JUST 5 PERFECT 10'S!
HAVE A HAPPY BIG 50,
RONALD E. REID!
MOM, DAD, JUDY & "J.J."



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Computer lab at A&M trains future Hollywood special effects artists

Originally designed for architectural students, Texas A&M's Visualization Lab now features animated ants and a virtual dog and graduates are headed to movie studios.

By Richard Stewart
Houston Chronicle

COLLEGE STATION — Animated ants marching across the movie screen and cinematic Martians ray-gunning for Earthlings have a secret force behind them.

Aggies. Eight years ago, the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University opened its Visualization Lab as the workshop for a special master's degree program. The lab would teach young architects how to create computerized models of the design projects they were working on.

But over the years, students created other things as well: a virtual dog for veterinary students, the computerized re-creation of a 200-year-old Danish barge for marine archaeologists, some advance work for the Republican Party's 1992 national convention in the Astrodome.

And now today, almost all of the program's 30 former students have turned their educations at the Viz Lab, as it is widely known, into lucrative careers in the movie industry. These computer jockeys churn out gigabytes of digital reality for Hollywood special effects.

"This isn't like work," said Randy Hammond, a Viz Lab product who is at work on the upcoming movie *Ants*, about an animated ant with Woody Allen's voice who rebels against the drudgery of his life. "It's so exciting to be part of something this creative."

Hammond, who is finishing up

his thesis, is on a team responsible for making sure the cartoon ants move like the real ones.

"When I go to the theater for the first time and see it," he said, "I know I'm just going to feel chills."

Hammond works at Pacific Data Images, one of several California and New York computer animation and special effects studios that has hired students of the Viz Lab. Also working on *Ants* is recent graduate Tom Pushpathadam.

Others from the A&M program work at places like Walt Disney CGI Group, Industrial Light & Magic Inc. and Blue Sky Studios Inc. Viz Lab veterans have worked on such films as *Twister*, *Mars Attacks*, *Jumanji* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

The link between College Station and Hollywood shouldn't seem odd, said Frederic Parke, director of the graduate program at A&M. Anyone who can build a shopping center, office building or residential community in a computer, he reasoned, can use the same skills to land Martians in Washington, D.C.

Once the movie makers made that connection, their demand for Viz Lab students posed an interesting problem. "The companies were hiring our students away before they finished the program," said Parke.

Graduate students, accustomed to struggling on tight budgets, were being offered starting salaries of \$50,000 or more to give up scholarship for videos.

Most current students are determined to complete their degrees before moving on, however, and finding a job when they finish probably won't be difficult. Recruiters flock to the lab every spring, and the program enjoys a 100 percent job placement rate.

"Viz Lab graduates are pretty much equipped to step right into

jobs in the industry without extensive training," said Pushpathadam.

That's partly because the lab uses state-of-the-art computers designed especially to produce graphics. The software is so new that students and faculty sometimes are still developing it.

The lab is deceptively drab: the computer center is a collection of terminals in a mainly gray and white room. Those machines become obsolete fast in the quickly evolving digital world, and computers that cost \$100,000 just a few years ago are now shuffled aside for newer models.

Some of the old consoles have been turned on their sides for an unglamorous retirement as end tables.

The homework assignments, too, can seem deceptively unambitious. A recent sampling included a bowl of apples that aren't really there, a decorative egg bathed in a spotlight, a forest that doesn't exist in nature and a cathedral built only in the mind's eye.

But making those stills on computer requires a lot more work than taking a picture of something that already exists.

Moving from there to video is even more time-consuming. Even the fast computers at the lab can take two hours to create one video frame, said current student John Ferguson. And there are 1,800 frames in a minute of video.

Students use computers on a first-come basis, and sometimes hit the lab at odd hours so they can use more than one machine to hurry projects along.

The graphics take so long because the computers are often called upon to do much more than just draw scenes, Ferguson said. To create a tree in one of his project scenes, he said, he didn't just tell the computer how to draw a tree. He created a program that, in effect, told the computer how a

tree grows and the computer created the tree. Then he instructed the computer how a tree sways in the wind and told the computer to add wind to put the tree into motion.

In an adjoining building are a couple of small studios and video control rooms where live pictures can be taped and added to computer backgrounds. As operations manager William Jenks put it, "There's no need to go to the Sahara Desert when you can make your own desert in the computer."

Another reason the lab is so successful is the students it attracts.

"Entrance is very competitive," Parke explained. Every year the program admits about 15 students, and every year there are four to six applicants for every available slot.

Students need a strong technical background to handle the considerable technical aspect of the program. But they also need the soul of an artist, Parke said.

Viz Lab students come from all sorts of backgrounds, from engineering to the classics.

Pushpathadam, 28, is one of the few who actually has an architecture degree. A native of Montreal, he worked as an architect for two years.

"It was hard to get a job. I literally had to go door to door showing my portfolio," he said. "It's nice to be in demand now."

Although he disliked computers at first, preferring to render his architectural ideas in the time-honored method of drawings, he became increasingly interested in computerized visualization and applied to the A&M program after hearing about it.

Now he and about 150 other computer animators are working on *Ants*, a joint project of Pacific Data and DreamWorks SKG.

His colleague Hammond, 29, grew up around computers in Erie, Pa. Hammond's mother was a

computer programmer, and he has been creating digital videos since he was a kid pounding code into his Apple II. He said he has yearned to work on movies since he saw the original *Star Wars*, but didn't know how to break in.

He earned a degree in chemistry at Penn State, instead, and he came to Texas to seek a graduate degree in the field at A&M. After a year in that program, he said, "I realized that just wasn't what I wanted to do."

He transferred to the Viz program and found out he had to become an artist as well as a scientist. "I had never done any kind of art," he said. He soon found himself in a basic drawing class, trying to develop that part of his brain.

Hammond and Pushpathadam, like most in their craft, are young and single. They're scheduled for 50-hour work weeks, but often log more than that. "It isn't like work," Hammond said, "it's like play."

Because of the long hours and the dedication they have to their craft, the crew at PDI operates like an extended family, a phenomenon familiar to Viz Lab students.

"We spend a lot of time in this place," said student Ferguson, 36, who earned a math degree at the University of Houston and taught math at Milby High School before realizing that really wasn't what he wanted to do with his life.

If things get too boring while waiting for the machines to do their magic, students will siphon off a wee bit of computer memory and link up with other computers at the lab to have electronic fun blasting away at each other in make-believe tank battles.

"We eat a lot of pizza," said Sande Singler, 24, a former journalism major. "We don't see much

of the campus outside of this place. It's pretty intensive."

Singler is one of few Viz Lab students who earned an undergraduate degree at A&M. The other students said they don't tend to get infected with the school spirit A&M is famous for.

"Some of the real Aggies try to get us excited about all that," Pushpathadam said, "but we never paid too much attention to them."

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Texans split on whether Mexico reliable in drug war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas lawmakers find themselves in different camps on the delicate foreign policy question of whether Mexico is a full-fledged partner with the United States in the war on drugs.

Congress is poised to consider resolutions that would overturn President Clinton's decision to certify Mexico's cooperation in the anti-drug battle — a controversial topic for Texas' southern neighbor.

Gov. George W. Bush and the state's four border congressmen suggest Clinton was correct to grant Mexico certification last week, avoiding new tensions between both countries. Had Clinton decided to decertify Mexico, economic sanctions could have ensued.

Certification backers contend that while Mexico has been far from successful in reducing drug trafficking and the corruption permeating its law enforcement ranks, decertification would be disruptive.

On the other side are Texas GOP Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison — and a growing coterie of Republican and Democratic lawmakers — who argue that Mexico has improved so little

in fighting drugs that the United States must try new tactics.

Up to 70 percent of all cocaine and marijuana and 30 percent of heroin in the United States comes from Mexico, according to U.S. estimates.

"I don't think we serve our own purpose or Mexico's by trying to deceive people about what is happening," Gramm said in an interview. "The truth is that Mexico has not been a reliable ally in our war on drugs."

Gramm said his objective is the same as Clinton's. "It's just that I've concluded after watching this thing now for 11 years that simply certifying what we know is not true doesn't help make things better," Gramm said. "It perpetuates the problem."

Since 1986, the president has had to decide annually whether to certify the 32 nations that are the source or conduit for drug traffic here.

Mexico's certification seemed assured until the arrest last month of the country's drug czar on charges he was on a drug lord's payroll.

In the end, the administration decided that President Ernesto Zedillo is on the right course in battling drug cartels.

Opposition to the certification is widespread.

A letter urging Clinton to decertify Mexico was signed by 39 senators. Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican, and Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt favor decertification.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., on Monday introduced resolutions to overturn Clinton's decision. Similar resolutions have been introduced in the House.

"I believe we will have very strong support," Mrs. Feinstein said Tuesday.

There's enough Senate support to pass the resolution — but probably not by the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto, Gramm said.

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, a Corpus Christi Democrat, worries that decertification would disrupt cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

"There's a lot of good working relations between the law enforcement officers on the American side and the Mexican side that nobody seems to know about but those who work the front lines every day," said Ortiz.

A former Nueces County sheriff, Ortiz recalled times when his

deputies worked with Mexican officials to repatriate people wanted for murder. "I was able to go down there to Mexico and bring them back," he said.

Certification also was supported by Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, a former Border Patrol sector chief; Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio, whose West Texas district spans a 600-mile swath of the border; and Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, D-Mercedes.

For the only Texan on the House International Relations Committee, which takes up the decertification resolution Thursday, the debate is less clear-cut.

"Certification or not, both countries have got a real serious problem that we had better put more resources in to," said Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands.

"It's important, I think, that we not engage in bashing one country or another because like it or not we are not winning the war on drugs in America," Brady added.

Grandparents get custody of Routier child

DALLAS (AP) — The results of a lie-detector test reportedly administered to Darlie Routier before her trial would have no bearing on the appeals process, a district attorney said Wednesday.

Prosecutors heard from a WFAA-TV reporter that Mrs. Routier took the test during a secret trip outside her jail cell last fall, but they have not confirmed it, First Assistant District Attorney Norman Kinne said.

Kinne said he supposed that Mrs. Routier's court-appointed attorney would have sought the polygraph.

In any case, he said, it could not be used to appeal her capital murder conviction and death sentence because it was not entered as evidence at her trial.

"As far as we're concerned, it's pretty unimportant. Because like I said, she's already been tried. All

of the evidence was heard by the jury and she's been convicted," Kinne said.

"I just think it's extremely interesting. I feel certain that if she took a polygraph and if she would have passed a polygraph we would have all heard about it every day from the time that she passed it."

Mrs. Routier is on death row after a Kerr County jury convicted her last month of killing her 5-year-old son, Damon, on June 6. She also was accused of murdering his 6-year-old brother, Devon.

She contends an intruder broke into the home, attacked her and killed the children.

The court-appointed attorney who first represented Mrs. Routier after the attack, Doug Parks, said Wednesday that attorney-client privilege prohibited him from saying whether she took a polygraph.

The lawyers who defended her at trial, Doug Mulder of Dallas and Richard Mosty of Kerrville, did not return telephone calls by The Associated Press Wednesday morning.

An infant son, Drake, was asleep with his father in an upstairs bedroom when the older boys were stabbed to death.

In another development in the case, Judge Cheryl Shannon on Wednesday awarded permanent custody of 16-month-old Drake to his paternal grandparents, Leonard and Sarilda Routier of Lubbock. Shannon also granted unlimited unsupervised visitation to Drake's father, Darin Routier.

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After receiving both his B.S. in Human Nutrition and his medical degree from Ohio State University, Gregg served his residency and subspecialty fellowship at the University of Cincinnati Hospital before opening a private practice in 1994. While his practice in Ohio kept him very busy, the chance to come to West Texas and join the Midland Odessa Medical Healthcare Partners was an opportunity he couldn't resist. "West Texas is such a unique mixture of climatic zones that we see and treat symptoms that you don't see anywhere else in the US. And I see the MOM Group as a very progressive organization with a clear vision for the future for delivering the highest quality healthcare for citizens of this region," he adds.

Gregg, Beth, and their 8-year old son, Justin, reside in Midland and are enjoying the people, the arts and the outdoor activities the Permian Basin has to offer.

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Justice Department faults FBI's lab evidence in mail-bomb case

■ A leaked, secret report says that a lab witness overstated test results.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department's inspector general criticized FBI lab procedures and said a lab witness overstated test results during a trial about the mail-bomb killings of a federal judge and a civil rights lawyer, The Associated Press learned Wednesday.

The 1991 conviction of Walter Leroy Moody for the murder of U.S. Circuit Judge Robert S. Vance and Georgia civil rights lawyer Robert E. Robinson was a major accomplishment of FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, who prosecuted the case while still a Justice Department lawyer.

The Associated Press obtained access Wednesday to a portion of the inspector general's secret draft report, produced in response to allegations by suspended FBI scientist-agent Frederic Whitehurst

and other federal officers.

Freeh was not mentioned in that section. But a senior FBI official, requesting anonymity, said other portions of the report clear Freeh of any misconduct in the case, which the bureau code-named VANPAC.

In addition to overstated testimony in VANPAC, the report found the lab lacked databases to support its conclusions, used unvalidated tests, lacked written test procedures, inadequately documented why it discounted test results that undercut its conclusions and lacked any record for some tests.

The FBI had no immediate official comment, but the senior FBI official said the bureau has urged the inspector general to revise the preliminary conclusions, arguing they are "unjustified and based on an incomplete review of the facts." The yearlong investigation was aided by five renowned outside scientists.

These are the first of Inspector General Michael Bromwich's preliminary conclusions to become

public. It was disclosed previously that Bromwich received allegations about lab problems in high-profile cases including the Oklahoma City and World Trade Center bombings. The Justice Department has told prosecutors in 50 cases they may have to turn over some report findings to defense attorneys, because the material might help clear defendants.

Informed of the VANPAC conclusions, Temple University professor James Fyfe said, "That's very scary. The lab is stretching the truth and their testimony is very difficult to challenge because all those charts give them an air of credibility and fact when they are really giving just an opinion."

Prosecutors contended that Moody built the bombs sent in 1989 to Vance in Birmingham, Ala., and to Robinson in Savannah, Ga., and unexploded bombs sent to the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta and to the NAACP office in Jacksonville, Fla.

Lab supervisor James Thurman testified that all four "were made by one individual ... using essen-

tially the same type of materials," citing similar packaging and wiring.

Thurman testified the lab determined that two-inch-wide tan plastic tape on all four bombs "was from the same manufacturer" and that black latex paint on them "is from the same source ... is the same chemical composition."

But after examining the actual lab tests, the inspector general said the results "appear to preclude the firm conclusion that the samples came from the same source or manufacturer."

The inspector general said the lab work would allow an examiner only "to conclude that samples could have come from the same source or manufacturer, but not to opine that they necessarily did."

James E. Starrs, professor of forensic science and law at George Washington University, said the report shows "the lab testimony is much too conclusive, much too definitive and prejudicial to the defendant. The possibility of the same source is very different from the certainty."

Rejecting Whitehurst's allegation that Thurman's testimony was fabricated, the inspector general found it accurately reflected conclusions of lab examiner Robert Webb, who actually did the tests.

But the report found fault with Webb's conclusions. For all four bombs, Webb decided that the tape came from the same manufacturer, even the same batch or lot, and that the black paint came from the same manufacturer.

These conclusions "were stated more strongly than was justified by the results of his examinations and the background data," the report said.

It said the FBI did not know whether different manufacturers used different chemical formulas

for paint and tape of the type in the bombs.

And it said Webb's tests "had not been validated by the FBI or ... any other laboratory with regard to their ability to successfully determine if the samples came from the same source."

The report added that Webb's conclusions "seem overstated in light of the differences in the (test) results."

Tornado relief volunteer dies after lack of sleep

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Brad Heath couldn't stand to watch his friends suffer, so he worked all day and into the night on tornado relief. Then he worked his regular shift at Wal-Mart, and headed back to help some more.

He fell asleep at the wheel while driving back to the cleanup effort in Jacksonport, killing himself when he hit an electric company truck.

His death — and that of a tree-service worker, George Wood, who was electrocuted in a separate accident south of Little Rock, weren't officially counted among the 25 people killed by tornadoes that tore across Arkansas on Saturday. But they are part of the devastation wrought by the storms.

"He was a workaholic," recalled Heath's aunt, Vada Hutchins. "Brad was the type who could go and go. As long as he could keep himself going, he didn't need much sleep."

Heath, 18, rushed to Jacksonport Saturday after his day shift at the Batesville Wal-Mart, arriving shortly after the tornado hit at 3:30 p.m. and helped clear debris until 2 a.m. Sunday. He grabbed a few

hours sleep and was working again in the relief effort by sun-up, his aunt said.

After night fell Sunday, he went back to Wal-Mart and stocked shelves overnight. Then he left Batesville again at 8 a.m. Monday for Jacksonport, a community of 260 hit hard by winds estimated at up to 200 mph.

He made it to within a mile of the First Baptist Church where his mother, Tina Stoner, was serving breakfast to relief workers and tornado victims, according to a cousin, Kenneth Dingman, 24.

Dingman, a member of the local volunteer fire department, pulled him out of the red Plymouth, which went straight through a curve and hit a parked utility truck head-on. There were no skid marks. The truck was unoccupied.

Heath had dropped out of high school to help make life easier for his family, and earned his equivalency diploma just last week. He planned to attend the University of Central Arkansas at Conway.

"He had scored so high on his GED, he was going to get some grants and scholarships," Ms. Hutchins said.

Airlines start food fight over passengers' meals

NEW YORK (AP) — After years of griping about lousy airline food — and such tiny portions! — travelers may have to eat their words.

United Airlines and caterer SKY Chefs will offer transcontinental passengers, whether first-class or coach, larger salads, more desserts, between-meal snacks and individual bottles of water.

"We feel that the U.S. airline trend of removing food service from domestic flights is self-defeating," said Michael Z. Kay, president of LSA Lufthansa Services/SKY Chef, the world's largest airline caterer.

In April, SKY Chefs offered \$1 million in food and services to an airline willing to study whether better food can help airlines sell more tickets.

Three airlines submitted bids, and United got the contract. The yearlong experiment starts April 6 on flights from Newark, N.J., to Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle.

Some competitors say United is

playing catch-up. "We have already put the cheese back on the pizza," said Continental Airlines' Sarah Anthony.

Continental dropped "peanut fares" in 1995 and started restoring meals on some flights that had only snacks or no food at all. US Airways last year began offering coach passengers a second meal — breakfast — on cross-country red-eye flights, and Delta last summer began serving a larger version of their Blimpie sub sandwiches on lunch flights.

The airlines also started offering gourmet coffee (Brothers for Continental and Starbucks for United) and improved their beer selection (Pete's Wicked Ale on Continental and Augsberger beers on Northwest).

On competing flights, United's efforts could start a food fight. American Airlines said it will beef up its food service on its Newark-to-Los Angeles route, and other competitors are likely to follow suit.

Agency plans to eliminate some asthma inhalers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government asked asthma patients and their doctors for help Wednesday in planning how to gradually pull off the market certain asthma inhalers that hurt the environment.

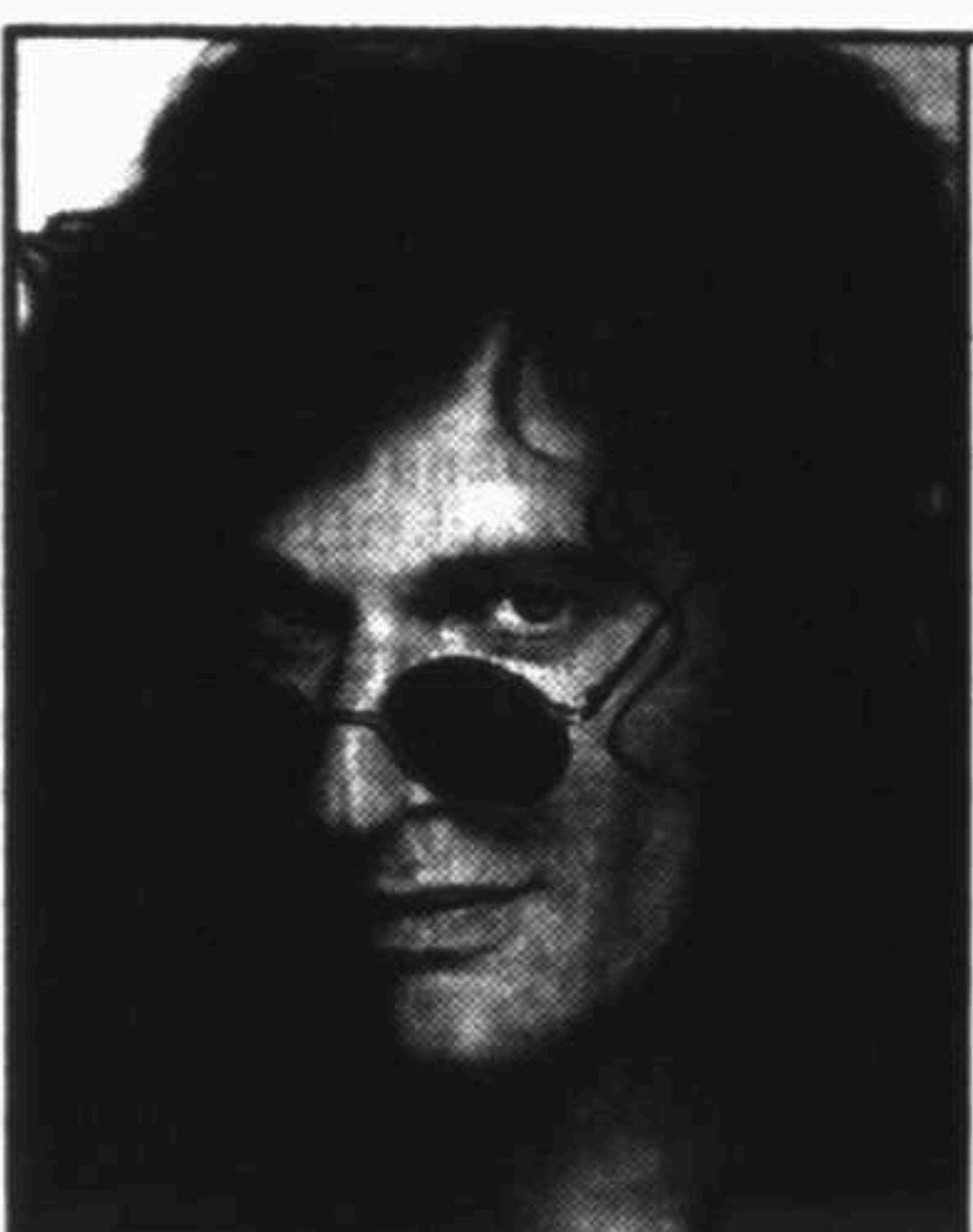
Patients shouldn't panic, the Food and Drug Administration emphasized, because no drugs will be banned for well over a year.

But as the FDA approves asthma inhalers that do not use CFCs, the chlorofluorocarbons that deplete the ozone layer, an international treaty requires the old, polluting inhalers to be phased out.

The FDA sought advice on how to do that without threatening patients' confidence in long-used medicines.

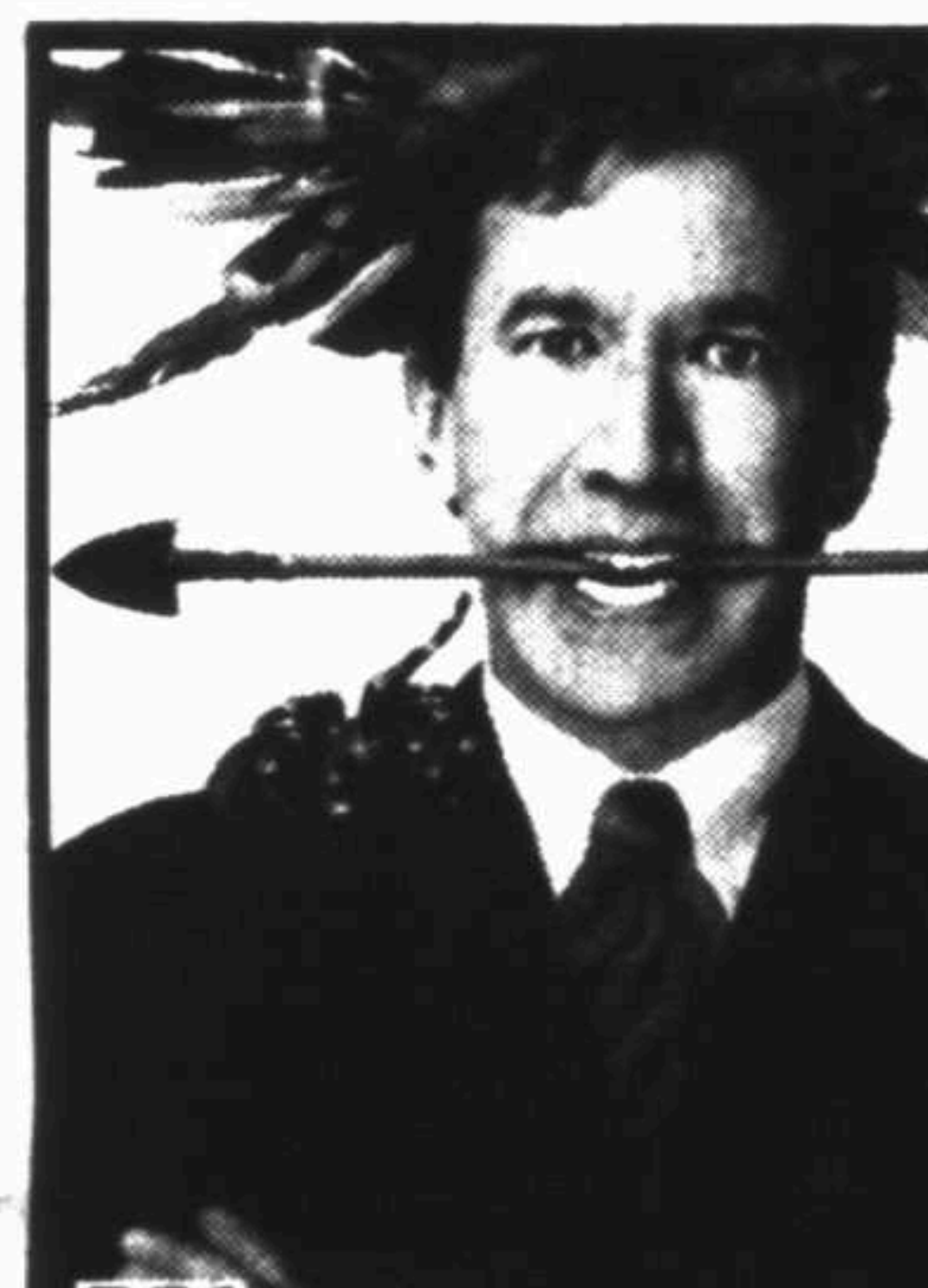
"The metered-dose inhalers we currently have have been good old friends," said Dr. Ira Finegold, president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, who called the FDA's proposed plan reasonable. But "they certainly destroy the ozone layer, and as such they have to come off the market sooner or later."

The FDA last year approved the first CFC-free inhaler, 3M Pharmaceuticals' Proventil HFA, one of a class called "fast-acting adrenergic bronchodilators" that contains the most popular asthma drug, albuterol.



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STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (PG-13)
3:20 7:10 9:45

THE PEST (PG-13)
1:15

THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG)
1:00 3:40 7:00 9:40

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11:05 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:50 DTS

ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
11:05 1:35 4:15 7:05 9:50

DANTE'S PEAK (PG-13)
11:00 1:30 4:05 7:05 9:35 DTS

DONNIE BRASCO (R)
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:25 10:00

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG)
12:50 3:45 7:00 9:45 DTS

ROSEWOOD (R)
12:30 3:30 7:00 9:55

THAT DARN CAT (PG)
11:15 1:55 4:05 7:25 9:20

FOOLS RUSH IN (PG-13)
11:10 1:50 4:20 7:10 9:40

SHINE (PG-13)
11:45 2:00 4:15 7:25 9:50

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12:45 3:00 5:20 7:45 10:10

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BOOTS CALL (R)
1:00 3:10 5:15 7:25 9:30

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)
12:45 4:00 7:30

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WASHINGTON — IRS plans a for the chair Senate tax-allegations groups are cally motiva

Commissioner Richard that Sen. W. Del., and Texas, have tion to review tax-exempt the Senate Archer he and Means

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IRS denies allegations of politically motivated audits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS plans a confidential briefing for the chairmen of the House and Senate tax-writing panels to rebut allegations that conservative groups are the targets of politically motivated audits.

Commissioner Margaret Miller Richardson said Wednesday that Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., and Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, have accepted her invitation to review the IRS' auditing of tax-exempt groups. Roth chairs the Senate Finance Committee; Archer heads the House Ways and Means Committee.

In a move experts say is unprecedented, Richardson asked Roth and Archer for permission to publicly release confidential taxpayer information in order to correct factual errors or misstatements concerning the IRS audits. An Archer spokesman said that request is under review.

Richardson told a House Appropriations subcommittee she was making the unusual request "because of my grave concern about the impact the allegations may have on the public's confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the IRS."

"It's certainly very serious. I

am very concerned about it," Richardson said.

The IRS closely guards taxpayer information — the law requires it — and generally releases tax returns only after receiving a written waiver from taxpayers or for referral to law enforcement agencies. Only a handful of senior Senate and House staff members have clearance to review confidential taxpayer information.

Lou Carlow, national tax director for Coopers & Lybrand LLP in Washington, a former IRS executive who handled disclosure matters, said he couldn't recall any previous request by the IRS to distribute taxpayer information in order to clear its name.

"What the commission is concerned about is this thing is continuous," said Carlow, referring to the political audit allegations. "And it might undermine... (IRS audits) if people believe the fact that people aren't being treated fairly and equally."

Several published reports in recent months have accused the IRS of targeting conservative groups with audits to see if they were abusing their tax-exempt status by unlawfully engaging in political activities.

There are nearly 20 different types of tax-exempt organizations, but those organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the tax law can't engage in partisan politics or provide benefits to any individual or group.

Such questions about the IRS' impartiality arose during the House ethics committee investigation of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., who was ordered to pay \$300,000 penalty after making misleading statements about the financing of a college course he taught. House investigators found Gingrich used tax-exempt groups to assist in campaign fund raising.

In addition, several published reports and editorials have questioned whether an ongoing audit of the Heritage Foundation and others were politically motivated.

Heritage Foundation spokesman John Von Kannon confirmed the group is being questioned by IRS auditors about whether it made an illegal corporate contribution to former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

Dole signed a fund-raising letter for the conservative think tank in exchange for one-time use of the

names of people who responded to the letter. Von Kannon said Heritage Foundation has worked out similar arrangements with other politicians

"and the IRS has been fine with it." "We have not tried to charge this is politically motivated. We don't know what their motiva-

tion is," Van Kannon said. Several newspaper articles and editorials suggested the IRS probe of Heritage was politically tainted.

Gladiator slain, husband arrested

OAKLAND PARK, Fla. (AP) — A champion combatant on TV's "American Gladiators" was beaten, choked and stabbed to death by her jealous husband, a former pro boxer who took his time in dialing 911, police said.

Cheryl Wilson, 30, was a five-time winner on the syndicated television show in which challengers match muscle with the program's regulars in running obstacle courses, climbing walls and jousting with padded sticks.

Her husband, Juan Minelli, 34, is accused of knocking her to the floor and stabbing her repeatedly with kitchen knives at their suburban Fort Lauderdale home late Monday. Police said she ran outside, but he dragged her back into the house and beat her head with a steel hammer.

Minelli believed his wife was having an affair with another woman and suspected that was why she was late in coming home, police said.

On a 911 tape released Wednesday, the 6-1, 215-pound Minelli said: "Me and my wife had a fight. I think I killed her. You need to send somebody."

He made the call after showering and calling his parents in California, police said.

The couple's 3 1/2-year-old daughter was in the house at the time; police said they are investigating whether she witnessed the slaying.

Minelli was charged with murder Tuesday and held without bail.

Ms. Wilson was a national collegiate star in track and field at Louisiana State University and was once ranked No. 5 in the nation in the heptathlon.

"She was always ready to go," said Pat Henry, her track coach at LSU. "She was an all-around great athlete. A great runner, great thrower, great jumper."

Minelli was a trained boxer with at least one professional fight, police said. He hadn't been in the ring in years.

"He didn't look like he was in the shape to box right now, but still he had that experience, and he was a pretty big guy," Detective Patrick Murray said.

Ms. Wilson met her husband, a native of Argentina, in Los Angeles in 1992. They married later that year. Court records show he moved out a year later, shortly after their daughter was born, but they later reconciled.

According to court records, Ms. Wilson had complained that her husband had physically abused her



Cheryl Wilson-Minelli, a former champion of the athletic competition show American Gladiators, was stabbed and beaten to death Tuesday in Oakland Park, Fla. by her husband Juan Minelli as their 3 1/2-year-old daughter watched, police said. Minelli has been charged with murder and is being held without bond.

and threatened to leave the country with their daughter. She filed for divorce in 1994 but never followed through.

James Wilson, her brother, said she had recently told Minelli to get out because he was verbally abusing her, but he didn't leave.

"I told her not to take those threats lightly," said Maria Hernandez, her brother's fiancée. "Her main concern was her child."

Klanwatch reports increase in extremist group numbers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — At least 858 extremist groups were active in the United States last year, an increase of 6 percent from 1995, according to an organization that tracks hate crimes.

But Klanwatch, a branch of the Montgomery-based Southern Poverty Law Center, stresses the rise should not frighten people.

"Some groups have terrorist agendas and when people are afraid, they've won half the battle," Klanwatch spokesman Richard Boudouin said Wednesday.

Klanwatch released a study this week titled "Two Years After: The Patriot Movement Since Oklahoma City."

The study found that so-called patriot groups, including 380 armed militias, have improved their intelligence-gathering networks and the ability to share information through a sophisticated communication network.

Klanwatch defines patriot groups as militia organizations, common-law courts, Christian Identity churches, radio broad-

casters, publishers and others who identify themselves as patriots.

The groups were found in all 50 states. Some groups such as the John Birch Society and the U.S. Taxpayers' Party exist in many states.

The report said at least 101 groups advance white supremacist or anti-Semitic messages and 112 common-law courts — courts created by groups that deny the legitimacy of the court system — were in operation last year.

In addition, more than one-third of the arrests made for extremist activity in 1996 were related to explosives, a trend the group said indicated the pervasive effect the Oklahoma City bombing has had on extremist groups.

"What we're looking at is a movement that continues to reach out to those elements who feel alienated from our government," Boudouin said.

Klanwatch points toward factors such as the continuing drop-off in voter turnout as evidence of increasing dissatisfaction with federal institutions.

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First signs of budget movement appears

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Private meetings between the Clinton administration and Congress are producing the first hints of movement in their balanced budget quest, even as partisan bickering flared anew Wednesday and left an impression of deadlock.

Participants from both parties, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a bipartisan commission may be announced this week that would recommend changing the way cost-of-living adjustments are made in Social Security and other benefits. One congressional official said the odds were "more than 50-50."

Other sources said that due to objections by House Democratic and Republican leaders, no agreement was near on the proposal, perhaps the most politically charged that negotiators face. Even so, it was clear that a serious effort was under way for the two sides to jointly broach slowing the growth of federal benefits to tens of millions of Americans, and raising taxes for many others.

As evidence that the proposal had moved beyond the mere talking stage, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., and other Democratic leaders met Wednesday with White House officials, in part, to see if an announcement of a commission was imminent. Included at the hour-long meeting were White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, admin-

istration budget chief Franklin Raines, and other top White House aides.

"They knocked it down," said one House leadership aide, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We thought they were up to something."

Raines later told reporters that talk of an imminent announcement of a commission reflected a "frenzy" among reporters. But he did not directly deny it, saying consultations were continuing.

Two other White House officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was a question of when, not whether, Clinton would embrace the commission idea. They said Clinton was prepared to embrace the commission proposal but had been urged by staff to hold off.

"It could cause more harm than good in the long run if he does this before we can get everybody on board, or at least to have a better understanding of where we are going," one official said.

The behind-the-scenes activity occurred as each side continued verbally pounding the other over budget plans. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, called Clinton's spending plan "the most fraudulent" he has seen in his 19 years in Congress. Raines said with Clinton's blueprint unveiled, "It's time for (Republicans) ... to tell us how they'd change it."

Democrats from the House and Senate budget committees were scheduled to meet with

Clinton at the White House Wednesday night to discuss the cost-of-living changes and other budget questions.

In another sign of movement, participants from both sides said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., Raines and other leaders have been talking about components of a possible budget deal, such as savings from Medicare, the huge health-care program for the elderly. Neither side reported progress, but the comments showed that behind-the-scenes contacts have begun getting serious.

As described by members of both parties, Clinton might use an executive order to create a commission for suggesting how cost-of-living adjustments might be made more accurate.

The commission, which might consist of high-profile economists, would be given a short timetable — perhaps a month — to offer a recommendation. Any recommendation would likely be less than the 1.1 percentage point exaggeration suggested in December by another commission headed by former Bush administration adviser Michael Boskin.

Under this scenario, the new commission's recommendation would be used by budget writers this year. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics — the branch of the Labor Department that compiles cost-of-living data — would study the problem, though its work would probably take years.

McVeigh trial to go ahead despite recent controversy

DENVER — After five days of controversy over the publication in The Dallas Morning News of what appeared to be a confession in the Oklahoma City bombing case, the only thing that is clear is that the trial will start on schedule on March 31.

On Tuesday, Stephen Jones, the lawyer for Timothy McVeigh, and Oklahoma's U.S. attorney, Patrick Ryan, met privately with Judge Richard Matsch of U.S. District Court, saying afterward that they did not ask the judge to delay the trial.

The Dallas newspaper article, published last Friday and Saturday, cited what it said was a document from McVeigh's legal defense team, which quoted McVeigh as saying that he drove the truck with the bomb that killed 168 people in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, and that he wanted a "body count."

During the weekend the article appeared, Jones had denounced the document as a hoax. But on

Monday night, in a sharp change of direction, Jones's office issued a press release saying that the document was faked by a defense investigator as a ploy to obtain information from a potential witness in the case.

"The defense believed that this person was willing to talk if the individual believed that he was not suspected by the defense of being a participant in the bombing," Jones would not identify the person he said was the object of the defense ploy. But privately, defense lawyers involved in the case said it was Louis Beam, a leading figure in the far right who advocated making war on the federal government.

Beam, a former Grand Dragon of the Texas Ku Klux Klan and ambassador at large for the Aryan Nations, a white supremacist group, is a proponent of "leaderless resistance," or fighting the federal government with small paramilitary cells.

Research yields chicken that acts like a quail

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When is a chicken not a chicken? When it sings and bobs its head like a quail, thanks to an experimental brain-cell transplant.

In what sounds like something out of a B horror movie, Evan Balaban, an experimental neurobiologist at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, carried out the switch.

"The larger implications are what this will teach us about the development of brain circuits that produce behavior," Balaban said Wednesday. "It could eventually help people who have brain damage or mental illness or even brain diseases."

His research on Plymouth Rock chickens and Japanese quail was published Tuesday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Although different from cloning, his work is adding to the furor over genetic experimentation.

"This is more dangerous than cloning," Rush Limbaugh said on his radio show Wednesday. "When the animal rights people get in on this, I might join them."

Balaban does not see his work as opening the way for people with socially unacceptable behavior being forced to undergo brain surgery.

"There's no good reason to do this in humans," Balaban said. "It's not technically possible to do this in mammals anyway. There

are some enormous obstacles that would have to be overcome."

In the quail-and-chicken experiment, after much trial and error, Balaban discovered that certain cells in the quail midbrain changed the animal's sound patterns, and other cells in the quail brain stem changed head movement during singing.

Balaban incubated fertilized quail and chicken eggs for 48 hours and then cut tiny windows in their shells. Cells in the chicken embryo were removed and substituted with corresponding quail brain cells.

Quail and chickens were used because each species has a distinctive crowing and bobbing pattern.

Sound patterns and bobbing behaviors were documented on videotape in experimental chickens that received quail brain cell transplants and in a control group of chickens that received chicken transplants only.

The chickens were killed after 14 days to further document the results with brain examinations.

Balaban's previous research, published in 1988 in the journal Science, transplanted cells governing only the quail's sound pattern. No bobbing measurements were done then.

"Evan can separate the sound and posture involved in crowing," said Masakazu Konishi, a neurobiologist at the California Institute

of Technology in Pasadena.

"That's new. That's interesting. It means posture and sound that usually occur together in crowing are controlled by different neuro-mechanisms."

Balaban's work continues a long line of research by neuroscientists who are trying to understand cells and their connection to certain behaviors.

"We know from transplant work done over the last 10 years that you can never rewire or replace cells lost or damaged," Balaban said.

"So if we want to develop new therapies, we have to work with the cells still left. It could have a good impact on some behavioral deficits."

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Zip-front pullover with patch pockets in navy cotton corduroy is \$45 from J.G. Hook.

AP Laserphoto

Strike a cord with a fashionable fabric

By Francine Parnes

Associated Press

The jeans generation has a soft spot for corduroy.

Pants are corduroy's single biggest category, according to Cotton Inc., and sales of corduroy pants in 1996 were up 53 percent for women and 33 percent for men over 1995.

Cotton Inc. is the New York-based research and promotion arm of the U.S. cotton industry. Ira Livingston, senior vice president of marketing, says corduroy is particularly appealing to fashion-conscious men and women, ages 14 to 25.

"Corduroy looks like a new and exciting fabric to them, and it fits very well with a casual lifestyle," he says.

Corduroy's last big fling was in the 1970s.

"Along with denim, it was the major fabric for jeans wear," Livingston says, "but denim took over the market."

"All of a sudden, we're seeing this resurgence and predicting this will continue into fall '97. For young people, there's the 'Wow-what's this?' factor."

CORDUROY is a plush cut-pile fabric, typically cotton and sometimes with a little spandex added, with ribs called wales. The width of these ribs ranges from fine pin-wale to wide-wale.

The fabric name has French roots. "Corde du roi" means cloth of the king. It was named in the 1600s when servants in the French royal household wore it. In the mid-1700s, a savvy British merchant used the royal connection as a sales promotion. It was worn by farm workers for decades until it caught on as hunting apparel for the privileged class. Today it is popular as casual wear, particularly pants, skirts and jackets.

The hot color is indigo.



Double-pleated corduroy pants in British khaki cotton and polyester are \$36 from Lands' End.

AP Laserphoto

'It can't be that old stiff corduroy we used to have as kids.'

— Gary Kane, president of J.G. Hook in New York

"The look of a deep blue continues to be something customers are looking for beyond just denim," Joseph Hudson, men's product manager at Lands' End in Dodgeville, Wis., says. "To be able to buy that in corduroy is a big deal right now."

LEON HALL, fashion consultant to The Fashion Association in New York, says that corduroy, while not expensive, has a luxury attitude and "perfectly accentuates a luxury item such as a cashmere sweater or a beautiful woolen. It's the period at the end of a sentence, the visual timing in a garment."

What's new beyond the blue? "The pale colors, especially when done in fine pin-wale trousers, with a dark shoe and dark top," Hall says. "Gant is doing a wide range for men, in wonderful colors like honey and nougat and stone."

LAND'S END likes pale colors such as ivory and dusty blue for spring. The favored style for both men and women is double-pleated wide-wale cords. But above all, the fabric must be soft, broken in. "It can't be that old stiff corduroy we used to have as kids," Gary Kane, president of J.G. Hook in New York, says.

And it doesn't have to be limited to weekend wear.

"We're taking bodies that may have looked great in denim or chambray but were too casual for the office," he said. "In corduroy, they look fantastic."

For women who want to take wide-wale corduroy beyond pants, J.G. Hook has a mid-calf shirt dress with empire waist and long sleeves in brown, ivory or navy.

"It's almost like velvet, and that's part of the allure," Kane says. "Because you can treat it like velvet, it becomes dressier, a step above denim."

Anything that puts color near your face will create a little more flash. While it's still cold, consider a soft velvet hat in a bright jewel tone or a chenille muffler or cashmere scarf in apple green, purple or turquoise.

Kennison has similar ideas.

"A jacket that would go over dark colors now and right into spring would be my choice," she says. "I'd go with a longer jacket, body-conscious but not body-hugging, since that's going to be the big push for spring. Some are almost knee-length."

One in turquoise or apple green "looks great right now with black and navy and charcoal, as well as with cream or white or icy pastels coming in for spring," she says.

DEAR ABBY

Ladies' random act of kindness still warms this soldier's heart

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I would like to add to your collection of random acts of kindness with the story of something that happened to me about 53 years ago:

In June of 1943, I graduated from high school and, along with most of my classmates, immediately joined the military service. After receiving basic training at Camp Grant, Ill., I was sent to Camp Stoneman, Calif., for deployment to the Pacific theater of operations.

We had little to do for the following seven weeks as we waited for a ship to transport us, so we took advantage of the liberal pass policy and spent our weekends in San Francisco, about 50 miles away. It was virtually impossible to find a hotel room in the city. Even the chairs, couches and every inch of floor were occupied by a human body in uniform. If all else failed, we'd buy a ticket to any movie, sit in the third balcony, and sleep until the management ejected us in the early morning.

One night my buddy, a high school classmate from back home, got the bright idea to try a hotel in Oakland across the bay. We found a very classy residential hotel where the lobby was absolutely empty except for the night clerk, and hesitantly asked if we might rest a while in the lobby. He granted us permission and we instantly drifted off to sleep.

About 7 a.m. I awoke and found myself gazing into the smiling face of a sweet motherly lady, who had apparently placed my head in her lap. Sitting up, I apologized, and noticed that she was accompanied by another lady of similar age. My buddy had been awake for some time, but they had not permitted him to disturb me.

We were given the key to their apartment and informed that we would find soap, towels, a razor, shaving cream and a comb in their bathroom, and that we should go "freshen up." When we returned to the lobby, they presented us with a bag of sandwiches and wished us Godspeed.

You can understand why I have never forgotten those two wonderful ladies. If only I had gotten their names and addresses. If only — — **WILLIAM J. MYERS JR., CARLISLE, PA.**

DEAR MR. MYERS: What a delightful story, and beautifully told. The degree of patriotism, generosity and commitment to the war effort during World War II remains unequalled. However, I am reminded of it every year at Christmastime during Operation Dear Abby. Last year's effort on the part of Americans of every age brought FIVE TONS of mail to our servicemen and women overseas.

DEAR ABBY: I am a man of 65 years — almost 66. In November 1994, I went into a local supermarket. There was an organ in the store for the holiday season and featured a drawing for music lessons. I observed an attractive lady filling out a slip for the drawing, and being a friendly person, I walked over to her and started a conversation. On learning that she was a widow (I was a widower), I said, "You probably have a boyfriend." She replied, "No, I



Van Buren

don't." I asked for her name and telephone number and she gave them to me.

That night I called and invited her to dinner. To make a long story short, I fell in love with her and we were married the next June. We're still in love and still on our honeymoon. I never tire of telling people how lovely she is and how much I love her. — **ROBERT ROSS, LARGO, FLA.**

DEAR ROBERT: Lucky you — and lucky Mrs. Ross. It's always inspiring to hear a love story, especially one that blossoms in the autumn of one's life. May you and your bride have many wonderful years together.

DEAR ROBERT: Why would a bright, pretty 23-year-old allow herself to be emotionally abused by her husband?

Birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, etc. come and go without so much as a card or any kind of acknowledgment. They have had many fights over this — and my daughter has told him how hurt she is. He is always "sorry" and has some kind of excuse, but this happens over and over again.

It hurts me to see how upset she gets, but as a parent, what should I do? — **UPSET MOTHER DOWN SOUTH**

DEAR MOTHER: Do not offer any "solutions" or advice. It's nice to be remembered on special occasions, but how does he treat your daughter every other day in the year?

DEAR ABBY: The story of the Spanish speakers who assumed two blond Anglos wouldn't understand their rude comments reminds me of two incidents.

A blond man my husband works with had learned Hmong while serving in Vietnam. One day he was on the Paris subway while two girls were speaking Hmong to each other, harshly criticizing fellow passengers. The man waited until a break in their conversation, then gave them an equally bold critique — in fluent Hmong. They were so stunned, they missed their stop.

Then there was the deaf woman I often waited on in a fabric shop where I worked. She liked for me to help her since I would sign "Hi" (the only word I knew in sign language), speak clearly while facing her, and take the time to puzzle out her speech. One day she told me that two women shopping nearby were planning to steal quite a few very expensive buttons by tucking them into the folds of the fabric they were buying. Sure enough, the manager stopped the women outside the store and the buttons were in the fabric. How did my customer know? She had read their lips! — **CORYN WEIGLE, ALEXANDRIA, VA.**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Angel in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

Computer geek meets fashionable chic

By P.J. Huffstutter

N.Y. Times News Service

LOS ANGELES — Old computers never die. They are transformed into drink coasters, picture frames and ornate jewelry.

Steve and Susan Grzadzilewski realized this in 1984, when the siblings were helping one another move. Susan picked up a box of Steve's knick-knacks, and a small circuit from a cheap watch fell on the ground.

"My sister took off one of her diamond stud earrings, slipped it through one of the holes in the circuit and put it back on," said Steve Grzadzilewski, 36. "It created a beautiful look, an interesting cross between computer geek and environmental chic."

Soon after, the Seattle-based brother and sister team combined their savings with a small bank loan, and opened their industrial art firm, Transistor Sister & Co.

They began scouring the electronics world for scrap materials, often experimenting with the look and texture of different kinds of circuit boards, transistors and fuses. The brighter the color and the more intricately designed the metallic wiring, the better.

Shoppers began spotting their work at craft fairs and weekly street markets, as the pair hawked their work as environmentally friendly and inexpensive accessories: earrings, money clips and bolo ties costing between \$12 and \$20.

A **FINANCIAL** boon came in 1987, when the curator for Seattle's Museum of Modern Art bought \$7,000 worth of merchandise as a product tie-in for a computer exhibit. Two weeks later, he returned and spent an additional \$13,000 on Transistor Sister products.

Since then, the five-person business and its revenues continues to grow at about 2 1/2 (one slash two) percent a year, Steve said. Today, their recycled electronic goods are sold at environmental stores, science museums

'When the PC revolution hit high gear in 1991, we had a whole new market open up. All of a sudden, there were all these craft stores interested in computer products that were pretty and functional.'

— Steve Grzadzilewski, co-owner of Transistor Sister & Co.

and computer shops. In Los Angeles, Fry's Electronics carries several racks of their work.

"When the PC revolution hit high gear in 1991, we had a whole new market open up," Grzadzilewski said. "All of a sudden, there were all these craft stores interested in computer products that were pretty and functional."

Other companies sensed this opportunity and dove into digital scrap heaps in search of new ways to transform junk into gems. One of the most successful of these start-ups is Motherboard Enterprises, a nine-person team out of Chicago.

Co-founder Charles Weaver, 34, was working in the sales and marketing departments of a gift company.

His partner, Suzanne Bevan, a multimedia artist, had incorporated circuit boards into her furniture designs, often mixing glass with the brightly colored and geometrically patterned circuitry.

"I had also been using the boards as a canvas and tried painting fictitious cities on them," said Bevan, 33. "When Chuck and I met, we realized we could combine our expertise to build a line of unique gifts."

The challenge lies in finding a ready supply of distinctive motherboards, a generic term for the main interconnecting circuit board in an electronic device. Computers use them. So do radios, televisions, stereos, watches and nearly every other consumer electronic device with an on-off switch.

"We've probably got a stock of 15,000 pounds of motherboards,"

Weaver said. "We work with local manufacturers of the boards and provide them with an alternative to throwing away their rejects."

Many boards have gold or copper wiring criss-crossing shiny green or red metallic-toned backgrounds. Often, people recycle these boards by separating and collecting the metal from the fibrous material.

Because of such recycling efforts, staff at both companies often struggle to find circuit boards free of scratches and scuff marks. Sifting through pieces discarded by electronics firms, Bevan says, she often searches for corners and smaller sections of a board that can be salvaged.

These odd bits become a heart-shaped postcard, a round drink coaster, a triangle key chain or a rectangular cover for a steel business card holder.

When Bevan and Weaver find a larger board in pristine condition, they set it aside for bigger products such as vases, briefcases and carrying cases for laptop computers.

"They're really hip. It's one of our best-selling lines," said Andrea Spyros, owner of Handmade Galleries in Sherman Oaks. The shop carries an extensive collection of Motherboard products.

"People buy these things for the computer people in their life. These days, everyone knows someone either working in the computer industry or on the Internet. And because the stuff's kind of gender-neutral, we see both men and women grabbing this stuff."

ONE: Allure of one shoulder fashions is old, new

(From 8B)

shoulder selections from Calvin Klein in matte jersey, either monochromatic or bi-colored such as a wine or violet bodice with navy skirt, about \$1,200. For dressier occasions, Joel Woodard's black rayon and silk velvet gown is \$1,325.

The allure is something old, something new, Steele says. "It's very 1996, and also 2000 B.C."

She cites peasant women toting water jugs and baskets in tomb paintings from ancient Egypt. "They looked very elegant in lightweight, diaphanous gowns made of white linen."

But the notion dates back even further.

"It totally captures the imagination as the original clothing," Steele says. "It's the idea of a loin cloth for men and a one-shoulder gown for women."

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UPDATE

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Jumpsuits Help Jump-start the Season

By Francine Parnes
Associated Press

Geoffrey Beene is eternally optimistic about jumpsuits as a wardrobe necessity. Through more than 30 years of designing them, he has believed that they would someday supplant classics such as the little black dress and evening wear. "I've always said the jumpsuit will be the ball gown of the next century," Beene says, "and I still think so."

Isaac Mizrahi also champions the sleek, modern silhouette which he calls "a dress with legs." But for most designers, the jumpsuit comes and goes.

This season it's flying high. Bloomingdale's catalog calls it the "statement of the season." And Mizrahi says it's "just the sexiest thing in the world to wear. You put one on, brush your hair and you're out the door. It's an incredibly futuristic thing."

FUTURISTIC, INDEED. Jumpsuits, quick dressing for paratroopers during World War II, took off again in 1971 when the movie "A Clockwork Orange" marked them as space-age attire.

Now, men as well as women are caught up in the fashion — mostly for weekend and evening — as designers adopt looks from the industrial and high-tech worlds.

Jack Herschlag in New York, executive director of the National Association of Men's Sportswear Buyers Inc., offers this assessment for menswear:

"Tommy Hilfiger is doing a lot of metallics and reflective fabrics, Donna Karan is working off of an industrial look, and Robert Fieda takes a basic style that could be an old aviator's jumpsuit and makes it forward fashion with an industrial jacket over it."

Perfect for daywear or evening wear when paired with the proper accessories, this black twill jumpsuit (left) with shirt-style bodice, straight leg and self belt is by Isaac Mizrahi. It has a suggested retail price of about \$1,105 and is sold at leading specialty stores, including Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom.

AP Laserphoto

Beene likes them for women because any single piece of clothing "saves time and effort and thought." And he likes the comfort factor.

"I recently went to a benefit, and Fred Hayman's wife had one on," Beene said. "I noticed she danced with greater ease than anyone else on the floor."

Then he added: "If you look at dancers when they're rehearsing, they don't wear skirts, they wear leotards. They're so great for movement and comfort."

BEENE WORKS works with wool, alpaca and silk, fashioned into stretch jersey which, he says, permits greater movement. A black or navy wool jersey jumpsuit with no waist, straight legs and long kimono sleeves is \$1,750.

A Mizrahi favorite is a strapless white silk jumpsuit with corset bodice and straight leg, about \$1,155 suggested retail.

New York designer Gemma Kahng says the jumpsuit is important for evening "because everyone seems to be dressing a little less formally. If you wear an evening jumpsuit, you look more modern than in a long gown. And you can still be accepted as formally dressed."

Kahng offers a jumpsuit in black acetate and viscose with a lace inset at the waist, slim pants and halter top, about \$575.

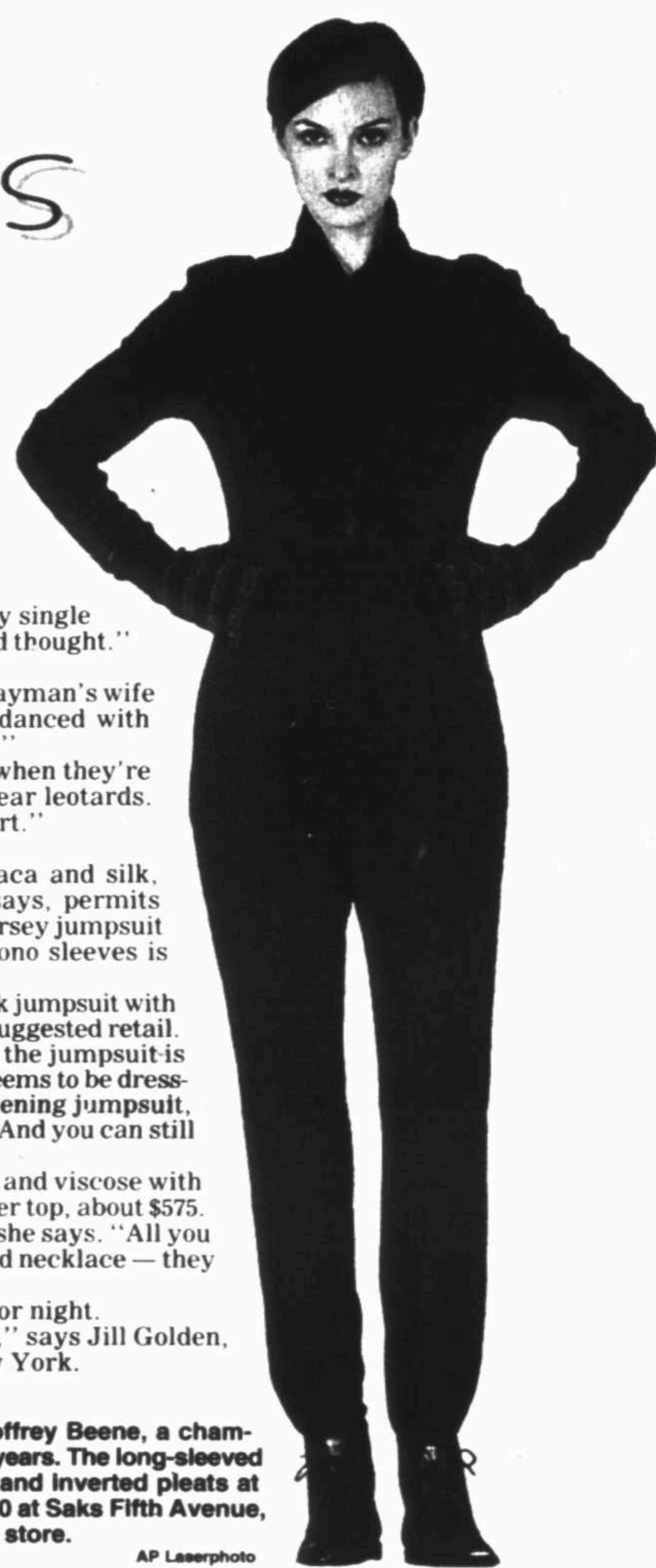
"You could wear it to a black tie event," she says. "All you need is little diamond earrings or a diamond necklace — they don't have to be real — to add sparkle."

Other jumpsuits are well-suited for day or night.

"A jumpsuit has tremendous versatility," says Jill Golden, publicity director for Liz Claiborne in New York.

This wool jersey jumpsuit (right) is by Geoffrey Beene, a champion of one-piece dressing for more than 30 years. The long-sleeved garment with stand-up collar, button front and inverted pleats at the hip has a suggested retail price of \$2,290 at Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Beene's New York store.

AP Laserphoto



Wake up a Weary Wardrobe

By Francine Parnes
Associated Press

The weather forecast is for bright blue skies and sun-kissed breezes, with highs in the 80s.

In the Caribbean, maybe. But many of us have been stuck in the mud in northern California, in snowdrifts in the Dakotas and the cold that inflicted a bite even on the South.

The rest of us are just bored. With winter and our wardrobes. While we can't mess with the weather, we can lift our spirits with something new to wear.

Kal Rutenstein of Bloomingdale's in New York suggests a narrow, longer skirt.

"A knee-length skirt is the new length that has been accepted by customers and will give a lift to those outfits that formerly had miniskirts," according to Rutenstein, senior vice president for fashion direction.

Choose one in a neutral shade, such as chamois, ivory or pale gray. "They're new for spring," he says, "and they look newest with a narrow boot on a mid-heel."

If you still prefer pants, Nicole Fischelis, fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, suggests brown or beige suede jeans or slim-fit pants. "The pants are a great classic. You can wear them with the turtleneck sweaters, tunics or twin sets that you already have," she says. "In the spring you'll put them together with white shirt and safari jacket or a neat cardigan."

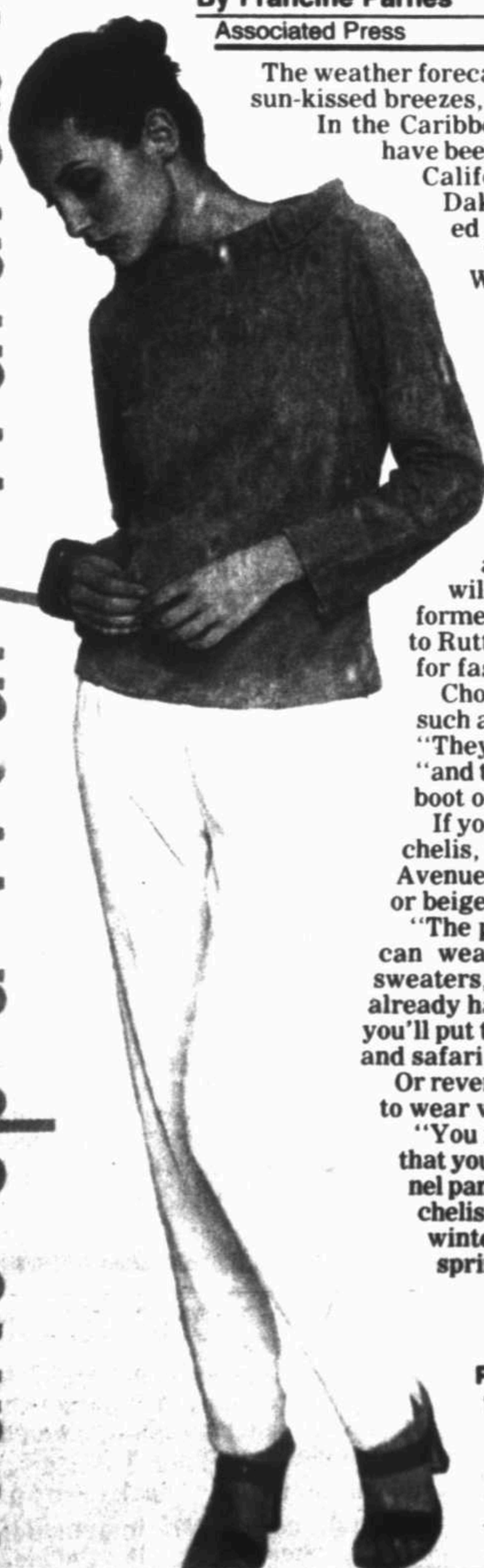
Or reverse the order and buy a new top to wear with pants you already have.

"You may want to buy a floral shirt that you could mix now with your flannel pants and a ribbed cardigan," Fischelis says. "It's fun and cheerful for winter, and you can wear it for spring with white pants."

Please see WEARY/7B

Perk up a winter-weary wardrobe with a burst of color such as this top from Oscar. The melon color long-sleeve suede blouse with a buckle accent on the neckline is about \$475.

AP Laserphoto



Those Fashionable Flintstones!

By Francine Parnes
Associated Press

The one-shoulder dress, once more caveman than cosmopolitan, is ripe for revival for day and night.

Thanks to fashion's new affair with asymmetry, a bare shoulder is shimmering with sexiness at Hollywood galas and speaking big-city chic on New York runways.

It's a style that seems to have slipped in and out of fashion since ancient Egypt, even before. But more recently, Madame Gres adopted the look in the 1930s. Halston revived it in the 1970s.

Now, Kate Moss is on the November cover of Harper's Bazaar in a one-shoulder black matte jersey column by Ralph Lauren. Inside the magazine, she works the angle with a single-sleeve sweater dress in sheer ivory wool by Helmut Lang.

Tinseltown types have been spotted with a show of shoulder, notably Elizabeth Hurley, Jennifer Aniston, Mariah Carey and Helen Hunt. And at the New York spring fashion previews, the one-shoulder gown was clearly the shape of things to come. Donna Karan, Carolina Herrera, Bob Mackie and Richard Tyler were among designers presenting it.

Elsewhere on the runways, Bill Blass chose one-shoulder tunics and knit sweaters, and Cynthia Rowley spun the idea into casual tops. But there's no need to wait until spring. Yuletide, with its crop of column dresses, is the perfect setting for the single shoulder.

"It's a bare look for evening for the holidays," LaVelle Olexa, fashion director for Lord & Taylor in New York, says. "The one-shoulder updates the column and makes it a little sexier, so it's not just the typical straight sheath that we've seen for such a long time."

So, bare if you dare. After all, the shoulders are often the last to go. But there's one caveat. "It requires a toned arm to really be at its

best," Olexa says.

Valerie Steele of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology agrees.

"It puts a real premium on having your arm muscles in very good shape," according to Steele, coordinator of FIT's museum.

If that's a burden you can, er, shoulder, Lord & Taylor has a column by Han Feng in burgundy iridescent silk taffeta with shirring at the waist, \$1,620. A gold lace column by Eric Gaskins is \$1,400.

Your investment can go further by extending the column's wearability well into the new year.

Joan Kaner, Neiman Marcus fashion director in New York, suggests buying a long one-shoulder dress in matte jersey to wear through the holidays, then cutting it off to mid-calf or the knee to wear under a tailored jacket come spring.

"It gives a geometric, harder edge to suits and updates them if you wear it under a jacket instead of your traditional sweater or blouse," she says. "So lose the short skirt and add the one-shoulder dress."

It's akin to wearing sexy lingerie. "You feel very risqué," she says, "but you look very acceptable if you

keep your jacket on."

Neiman Marcus offers several single-

Please see ONE/7B

From Michael Kors Collection for the resort season is a navy one-shoulder body suit and long skirt. The body suit in double-matte jersey has a \$375 suggested retail. The double-faced wool crepe skirt with red band is about \$795.



The young New York design team of 2B1 put its spin on one-shoulder fashions heating up for spring. Both in nylon and Lycra, the leotard is about \$40 suggested retail, the drawstring shorts, about \$30. They are paired with exercise sandals from Dr. Scholl's, about \$30.

AP Laserphoto



AP Laserphoto

SPORTS BRIEFING

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

Women's Tournament Quarterfinals
No. 9 Kansas 66, Baylor 54.
No. 12 Texas 74, Nebraska 68.
Kansas State 76, No. 15 Texas Tech 68.
Colorado 56, Iowa State 39.
Semifinals
Kansas vs. Kansas State, 5 p.m.
Texas vs. Colorado, 7:30 p.m.
Complete Big 12 Women's Results and Men's preview/1D.

TV Sports

COLLEGE BASKETBALL—
NCAA Basketball, Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament, quarterfinal No. 1, Xavier vs. Temple, at Philadelphia, 11 a.m., ESPN.
Big East Conference Tournament, quarterfinal No. 2, Providence vs. West Virginia, at New York, 1 p.m., ESPN.
Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament, first round, Georgia Tech vs. N. Carolina St., at Greensboro, N.C., 6:10 p.m., ESPN.
Big East Conference Tournament, quarterfinal No. 4, Boston College vs. Pittsburgh/Connecticut winner, at New York, 8:10 p.m., ESPN.
Arizona at Stanford, 9:30 p.m., FX.
Arizona State at California, 10 p.m., FSS.
WAC Tournament, quarterfinal No. 4, Utah vs. Colorado St./Southern Meth. winner, at Las Vegas, 11 p.m., Midnight, ESPN.
Women, Big 12 women's Semifinals Game 1 & 2, 5 p.m., FSS.
GOLF—PGA Golf, Doral Open, first round, at Miami, 3 p.m., USA.

Texas Scores

EXHIBITION BASEBALL—
Texas Rangers 5, St. Louis Cardinals 1.
Detroit Tigers 5, Houston Astros 4.
NBA—Chicago Bulls 111, San Antonio Spurs 69.
Utah Jazz 96, Dallas Mavericks 65.
Houston Rockets vs. Golden State Warriors, late.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL—
Conference USA First Round, Ala.-Birmingham 55, Houston 54.
Southland Conference Quarterfinals, McNeese St. 81, Texas-Arlington 50.
NW Louisiana vs. Stephen F. Austin, late.
Women, Southland Conference, No. 5 Louisiana Tech 100, Lamar 54.
WAC first Round, Hawaii 57, Rice 54.
HOCKEY—St. Louis at Dallas, late.

Sports Today

PREP BASEBALL—Midland High Baseball at Lubbock Tournament.
Lee High Baseball at Duncanville Tournament.
Greenwood Tournament at Christensen Stadium, 10 a.m. Schedule on 1C.

Lee soccer playoff

The Midland Lee girls soccer team will play San Angelo Central Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Lee Soccer Field in a District 7 playoff for the third seed.

Lee (14-6 overall and 7-5 in d) won the coin flip for the right to host the home game after it was determined that field in Abilene were too wet for play.

Central (7-7, 7-5) defeated Midland Lee 2-0 to force the playoff.

The Midland Lee boys will flip for seeding with Odessa Permian for the district's second and third seeds in upcoming UIL soccer playoffs.

Lee (9-6) and Permian (13-6) tied for second place in district at 8-4.

Mexico cancelled

TUCSON, Ariz. — An exhibition game between the San Diego Padres and Colorado Rockies scheduled for Cullacan, Mexico, on March 16 has been canceled.

The players union requested the cancellation because there was not enough time to inspect the facility and research all phases of the event.



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

Manning passes on NFL's riches to stay at Tennessee

By Tom Sharp
AP Sports Writer



KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Peyton Manning said they showed him the money, but he couldn't ignore his heart. The Tennessee quarterback announced Wednesday he will postpone the riches of the NFL for one last season of college football. The decision elated Volunteer fans and coaches, and drew respect from the NFL, whose lure is often more than undergraduates can resist. "It was what I wanted to do for a long time," Manning said. "I wanted to be 100 percent sure, and yesterday morning I woke up 100 percent sure." Manning, who was a likely top pick in the April 19 draft, now becomes the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy next season.

Archie Manning, a star quarterback for Mississippi and the New Orleans Saints, helped his son with information on agents and salary caps.

"Twenty-five, \$30 million. I'm human. Believe me, I looked at the money," Peyton Manning said. "I'm hoping the money's there next year, too, the good Lord willing I stay healthy."

"But staying was strongest in my heart. I knew that's what I wanted to do."

Coach Bill Parcells, whose New York Jets have the No. 1 selection, said he respected Manning's choice.

"I think the common feeling in this country today is that everybody sells out for the money and the opportunity," said Parcells, who had hinted the Jets would draft Manning.

"In Peyton's case, I admire his decision and think that it took courage to make it, and I wish

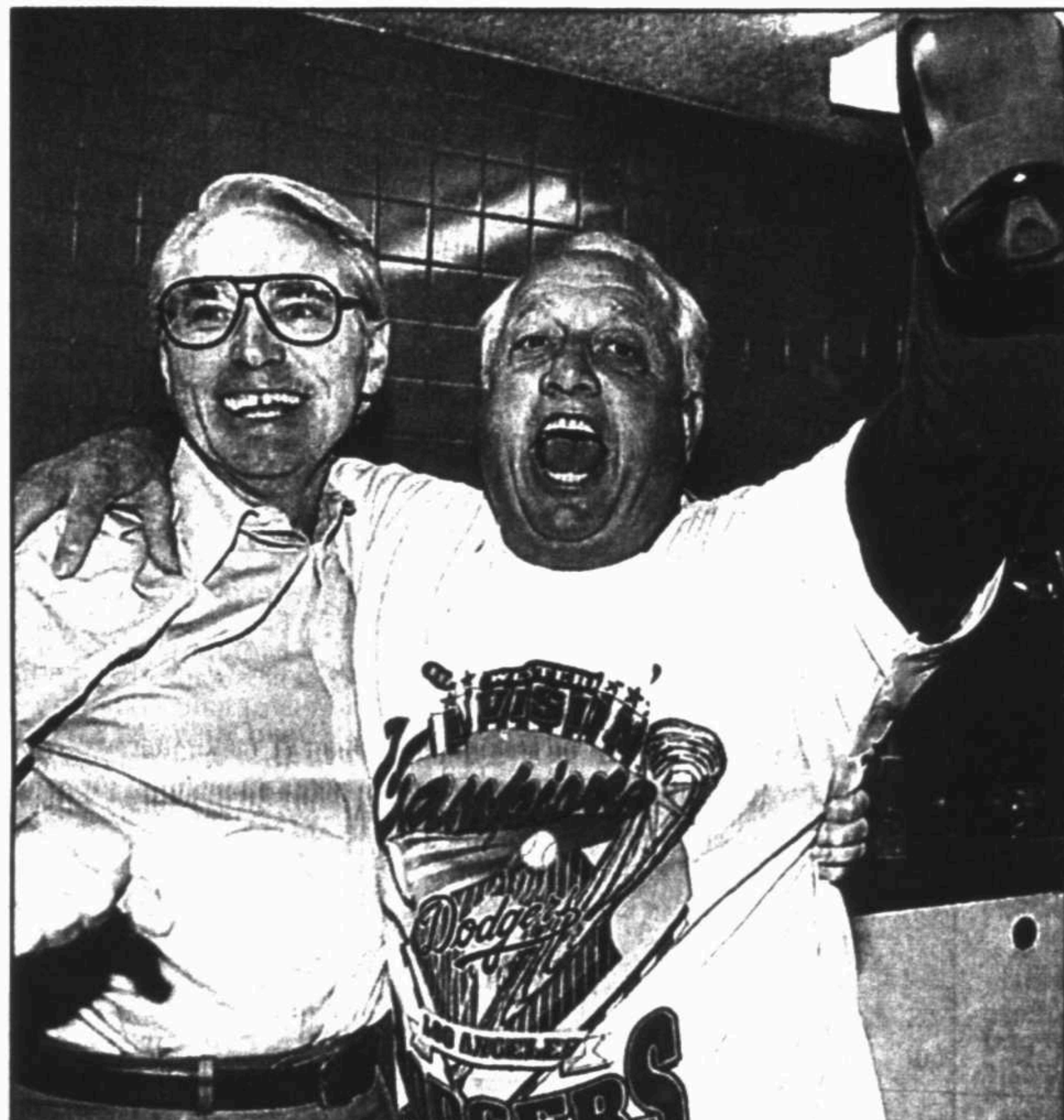
Please see DRAFT/5C



University of Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer is elated after quarterback Peyton Manning, right, announces Wednesday in Knoxville that he will return for his senior season. Fulmer praised Manning for his loyalty to the school and his team.

COOPERSTOWN ANNOINTED IN DODGER BLUE

Lasorda headed to the Hall



Former Los Angeles Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda was elected Wednesday. Lasorda, right, and Los Angeles Dodgers executive vice-president Fred Claire, left, are seen above celebrating after the Dodgers won the National League West by beating the San Diego Padres 7-2 Sept. 30, 1995 in San Diego.

Manager one of three elected by hall's veterans committee

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — Tommy Lasorda isn't returning to baseball, he's headed into the Hall of Fame instead.

And so, at long last, is Nellie Fox.

Lasorda was elected along with Fox, a durable second baseman for the Chicago White Sox, and Negro Leaguer Willie Wells Sr. by the hall's veterans committee on Wednesday.

Lasorda has always said he bleeds Dodger blue, so it was fitting he got word of the committee's vote while watching his beloved Dodgers play Montreal in Vero Beach, Fla.

"I cried," Lasorda said. "They were tears of joy. When they announced it at the game, I got chills. I couldn't believe it."

Lasorda, one of only four managers in history to guide the same team for at least 20 years, retired in 1996 following 47 seasons in the Dodgers' organization.

Charismatic and ever ready to trumpet his love for baseball, Lasorda had hinted at a possible comeback, leading to speculation he would be passed over by the 15-member committee.

However, Lasorda, 69, recently said he had no intention of managing again, and the committee took his word.

"We told him that if he managed again, we'd tear down the statue," joked committee chairman Joe Brown.

Lasorda, the 14th manager to make

it to Cooperstown, won two World Series titles with Los Angeles. He said it was a mistake to think he was considering a return.

"Wanting to manage and asking to manage is a little bit different," Lasorda said. "That's what the misunderstanding was. I didn't go out and solicit. Heck, I gave up the best managing job in the world."

Does that mean his managing days are over?

"Now that I'm in the Hall of Fame," he said. "That's it."

Lasorda, Fox and Wells will be inducted on Aug. 3 in Cooperstown, N.Y., along with knuckleballer Phil Neikro, who was voted in by the Baseball Writers Association of America in January.

Lasorda has never strayed far from the spotlight. He could be seen charging from the dugout to embrace a winning pitcher, or as a television pitchman endorsing a favorite diet drink.

Above all, he has always been an ambassador for baseball, enraptured by the game since his boyhood in Norristown, Pa.

"Today is really the icing on the cake," said Lasorda, who recently returned from a promotional tour of Japan. "... This way I can spread the word of baseball, which I've always done, and now as a Hall of Famer makes it even nicer."

Please see HALL/4C

Raiders sign Super Bowl MVP Howard

By Steve Capo and Erik Matuszewski
Bloomberg News

Oakland, Calif. — The Oakland Raiders signed wide receiver-kick returner Desmond Howard to a multiyear contract, making him the second straight Super Bowl Most Valuable Player to join the club.

Terms of the contract weren't disclosed, although ESPN reported it was a four-year contract worth \$6 million.

Howard, 26, became the first special teams player to win Super Bowl MVP honors, after having 10 returns for 244 yards in the Green Bay Packers' 35-21 win over the New England Patriots. Oakland signed cornerback Larry Brown last season after he was named MVP of Super Bowl XXX for the Dallas Cowboys.

"We've added yet another explosive, impact



The Oakland Raiders have signed Super Bowl MVP Desmond Howard to a four-year contract.

player to our football team," said Raiders head coach Joe Bugel. "We welcome Desmond to the Raider organization."

The Raiders plan to use Howard more at receiver, giving new quarterback Jeff George another deep threat, along with Tim Brown and James Jett. Howard was used sparingly as a wide

Please see MVP/5C

Former Midland Lee Rebel enjoys time on Expos' 40-man roster

By Stewart Doreen
Sports Writer

The spring training scene at the Montreal Expos' West Palm Beach home isn't much different than in past years. The sound of 90-plus mph fast balls are still popping into catcher's mitts, players are again getting into shape for another season of America's pastime and dreams of making the big club are still in a number of players' heads.

The difference for Midlander Jason Baker is that sound of ball hitting leather is louder, and he is closer to realizing his big league dream as a member of the Expos' 40-man roster.

The invitation by the big club

culminated what had been progression-filled end of 1996 and off-season. Baker finished the season with Class A Delmarva of the South Atlantic League with a 9-7 record and 2.81 earned run average. Baker admits that the performance, especially over the second half of the season, was a big improvement. The change happened at the all-star break (June 5-6) and was riding a 4.25 ERA when he and his pitching coach started to talk about what was going wrong.

"They changed my mechanics and made me tougher to the mental approach to the game," said Baker, who also writes notes on the bill of his cap.

Please see BAKER/4C

Top baseball teams convene for Greenwood's Tournament

By Lee Passmore
Sports Writer

For the second weekend in a row, Christensen Stadium will play home to some of the best that West Texas has to offer in terms of high school baseball.

While the big schools got their turn in last weekend's Tournament of Champions, it's now time for the smaller schools to showcase their talents at the Greenwood Rangers' West Texas March Classic starting today at Christensen. The fourth annual tournament will be hosted by Greenwood High, yet the Rangers haven't stacked the eight-team field with palsies to their own advantage.

"It'll be pretty strong," said Greenwood coach Tony Pallenez, whose team will

face Clint today at 12:30 p.m. "Kermit won last year's tournament and Alpine won it two years in a row before that. And (Abilene) Wylie's ranked in the top 10."

Along with the above-mentioned teams, Seminole, Pecos and Monahans are all scheduled to compete in the tournament. Clint and Monahans are the only two teams who didn't compete in last year's tournament.

Unlike the Tournament of Champions, which was forced to go to pool play after it was shortened to only two days, the West Texas March Classic will be in bracket format all three days, with the championship game scheduled for Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Christensen.

Please see CLASSIC/4C

West Texas March Classic

All games at Christensen Stadium except as noted

Today

Game 1: Pecos vs. Seminole, 10 a.m.

Game 2: Greenwood vs. Clint, 12:30 p.m.

Game 3: Alpine vs. Kermit, 3 p.m.

Game 4: Abilene Wylie vs. Monahans, 5:30 p.m.

Game 5: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 8 p.m.

Friday

Game 6: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 10 a.m.

x-Game 7: Game 1 loser vs. Game 3 loser, 10 a.m.

Game 8: Game 2 loser vs. Game

4 loser, 12:30 p.m.

Game 9: Game 5 loser vs. Game 7 winner, 3 p.m.

Game 10: Game 8 winner vs. Game 6 loser, 5:30 p.m.

Game 11: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Game 12: Game 10 winner vs. Game 11 loser, 10 a.m.

Game 13: Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 12:30 p.m.

Game 14: Game 9 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 3 p.m.

Game 15: Game 11 winner vs. Game 14 winner, 5:30 p.m.

Game 16: If necessary, 8 p.m.

x-at Greenwood High School

Blue Monster poses threat to PGA's elite

By Joe Concannon
The Boston Globe

MIAMI — Brad Faxon had just finished playing the 18th hole in Wednesday's light breezes that swept over the Blue Monster Course at Doral, placing his drive perfectly on the par-4 hole, missing the green with a 4-iron second shot, and holing his chip. "It's the hardest hole in golf," said Faxon on the eve of the Doral-Ryder Open.

The hardest hole in golf? Mark O'Meara, who has broken from the gate with two wins this season, had earlier termed the 443-yard hole that bends around a lake and stretches out to a green of dunes and turns the hardest finishing hole on the PGA Tour. Faxon went him one step beyond.

This finishing hole on a course where the honor roll of championships includes Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Raymond Floyd, Nick Faldo, and defender Greg Norman will be the centerpiece of conversation. The layout has been toughened up by Floyd in the wake of Norman's 22-under-par total a year ago. "It's too hard for me," said O'Meara. "I'd take two pars and two 5s. It sounds crazy, but 4 will be a tremendous score."

The Blue Course at the Doral Resort and Spa, where the daily greens fee for a nonmember is \$225, was built by Alfred Kasel, and just six players broke par 288 in the inaugural event won by Billy Casper in 1962. By last year, the south Florida winds, erosion, and top dressing had combined to shrink the traps, raise the greens to 3 1/2 feet from the water, and turn the Blue Monster into a more inviting target. "The course," said Floyd, "was harmless."

So they brought in Floyd and consulting partner Ted McNelis after last year's tournament, added 22 bunkers, and expanded most of those that existed. They're larger, deeper, and the faces are sharp and steep. There were five bunkers added on the 18th hole, including a shallow trap that wraps around the lake, which modern players had carried more frequently every year, and one on the right to narrow the landing area. This wasn't a restoration of a historic venue such as The Country Club underwent for the 1988 US Open. This was toughening up a modern delight.

"I have no objection to anything Raymond did on the golf course," said Nicklaus. "I like it. It's going to make the golf course play more difficult. I always enjoyed playing here, and that's because it was good and tough. You could

shoot 142 or 143 and miss the cut. You once could shoot 142 or 143 and still win the tournament. Guys are going to complain, but I think he did the right thing. He accomplished what he wanted to accomplish. He made it tougher."

This was Floyd's first significant venture into redesigning one of the game's celebrated courses, and he is satisfied with the early returns. "I've been flattered," he said. "I remember the first time I played it" — at age 20 in 1963 — and called my dad and said, "I've just played the hardest golf course in the world. I intended to put the teeth back into the Monster, and I accomplished my goal."

O'Meara said this course will ensure that one of the game's best players wins Sunday. "The guy who wins is going to have to be a methodical player, a thinker," he said. "You usually get the best players who rise to that occasion."

Is this the first segment of the elusive breakthrough year for O'Meara, the game's best player who has never won a major championship? Maybe it remained for his Orlando neighbor, Tiger Woods, to bring it out at Pebble Beach, where O'Meara held him off by a stroke. "I couldn't have asked for a better scenario," said O'Meara. "I expected the charge, and to beat him was very good for me."

UIL hopes Class 4A battle doesn't turn into a fight

By Chip Brown
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Dallas Lincoln and Houston Wheatley will be fighting for a berth in the Class 4A finals when they meet Thursday night at the boys' state basketball tournament.

School administrators simply hope they don't end up fighting each other.

A game between the teams earlier this year was terminated after a bench-clearing brawl that ignited fights among spectators.

"We talked to the team about decorum and sportsmanship and things like that," Dallas Lincoln athletic director Reginald Samples said Wednesday. "I am confident nothing will be started by our team."

On Nov. 29, Lincoln (30-7) and Wheatley (22-9) played in a tournament in Fort Worth. With Lincoln leading by 11 in the fourth quarter, a fight broke out among players that lasted several minutes and carried over to the fans.

"The officiating allowed the teams to play a little rough," Samples said. "The rough play led to a little extra pushing and shoving and that's what led to the incident."

The brawl resulted in a double forfeit and one year's probation for each team. Wheatley suspended its entire varsity roster for three weeks following the incident and played with members from its junior varsity.

"My boys won't start something," said Wheatley coach Jackie Carr. "But I know it's almost impossible to stop them from defending themselves. We expect a tough game."

Rachel Sewald Hendrix, a spokeswoman for the University Interscholastic League, said she wasn't aware of any additional security for the game.

"We would like to think that at the state tournament, the schools will be on their best behavior," she said. "We don't anticipate any problems."

In the other Class 4A semifinal,

San Antonio Fox Tech (34-3) will take on Sweetwater (25-11).

The Class 5A semifinals will be played on Friday as defending champion Dallas Kimball (36-2), one of the top teams in the country led by high-scoring senior Jeryl Sasser, will take on area rival Duncanville (29-7).

Duncanville, which suffered an 85-65 defeat against Kimball earlier this season, is attempting to become the eighth school in state history to win a boys and girls championship in the same year. The girls team defeated Alief Elsie for the 5A crown last week-end.

Duncanville, on a 19-game winning streak, is led by Chris Owens, a muscular 6-foot-7 senior, averaging 26.9 points per game. He has signed with Tulane and is regarded by many as the state's No. 1 player.

In the other 5A semifinal, Galena Park North Shore (33-3) will take on San Antonio Taft (33-5).

In Class 3A, Dallas Madison (26-7) is widely considered the team to

beat after losing in the Class 4A finals last year to Pampa and then being moved down to 3A in the latest realignment.

Madison, led by 6-foot-5 senior forward Archie Beason, averaging 23.4 points and 11.6 rebounds per game, will take on Kountze (31-4) Thursday at 2 p.m.

Tulia (34-2), making its debut in the state tournament, faces defending 3A champion Sinton (23-14) in the other semifinal.

In the Class 2A semifinals on Friday, Vanderbilt Industrial (32-4) takes on Tahoka (29-6), while Woden (34-2) faces Italy (25-4).

In Class A action on Thursday, University of Texas fans will get a look at one of their top football recruits, 6-foot-7, 300-pound defensive end Leonard Davis, who also plays center for Wortham (25-2).

Wortham faces Weatherford Brock (28-8) at 8:30 a.m.; while Moulton (37-2), the 1991 state champs, takes the court at 10 a.m.

In Class 3A, Dallas Madison (26-7) is widely considered the team to

Roy cheered by fans in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Goaltender Patrick Roy, a hero for more than a decade in Montreal, received a boisterous welcome Wednesday night in his first game back in the city since his trade to Colorado.

Then he beat the Canadiens 7-3. By the end of the third period, fans were chanting his name and giving him a standing ovation. Roy, who led the Canadiens to Stanley Cup wins in 1986 and 1993, was cheered as soon as he stepped on the ice for the pregame warmup. When Roy was shown on the giant Molson Centre video screen while stretching near his replacement, Jocelyn Thibault, there were even more cheers.

The cheering continued through the first few minutes of the game, including his first save against the Canadiens, who traded him to the Avalanche 15 months ago.

Thibault, who came to Montreal in the Roy trade, was booed slightly as he was introduced at the start of the game. That quickly changed to cheers as he made a nice save off an early Avalanche scoring chance.

Much of the crowd cheered when Colorado scored in the first period.

Roy, one of the most popular players in recent Canadiens history, won the Vezina Trophy as the league's best goaltender three times during his decade in a Canadiens uniform.

But he clashed with new coach Mario Tremblay early last season.

"I am not part of his fan club — that's for sure," Roy said. "Would you be if you were me?"

But his bad memories do not extend to the Canadiens organization.

"I just have good things to say about Montreal," he said.

His popularity was uncontested while he wore the Canadiens' red, white and blue, and he expected the warm reception from the fans.

"Fans here have always been demanding, but also very appreciative of athletes. ... It's special for me even if I am very happy in Denver."

Roy's problems with Tremblay came to a head in the club's 11-1 loss to Detroit on Dec. 2, 1995. He was left in the nets for nine of those goals and when he was yanked, Roy and Tremblay stared each other down on the bench.

Then, in a moment few Canadiens fans will forget, Roy leaned over and told team president Ronald Corey he had just played his last game with Montreal.

He was suspended and traded a few days later to Colorado.

At the time, Roy said he was angry because he had been humiliated by Tremblay.

Roy, who helped the Avalanche win the Stanley Cup last season, said he prefers to focus on his accomplishments in Montreal rather than his spat with Tremblay.

"There were a lot of great moments," he



Avalanche goalie Patrick Roy gets ready to start a game against the Canadiens. This is Roy's first game in Montreal since being traded.

said, "and that is what I want to remember of Montreal."

Stars' defense does its job in win over St. Louis

DALLAS (AP) — When the St. Louis Blues' top line doesn't produce, they're usually in trouble.

The Dallas Stars contained the Blues' No. 1 line of Brett Hull, Pierre Turgeon and Geoff Courtnall for the most part en route to a 3-2 victory Wednesday night.

Turgeon, Courtnall and Hull had combined for 10 goals and 20 points in their three previous meetings with Dallas, but the Stars limited the trio to an assist by Hull with 14.9 seconds left.

"We needed to take away Tur-

geon's ice and find Hull every time," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said. "Overall we did a good job against that line."

Hitchcock also credited good fortune for holding the Turgeon line without a goal, especially in the second period. But Stars goalie Andy Moog came up big in the second with 10 saves to keep it a 1-1 game.

"We gave up two two-on-ones and you can't do that against that line," Hitchcock said. "That's the scary part. We were very lucky."

Today we got away with it."

Todd Harvey's goal with 7:53 to play snapped a 1-1 tie as the Stars beat the Blues for the first time in four meetings this season. Harvey skated into the slot, picked up Guy Carbonneau's pass and beat Grant Fuhr with a one-timer for his seventh goal.

"There wasn't a lot of room out there," Harvey said. "But then in the third period we started to go hard to the net and it paid off for us."

Jere Lehtinen made it 3-1 with

2:31 left. The goal helped the Stars withstand Chris Pronger's power-play goal for St. Louis with 14.9 seconds remaining.

Moog, Fuhr's former teammate with the Edmonton Oilers, stopped 21 shots for his 353rd career victory, the most among active goal-tenders.

The Blues were 2-0-1 and scored 17 goals in their first three games against the Stars this season.

"I don't know if that gets the monkey off our backs," Hitchcock said.

NBC-IOC finalize \$2.3 billion TV contract

Deal gives broadcasting company exclusive rights to the games of 2004, 2006 and 2008.

By Stephen Wilson
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — NBC completed its \$2.3 billion deal with the Olympics on Wednesday, giving the network exclusive U.S. television rights to the games of 2004, 2006 and 2008.

In a related move, the IOC signed agreements with the U.S. Olympic Committee that will raise funding of America's Olympic sports by as much as \$100 million. The IOC awarded the TV rights to NBC in December 1995, but Wednesday's ceremony marked the official conclusion of the agreement.

The arrangement covers the Summer Games in 2004 and 2008, and the Winter Games in 2006. The sites for those games have yet to be selected.

NBC previously was awarded the rights to the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

The total value of the five-games package is \$3.57 billion, not including profit-sharing agreements.

The deal was signed by IOC president Juan

Antonio Samaranch, NBC sports president Dick Ebersol, U.S. Olympic Committee president William Hybl and others.

Samaranch and Hybl, along with USOC executive director Dick Schultz and deputy secretary general John Krimsky, also signed an agreement increasing the USOC's take from the NBC contract to 12.75 percent, up from the 10 percent level under previous contracts.

USOC officials said the new figures would add at least \$72 million to committee coffers from 2004-2008 and, with revenue-sharing provisions, could top \$100 million in new revenue.

The agreement also makes the USOC exclusive source of Olympic archive footage in the United States and designates NBC as "America's Olympic Network" once CBS televises next year's Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Under the deal, the USOC will also sit at the table when the IOC negotiates future TV rights in the United States, Krimsky said.

"This is probably one of the hardest single agreements I have ever had to negotiate," he said. "This will hopefully reduce some of the stress and tensions that had built up between the IOC and USOC."

"The U.S. market is the strongest market in the world for Olympic properties," he said. "We are happy to share our market but we need reciprocity from the IOC. Today we received that reciprocity."

Samaranch thanked NBC for its long-time

involvement in the Olympics, dating back to the 1980 games in Moscow, which were boycotted by the United States.

"We faced many difficulties in Moscow, but NBC signed a contract with the Moscow organizing committee and fulfilled this contract," he said.

NBC also had the rights to the summer games in Seoul in 1988, Barcelona in 1992 and last year in Atlanta.

Samaranch said the deal was signed on condition that NBC continued to offer its principal Olympic coverage to viewers on a free basis, as opposed to cable or subscription services.

"All the people have the right to watch the Olympic Games without paying a single dollar," he said. "That is our philosophy."

Ebersol said, "This concludes an amazing deal. Considering the enormous sums involved, it is not about dollars. It is about trust."

Under a new formula, the host cities will receive 49 percent of the television revenues while the IOC, international federations and national Olympic bodies share 51 percent. Previously, the split was 60-40 in the host city's favor.

The NBC deal is one of several long-term TV contracts negotiated by the IOC through the year 2008. With Europe and other major markets already signed up, the total value of the TV revenues is over \$5 billion.



Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, right, speaks about his proposed legislation which would create a Houston and Harris County Sports Venue Authority during a news conference Wednesday.

Whitmire files bill allocating money for Houston stadiums

By Sarah Hornaday
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Money could be raised to renovate the Astrodome and build a downtown baseball stadium that Houston voters approved last November under legislation filed Wednesday.

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, is sponsoring a bill, supported by five of six Harris County senators, that would create a Sports Venue Authority and provide methods of financing an approved venue site.

The bill could make a reality the downtown baseball stadium approved by Houston voters last year. The referendum approved the building of a \$265 million stadium as well as financing renovations of the Astrodome.

"This legislation is honoring the vote that was taken last November," Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Galena Park, said. "It's not a vote for baseball, but of economic redevelopment of the inner city."

Sen. Michael Galloway, R-The Woodlands, generally has concerns with the funding mechanism, said Galloway spokesman Dean McWilliams.

Rep. Kim Brimer, R-Kennedale, filed legislation that would allow every Texas city and county to use

special taxes to build sports facilities.

Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, Tuesday introduced a bill similar to Whitmire's that would be specific for South Texas cities.

Whitmire said he would support Brimer's legislation if it came to the Senate, but said he wanted to make sure a bill would meet Houston's needs.

"We want to do the whole state's business," Whitmire said. "But we've got to make sure we get our business done."

Whitmire's bill specifically aids Houston and Harris county by qualifying sports venue projects for a city with a population of more than 1.2 million or a county with more than 2.2 million residents.

It also qualifies facilities used for rodeo, agricultural or livestock events, a direct link to the profitable and popular Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The bill, which Whitmire estimated to bring in \$40 million for Houston, would raise funds by allowing cities or counties to sanction a rental car tax, a ticket tax, a parking tax and a hotel occupancy tax.

The taxes would be approved by voters in the same election they are asked to approve a venue project.

Chargers offer Moon a contract

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Chargers offered free agent quarterback Warren Moon a contract on Wednesday to serve as backup to Stan Humphries.

General manager Bobby Beathard wouldn't comment on specifics, but there were reports it would be worth \$1.5 million for one year, with an option year.

Beathard wasn't optimistic about landing Moon, though, because Moon is believed to be seeking a contract paying close to \$2 million per season. Moon was

offered \$500,000 by the Vikings, far from the \$4.3 million he collected in 1996.

If the Chargers sign Moon, they'd release backup quarterback Sean Salisbury.

"I feel sorry for Sean, but it's just one of those things," Beathard said.

"Warren wants to compete for the job, just like Sean Salisbury would like to be No. 1," Beathard said. "Stan's our quarterback. We'll see where it goes from here. That's the decision."

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Marlins 5
Atlanta 010 10
Florida 300 00
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Melhus (8), W-
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Center 2 (2), Sprag-

Diaz powers Rangers past Cardinals, 5-1

By The Associated Press

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — Edwin Diaz drove in two runs with a homer and a double, leading the Texas Rangers to a 5-1 victory Wednesday over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Dmitri Young homered off Rangers starter Darren Oliver in the first inning, and Will Clark drove in Mark McLemore to tie the game in the Texas first.

It remained tied until the seventh, when Diaz hit his homer. The Rangers got three more runs in the eighth off Curtis King. The rally included run-scoring doubles by Diaz and Fernando Tatis.

Oliver allowed three hits and one run over three innings. Cory Bailey went two innings, allowing one hit for the victory.

Marlins 6, Braves 5

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Alex Arias' run-scoring single in the seventh inning broke a tie, and the Florida Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves to remain undefeated this spring under Jim Leyland.

The Marlins — 6-0 under their new manager — scored three runs in the first inning off Danny Neagle, including Devon White's two-run triple.

Blue Jays 13, Phillies 9

DUNEDIN, Fla. — Joe Carter had two homers — among 10 extra-base hits by Toronto.

Carter's homers were his first hits of the spring. Ed Sprague and Alex Gonzalez also connected for the Blue Jays, and Rico Brogna homered for the Phillies.

Orioles 3, Mets 3, 10

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Tony Tarasco's two-run single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth tied the score.

Baltimore third baseman Cal Ripken, returning after a two-game absence with a strained left groin, started and went 2-for-2 in five innings.

White Sox 8, Royals 4

HAINES CITY, Fla. — Ron Karkovics had a three-run homer as Chicago broke the game open with a six-run sixth inning against reliever Mitch Williams.

Joe Vitiello had a two-run homer — his third of the spring — in the ninth for the final Kansas City runs.

Chicago starter Wilson Alvarez allowed just one hit in four innings. Tim Lincecum lost by allowing three runs on six hits in three innings.

Pirates 6, Yankees 5

BRADENTON, Fla. — Rookie Lou Collier's two-run single in the eighth inning capped a six-run rally by Pittsburgh.

Collier, competing for the starting second base job, raised his average to .556 with the hit off Willie Banks.

Dwight Gooden pitched four scoreless innings for the Yankees. He allowed one hit — retiring 12 of the 13 — and has now given up one run on two hits in seven innings during his first two starts.

Reds 4, Indians 1

PLANT CITY, Fla. — A strained hip forced Cincinnati starter Dave Burba out of the game after two innings, but reliever Kevin Jarvis pitched four scoreless innings and homered.

Burba, the Reds' No. 3 starter, was hurt while throwing a pitch in the second inning. He tried to warm up for the third inning, but left after his first toss. Burba does not expect to miss a start.

Tigers 5, Astros 4

LAKELAND, Fla. — Curtis Pride's two-run double in the ninth inning won it for Detroit.

Pride, who also tripled, hit a two-out liner off Alvin Morman that slammed off the left-field wall just beyond the reach of Thomas Howard.

Houston got an unearned run off former teammate Doug Brocail in the first, and it 3-0 in the fourth on RBI singles off Glenn Disher by Carlos Guillen and Craig Biggio.

Red Sox 8, Twins 4

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Scott Hatteberg had two homers — including a grand slam — to carry Boston over shellshocked Greg Swindell.

Hatteberg, battling for the third-string catcher's job, hit both of his shots off Swindell, trying to make the Twins after an injury-plagued 1996.

Dodgers 11, Expos 4

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Brett Butler and Raul Mon-



St. Louis Cardinals catcher Danny Sheaffer, right, talks with pitcher Alan Beres to settle him down during a Grapefruit League game against the Texas Rangers in Port Charlotte, Fla., Wednesday.

desi had three hits and scored three runs each, and Los Angeles beat Montreal as former manager Tommy Lasorda learned of his Hall of Fame selection.

The Holman Stadium crowd gave Lasorda a standing ovation in the second inning after learning the Veterans Committee had selected him. Lasorda, who managed the Dodgers from 1977 to 1996, was in uniform and sitting in the second row behind the Dodgers' bench.

Rockies (ss) 5, Padres (ss) 3

TUCSON, Ariz. — Larry Walker had two doubles and an RBI, and Harvey Pulliam drove in two runs as Colorado beat San Diego in a split-squad game.

Winner Darren Holmes, continuing a strong bid for the No. 5 job in the Colorado rotation, pitched three innings, giving up three hits and one run — Greg Vaughn's 430th solo homer — to earn the win.

John Burke, who appears to have nailed down a spot in the bullpen, pitched two scoreless innings and Steve Reed worked the ninth for the save.

Padres (ss) 3, Athletics (ss) 1

PHOENIX — Chris Jones had three hits, including an RBI single, and Ken Caminiti added a run-scoring single as the rest of the Padres defeated an Oakland split squad.

Caminiti and Jones had consecutive RBI singles in the fifth as the Padres scored two runs off Juan Guzman. San Diego added a run in the eighth on an error, a stolen base and a wild pitch.

Brewers (ss) 8, Rockies (ss) 6

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Antone Williamson went 3-for-4 with three RBIs as a Milwaukee split squad rallied to beat the other Rockies' team.

Jason Bates went 4-for-5 and starter John Thomson pitched three hitless innings for Colorado, which took a 6-2 lead into the eighth, when Bobby Jones surrendered six runs — four earned — on five hits.

Williamson had a two-run single in the eighth and with the score tied at 6, second baseman Craig Counsell booted Fernando Vina's tricky bouncer, allowing two runs to score.

Giants 6, Brewers (ss) 3

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds hit his second homer of the spring and Dax Jones had a three-run homer as San Francisco defeated the Brewers.

Jones homered in the second off Milwaukee's Scott Karl, and Bonds hit his solo shot in the sixth off Jamie McAndrew to give San Francisco a 4-0 lead.

Athletics (ss) 8, Angels 7

TEMPE, Ariz. — Oakland's Patrick Lennson hit his fifth homer in five games during a six-run fourth inning, leading an Athletics split-squad over winless Anaheim.

Lennson, who had three homers here Friday, hit a 3-0 pitch from Shigetoshi Hasegawa out of Tempe Diablo Stadium. RBI singles from Dave Valle and Geronimo Berroa, and a two-run double from Scott Brosius — all unearned runs against Hasegawa — made it 6-1.

Tim Salmon and Jack Howell had solo homers for the Angels, who at 0-6 are the only team without a spring victory.

Mariners 6, Cubs 2

PEORIA, Ariz. — Ken Griffey Jr. hit his first home run of the spring and five Seattle pitchers limited Chicago to six hits.

Griffey hit a first-pitch fastball from Amaury Telemaco 370 feet to right field to drive in three runs in the fifth inning. The Mariners scored three more times in the sixth, including two runs driven in on a double by Russ Davis.

BAKER: Former Rebel a hot prospect

(From 1C)

"They wanted me to go out and take every three innings as a new game."

"Something clicked and it brought my strikeouts up and walks down. The ERA also went down. That is when things started working for me. In the first half, I wasn't a top starter and everyone was giving me a hard time. That was motivation. Then I hit 98 mph (on the radar gun) and they were stunned. It was a drastic change. I turned the whole year around."

Baker, who stands at 6-foot-4 inches, started showing the promise that the Expos saw in him out of Midland Lee. The 1993 graduate was named as the No. 5 prospect on the Expos' Top 10 list by Baseball America this past off-season. In addition Baseball America said Baker had the best fast ball in system and projected him to be a projected starter in the year 2000.

After his senior year, the Expos gave Baker a \$100,000-plus college tuition to sign. Although Baker had not set the world on fire, the 1996 season showed a great deal of what the Expos expect in the future. Hitting ".98" is something that the Expos are thrilled with and opposing batters might not be.

Last season, "Bake" was consistently around 95-96 mph, a place where he topped out in 1995. This has also been threatening to batters as he hit a South Atlantic League high 16 batters in 1996. But that was a minor set back when assessing the progress of the 22-year-old.

"Jason progressed as well as we could have hoped and has become more of a pitcher," said Neil Huntington, the Expos' assistant director of player development. "He has a great arm, an unmatched arm in our system. He just blows hitters away. We hope he is with the 40-man roster for 10 years to come."

Huntington also said that others may have had a better start, but what counts is the end result.

"With an arm and body like

Jason's, the commodity is valuable as far as we are concerned," Huntington said. "He had not made the progression that others had. He was more raw and the whole package came together at a different pace. He has a higher ceiling than those that progressed quicker. If he continues to progress he could blow by the other guys."

Now Baker is working with the big club at facility in West Palm Beach. The Expos really share a training site with the Atlanta Braves, although Baker says there is not much sharing since the Braves have all the money. He did, however, say that watching the team take batting practice was a sight he will not forget.

"The first day I came out to workouts, the Braves were taking batting practice, and it was like watching an all-star team," Baker said. "I've hung out with Mark Lemke, Ryan Klesko, Tom Glavine and Chipper Jones. To see them play ball is neat."

There has been a lot of star gazing for Baker. Not only can he look into the Braves' camp and see Cy Young winners Greg Maddux, Glavine and John Smoltz, but in his own camp, there are Pedro Martinez, Carlos Perez and Shane Andrews, a Carlsbad, N.M., native. He says he tries to put the fact that these guys make \$3.5 million a year behind him, but that can be hard, especially throwing next to one of the all-time great relief pitchers, Lee Smith, a former Midland Cub.

"Hanging out with Lee Smith is one of the most memorable things (about the 40-man experience)," Baker said. "We chit-chat about things he has done in his career. To talk to Lee Smith, he being the career saves leader, and me wanting to be a closer, that has been interesting. He has been a role model."

Being in Florida and in the National League, Baker has been able to get in some reps at the plate and on the golf course. On the course, Baker has played some

nice courses and seen that some baseball players like former Chicago Cub Jim Bullinger can play quite well. However, like his putting, which he says still needs a little work, Baker's batting stroke isn't exactly a thing of beauty, but that's just a fact of life being a pitcher.

"I don't know if you call what I do hitting," Baker joked. "It is hard when you haven't hit in four years. It is coming around. We (pitchers) are all pretty much afraid to get in there. All of us have horrible swings. My teammate, Mike Thurman, has a lousy swing and breaks all my bats. I have to get to get another bat every day because of him. I think I have gone through six bats due to him."

No, Baker's future will not be swinging a golf club, where he shoots in the high 80s and low 90s and it will not be as a designated hitter for obvious reasons. His future is on the mound staring down hitters and using his rifle of a right arm.

Huntington said that Baker will probably be assigned to the West Palm Beach Expos, home of the club's Advanced Single-A team. Baker realizes that the time when he rejoins the ranks of hopefuls will come again. He says that he will soon join the minor league camp when that kicks up this month. He expects that he will join the minor league camp on March 12, the date those teams meet for full squad workouts. He says it will be a switch, but as far as making the major league team for good, he will not rush things.

"I am on verge of being there and almost to the point of breaking into the big leagues," Baker said. "It's strange to see that you are not that much different. They don't throw any harder. It is the mental makeup of game that separates us. If I figure it out, I can make a long stay in big leagues. I will not push myself too hard but push myself to where I think I can compete and give myself the way to get there."

Local Baseball Today

Midland Lee vs. Flower Mound Marcus

When: 3 p.m.

Where: In Duncanville in first round of Duncanville Tournament.

Records: Lee is 6-4.

Coaches: Lee — Jesse Benevise.

Opponent: Flower Mound Marcus is a District 5-5A school.

Last Action: Lee swept a non-district doubleheader from District 4-5A opponent Odessa Permian at Christensen Stadium Monday, 12-8 and 7-3.

Notes and Quotes: This is the second weekend in a row Lee will be tied up in a tournament, following last weekend's Tournament of Champions, which the Rebels hosted. While their pitching again should be stretched, the Rebels will at least be able to spread it over three days in Duncanville. Mike Hale, who threw a five-inning no-hitter in the first round of the Tournament of Champions and struck out the final two batters in the nightcap against Permian, will start

against Marcus. Lee got two solid starting performances against Permian. Brian Holmes, on only one day's rest, gave a gutsy performance in the first game, throwing into the seventh inning before Aaron Erdwurm came on to get the final three outs.

Erdwurm then followed that up by starting the second game and pitched 6 1/3 impressive innings for the win. Benevise said that players such as Ryan Klatt and Stacy Jones, who haven't had a chance to pitch yet, may see action in Duncanville.

Next Game: If Lee wins, it will play host Duncanville at 11 a.m. Friday. If it loses, it will play an opponent to be announced at 3 p.m. Friday.

Midland High vs. Frenship

When: 4 p.m.

Where: Lubbock Coronado High School

Records: Midland High is 5-4.

Coaches: Midland High — Barry Russell.

Opponent: Frenship is a District 2-4A school.

Last Action: Midland High defeated San Angelo Lake View 3-2 in nine innings on the road Tuesday.

Notes and Quotes: Like the Tournament of Champions, the Lubbock Independent School District Baseball Tournament will be a pool play format. Junior Joey Schaffner, who took two hard-luck losses at the T of C, will start today's game. While the Bulldogs haven't been consistent hitting or fielding the ball, their pitching has been quite steady, especially the last two games. Against Lake View and El Paso Coronado, Midland High has surrendered only three earned runs in 16 innings. Particularly effective has been Mike Carrasco, the returning all-district shortstop who was expected to contribute mainly at the plate. Carrasco has thrown seven scoreless relief innings in the last two games and has a 2-0 record for the season.

Next Game: Midland High will play two more pool games Friday at Coronado. The Bulldogs will take on Coronado at noon and will immediately follow that with a 3 p.m. game against Lubbock High.

HALL: Fox, Wells also elected

(From 1C)

While Lasorda's election was a mild surprise, Fox's was both expected and overdue. Pitchers couldn't strike out Fox, and neither could the Hall of Fame.

The scrappy second baseman, who died of cancer in 1975, finished two votes shy of election — the slimmest margin in the shrine's history — in the 1985 balloting by the BBWAA.

He was named on 74.68 percent of the total ballots that year, just below the 75 percent needed for induction. Last year, Fox reached the percentage for criteria, but got one less vote than Jim Bunning.

And because rules state the 15-member committee can elect only one former major leaguer, Bunning was immortalized while Fox's family was forced to wait another year.

"It's great news," said his wife, Joanne Fox. "It's wonderful news."

She and her two daughters were at the family's home in Chambersburg, Pa., when they received the call from Don Marr, president of the Hall of Fame. They gathered in a den full of mementos from Fox's playing career, including his 1959 AL MVP award.

They snacked on a baseball menu of popcorn, peanuts and cracker jacks.

"I told my daughter to go down to the store and get your daddy's favorite little cheddar fishes and his favorite Crown Royal," Joanne Fox said. "There hasn't been any of that in the house in 15-20 years. ... Nellie's here too."

In Chicago, the Nellie Fox Society, a group formed in 1988 and meets regularly, also celebrated the long-awaited news about their favorite player.

Fox was a 12-time All-Star who batted over .300 six times and .288 during a 19-year career — 14 with the White Sox. In 1959, he and shortstop Luis Aparicio helped lead the Go Go Sox to their first pennant in 40 seasons, the last Chicago team to make the World Series.

Fox still holds the record for playing 798 straight games at second base, and he struck out only 216 times in 9,232 at-bats, the third-best percentage (.023) in modern history.

The veterans committee — made up of former play-

Tom Lasorda's Managerial Record

The managerial record of Tom Lasorda who was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Wednesday.

Regular Season

Year Team W L Pct Pos

1976 Los Angeles 2 2 500 2

1977 Los Angeles 98 64 606 *

1978 Los Angeles 95 67 586 *

1979 Los Angeles 79 83 488 3

1980 Los Angeles 92 71 564 2

1981 LA-1st Half 36 21 632 *

1981 LA-2nd Half 27 26 509 4

1982 Los Angeles 88 74 543 2

1983 Los Angeles 91 71 562 *

1984 Los Angeles 79 83 488 *

1985 Los Angeles 95 67 586 *

1986 Los Angeles 73 89 451 *

1987 Los Angeles 73 89 451 *

1988 Los Angeles 94 67 584 *

1989 Los Angeles 77 83 481 *

1990 Los Angeles 86 76 531 2

1991 Los Angeles 93 69 574 2

1992 Los Angeles 63 99 389 6

1993 Los Angeles 81 81 500 4

1994 Los Angeles 58 56 509 *

1995 Los Angeles 78 66 542 *

1996 Los Angeles 41 35 539 *

Totals 1599 1439 526

Year Opp World Series W L Pct

1977 New York 2 4 333

1978 New York 2 4 333

1981 New York-x 4 2 667

1988 Oakland-x 4 1 800

Totals 12 11 522

x-won World Series

ers, executives and media members — reviewed candidates in four areas: former major leaguers; a composite ballot of Negro Leaguers, umpires, executives and managers; 19th century players and personnel; and Negro Leaguers.

Wells, a slick-fielding shortstop who played for nine teams during his 20 years in the Negro Leagues. He ranks first in leagues history in doubles and finished his career with a .331 average.

Wells also managed the Newark Eagles and played parts of his career in Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

CLASSIC: Rangers play today at 12:30 p.m.

(From 1C)

What all the teams are probably hoping for is cooperation from the weather, which made last weekend's T of C an often chilly proposition. Pallanez thinks the weather could affect the quality of play.

"It's all going to be pretty even, especially if the warm weather stays around," Pallanez said. "I think that will put everybody in a better mood to go out and play really well."

All the games except for one on Friday will be played at Christensen, and that will be a morning game played at the Greenwood High diamond. Pallanez says that the condition of his team's own field has an impact of how many teams can be invited to participate in the three-day tournament. Two years ago there were 12 teams invited, but last year the field was cut back to eight because Greenwood's field wasn't in quite good

enough shape.

That might not matter, because what the tournament might be missing in quality, it makes up for in quantity. Most of the teams in the field made the playoffs last season and Pallanez has only wanted top competition since the Classic's first year.

"Our original plan when we started the tournament was to have nothing but playoff teams from the year before," Pallanez said. "Hopefully this is going to prepare us for a district title."

The going so far has been rough for the Rangers, who made the playoffs last season as a Class 3A team. They are 3-4 following a 9-4 victory over Fort Stockton Tuesday. Greenwood also showed flashes of potential in last weekend's tournament in Monahans by defeating Class 4A Big Spring 10-5.

However, the Rangers suffered two tough losses in the tournament,

including a 9-1 defeat by Pecos whom they could face again this weekend.

"We'll probably grow up a little bit more (during the tournament) because we've got only one senior returning," Pallanez said.

That lone senior is right fielder-third baseman David Curry, who was a regular on last season's team which finished 20-10 and made it to the bi-district round of the playoffs before losing to Fabens.

Today's results will determine how teams will be forced to use their pitching for the remainder of the tournament. Pitching will wear especially thin for teams which have to advance through the loser's bracket, leaving little margin for error in the first round.

"I think if you have a bad inning in any game, you are going to get beat," Pallanez said.

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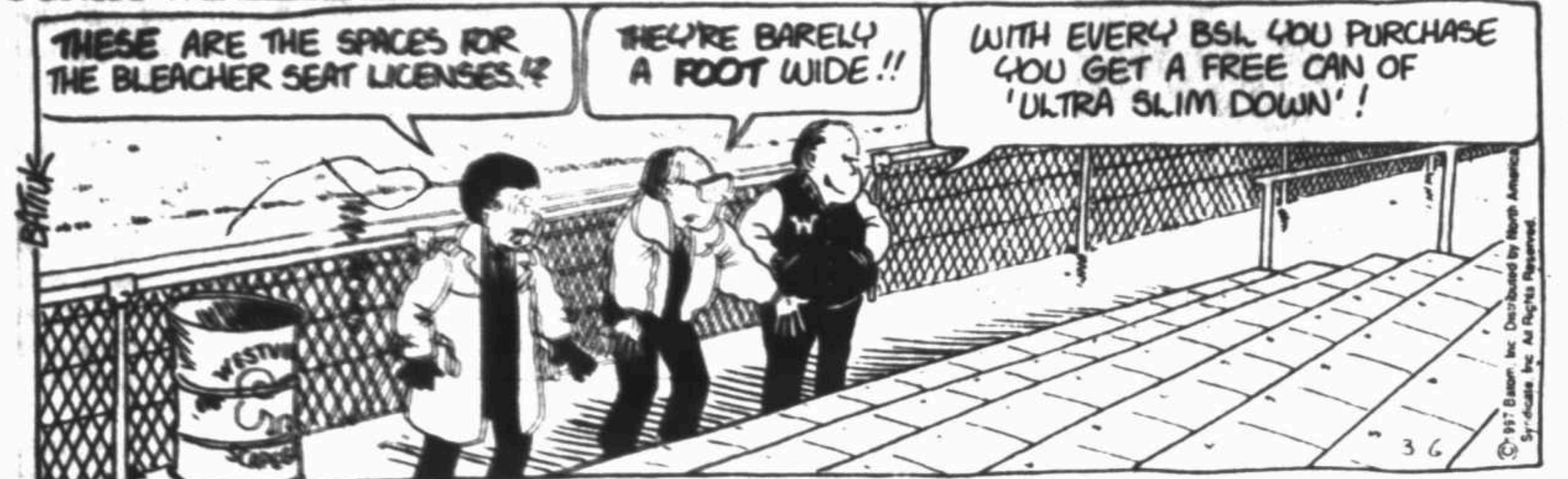
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FUNKY WINKERBEAN



BLONDIE



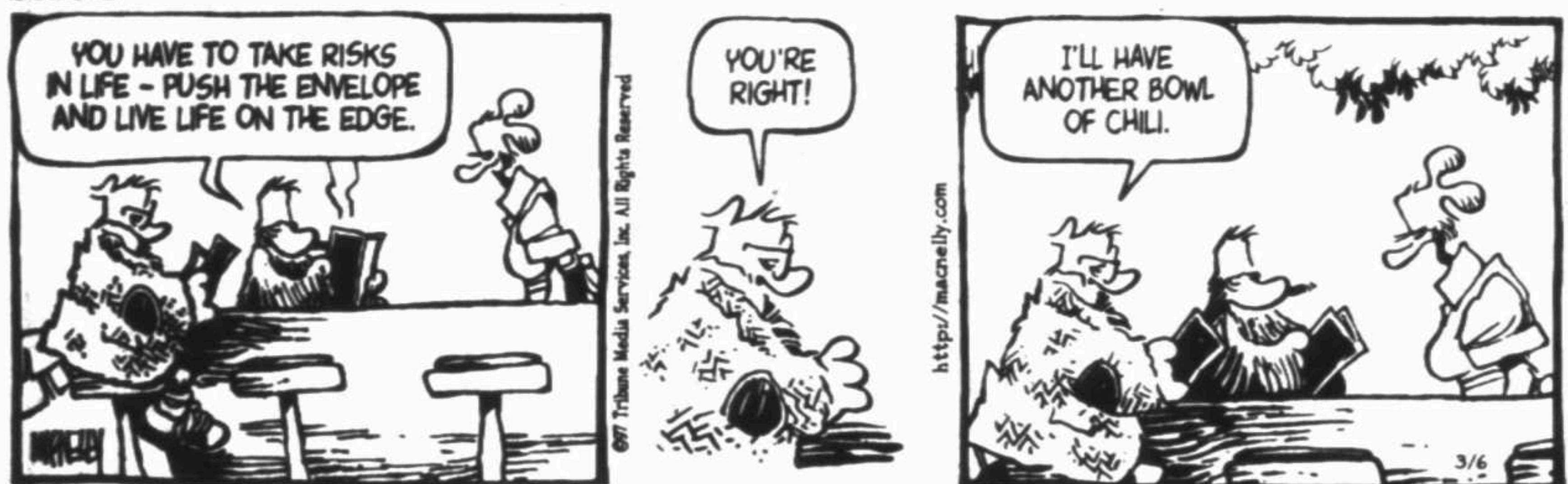
BEETLE BAILEY



PEANUTS



SHOE



ANDY CAPP



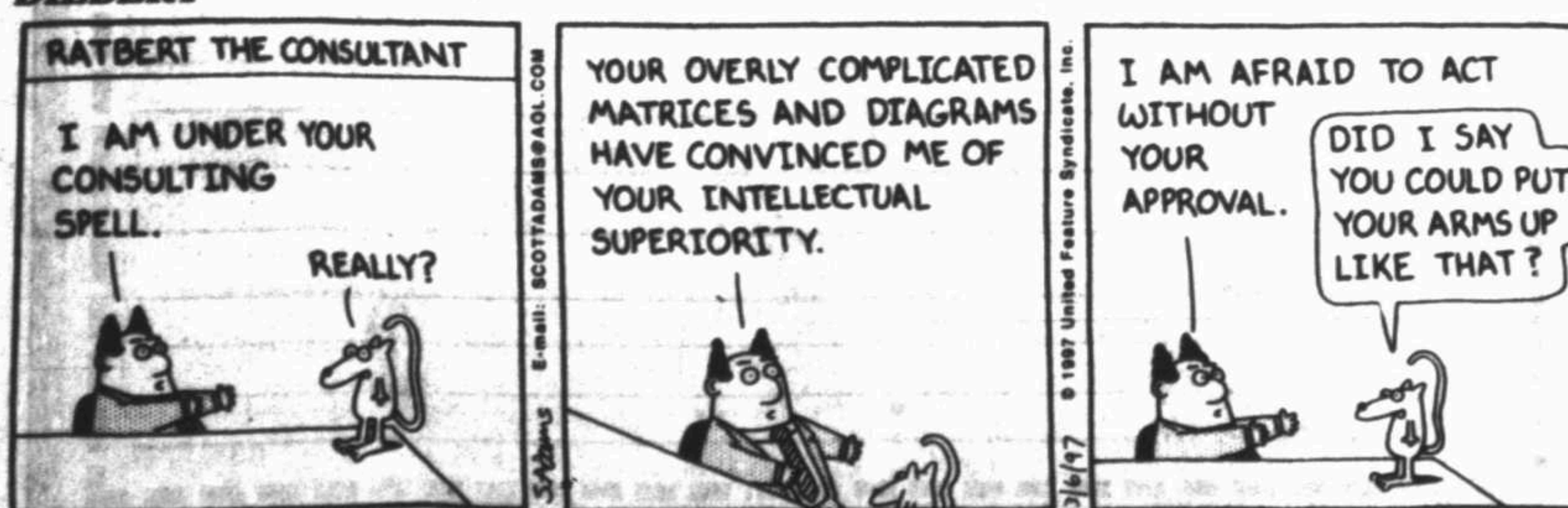
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MARY WORTH



Your HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! IN THE NEXT YEAR OF YOUR LIFE: Sensational news will make the hassles of the past few months worthwhile. Be more considerate of your friends and relatives and they will respond in kind. Power can be gained through a colleague who provides you with a terrific job lead. Next fall will bring a raise or wonderful financial luck. Enter contests in October. Something you now think impossible will come to pass. Let offspring know you care about the activities that are important to them.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: basketball star Shaquille O'Neal, director Rob Reiner, conductor Sarah Caldwell, poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning.
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your current surroundings may not fit your new lifestyle. Become your own decorator. Collecting paint samples and fabric swatches will help you decide what will look best.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Creative endeavors enjoy highly favorable influences this month. Your loved ones will be supportive if you decide to accept a job offer. Socializing after work could lead to valuable new contacts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An excellent trend is developing where your career is concerned. Mingle with the big shots while your charisma is at an all-time high! Co-workers are amazed by your ingenuity.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Everything seems to go right today. Springing a happy surprise on a friend or loved one works out great. Be receptive to imaginative entertainment suggestions.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your creative talents receive new attention from higher-ups. Do not be afraid to ask for a fair salary; few people have your special combination of skills.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional upsets can create physical problems. If you must choose between a new love and your health, opt for the latter. A budget revision will help you save money for a much-desired luxury item.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your business and financial plans under wraps. Today's positive developments will bring you and your loved ones good cheer. Use finesse to get what you want from a difficult individual.
(For your personalized daily Jeanne Dixon horoscope, based on your own date of birth, call 1-900-988-7788. Your phone company will bill you 99 cents a minute.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your relations with a business associate improve. An artistic or creative project begins to show a profit. Do everything possible to win the backing of someone influential.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Co-workers may not appreciate your flippant remarks. Tempering your sharp wit will let you establish better rapport with those around you. A parent-child relationship blossoms when you are attentive.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A friendship may be on shaky ground now. A lack of candor could be part of the problem. Pursuing a favorite hobby will help alleviate everyday stress.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A sudden desire to upgrade your home or switch jobs could prove costly. Proceed with caution lest you endanger your long-term financial security. Romance has its ups and downs.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on accounts due, bank statements and credit matters this morning. It may be best to consolidate your debts and work out a monthly payment plan.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

IMAGINATIVE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 4 2
♥ A J 7
♦ K 7
♣ Q J 8 5

WEST
♠ A 9 6
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ A
♣ 9 7 4 3 2

EAST
♠ J 8
♥ 5 3 2
♦ J 10 9 8 6 4 2
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ K 7 5 3
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 5 3
♣ A K 10

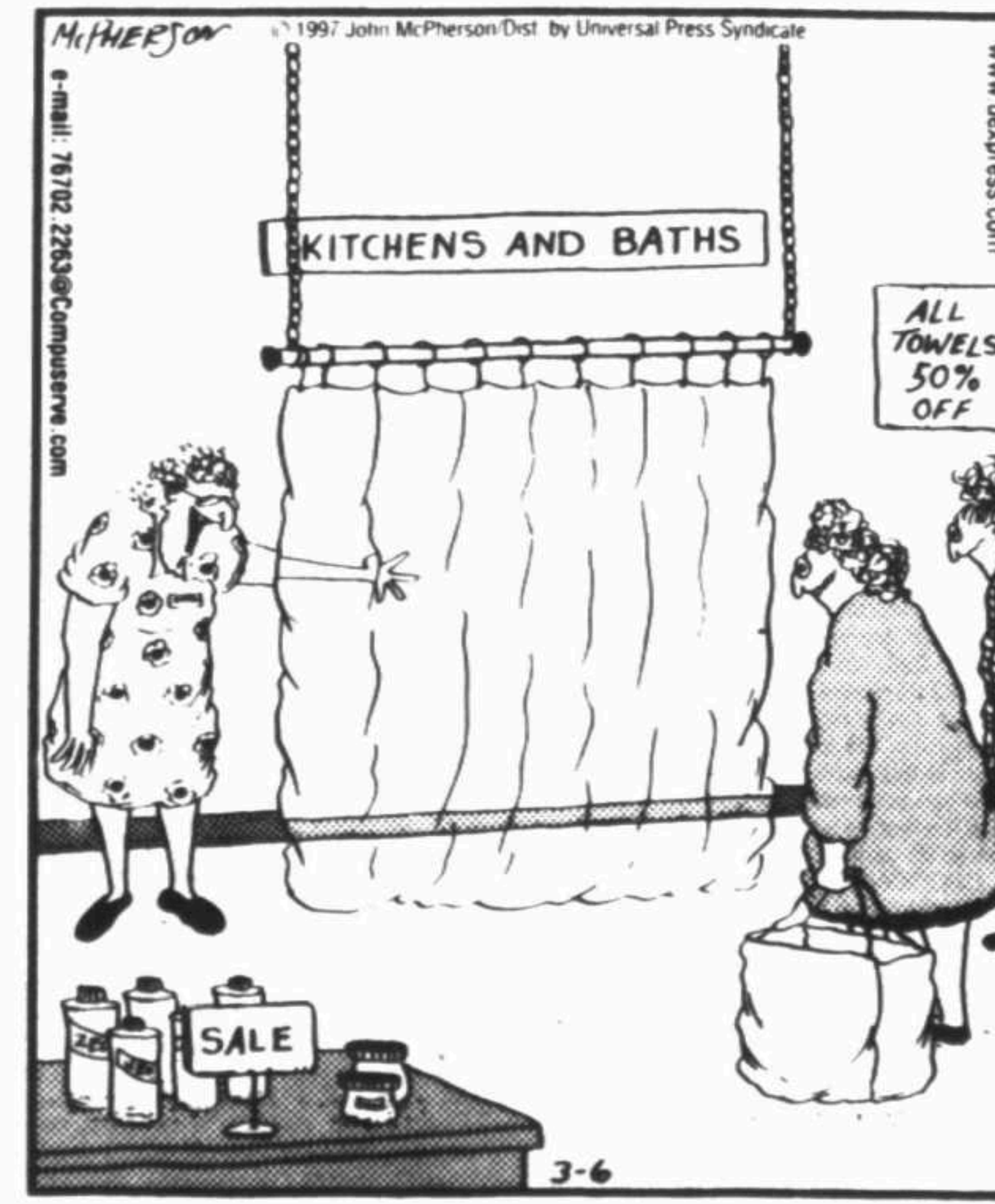
The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
INT Pass 2♣ Pass
2♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
Pass Dbl! Rdbl Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
"Are those hands you use in your column real, or do you invent them," writes a reader. We try to use deals which we know were played at the table, but once in a

while one crosses our desk that makes us wonder. This one comes from Yugoslavia.
After North-South reached an eminently sound four-spade game via a Stayman sequence, we leave it to you to decide whether West's double was very imaginative or just plain nuts! Certainly, North had more than enough to redouble.
West led a low club and, since East had a singleton rather than two or more, which could easily have been the case, West was poised to capitalize on the double. Declarer won in hand and led a low spade. If West rises with the ace,

cashes the ace of diamonds and leads a club, East ruffs and gives West a diamond ruff in return — down one.
But West followed with the nine, a suicidal play if declarer held the king and jack or if declarer played the queen from dummy. However, declarer finessed the ten, losing to East's jack. A diamond was returned to the ace, and a club ruff followed by a diamond ruff spelled down two, or -1,000!
You be the judge: Was West brilliant, fortunate or insane, or was it simply a case of a journalist changing a mundane hand into something more?

CLOSE TO HOME



na	+1%	HERB - Herbicide	20%	+1%	KLOCZ - Karl-Lowitz	9%
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Jamestown Fds:	SmCoVin18
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6 | +45 6 | MicroCp n11

BUSINESS

Stocks/8-9C

BUSINESS BRIEFING

OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Wednesday \$20.49
Previous Close \$20.66
Year Ago N/A

POSTED
Today \$18.75
Previous Close \$18.75
Year Ago N/A

NATURAL GAS PRICES

Wednesday \$1.339

Prices fall

NEW YORK — Prices of most energy futures dropped Wednesday on news that U.S. stocks of heating oil rose more than expected last week, raising concerns of a supply glut.

Crude oil for delivery in April fell 17 cents per barrel to close at \$20.49 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The American Petroleum Institute reported after the close of markets Tuesday that inventories of heating oil and other distillate fuels rose 603,000 barrels last week to 106.69 million barrels. Analysts had expected a drop in inventories.

The rise was spurred by mild weather across the United States, which has diminished demand for home heating oil and other fuels.

Another fuel, Nymex natural gas contracts for delivery in April, dropped 1.04 cent to \$1.339 per 1,000 cubic feet.

NGC meeting

The Natural Gas Society of the Permian Basin will meet March 11 at Ranchland Hills Country Club beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Guest speaker will be John Woodward, managing director, Electric Clearinghouse, an NGC company. His topic will be "The Impact of Electrical Deregulation on the Natural Gas Industry."

Reservations should be made by noon Friday by calling 570-0645. Cost is \$12.50 per person.

Dollar slips

NEW YORK — The dollar briefly touched a new three-year high against the mark Wednesday and reached an all-time high against the Mexican peso but ended slightly lower in most foreign-exchange dealings.

The dollar reached an intraday high of 1.7172 marks, the strongest since April 1994, before falling back to settle in New York at 1.7121 marks, down from 1.7146 Tuesday. Against the yen, the dollar settled in New York at 121.21 yen, down from 122.16. The pound cost \$1.6137, up from \$1.6126.

One notable exception in the dollar's retreat was its strength against the Mexican peso, which fell to its lowest level ever. In New York, it cost 8,0050 pesos to buy a dollar, more than the 7.8790 exchange rate Tuesday.

Other late dollar rates in New York compared with late Tuesday: 1.4821 Swiss francs, down from 1.4861; 5.7750 French francs, down from 5.7805; 1,704.75 Italian lire, down from 1,707.35; 1.3685 Canadian dollars, up from 1.3595.

Ceridian lawsuits

MINNEAPOLIS — Ceridian Corp., formerly Control Data Corp., announced it will pay up to \$24 million to settle lawsuits brought by 313 former employees who claimed they were fired because of their age.

Control Data Systems Inc., the computer business spun off by Control Data Corp., will pay an additional \$4.5 million under the agreement. The settlement came on Wednesday, the day opening statements were scheduled in U.S. District Court.

The settlement is one of the largest for an age-discrimination claim. The record is a \$35 million settlement reached by 32 division managers against the former IDS Financial Services in 1992.

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Dow Jones rallies 93 points Greenspan's soothing tone boosts stocks, bonds

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan took a more soothing tone Wednesday, easing the past week's inflation and interest rate jitters to spur an afternoon rally in the stock market.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 93.13 points to close at 6,945.85, moving back within striking distance of 7,000.

Broader stock measures also rallied as the bond market snapped its recent slump, halting a worrisome climb in interest rates.

With no major economic reports to elaborate on the inflation outlook, investors spent much of the session awaiting Wednesday afternoon's appearance by Greenspan before the House Banking Committee.

Although he reiterated his readiness to raise the Fed's key lending rates to keep a lid on inflation, Greenspan's remarks were seen as less strident than last week's report to the Senate Banking

Committee, in which he warned that unrelenting investor optimism poses an inflationary risk.

Greenspan "put his comments that roiled the markets last week into a proper context," said Joe Battipaglia, chief investment strategist at Gruntal & Co. "He was telling everyone not to jump to conclusions" that a Fed rate hike is all but certain at March 25's policy meeting.

Also comforting to investors was Greenspan's assertion that current stock valuations may be justified if forecasts for continued company profit growth prove accurate. Greenspan also insisted that he hasn't been trying — and didn't have the power — to manipulate the markets.

"We have a very complex international market system with millions of players in the game," Greenspan said. "There is no way you can talk down or talk up prices or interest rates."

As bonds rose Wednesday, the yield on the 30-year Treasury — a key determinant of corporate and consumer bor-

rowing costs — sank from late Tuesday's 6.86 percent, the highest finish since late January, to about 6.82 percent.

Despite the sigh of relief generated by Greenspan's calming tone, bond investors were hesitant to bid prices too high in advance of Friday's reading on payroll and wage levels, a key influence on inflation, said Jim Herrick, managing director of trading for Robert W. Baird & Co. in Milwaukee. Investors might use Wednesday's advance to do some precautionary selling on Thursday, he said.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by more than a 5-to-3 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume totaled 528.81 million shares.

The Standard & Poor's 500-stock list, dominated by blue-chip companies such as those in the Dow, jumped 11.04, or 1.4 percent, to 801.99. The NYSE's composite index rose 4.99 to 420.67.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 11.72 to 1,329.09, and the American Stock Exchange composite index rose 3.84 to 600.88.

Market in brief

March 5, 1997

DOW (Industrials)

6945.85

+93.13

NYSE

420.67

+4.99

S&P 500

801.99

+11.04

AMEX

600.88

+3.84

S&P MidCap

265.37

+1.03

NASDAQ

1329.09

+11.72

NYSE Diary

Advances: 1,604 New highs

Declines: 945 128

Unchanged: 788 New lows

Total issues: 3,337 18

Composite volume: 634,372,480

1996 avg. comp. vol.: 497,311,770

AP

Airline, pilots appear before presidential panel

■ Neither side changes positions, but Presidential Emergency Board chairman sees some movement.

Associated Press

DALLAS — American Airlines and its pilots presented final arguments Wednesday to a panel appointed by the president to resolve the dispute that nearly shut down the carrier last month.

Both airline management and the Allied Pilots Association have testified two days each in closed-door hearings before the Presidential Emergency Board.

Board chairman Robert Harris said when Wednesday's session adjourned that he wants negotiations to continue during the board's deliberations, although there have been no announcements that sessions have been scheduled.

Harris said neither side had changed their position substantially during the meetings, but that he thinks some movement was made.

"I think that ... at this point, there is a greater willingness to try and solve the problems than there was a couple of weeks ago," Harris said, adding that the problems can basically be described as job security issues.

He said both sides made "very complete and forthright explanations of where they were, how they arrived there



AMR Corp. Chairman Robert Crandall addresses a luncheon at the Commercial Forecast Conference Wednesday.

and basically what they perceive as problems that confront them."

APA spokesman Jim Philpot said the union hopes a settlement can be negotiated and the chairman of American Airlines' parent company, AMR Corp., told

reporters Wednesday that pilot cooperation is needed to reach agreement.

"It is time we make a deal ... We are ready to make a deal now," said Robert Crandall.

President Clinton's decision to create

the board in the early morning hours of Feb. 15 halted a pilot strike declared only minutes before.

The Presidential Emergency Board has until March 17 to recommend a settlement and both sides have another 30 days after that to accept or reject the proposal. At that point, the pilots are free to declare another strike, the company can impose a contract, or Congress could stop the process with legislation.

The airline says that the brief strike and the scramble by passengers to make alternate plans decreased traffic by 4.9 percent last month.

Airline spokesman John Hotard said the drop wasn't more because of a fare sale declared immediately after Clinton halted the strike. The company expects March numbers to be strong, although many seats have been sold at a discount.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which inspected more than 1,000 flights in 10 days prior to the strike, said they found no evidence of compromised safety.

The FAA even went so far as to write a rare letter to both sides, complimenting the pilots' professionalism.

"Despite the tension and emotions surrounding a labor unrest situation, it was evident that all pilots 'left the strike at the jet bridge' and conducted their flights in their normal safe and professional manner," wrote Ivan Wayne Williams, the principal operations inspector at American for the FAA.

Toys 'R' Us antitrust lawsuit underway

N.Y. Times News Service

Washington — Opening arguments in the Federal Trade Commission's antitrust suit against Toys 'R' Us Inc. began the same way the case has proceeded to date — with a fight over how much access the toy seller can have to other companies' confidential records.

The retailer's attorney Michael Feldberg threatened to hold up the trial while asking a federal district judge to overturn a ruling by Administrative Law Judge James Timony to kick Toys 'R' Us officials out of the courtroom when sensitive evidence is presented. The case went ahead temporarily because no such testimony will be given this week, lawyers for the FTC said.

The FTC, in its antitrust complaint filed last May, accused the nation's largest toy retailer of forcing major toy-makers not to sell their hottest-selling products to warehouse clubs. Such stores offer the merchandise at prices lower than Toys 'R' Us does.

Toys 'R' Us counters that it has the right to decide what items will be sold in its 680 U.S. stores — and that includes declining to sell toys available at warehouse clubs. Price/Costco Inc. and Waban Inc.'s BJ's shouldn't benefit from the money Toys 'R' Us spends on advertising and promotion, among other

things, the Paramus, New Jersey-based Toys 'R' Us says.

"This case is big government run amuck — big government (shouldn't be) telling a retail store what it can and can't sell," said Feldberg.

Wednesday's wrangling began with a dispute over whether Thomas Reichenbach, chief information officer at Toys 'R' Us, would be allowed to be present at the trial as a representative of the company. It ended with Toys 'R' Us officials saying they'd updated their witness list with a senior member of the FTC's staff who's related to a top official at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. — their biggest competitor.

The FTC wasn't immediately available to comment on the new witness list. Timony denied the company's request to have the full five-member FTC consider its request to have a company official present during the entire trial, not just parts. Company attorneys said they plan to petition a federal district judge to overturn that decision.

The FTC, denying the company's requests for certain documents since the outset of the suit, argues that those who provided the documents — some containing sensitive price information or market studies — never intended for it to fall into Toys 'R' Us's hands.

A protective order, issued last July,

barred Toys 'R' Us officials from seeking these documents. Toys 'R' Us challenged the FTC's position in a New York district court, saying that the agency wasn't giving outside counsel the information needed to prepare for trial. Three weeks ago, a judge denied the company's request.

The FTC said it gave the company's attorneys more than 114 boxes of information. Seats were removed from the courtroom to make space for more than 60 cardboard boxes filled with evidence both sides plan to cite.

The FTC will use some of that evidence to show that Toys 'R' Us reached agreements with individual manufacturers by promising that toy-makers' rivals also had exclusive agreements with the retailer. Manufacturers who wanted to continue selling to warehouse clubs had to put popular toys into more expensive combination packages so that consumers couldn't easily compare prices, the FTC contends. They also needed to get Toys 'R' Us approval first.

"These agreements have kept toy prices from falling, prevented customers from comparing prices, and limited the growth of competitors," said Richard Dagen, an FTC attorney who delivered opening remarks for the agency.

Cost-cutting pays off for Kmart results

N.Y. Times News Service

Kmart Corp., citing cost-cutting efforts that offset a decline in sales, said Wednesday that its net loss for the fourth quarter narrowed and that results from its continuing operations swung into the black.

The results from continuing operations exceeded analysts' forecasts.

Kmart, based in Troy, Mich., had earnings from continuing retail operations of \$235 million, or 45 cents a share, in the quarter, which ended Jan. 29. A year earlier, it had earnings from continuing retail operations of \$32 million, or 7 cents a share; charges of \$150 million, or 33 cents a share, related to an accounting change left Kmart with a loss on its continuing operations in the quarter a year earlier of \$118 million, or 26 cents a share.

Kmart reclassified its Builders Square unit as a discontinued operation in the fourth quarter and took a charge of \$385 million. The company said recently that it was negotiating with Waban Inc. to combine Builders Square stores and Waban's Homebase chain to form an independent company.

INVESTOR'S GUIDE

Vanguard founder discusses future of mutual funds

By Eric Tyson

READERS: I recently had the opportunity to interview John Bogle, founder



Tyson

of The Vanguard Group mutual fund company. His comments on the past, present and future of the mutual fund industry were revealing, and so I thought I would share them with you.

Tyson: You've long been a critic of how the mutual fund industry operates. Now that your approach is clearly winning — as evidenced by Vanguard being the second largest fund company, with assets in excess of \$250 billion — what do you see in the years ahead for the fund industry?

Bogle: I've always told Vanguard's crew (employees) that market share is a measure and not an objective and should be earned and not bought by spending shareholders' money on heavy advertising. I am surprised that

we've made it to the No. 2 position. Longer term, I see fund operating expense ratios declining — they are simply too high. As competition increases, fund companies will be pressured to reduce advisory fees and be more efficient.

I also expect funds to reduce their currently high levels of trading. The average stock fund turns over 80 percent of its portfolio annually. I guess it's the temper of the times with the gunslinging fund managers at some companies.

Managing people's money is a serious business. People's financial futures are on the line. Fund companies should be thinking more about what's in their shareholder's best interests.

Tyson: Should investors be concerned about the seemingly high level of U.S. stock prices and the fact that we're coming off one of the best decades ever for the market?

Bogle: Using traditional valuation measures such as the price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio and dividend yield, stocks look expensive. While the long-term returns in the stock market

are driven by fundamentals, in the short term, the stock market is a voting machine and may not accurately reflect fundamentals.

Over the coming decade, I expect the U.S. stock market to produce an annual average rate of return between 5 and 8 percent. Thus, quality bonds with yields in that range are competitive.

Tyson: Vanguard pioneered index funds, which seek to replicate various market averages such as the Standard & Poor's 500. What's your response to critics who say that only large cap index funds are competitive, and that small cap and international index funds tend to underperform their actively managed peers?

Bogle: The evidence for the performance of index funds with smaller company stocks and foreign stocks is not clear but is certainly not as bad as critics portray. In the long run, due to their low operating expenses, the logic of index funds is overpowering.

With international funds, index funds have an even greater advantage because the operating expenses of most actively managed funds are so

high. With bond funds, there's no reason to buy any bond funds except index funds or those which have a specific maturity with low costs. High fees on bond funds can't be overcome in the long term.

For beginning investors, buying index funds makes great sense. Since index funds stay fully invested, they fully expose you to the volatility of the market.

Why spend so much time and effort searching among the thousands of funds and playing the switching games? And why pay a high fund operating expense ratio for funds that place a good portion of their portfolio in cash?

Eric Tyson is author of "Investing for Dummies" and "Personal Finance for Dummies" and teaches personal finance at the University of California at Berkeley. He can be reached via e-mail: Eric-Tyson@aol.com.

Questions for Investor's Guide can be sent in care of the Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

First last

By Craig Horne

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY — The 12th has a number of notable events, of course, including the NCAA tournament, but the most notable of all is the Kansas City Chiefs' game against the Dallas Cowboys.

But the league's most notable game is the one that takes place on Thursday night, March 6, when the Kansas City Chiefs face the Dallas Cowboys in the first game of the NFL's "Monday Night Football" season.

"Anything can happen on game night," said coach Tom Allen. "We have to be ready for anything."

The game is being played at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., and is expected to draw a large crowd.

Texas A&M's coach, who has placed his team in a regular season game, is expected to be in the city for the game.

There were reports that the team arrived in the city on Wednesday, but they were not seen at the airport.

There were reports that the team arrived in the city on Wednesday, but they were not seen at the airport.

Williams Big 12

KANSAS CITY — Luring high school away from Kansas is Williams' goal.

He talks with Raef LaFrentz when the entire team is pleading, begging that he stay and Cyclone.

He persuaded Paul Pierce and turn their backs and migrate to

Once these safely, esconced Kan., he sees immersed in share-the-wealth Jayhawk basket

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And they win Kansas coach, won more gam

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Ricardo Patton

Dixon Kan

By Chuck Sch

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY — Dixon's 22 point didn't impress h

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Rice didn't

First Big 12 postseason tourney last chance for some schools

By Craig Horst
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Big 12 has a number of sure bets for the NCAA tournament — the most notable, of course, top-ranked Kansas.

But the league postseason tournament that starts Thursday is the last chance for several teams. And stringing together a run of upsets through four games is a difficult chore for the league also-rans.

"Anything can happen at tournament time," said Kansas State coach Tom Asbury, expressing the hope of every team looking for a miracle. "We've played pretty hard all year. We're going to go out and play hard tomorrow."

Texas A&M coach Tony Barone, whose team finished in a last-place tie with Kansas State in the regular season, said he sensed the excitement of the tournament as his team arrived at the Kansas City airport.

"There were the signs welcoming the teams. There were the

signs welcoming the fans," Barone said after his team worked out Wednesday. "These kids know the past history. It's been the focus of television, of radio, of the newspapers. It's been the focal point. Now these kids can touch it, they can feel it."

A&M senior Tracey Anderson is finishing his college career.

"This is my last chance to play," he said. "So I plan to play to win."

Kansas, Texas, Iowa State and Colorado have byes in the first round, and are probably automatics for the NCAA.

Kansas, which has held the top ranking for 14 weeks and lost only once — in double overtime at Missouri — was the top seed. Texas was seeded second for having the best record among South Division teams. Iowa State and Colorado had the next best records.

In first-round games, Baylor plays Oklahoma State at noon, Kansas State plays Texas Tech at 2:20 p.m., Missouri plays Nebraska at 6 p.m. and A&M plays Oklahoma at 8:20 p.m.

Second-round games on Friday have the same four starting times. The semifinals are at 1 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. Saturday. The championship game to determine the automatic bid to the NCAA tourney tips off at noon Sunday.

Nebraska needs a tournament victory, or at least a couple of wins, to get into the NCAA. The Huskers will play the first round without forward Larry Florence and backup point guard Alvin Mitchell, who were suspended for one game by coach Danny Nee. They stayed in Lincoln and would rejoin the team if the Huskers win in the first round, Nee said.

Missouri's Tate Decker was suffering from a sore toe and was doubtful for the game, coach Norm Stewart said.

Missouri, Kansas State and Texas A&M have no NCAA hopes unless they win.

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said a first-round loss probably puts his team on the bubble for the NCAA.

"If the season were to end today

and no more games were played, I think we'd be in the NCAA," Sampson said.

Kansas State suffered a blow when 6-8 forward Manny Dies suffered a hamstring injury in the last game of the season against Missouri.

Dies said his hamstring was torn, while coach Tom Asbury said it was strained. Whatever the injury, Dies was doubtful for the Tech game, Asbury said.

"This time we need to rebound better," said Paco May, as his Wildcats team got ready for a rematch with a Tech team that won in Manhattan on Jan. 18.

"We need to pick up our defense better. Anything can happen at tournament time. We've played pretty hard all year. We're going to go out and play hard tomorrow."

Players that began work in October feel something special in the air now that it's March.

"It's the tournament," Texas Tech center Tony Battie said. "We're ready to play."

The Red Raiders had hotel prob-



AP Laserphoto
Texas Tech head coach James Dickey watches Gracen Averil take a shot during practice for the Big 12 tournament at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. Texas Tech meets Kansas State in the first round of the tournament on Thursday.

lems and were forced well out of downtown Kansas City.

"We're not here for social rea-

sons," Tech coach James Dickey said. "This tournament is for the fans and the conference."

Williams named AP Big 12 coach of year

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Luring high school heroes to far-away Kansas is probably what Roy Williams does best.

He talks young prospects like Raef LaFrentz into leaving home when the entire state of Iowa was pleading, begging and demanding that he stay and be a Hawkeye or Cyclone.

He persuades Californians like Paul Pierce and Jacques Vaughn to turn their backs on UCLA and USC and migrate to the Midwest.

Once these young talents are safely ensconced in Lawrence, Kan., he sees to it they become immersed in the family-like, share-the-wealth atmosphere of Jayhawk basketball.

Virtually everyone comes to college as the undisputed star of every team they were ever on — from playground to junior high to high school. But once at Kansas, they enthusiastically embrace the Williams method of forsaking personal glory for the good of the team.

And they win. In nine years as Kansas coach, Williams, 46, has won more games than any other coach in the '90s, more games than any other man in his first nine seasons as a Division I coach in NCAA history.

Ranked No. 1 for 14 straight weeks and conference champions in six of the last seven years, the Jayhawks and their coach grabbed one more honor this week when The Associated Press named Williams Big 12 coach of the year. A panel of 24 media observers gave Williams 13 votes and Colorado's Ricardo Patton 11.

"In our league, the guy who took his ballclub from the lowest position to the highest position has obviously been Ricardo Patton," said Missouri's Norm Stewart, dean of Big 12 coaches and the only coach to beat Williams' Jayhawks so far this season.

"But when you look at the coaching job Roy Williams has done, boy you gotta look a long way. Clem Haskins has done a super job at Minnesota. And I'm sure there have been others. But Roy, he had Jacques Vaughn out for (10) games. He had Scot Pollard out (for eight). And they just keep motoring."

Williams does it with quality players, and mostly with out-of-staters. Not a single starter hails from Kansas.

"He's just a smooth talker," said LaFrentz, who was chosen earlier this week as the AP player of the year in the Big 12.

But there must be more to it than that.

"There is," LaFrentz said. "He really has a sense of honesty about him. He establishes a sense of trust with the recruit early on. That's something that isn't found every day."

As a high school blue-chipper, LaFrentz got a good education on the back-slapping, glad-handing college recruits who swarm young prospects.

"He establishes a special relationship with every player, a unique relationship," LaFrentz said. "He makes you trust him. It makes a player want to come to KU and be a Jayhawk."



AP Laserphoto
Texas' Danielle Viglione (13) and Amie Smith, behind, fight Nebraska's Anna DeForge for the ball during Big 12 tournament play.

Kansas State upsets No. 15 Lady Raiders



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kayla Hester scored 11 points, including a pair of 3-pointers in a crucial opening run, as Kansas State upset No. 15 Texas Tech 76-68 on Wednesday in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament.

Kansas State (18-10) will face in-state rival No. 9 Kansas on Thursday in the semifinals.

Alicia Thompson scored the first basket of the

game for Texas Tech (19-8). But the Wildcats responded with a 15-0 burst and led the rest of the way.

The Lady Raiders pulled to within 36-29 at halftime, then closed within four, 42-38, with 16:37 left. But Andria Jones scored twice in a 7-0 run for Kansas State to keep the game out of reach.

Jones paced the Wildcats with 20 points. Missy Decker finished with 18, and Brit Jacobson added 16 points and 10 assists. All of Hester's points came in the first half.



AP Laserphoto
Kansas State's Brit Jacobson, left, and Texas Tech's Julie Lake go after a loose ball.

Thompson led all scorers with 26 points. Rene Hannebutt added 20 and Julie Lake had 14.

Dixon's 22 helps No. 9 Kansas sink Lady Bears

By Chuck Schoffner
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Tamecka Dixon's 22 points against Baylor on Wednesday didn't impress her most severe critic — herself.

"Not good at all," Dixon said after scoring 17 second-half points to rally No. 9 Kansas to a 66-54 victory in the Big 12 tournament quarterfinals.

"I missed some easy opportunities. I just didn't hit from the outside, so I'm not impressed with my offensive game at all."

Dixon got off to a rocky start, committing two turnovers in the first three minutes and making only two of eight first-half shots. But she got it going when the top-seeded Jayhawks (24-4) needed her in the second half to help subdue a team they had beaten by 30 in the regular season.

Eighth-seeded Baylor (15-13) led by seven points in the first half and trailed 47-45 with less than seven minutes left. Dixon, the league's player of the year, then triggered a 14-5 run that

put it out of reach.

The Jayhawks, the regular-season Big 12 champions, also got a big game from freshman Lynn Pride, who had 19 rebounds, nine points and six steals. Angie Halbleib added 10 points.

"I think we played very tight that first half," said Kansas coach Marian Washington, whose team had a bye for Tuesday's first round while Baylor was beating Oklahoma State. "The second half, we played a little better."

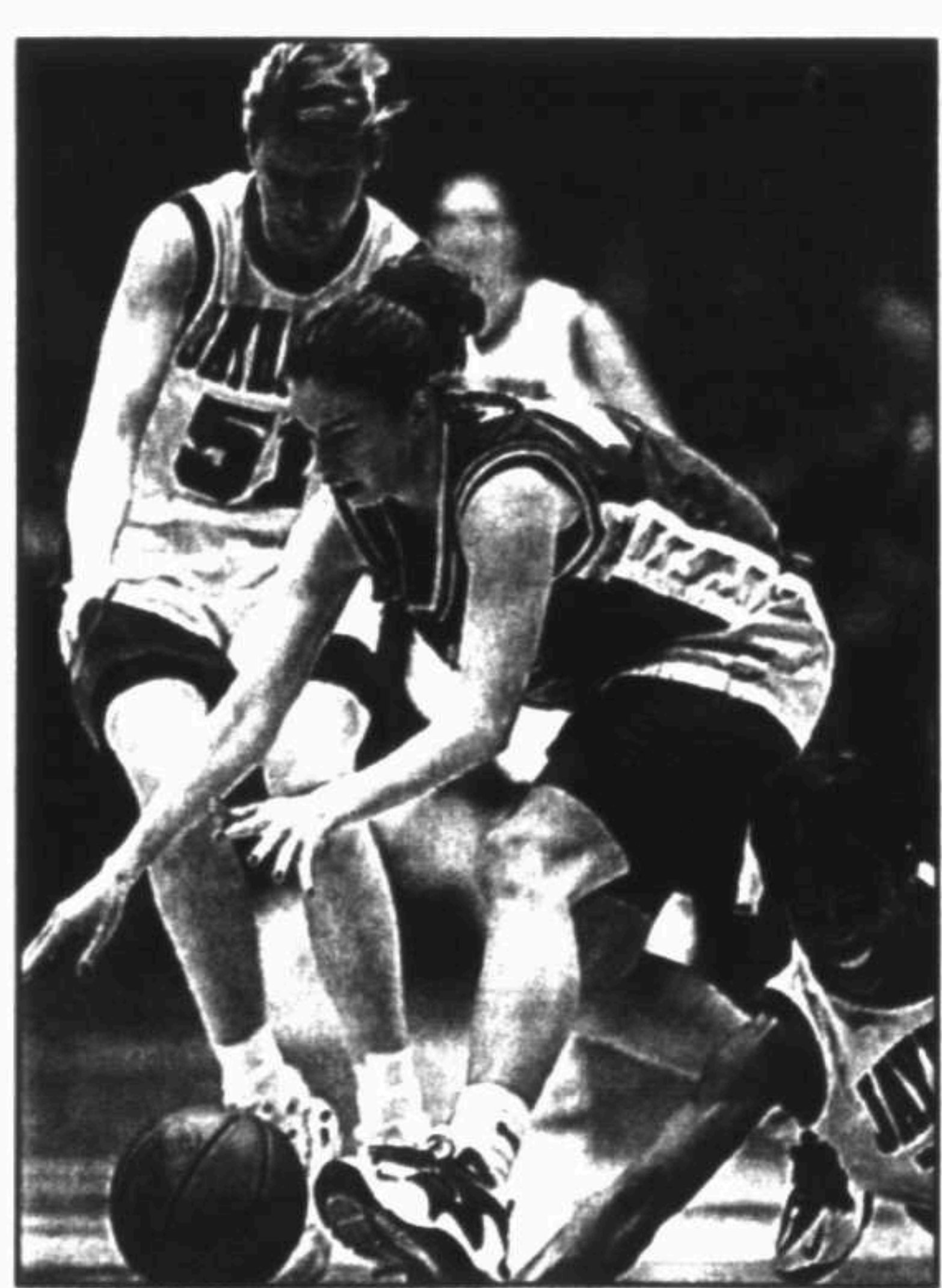
"Now that we've got that one under us, hopefully we'll play a little better."

Halbleib, who was 4-for-16 from the field, put it another way.

"It was ugly," she said. "It was an ugly game for 40 minutes."

Dixon sank two free throws to start the decisive run, then drove to the basket and fired the ball out to Halbleib, who made a 3-pointer from the left corner for a 52-45 lead with 6:03 left.

Kansas went on to build its lead to 61-50 with 1:49 to play and Baylor was never closer than nine points after that.



AP Laserphoto
Baylor's Amanda Mooney (45) center, and Kansas' Tamecka Dixon, right, battle as Kansas' Jennifer Trapp (51) reaches in.

Hawaii downs Rice; Louisiana Tech thumps Lamar

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Raylene Howard hit a 3-pointer to put Hawaii ahead with 36 seconds remaining, and Brandi Ashby added a pair of free throws 18 seconds later as Hawaii downed Rice 57-54 in the Western Athletic Conference women's tournament Wednesday.

Rice didn't score again after Marla Brumfield made a jumper and a free throw for a 54-52 lead with 1:24 left. Brumfield missed two free throws with 21 seconds remaining, then teammate Jessica Garcia's 3-pointer fell short and Hawaii grabbed the rebound as time ran out.

Kendis Leeburg led Hawaii (21-7) with 21 points, and Howard came off the bench to score 13 points and pull down 15 rebounds. Brumfield led Rice (16-11) with

13 points.

No. 5 Louisiana Tech women 100, Lamar 42

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Katie Cochran scored 16 points to lead No. 5 Louisiana Tech to a 100-42 victory over Lamar in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference women's tournament.

Louisiana Tech, the tournament's second seed, will face third-seed New Orleans (16-11) in Thursday's semifinals. New Orleans defeated Texas-Pan American 35-60 in Wednesday's tourney opener.

Tech (27-3) opened the game with a 10-0 run and never looked back. Holding a 24-11 lead with 9:56 left in the opening period, Tech finished the period on a 26-10 run to lead by 29 at intermission. Tech shot 53 percent in the first half to just 27 percent for Lamar, which

Texas Roundup

managed only eight field goals.

Tech opened the second half with a 17-0 run and its lead escalated the rest of the half. The final margin was the biggest advantage.

Lamar (5-22) managed only 15 of 58 shooting in the game for 26 percent.

Alisa Burras added 14, Jackie Bailey 13 and LaQuan Stallworth 10 for Tech.

Denise Scalley led Lamar with 11 points.

NW Louisiana 85,

Stephen F. Austin Men 64

SHREVEPORT, La. — Charles Duncan scored 13 of his 18 points to lead a

second half charge that lifted Northwestern State to an 85-64

victory over Stephen F. Austin in the first round of the Southland Conference tournament Wednesday night.

The victory put Northwestern (13-14) into Friday's semifinal matchup against No. 1 seed Northeast Louisiana.

The Demons opened up a 32-point lead (82-50) on a Seth LeGrand layup with five minutes remaining in Wednesday night's game.

Northwestern hit 54.5 percent from 3-point range in the second half and 63.6 percent of all of its field goals. SFA was no match in the period, hitting just 10 percent from long range and 28.6 percent from the field.

LeGrand added 14 points for Northwestern, Sam Alexander had 13, Dameron McQuarters 12 and Kenta Alexander 10.

Houston blows 15-point lead, falls to Alabama-Birmingham in Conference USA first round

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Cedric Dixon scored 23 points and Alabama-Birmingham overcame a 15-point second-half deficit in a 55-54 victory over Houston in the opening round of the Conference USA tournament Wednesday.

The No. 7-seeded Blazers (17-12) will face No. 2 Tulane in a quarterfinal Thursday. Alabama-Birmingham had not won a post-season conference game since the 1989-90 season as a member of the Sun Belt Conference.

Dixon hit 5-of-10 3-pointers and Carlos Williams added 16 points for the Blazers, who trailed 42-27 with 15:04 remaining.

Kenya Capers led 10th-seeded

Houston (11-16) with 14 points and Galen Robinson and Damon Jones added 10 apiece. The Cougars ended with six straight losses and dropped 10 of their last 11.

A driving shot by Williams gave Alabama-Birmingham its first lead — and the lead for good — at 51-50 with 6:22 remaining. Houston got within one point on two occasions.

Neither team scored in the final 1:32. Jones shot an air ball from 12 feet just before the buzzer.

Houston outshot the Blazers, 49 percent to 39 percent, and out-rebounded them 35-26. But the Cougars made just 5-of-13 free throws in the second half.

Colorado wins quarterfinal

By Chuck Schoffner
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Colorado shuts down Iowa State shooters Jayme Olson and Tara Gunderson with stifling defense Wednesday night and beat the Cyclones 56-39 in the Big 12 tournament.

Third-seeded Colorado (19-8) moved into Thursday night's semifinals against second-seeded Texas by frustrating Iowa State (17-11) at every turn.

The sixth-seeded Cyclones went scoreless for almost eight minutes at the start of the game and had only one basket over the opening 13:16.

Colorado wasn't sharp offensively, but with the defense the Buffaloes played, that didn't matter.

LaShena Graham led Colorado with 13 points, Alexis Felts scored nine and Erin Scholz eight.

Colorado led 9-0 before Iowa State scored on a turnaround shot

by Janel Grimm with 12:05 left in the half and it was 18-2 before the Cyclones scored again. The Buffaloes, who beat Iowa State for the 16th straight time, led 28-10 late in the first half and 28-12 at halftime.

A 3-pointer by Felts midway through the second half gave Colorado its biggest lead, 46-18. Iowa State, which probably saw its NCAA tournament hopes die, never got closer than the final 17-point margin.

Iowa State made just four field goals in the first half and had more turnovers (16) than shots (15). Playing aggressive man-to-man defense, Colorado prevented Iowa State from getting the ball inside to Olson and Grimm while also keeping pressure on the perimeter to stop the 3-point shooting of Gunderson and Julie Hand.

Kim Martin led Iowa State with 13 points. Olson, a first-team all-conference pick who was averaging 17.4 points, was scoreless in the first half and finished with eight points.

No Bull: San Antonio can't compete with NBA champs

By Mike Nadel
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — If the NBA really wanted to punish Dennis Rodman, they should have made him play against San Antonio.

"Definitely. If he ever had one game he'd want to miss, this was the one," Scottie Pippen said after the Chicago Bulls didn't need the suspended Rodman to defeat the dreadful, decimated Spurs 111-49 Wednesday night.

"Dennis has said he's bored with basketball at times. He definitely would have been bored with this one."

The defending champions also didn't need much from Michael Jordan, who played only 23 minutes and scored just 16 points, about half his league-leading average.

"It's a danger to be lulled to sleep in a game like this, to do crazy things and put your body at risk," Jordan said. "When I feel that way, I'd rather sit back and watch. Let's get this thing over with. Let the winners win and the losers lose."

The game was televised nationally by TBS, which no doubt anticipated matchups between Rodman and David Robinson, Jordan and Dominique Wilkins, Pippen and Sean Elliott.

But Rodman was sitting out a one-game NBA suspension for hitting Milwaukee's Joe Wolf in the groin two nights earlier. Robinson, Wilkins and Elliott were injured and Jordan played less than half the game.

Instead of an exciting, star-filled contest, viewers got a dud featuring the likes of Dickey Simp-

kins, Cadillac Anderson, Jamie Feick and Jud Buechler.

"This game was one of those you see that makes you wonder if we set the game back," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "Sometimes you play to the level of your competition."

Well, not quite.

The Spurs also were without injured Charles Smith and Chuck Person and got only seven minutes from ailing Will Perdue as they set team records for futility with their 69 points and 30.6 shooting percentage. They have a seven-game losing streak and are 13-46 this season after going 59-23 a year ago.

"We knew we were going to have trouble scoring," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "They obviously are the best team on the planet ... and we just don't have enough players."

The Bulls shot only 41 percent, but still had their most lopsided victory this season in improving to 52-7 overall and 29-1 at the United Center. Pippen scored 19 points as Chicago won its 22nd consecutive home game.

Jordan was only 7-for-17 from the floor, though he did make a vintage Air Jordan double-pump, back-to-the-basket flip over three taller defenders. Steve Kerr, who won the All-Star 3-point contest, was 0-for-6 from beyond the arc in the first half. The Bulls shot plenty of airballs and bricks.

Nevertheless, they were much too good for San Antonio — even without Rodman and injured sixth man Toni Kukoc.

"We were missing a couple of guys. They were missing half their team, including some of their very



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (23) and San Antonio Spur's Greg Anderson (33) vie for a rebound during the first quarter Wednesday night in Chicago. Waiting for the outcome is Spurs' Avery Johnson (6) Vinny Del Negro, and Bulls' Robert Parish (00).

best players," Kerr said. "It really wasn't fair."

The Bulls played as poorly as the Spurs for the first 17 minutes and led only 30-28. But Simpkins, one of Rodman's replacements, scored seven points as Chicago finished the first half with an 18-5 run to go

up 48-33. Simpkins capped the surge with a wild, buzzer-beating, bank-shot 3-pointer.

Chicago then outscored San Antonio 30-11 to start the third quarter.

Monty Williams led the Spurs with 19 points. Feick pulled down 15 rebounds.

Ewing scores 36 in New York's win over Toronto

By The Associated Press

TORONTO — Patrick Ewing scored a season-high 36 points, including 11 straight for New York in the final quarter as the Knicks won their fifth straight game, 100-94 over the Toronto Raptors.

Ewing, who added a game-high 13 rebounds, started his string of 11 straight points with a three-point play with 6:36 remaining for an 84-79 lead. Ewing's previous high was 34 points against the Los Angeles Lakers on Feb. 23.

Marcus Camby, who had 24 points for the Raptors, losers of four straight, cut the lead to 96-94 before John Starks drained a pair of free throws for a 98-94 Knicks lead with 14.3 seconds to play.

Charles Oakley added 16 points, Allan Houston had 11 and Starks chipped in 10 off the bench.

Cavaliers 85, Pacers 78

CLEVELAND — Danny Ferry scored 19 points, including two late 3-pointers, and Cleveland ended Indiana's four-game winning streak.

The Cavs snapped a two-game losing streak and remained in the seventh Eastern Conference playoff spot. Indiana is in ninth position, three games behind Orlando for the final postseason spot.

Ferry shot 4-of-6 from beyond the 3-point arc and fell one point short of his season-high of 20 points. Terrell Brandon had 17

points and nine assists.

Rik Smits had 13 points for Indiana, and Antonio Davis scored 12.

Jazz 96, Mavericks 65
SALT LAKE CITY — Karl Malone scored 20 points and Jeff Hornacek added 17, including 10 in the third quarter when the Jazz increased a six-point halftime lead to 21.

The 65-point total was franchise-low for Dallas and the lowest ever by a Jazz opponent. Dallas also set another record for futility with just six field goals in the second half — the fewest ever in a half by an NBA team.

Michael Finley and Shawn Bradley each scored 13 points for the Mavericks, who lost their fifth straight game.

Trail Blazers 121, Suns 99
PHOENIX — Kenny Anderson had 26 points, including six 3-pointers, and Portland made a team-record 16 3-pointers to win its fourth straight.

Jason Kidd sprained his right ankle early in the fourth period for Phoenix and did not return. He was getting X-rayed and the severity of the injury was not immediately clear.

The Blazers were 16-for-24 on 3-pointers in the game, while the Suns were just 2-for-16 from behind the arc.

Isaiah Rider and Clifford Robinson added 24 points each for Portland.

Yankees sign Pettitte, Rivera

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Pitchers Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera, keys to the New York Yankees' championship run last season, signed one-year contracts with the team Wednesday.

American League Rookie of the Year Derek Jeter had his contract renewed at a figure to be determined after the shortstop rejected an offer of \$450,000.

Pettitte, 21-8 with a 3.87 ERA in 1996, signed for \$600,000. The 24-year-old left-hander should be one of the mainstays of the Yankees staff.

Rivera is expected to become the closer in the bullpen after John Wetteland left for Texas as a free agent. He signed a deal worth \$550,000.

Rivera, 27, was the Yankees' set-up man a year ago, fanning 130 in 107 2-3 innings as he went 8-3 with a 2.09 ERA.

Jeter hit .314 with 10 homers, 78 RBIs and scored 104 runs. The 22-year-old apparently was seeking at least as much as Rivera was offered.

Jeter made \$120,000 a year ago.

LOCAL SPORTS

Lady Hawks make final

CISCO — The Howard College Lady College Hawks defeated South Plains College 80-66 in a Region V semifinal Wednesday.

The Lady Hawks improve to 28-4 for the season while South Plains moves to 26-5.

Howard will play Weatherford (27-4) in the finals today. Weatherford defeated the McLennan Highlanders (19-9) in the other semifinal.

Results from the semifinals of the Region 5 Tournament played this week in Cisco.

Semifinals: Weatherford 73, McLennan 64

Howard College 80, South Plains 66

Final: Howard (27-4) vs. Weatherford (27-4), 7 p.m.

Greenwood is hosting the West Texas March Classic at Christensen Stadium starting today.

Abell soccer takes first

The Abell seventh grade girls soccer team took first place in the junior high soccer season with a perfect 6-0 record.

Abell outscored opponents, 19-2.

Team Members: Paige Cassel, Jessica Haggerty, Courtney Heneman, Kristen Kruger, Leslie Liebert, Laura Lindholm, Lou Ann Lovelady, Erica Martinez, Megan Mitchell, Courtney Odum, Kristen O'Donnell, Morgan Pinter, Kristen Pressler, Sarah Shryock, Ash-ton Stahl, Magen Williams and Barbara Woodruff.

Stoltz leads

Trinity golfers

BIG SPRING — Midland Trinity's Mark Stoltz was low medalist in the Forsan Invitational Golf Tournament Tuesday, shooting a 75 here at the Comanche Trails golf course.

Trinity finished sixth in the 11-team field.

MHS JV golfers

2nd in tourney

SAN ANGELO — The Midland High junior varsity golf team took second place in the San Angelo JV Tournament Tuesday at Riverside Golf Course, and the Midland Christian varsity finished fourth.

MHS totaled 337 in the one-day tourney and finished behind only Abilene Cooper's JV, which shot 325. Odessa High's JV was third at 346, followed by Midland Christian at 377 and San Angelo Lake View's JV at 417.

Midland Christian's Blake Roberts took individual honors by firing a round of 71. Cooper's Michael Watson (75) and Matt Smith (79) were second and third, respectively. MHS golfers took the next two spots: Jacob Hooper was fourth with an 80, and C.W. Porter was fifth with an 85.

Greenwood rips Fort Stockton

FORT STOCKTON — The Greenwood High baseball team avenged an earlier defeat Tuesday by jumping on top early and beating Fort Stockton 9-4.

Greenwood (3-4) scored three runs in the first inning on the way to a 9-0 lead which was too much for Fort Stockton to overcome. Michael Otho and Frankie Keller each had two hits for the Rangers while Andrew Wootan pitched four innings for the win. Fort Stockton defeated Greenwood 6-1 last weekend in the Monahans Tournament.

WAC teams on the bubble sweat it out

TCU is just one of the schools going into the Western Athletic Conference tournament as a team on the NCAA tournament bubble.

By Tim Dahlberg
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — Billy Tubbs has a simple way of guaranteeing the Western Athletic Conference a handful of teams in the NCAA tournament.

All the WAC has to do is ask, Tubbs says. And do it in a very forceful way.

"Being realistic we should have six teams there," said Tubbs, whose Texas Christian team is 19-11 and would probably have to win the WAC tournament to get a berth. "We should demand six teams. I learned that in the Big 8. They asked for six teams out of eight and they got it. That's because I demanded it."

The WAC may not be in position to demand anything, but wins today in the quarterfinals of the WAC tournament by UNLV, Fresno State and Hawaii could put the NCAA into a position where it may have to consider including a handful of WAC teams.

UNLV plays Tulsa, while Fresno State takes on TCU and Hawaii plays No. 14 New Mexico. In the other quarterfinal game, No. 3 Utah opens its tournament against Southern

Methodist, which scored an upset of sorts by beating Colorado State in a first round game.

The quarterfinal games figure to go a long way toward who gets the call when the NCAA selection committee issues its invitations Sunday.

"This is a heck of a conference," Tubbs said. "I've been in a conference (Big 8, as Oklahoma's coach) for a lot of years that was supposed to be the best. But, aside from Kansas, New Mexico, Utah and Tulsa are above the rest of them in that conference."

Utah and New Mexico are virtual shoo-ins and Tulsa is almost guaranteed a spot in the postseason tournament.

But for teams such as Hawaii, Fresno State and UNLV, it comes down to this: Win today or don't bother checking the mail for an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

"It certainly would help," said UNLV coach Bill Bayno, whose team plays Tulsa in the Thursday quarterfinals. "Right now we're on the bubble at 20-8. I think if we win Thursday we deserve to be in there regardless of what happens with the other teams."

Depending on the whims of the NCAA selection committee, as few as three or as many as six members of the 16-team WAC will make it into the postseason tournament.

One berth goes automatically to the WAC tournament winner. But with six teams already owning 20 or more wins, there is no lack

of coaches who believe their teams are deserving of an invitation.

New Mexico, which won the WAC tournament last year along with an opening round NCAA tournament game, would have had to lose to San Jose State on Tuesday to have its tournament chances seriously injured.

Still, coach Dave Bliss was cautious despite his team's 23-6 record and lofty national ranking.

"Around our community nothing is ever a lead pipe cinch," Bliss said. "We've played well and deserve consideration but I still believe you have to play your way into the tournament."

New Mexico will play tonight against Hawaii (20-6), a team it lost to on the islands, but beat by 20 points two weeks ago at home.

"They have confidence and we can't overlook anything they do," said Royce Olney, who had 19 points in the 103-70 rout of San Jose State that was the most lopsided of any of the opening round games.

UNLV, meanwhile, has postseason plans regardless of how its game against Tulsa (22-8) goes.

The Runnin' Rebels have already been contacted about hosting an opening round NIT game if they do not get a bid to the NCAA.

"We've got nothing to lose," Bayno said. "We're playing a good team Thursday but if we play well we can pull it off. If not, we're going to the NIT."

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Happy 50th Birthday Ray Barron

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From your "two" favorite long-legged blondes...

Legal Notices NEW INFORMATION! Legal Notices are now under class 590 & Public Notices are now under class 595.	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, Sec'y.	Lost & Found LOST: Dachshund half breed. Black with brown markings on feet, chest and face Friday morning 2/28/97. "Lucky". Call 694-6183. FOUND: lost Lab mix. Approx. 8 weeks old. Vicinity of Pasadena & Burchill. 694-6183. LOST: female Collie mix; white nose, brown/black mix coat. Chain collar. From Goddard Area. 687-4716. LOST: female, Himalayan Seal Point cat. Vicinity of Midland Drive & Wadley. 694-4356 or 689-3009. FOUND: DACHSHUND, vicinity of Thomson Drive/ Dewberry. Call with description, 697-5379.
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CHEVROLET 1990 Corvette 31,000 miles, dark red metallic, black interior, new tires. As new \$19,750. 915-368-7818. Nights or message.

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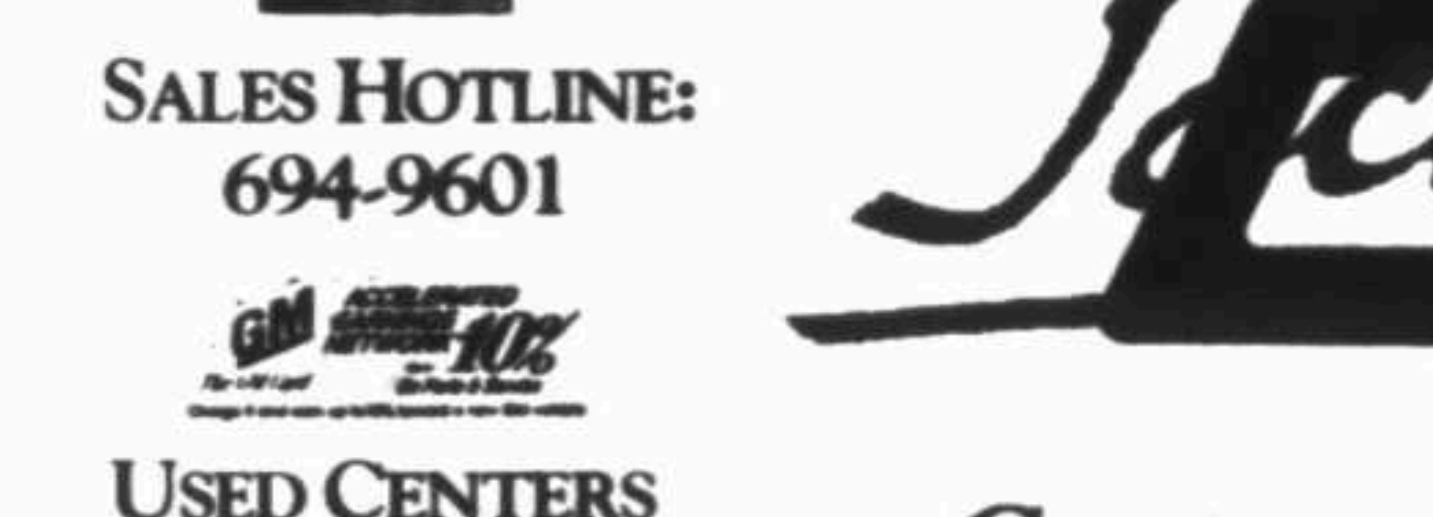
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MERCEDES 1996 E300 Diesel Black with black interior, CD player, round headlights. \$39,200. 687-3904.

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SAAB 1986 900 TURBO Gray with black leather, electric windows, locks, sunroof, cruise 5 speed. \$3,000. Or best offer. 586-5425 after 5.

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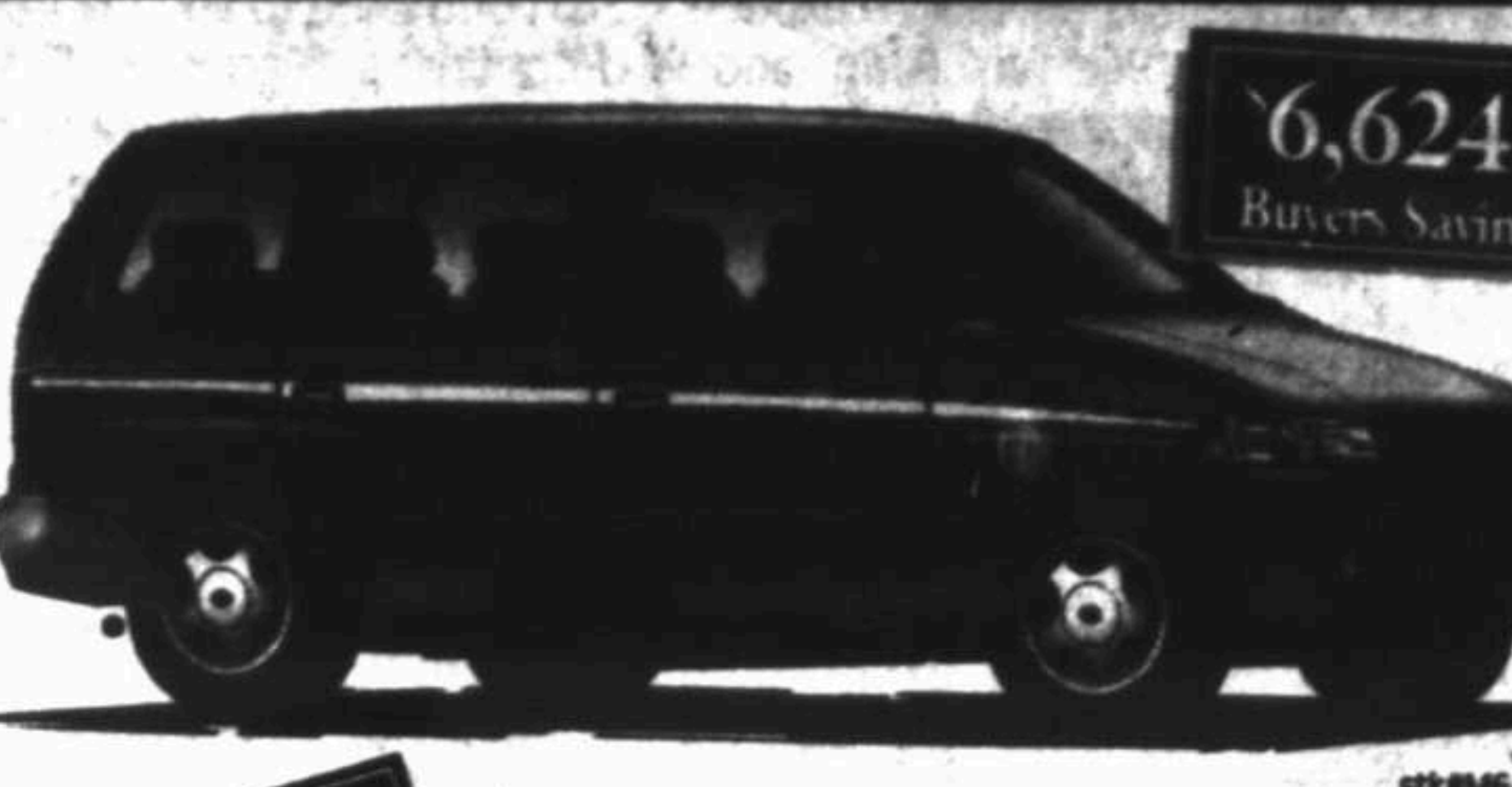
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Consulting Petroleum Engineer

U.S. Operations Experience

Ziff Energy Group has an immediate opening for a contract professional engineer with strong operations experience to contribute to and manage the Ziff Energy Permian Basin and Mid-Continent "Reducing Field Operating Costs" studies (2nd Edition). You will work with a team of dedicated professionals and clients to benchmark individual oil and gas producing fields and to assist clients to find ways to improve operations.

The ideal candidate will have strong interpersonal and analytical skills. A breadth of experience in all aspects of producing, and some consulting experience, are desirable. Field experience is vital, and combined with district or head office experience, will allow you to work comfortably with a diverse client base ranging from field staff to senior executives.

This contract position will offer base compensation, plus a performance based incentive component. Training will be provided and some travel (U.S./Canada) will be required.

Ziff Energy Group, with offices in Houston and Calgary provides business consulting support to the petroleum industry, specializing in bench marking, strategic planning, and natural gas consulting. Join a proven success orientated organization providing a valuable service to clients.

Please send resume of experience, anticipated compensation and other information by Fax to Paul Ziff at (713)627-9034 (Houston) and (403)261-4631 (Calgary). Position will be filled immediately.

Canada: 1117 Macleod Trail S.E. Calgary, Alberta T2G 2M8 1-800-853-6252
U.S.: Suite 925, 1990 Post Oak Boulevard Houston, Texas 77056

PROGRAMMER

Independent, growing company seeking aggressive, self-starting person with background or experience in the following areas:

- 1) Programming in Visual Basic
- 2) Windows '95 and/or NT
- 3) Access and/or SQL
- 4) Client/Server

If you have experience in these areas and want to work in an exciting and challenging environment, please send your resume to:

Box E-01006
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram
P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702

CONTROLLER

Rapidly growing oil field service company is seeking an individual with experience in accounting, administration and management for their Midland office to work closely with Operations and Accounting. Individual with experience and ability to help the company grow during acquisitions and expansion. Requires Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance with 7-10 years experience, supervisory experience, self-starter, good communication and interaction skills. Please send resume to:

Box E-01009
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram
P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702

312 Professional Help Wanted

OIL FIELD- SMALL aggressive independent is looking for Exploration Geologist. Must have West Texas and Southeast New Mexico experience. Must be a self starter, imaginative and familiar with Paragon or Geographics format. We offer a competitive salary, health insurance, 401K and a participation plan. Send resume to: P.O. Box 2086, Midland, TX 79702.

312 Professional Help Wanted

LANDMAN. Independent Oil and Gas Operator seeks Landman with at least 10 years experience. Must have substantial exposure to all phases of land work, including property purchase and trade acquisitions, lease analysis, assignments, mineral and royalty deeds, legal and instruments, preparation of division orders, operating agreements, etc., and possess working knowledge of New Mexico and Texas oil and gas law. Must exhibit excellent written communication, presentation and interpersonal skills, and a working knowledge of computers. Individual must be confidential, professional, responsible and accurate in all aspects of this position. Ideal candidate will be able to work under heavy pressure and meet strict deadlines. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: Box P-06009, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

QUESTA SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Local Oil and Gas Software development firm has the following career opportunity available:

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER Experience programming in Foxpro relational data base language. Some travel required. Oil & gas accounting systems exp. highly desirable. Self-motivated individual with good communication & organizational skills required. Send resume to: Questa Software Systems P.O. Box 50745 Midland, TX 79710 Attn: Jean Junker

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator for Mainline Protestant Denomination in Odessa, Texas. Send resume to: P.O. 3186, Odessa, Texas 79760.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

minimum 2-3 years experience required. Build & repair computer systems, printers, troubleshooting and service calls. Network experience or certification a plus. References required. Salary based on experience. Contact Custom Computers for appointment, 689-8408.

COMPUTER INTERNET Web

designer. Immediate opening. Experience with Java and other advanced HTML tools a must. Successful candidate will demonstrate superior skills, fast turnaround time and work well in a team environment. Send resume with URL addresses of created sites to: P.O. Box 51025, Midland, TX 79710.

CPA, Oil and Gas company

seeks Financial controller with at least 5 years experience in oil and gas. Relocation to Dallas provided. Salary commensurate with experience. Please reply to: Box P-06008, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

ENTRY LEVEL Accountant

needed for Gas Pipeline Company. Accounting degree preferred. Good PC skills and working knowledge of spreadsheets required. Send resume to: Accountant, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, Texas 79701.

NEWS DIRECTOR

small market, good benefit, West Texas. Attn: Mike needs News Director strong on organizational skills. Talent is in place throughout the newsmen, direction needed. Mail contact only to ND JOB, KOSA-TV, 1211 N. Milam, Odessa, TX 79763, EOE.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Must have experience in regulatory & production reporting, spreadsheets, word processing. Send resume to: P.O. Box 51467, Midland, TX 79710.

SUPERINTENDENT

Albany Independent School District is now taking applications for Superintendent. Interested persons should send a letter of application and resume to: Ronnie Kincaid, Box 188, Albany, TX 76003. Albany Schools are an equal opportunity employer. Deadline for applications is March 21, 1997.

SALES ASSOCIATE

needed part time evenings and weekends. \$4.75/hour to start. Apply in person: Esquire Tuxedo, Midland Park Mall. No phone calls please!

ENVIRONMENTAL

Salesperson needed. Base plus commission, benefits, please send resume to Personnel Director, P.O. Box 11145, Midland, Texas 79702.

318 Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER for accounts receivable and accounts payable. Knowledge of general ledger and financial statements necessary. In a non-smoking office. Send resume to: P.O. Box 3308, Odessa, TX 79760.

318 Help Wanted

TEMPORARY RESOURCES The Power in Personnel

314 Clerical Help Wanted

V.I.P. EMPLOYMENT SERVICES. Clerical and Industrial jobs available. Never a fee. Benefits. (915) 686-9722.

CLERICAL. Openings for exp. Oil & Gas office personnel. Call OLSTEN today, 683-5677.

DP PERSONNEL Temp & Permanent positions available 682-0033

A/P CLERK Immediate openings for experienced Oil & Gas A/P Clerks. Job requires coding & batching invoices for JBS. Excellent computer & software skills needed. Hours are 8-5. Salary \$8-\$10 DOE. No Fee. Bring resume ASAP to Fran.

Temporary Resources 1601 W. Texas

"Production Secretary" Temp to Perm position available. TX & NM experience required. WordPerfect 6.1 and Lotus for Windows a must. Salary \$24K DOE. Call (915)697-6710 for appointment

CAREER PATH TEMPORARIES

OFFICE COORDINATOR for non profit. Organizational, office, computer skills, confidentiality a must. Send resume to: P.O. Box 14988, Odessa, TX 79768 by March 21st, 1997.

EVENING/ WEEKEND Receptionist Will work 4:30 pm-12 am weekdays, 8 am-3:30 pm on weekends. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Need phone skills and able to work well with the elderly. Complete application or send resume to: Trinity Towers, 2800 W. Illinois, Midland, TX 79703, Attention Theresa Winn. EOE M/F

GENERAL CLERICAL available part time \$5 per hour. Apply 602 N. Baird, Suite 200, Midland.

Global Personnel Network Temp & Perm positions. Locally & around the globe! 686-8360.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE position. Minimum 5 years computer experience. 10 key by touch. Non-smoking office. Send resume to: P.O. Box 60010, Midland, TX 79711

LAND ASSISTANT. Small independent oil and gas company is looking for a land assistant with experience in secretarial work and handling of all phases of land operations. Send resume to: LAND DEPARTMENT, P.O. Box 2840, MIDLAND, TEXAS 79702. All resumes will held in confidence.

LOAN OFFICER. R. N. O. FINANCE, 2209 N. Big Spring. We're presently seeking qualified personnel that can grow with our company. If you are a dependable, hardworking individual with a good personality and stable job history please apply to day in person. Bilingual and credit experience a plus. No phone calls please.

RECEPTIONIST needed for law firm immediately. Bilingual preferred. Salary depending on experience. Contact April 570-5776 for appointment.

Need An Office Job? Call Us! 684-0527

TEMPORARY RESOURCES The Power in Personnel

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER for accounts receivable and accounts payable. Knowledge of general ledger and financial statements necessary. In a non-smoking office. Send resume to: P.O. Box 3308, Odessa, TX 79760.

318 Help Wanted

ENVIRONMENTAL Salesperson needed. Base plus commission, benefits, please send resume to Personnel Director, P.O. Box 11145, Midland, Texas 79702.

SALES ASSOCIATE needed part time evenings and weekends. \$4.75/hour to start. Apply in person: Esquire Tuxedo, Midland Park Mall. No phone calls please!

318 Management Help Wanted

APARTMENT MANAGER. 5 years management experience up to \$2,000/month plus apartment, good medical. Fax resume: 615-689-7846.

OILFIELD. South American Consulting Co. needs experienced Rig-Site Supervisors. We believe any company is as good as its employees, therefore we are only accepting resumes from qualified people! Minimum 7 years experience working as a deep drilling well-site Supervisor, to work in South America. Must speak and write Spanish. Send resume to: P.O. Box 1319-929-7715 or by mail to: B & B International, P.O. Box 1380, Blanchard, LA 71009. For information call phone: (318)829-9633. Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

318 Management Help Wanted

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The Company On The Grow



Schwan's Home Food Service

is interviewing candidates who have a background

in Sales Restaurant Mgmt./Etc.

to manage routes in the greater Midland, Big Springs area. Immediate openings. Must be willing to work extended hours. \$500 Weekly guarantee while in training. E.O.E. Interviews will be on Friday March 7th by appointment only. To schedule your last career move call 1-800-437-2068. We Want people who are looking for a career... not just a job!!

The Company On The Grow

WANTED

GOOD PEOPLE FOR GOOD INCOMES

TRAINEES WILL BE ACCEPTED

EXPERIENCED GIVEN PREFERENCE

MALE OR FEMALE

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES PREFERRED

STABLE JOB HISTORY WITH VERIFIABLE REFERENCES

SELL USED AND NEW VEHICLES FOR PERMIAN BASIN'S FINEST DEALERSHIP

EARN HIGHEST COMMISSION. BEST BONUS PLAN AND OUTSTANDING FRINGE BENEFITS.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO WORK AND DESIRE TO BE TRAINED TO EARN \$100,000.00 PLUS PER YEAR

APPLY TO MR. LUCKY AT 580-2500.

SUN COUNTRY

316 Sales Help Wanted

Major Furniture/Appliance Retailer looking for:

PROFESSIONAL SALES ASSOCIATE.

The chosen applicant should be able:

- To show history of successful sales career
- To be a self-starter
- To provide the highest standard of customer service
- To work as part of an elite sales team

Excellent benefits included.

If you think the above description fits you and you want to take advantage of a rare opportunity to join our team, send resume or apply in person

Store Manager
Lucks' Stores, Inc.
3111 Culberrth
Midland, Texas 79701

An Equal Opportunity Employer

INSURANCE. Career opportunity as a local representative for one of the nation's largest insurance companies. No previous experience necessary. Complete training and earn while you learn. Benefits package, opportunity for advancement. Call Fred Cosper, American General Life & Accident Insurance Company, (915) 563-1065. Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/H/V.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE for oil field environmental company. Must have experience calling on company personnel. Should be self motivated, aggressive and well organized, good driving record with no more than 2 violations. Company vehicle furnished. Successful applicant will be required to pass physical and drug tests. We offer competitive salary, 401K plan, medical and dental insurance. Send resume with references and salary requirements to: Box P-06011, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

318 Management Help Wanted

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320 Skilled Trades

MACHINIST WANTED

Experienced engine & VTL operators able to read & work from Blue Print. Good benefits & working condition. Salary DOE. Apply at 11500 W Hwy 80, Midland, TX 79711.

ASSEMBLERS. Fabricators. Local manufacturing company needs several employees experienced in fabrication, assembly, and finish work. If you have good work ethics and appreciate an opportunity for quick advancement, you can build your future as you build trailers. There is no shift work and we provide a benefit package. Only serious need to call for an appointment. Positions immediately available. Call (915)563-0300 for interview. EOE.

CARPENTERS. Air Conditioning Technicians, Plumbers, Electricians wanted for finished Maintainer Operator. Call (915)682-7548.

FULL TIME Maintenance person. Only AC Certified need apply. No phone calls. Apply in person 3212 W. Wadley.

LICENSED PLUMBER and water softener/RO installer. Pay up to \$18.00 per hour. Excellent benefits. Send resume to: S & W SERVICES, P.O. Box 1484, San Angelo, TX 76902.

OIL FIELD Service Truck Driver wanted. Minimum 2 years experience moving & setting pumping units and pumping unit repair. Must have class A CDL and pass drug test. Experienced only need apply. Call 682-2217.

MECHANIC-Diesel Overhaul, Cat, Cummins, Detroit, Excellent Pay. Benefits. (303) 659-2073, Brighton, CO.

SURVEY CREWS CHIEF. Accepting applications for this position at Basin Surveys in Hobbs, NM. Have immediate opening. Would like two years experience in oil field surveys. Fax resume to 505-392-3074.

WATER WELL DRILLER. Looking for an experienced water well driller. CDL license a must. For career opportunity. Salary plus commission. The right person. Excellent pay and excellent working conditions. Regular hours. Work close to home. Some benefits. Call 550-7867 or send resume to: P.O. Box 69326, Odessa, TX 79769.

335 Adult Care Needed

CAREGIVER NEEDED. For man & wife. Be part of a team. Live-in, room & board plus salary. Permian Basin area. Send responses to: Box J-03002, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

335 Adult Care Needed

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336 Adult Care Providers

PERSONAL CARE provider. Need help for independent living? Call Carol. Licensed CMA & CNA. Excellent references. 6-12 hour shifts. 689-2059.

PRIVATE HOME for elderly care. Couple welcome. Call (915) 523-4690.

DON'T WANT to leave your home or need just a little help around the house? Let In Home Care help you, just ask for Jackie. She will take care of all your needs! Call 704-4475.

340 Child Care Needed

NEED A RESPONSIBLE Caring person to supervise & nurture children ages 0-7 in a Christian environment. Previous experience caring for children & flexibility a plus. Part-time hours to include Sunday mornings & Wednesday evenings. Contact Trinity Presbyterian Church, 682-2514 or apply at church office 2800 W. Louisiana.

341 Child Care Providers

TWO GRANDMOMMIES Infants & toddlers. 2 immediate openings. Meals, snacks, love, learning. Monday-Friday, 694-9871.

CHILD CARE Ages 2 & up. 7 am-9 pm. Open weekends. Call 694-6575.

MOTHER OF 2 will care for your children in my home. 0-12 years. Close to Jane Long. 520-7974.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S HOME Daycare. Loving home environment. 8 years experience. Meals provided. Please call 520-4109.

WILL KEEP YOUR child in my home. 3 openings. References. CPR certified. Loving environment. 520-8137.

I WILL WATCH your children in my home. All ages welcome. Meals & snacks provided. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. Monday through Friday. 550-4657.

350 Business Opportunities

HOME TYPISTS PC Users needed. \$45,000 income potential. Call 1-800-513-4343 Ext B-9104

GET REAL Estate License quickly. Short state course. Day, weekend or evening. Southwest College, 697-7277.

********* \$1000's Possible Typing Part-Time at Home. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext T-1523 for listings

********* \$1000's Possible Reading Books Part Time at Home. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext R-1523 for listings

********* 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.

Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business in Who's Who For Service for as little as \$42.60 monthly

Call 682-6222 For Further Information

Air Conditioning/Heating THE BOSWORTH CO. Service and Sales, all makes. We've been in the service business for 40 years! (915) 683-5233. #TACLA00844E.	Domestic/House Cleaning 14 YEARS CLEANING Midland. Home! Deep cleaning my specialty! Honest and Dependable. 520-9402.	Hauling B. JACKSON Handyman Service. Haul off trash, old furniture, appliances, carpet-pulling, etc. Call (915) 682-2667.	Lawn & Garden Service WE DO YARDWORK! Mowing, edging, trimming, hauling, scalping. Reasonable rates. 682-4333.	Painting & Paper Hanging JAMES SIMMONS PAINTING. \$250 Exteriors, \$75 Rooms. Acoustic Ceilings. Carpenter repair. References. 694-5039, 685-3020.	Sewing & Alterations NITA & Laura, THE SISTERS. alterations, dressmaking, home decor. 689-2866 or 694-4245.
UNITED Energy Systems. Complete Sales, Service, Repair, Air Duct Cleaning, Residential, Commercial, Mobile Homes. Free Estimates. Second Opinions. 561-4126, TACLB010538E.	MAID IN U.S.A! Spring Cleaning is our specialty! We have a few openings for basic cleaning. Short notice okay! Call 520-5930.	Home Repairs/Remodeling REBEL KING CERAMIC TILE. New installation and repairs. Free estimates. References. Work Guaranteed. Call 697-4518.	★ 13 YEARS EXPERIENCE. Tree Trimming/Removal, Mowing, Scalping, Professional Results. Free estimates. Charlie. 699-7967.	COMPLETE HOME Maintenance. Additions, counter tops, concrete, fences, masonry, painting, tile wall paper, and more! Free estimates. 520-0661.	NEW SHOWER Installation's. Complete "turn-key" jobs. Insurance claims welcome. Call Tony 682-7711.
ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. All brands. 683-2679. TACLB005482.	MODERN MAID specializing in old fashioned Spring Cleaning inside and out! Supplies furnished. Call 685-1145.	★ HOMER ELLINGER Construction. General remodeling services. When quality counts, count on us! 685-3428.	★ THOMPSON Lawn & Tree Service. Mowing, scalping, flower beds, tree trimming/removal. Fast, estimates. 570-5435.	TONY'S Painting & Wallpaper. Great work! Free estimates. References. Also do some handyman work. 687-4619.	SHOWER TILE rebuild, repout. All wall, floor tile. Your call is welcome! John, 520-2309.
AAA AIR CONDITIONING. Home & automobile, roofing, sheet metal work. Lowest Prices. Guaranteed. TACLB011594E. Insured. Licensed. References. Guarantees. 682-3542, pager 567-3172.	★ DO WINDOWS! Also regular and 1 time cleaning. Christian work ethic. References. Call 694-6325.	SUNRISE PAINTING & Remodeling. Drywall, Tile, All types residential, construction, 20 years experience. Formerly with Dan Garner Painting. Call Brad Jones. 570-5859.	★ FIREFIGHTER/Paramedic with lawn experience, complete yard maintenance, references available. Call 520-3617.	WALL/DOOR Interior paint and paper hanging. 18 years professional experience. Quality workmanship. Free estimates. 689-9989.	✓ SUPERIOR EXTERIORS BY NICHOLAS. Siding, seamless gutters, fascia, shutters, windows, painting, fences. Free estimates. 520-7352.
APPLIANCE PARTS JG SPECIALTY Products. Parts for GE/Hotpoint, Whirlpool, Sears Kenmore, and most other brands. Call 520-9670.	T & T CLEANING. We do a dynamic job. Free estimates. Call Teresa or Tonya 686-7630.	RON KINSEY. KINSEY Construction. General remodeling, tile, marble, roofing. Satisfaction guaranteed. 697-2135.	RETIRED FIREMAN doing tree trimming, scalping, and complete lawn care. Call 683-6006.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	DESERT RAIN SPRINKLERS. 36 years experience, need we say more? Free estimates. Call 570-6888.
APACHE APPLIANCE Sales & Service. Cash for unwanted appliances. Call 570-6688/570-7801, leave message.	NEED YOUR HOUSE Cleaned? Specializing in Goddard Trnity, Greentree, north Midland. Weekly, monthly, references. 697-8412.	CEILING REPAIRS. Texture, Blown Acoustics, Skylights, Painting Cabinet tops. Ceramic tile. Carpentry. Fencing. 682-7711, Abel.	CURRIE'S YARD SERVICE. Mowing, flower beds, hauling, tilling, alleys, all yard work. Free trimming. 682-9523.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	SWIMMING POOL SERVICE. Maintenance. Very reasonable rates. Free estimates. Quality service. Call 520-0803.
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING Appliance Service. Parts and services on all name brands of appliances. Used appliances with full warranty. 687-5113.	WISHING YOU had nice clean surroundings? Go to the Wishing Well. WELLS CLEANING SERVICE. Free Estimates. 570-5412, pager 560-7291.	CLC CONSTRUCTION Re-models. Renovations, Additions, Garages. Free Written Estimates. Bonded. Insured. Local References. 563-0902, 524-7233.	CARE Tree Trimming, mowing, edging, scalping, flowerbed cleaning. For free estimates. Call 684-7724.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	Swimming Pools SWIMMING POOL SERVICE. Maintenance. Very reasonable rates. Free estimates. Quality service. Call 520-0803.
PROFESSIONAL Craftsman's Repair, remodel, new construction, ceramic tile, cement. AAA Air Conditioning. References. Guarantees. 682-3542.	WANT EXPERT CLEANING at a reasonable rate? All supplies provided. Shelly. 520-2761, pager 495-5272.	PROFESSIONAL Craftsman's Repair, remodel, new construction, ceramic tile, cement. AAA Air Conditioning. References. Guarantees. 682-3542.	ROSE'S Lawn Service. Professional tree pruning and complete lawn maintenance. Free estimates. Insured. 697-1912.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
★ FREE REMOVAL of your unwanted appliances. Fast pickup. 567-5221.	EXPANDING. Established House Cleaning Service has a few openings. Dependable, reasonable, non-smoking with excellent references. 561-8880.	JOHNNY'S HOME REPAIR. Painting, Carpentry, Drywall, Formica, Acoustic. All your handyman needs. Please call 563-1517.	RETIRED PERSON would like to do your yard work. Flowerbeds, leaves, mowing, etc. Call 694-2601.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
★ MIKE'S APPLIANCE Same Day Service on most major brand appliances. Call anytime. 561-8809.	CHRISTIAN WOMAN will clean your home. Reasonable Rates. Excellent references. Call 520-4488.	★ AMG CONTRACTOR Remodeling painting, ceramic tile, decks, cabinets, counter tops. Residential/Commercial. Free Estimates. 561-0485.	IT'S TIME to start scalping those yards again! Get ready for Spring Midland freighter mowing, edging, weed eating. Call Rodney. 687-4655. Please leave message.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
★ DONT REPLACE Refinish Bath tubs, sinks, ceramic tile, counter tops and appliances. Westex Refinishing. 520-9898 or 1-800-774-9898.	★ KREGER Electric License #124 Bonded Lights, plugs, service calls. 38 years experience. Midland. 684-4836.	★ WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU! Remodels painting, ceilings, sheetrock and carpentry. West ex Refinishing. 520-9898.	SAM'S LAWN SERVICE. Light hauling, mowing and edging. Vegetable gardens. Fence repair. Tree trimming. Call 682-7223.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
CAMCORDER RENTAL CAMCORDER RENTAL. Premiere Video. 3323 N. Midland Drive. Call 689-6674. Open 7 days.	★ KITCHEN CABINETS. vanities, formica counter tops, beveled edges. Reasonable rates, references, work guaranteed. Luis. 682-4544.	★ FRANK'S CARPENTRY. Quality work for LESS. Anything you need. Texturing, painting, acoustics, sheetrock, fences. 687-1068.	ANDY'S LAWN SERVICE. Yardwork. Vacant Lots. Fence Mending. Clean-up. Hauling. \$20 and up. 570-4826.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
★ SEARS CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING. Go with a name you know & trust. Satisfaction guaranteed. Use your Sears Card. Winter specials now in effect for a limited time. 520-7600.	★ LOPEZ CONSTRUCTION CO. Deck Repair, Ceramic Tile, Showers, Kitchens & Baths, Marble Counter Tops, Acoustic Texture & Concrete. References. Free Estimates. 683-9117, beeper 742-0600.	★ IRONING IRONING IN MY HOME. non-smoker. \$10.50 a dozen. Call 520-6964 for more information.	QUALITY WORK! BLOCK AND BRICK. Fences. Free estimates. 550-9441.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
★ COMPUTER SERVICES COMPUTER SERVICES For software/hardware on home PCs. Installing memory, setting up harddrives, etc. \$35 per hour. 682-3808.	★ WOOD FLOORS. Refinish/repairs/ installation/ sales. Howard (915) 694-4044.	★ FAST SERVICE! Experienced \$1 per piece, starch provided. Non-smoker. West side. Call 694-0474.	ALL TYPES Masonry. Brick, Block, Stone, and Concrete. Steve Rickey. 682-5708. 570-2996 for free estimates.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$
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★ QUINCY PRATT'S Hauling Service will haul your appliances anywhere. 24 Hrs. 687-2534, 686-8440.	★ ROGERS GENERAL DIRT SERVICE. Driveways, patch jobs, fill dirt, caliche and top soil. Lot cleaning. Call 570-8343 or 570-1510 evenings.	★ FAST SERVICE! Experienced \$1 per piece, starch provided. Non-smoker. West side. Call 694-0474.	★ ALL TYPES Masonry. Brick, Block, Stone, and Concrete. Steve Rickey. 682-5708. 570-2996 for free estimates.	REPAIR WORK tape bed texture, painting, paper hanging. Free estimates. Wayne & Mary Dugan. 561-8700.	TAXES PREPARED PROFESSIONAL TAX PREPARATION. COULD SAVE YOU \$

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THE GREENWOOD Independent School District will accept bids on selling a 1993 Ford Aerostar until 2:00 p.m. on March 18, 1997. Bids and specifications may be picked up at 2700 FM 1379, Midland, Texas 79706. For more information call 685-7803.

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QUIET, down town complex. 1 or 2 bedroom. Furnished or unfurnished. Bills paid. Laundry room. Contact Rose 500 W. Tennessee, Apt. 6.

625 House
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3 BEDROOM, 2 Bath, 1 car garage with door opener, sprinkler system. \$450 Month. \$100 deposit. 3906 Avondale Drive. 694-3021 or 682-1051.

625 House
Unfurnished
NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, central air, \$525 monthly. 3911 W. Illinois. Agent 694-0853.

3 BEDROOM, 2 Bath, 2 living areas, 2 car garage, Freshly painted. \$700 monthly, \$500 deposit. 2820 Cimarron. (915)683-6948.

CUTE HOME for lease. 4623 Wilshire. 3 Bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 garage. \$595 monthly, \$350 deposit. Will consider HUD. Contact Cindy Brown, Owner Agent, Realty Unlimited, 550-5309.

9919 BEDFORD, available April 1st. References required. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, double garage, central heat and air, washer/dryer connections, ceiling fans, fireplace. Minimum 1 year lease. \$650/month \$250 deposit. 685-3005.

3611 APACHE. North of Thompson. 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths. \$500 monthly. Call Roy Proctor, Owner, Broker, Associate Langston Realtors, 685-4141.

SEVERAL nice homes & apartments. \$299-\$675. Jeannie Printz, Agent 684-8202.

4602 DEBBIE COVE: 4 bedroom, double bath, garage, large backyard. Bush, Abel, J. Agent. 684-7788.

WONDERFUL WALLACE Patio townhome. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, excellent condition. Large kitchen & breakfast, lots of storage. All bedrooms roomy. Light & bright. 1 Year minimum lease at \$1,300 monthly. 689-3920 or 686-2057.

4614 W. STOREY. 3 Bedroom. \$525 monthly, deposit required. Call (915)683-5161 or (915)987-3413.

1000 CANYON. 3-4 bedrooms. 1 1/2 baths, range, garage, newly decorated. \$450 - \$200. 697-2409.

711 DORMARD. \$725 Monthly, \$725 deposit. Appointment only. Available March 15th. Owner Agent, 685-3380.

2 BEDROOMS, 2 full baths, 2 living areas, corner lot, large yard with sprinkler system. Sam Houston school. \$675 monthly. (915)689-7274.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, large bedroom, 3 car carport, 2 story barn, 3 horse stalls, pool. Refrigerator, dishwasher, disposal, washer, dryer, central air heat. 1 1/2 acre country living in city limits! Melody Acres. Bring your horse! \$1,200 plus deposit. 520-5157.

FOR LEASE: Attractive home. 5201 Ric. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 garage. \$695 monthly, \$350 deposit. Contact Tammy Edwards, Agent with Wilkey Brown Real Estate (915)550-7719 or Cindy Brown, Broker with Realty Unlimited, (915)550-9706.

2 BEDROOM upstairs duplex. Small yard. Refrigerator, stove furnished. \$350 monthly, \$350 deposit. Call 694-7168.

DUPLEX. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, all appliances including new washer-dryer, covered parking, storage, fenced yard. 921 N. Bentwood. \$350 monthly. (915)690-4243 or (915)685-0876.

2007 HARVARD. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage, hardwood floors and carpet. \$585 a month, \$250 deposit. (972)393-7305.

4817 STOREY MARCH 7TH. \$615. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car, opener. Appliances. Refrigerated. 699-4481.

LARGE 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, den, living room. 1118 Mogford. \$750 Monthly. Call 684-4663.

915 House
Furnished
HANDICAP EQUIPPED DUPLEX. Furnished. Down town. Near hospital. Share bills. Quiet neighborhood. \$450 plus deposit. 682-4511.

SPACIOUS 2 Bedroom
Furnished. 2 bedrooms overlooking pool and patio. March 1st. \$535 includes utilities. (915)690-4461.

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Furnished
FURNISHED 2 bedrooms, washer/dryer, central air, fireplace, garage. Northwest side. 687-5556.

FAIRGATE Townhomes-4400
Fairgate Drive. 2 & 3 Bedrooms 12 and 6 month lease. \$700 & up. 1,850 sq. ft. Approx. All appliances furnished. Fireplace, garage. Northwest side. 687-5556.

WONDERFUL WALLACE Patio townhome. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, excellent condition. Large kitchen & breakfast, lots of storage. All bedrooms roomy. Light & bright. 1 Year minimum lease at \$1,300 monthly. 689-3920 or 686-2057.

700 House
Furnished
TOWNHOUSE. SPACIOUS 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, washer/dryer connections, ceiling fans, microwave, excellent location! \$750/month. Days. 685-1980.

2 & 3 BEDROOMS, 2 & 2 1/2 BATHS. 1225 sq. ft. -1537 sq. ft. 2 car garage, washer/dryer connections, microwave, ceiling fans. \$650/up. 697-9768.

1 & 2 BEDROOM Dens, 1,007 to 1,391 sq. ft. Garage, washer-dryer connections, pool, ceiling fans. 689-8116.

SAGEWOOD-1 bedroom, upstairs flat for lease. Taupe carpet. \$350 monthly. References required. Dave 683-2582.

LAFAYETTE PLACE. Elegant 3 bedroom, 2 living area. \$1,400 month. 684-0996.

695 Mobile Home
Space for Rent
MOVE-IN SPECIAL \$39-2 years, normally \$125-2 years, driveway-paved, security fence. 563-3510, 550-7505.

WESTGATE Mobile Home Park. Security lights, free satellite TV, free water. Free move & set up. 520-9416.

COUNTRY VILLAGE Mobile Home Estates. Clean paved streets. Large trees in each lot. Paid water trash 1st 3 months free. 694-1120 3401 SCR 1223 1/2.

UNLANDSCAPED TRAILER. Space for rent. Outside of city limits. Call after 5:30. 683-3774.

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.

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SINGLE OFFICES entire suites parking, secretarial services, copiers, faxes phones provided at very reasonable rates. 4500 W. Illinois, 201 E. Michigan, 602 N. Baird. Call Midland. 620-1500.

PRIME, CONVENIENT, single level, 671 sq. ft. office suite. On premise management. 3105 N. Big Spring. 683-4922.

DOWNTOWN. 1-2-3 room offices or 2,650 sq. ft. suite. Park at door. Bills paid. Call Dan Rodenick, Broker Associate, Langston Realtors, 685-0400.

RESTAURANT for lease at 1-20 and Loop 250 (across from National Truck Stop). Contact Bill Harris. 332-1301. 580-0042.

ONE ROOM Offices with outside entrances. \$150-\$175. 602 N. Baird. For information call 620-1500.

DOWNTOWN ground floor, window office space inside secretarial services suite. Receptionist and answering services provided. (915)683-5246.

LARGE SUITE (approximately 2,000 sq. ft.) with reception area and six rooms. \$975. 4500 W. Illinois. For information call 620-1500.

ALL SIZES and types of properties. Office, Warehouse, Retail. 800 to 40,000 square feet. 683-8681.

ONE YEAR FREE RENT! 1659 sq. ft. parking lot, downtown Midland. Bill Cherry (409) 763-0448.

OFFICE Warehouse space for lease. 500 sq. ft. office, 2,000 sq. ft. warehouse. 2130 South Loop. 250 West. Call Gene Abbott. (915)563-2422.

JUST AVAILABLE. 2,650 sq. ft. suite, downtown. Ground floor, park at door. Don Rodenick, Broker Agent, Langston Realtors, 685-0400.

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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.

PRIME RETAIL space or small office. 960 sq. ft. available soon! 3328 N. Midkiff, 694-8858, 697-2407.

675 Warehouse/Storage for Rent
WAREHOUSE/office, approximately 1,000 sq. ft., overhead door, heat/air, enclosed yard, close in. Reasonable. 682-4789, 683-5697.

STORAGE SPACE for lease. 12 x 30 and 12 x 40. Call Gene Abbott. (915)563-2422.

RETAIL/OFFICE WAREHOUSE. 1750 sq. ft., heat/air, 800 S. Terrell. 682-7575.

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MIDLAND INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE. 2801 W. Industrial. 1800 sq. ft. and 4500 sq. ft. units available. Dock height and ground access. Security gate - secure units. 694-3636.

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Your home for a new custom home from KEY HOMES, INC. 520-9848

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2402 NORTH TOWN. 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 2 garage, sequestered master, approximately 2,100 sq. ft., fresh paint, very clean, sprinkler, \$85,000. 683-2321.

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FOR SALE by owner, only \$41.22 per sq. ft. buys this remarkable, well kept home in Kimberlea. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace, 1 bar, sun room, and automatic garage door openers are just part of the goodies that come included. Drive by 3202 Maxwell & call 520-9848 for appointment. Sales price \$108,000. New loan required. "SPECIAL" SELLER TO PAY \$4,000 TOWARDS BUYER'S CLOSING COSTS!!

CHAPARRAL REALTORS 731 W. Wadley, Suite N-100. CALL 686-7000.

HUD - VA - MLS. Call for free list. YOUR HOME COULD BE LISTED HERE. Call Dennis Realty 520-9649.

STARTING AT \$80,000. 2 Subdivisions. 520-8421.

CHARMING "Old Midland". 113 Ridge. By owner. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Completely remodeled, packed with new house features! Priced to sell - in the 70's! 682-2384.

NON-QUALIFYING ASSUMABLE Loan. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, 2 car garage. \$59,900. 4614 Floyd Court. Shown by Appointment only. 570-1049.

4707 BOWIE- "Established Neighborhood" West End near Loop. by owner. Completely remodeled. new carpet, ceramic floor and wall tile, crown mold, custom cabinets and beveled edge tops. 3 bed, 1 bath - stylish den! Priced to sell - low 40's! 682-2384.

2 BEDROOM, 2 Bath. 1995 model, 16x60 mobile home on 2 acres. Greenwood area. \$42,000. 570-0457.

NEW 3 bedroom homes starting at \$65,000 Midland-westside J.C. Builders. 520-5096. 559-5479.

KAY SUTTON REALTORS 702 Andrews Hwy. 570-8200.

BY OWNER 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, carport. Good condition. \$22,500. No owner financing. Call 520-8936.

3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 Bath on 3 lots in Lenorah. 30 Minutes from Midland. Asking \$15,000. \$5,000 take over payments. \$169.89 for 3 1/2 years. Call 459-2757 (home).

BY OWNER 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, carport. Good condition. \$22,500. No owner financing. Call 520-8936.

BRICK 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, nice neighborhood. 1-800-266-2305.

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1ST TIME HOMEBUYERS. Free updated list of FHA-VA MLS-Hud Homes-plus tips on buying a home for less down! All Areas - All Prices. Use Income Tax Return to buy! Open Weekends-Call Anytime. AMERICAN REALTY 520-7577.

EASY/BUYS/IT \$29,900. Why pay rent? Just painted inside out, newer carpet. 3 Bdrm. Just one, so be quick! Call Mary Maddoux 694-2920, Chapparral Realtors.

725 Condo Townhouses. CUTE! CUTE CONDO! 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, washer/dryer, kitchen appliances, fireplace \$10,500. Will finance. Jody Smith 694-9426, Chapparral Realtors.

NEW TOWNHOMES for sale! Midland-northwest side. 2 & 3 bedrooms, 2 bath garage, starting at \$80,500. J.C. Builders, 520-5096, 559-5479.

NEW CONSTRUCTION! Great Location! 3612 Mission Court. Quality built 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, all brick, low maintenance, quiet, established neighborhood. \$79,500. 684-6756.

730 Suburban Property. GREENWOOD. 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 3 1/2 acres. Barn, fenced, underground sprinkler system. \$25,000 below appraisal! \$112,000 firm. Inquiries only. 685-3532.

★ 1303 PUEBLO- Quiet country living close in. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, oversized 2 car garage, security and sprinkler systems. Water well, satellite system on 2 lots. Home warranty. Open Saturday 1-3 pm. \$77,000. 699-0788.

BY OWNER: 5004 Belle Grove Court. Townhome in Pleasant Hills for the security minded. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, hot tub, ceiling fans, sprinkler system, 1,700 sq. ft. Very little yard maintenance. \$79,900. 699-7538.

★ EVERYTHING you ever wanted in a home for... ONLY \$262/month. Huge doublewide with a country kitchen, separate dining room, huge living area, sequestered master bedroom suite with a glamour bath. 5% down, 9.25% VAR APR. 360 months. U.S.A. homes. 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79703. 1-800-520-2177. 520-2177. Se Habla Espanol.

★ CASH IN 5 MINUTES for your mobile home! Call Brad at (915) 550-6716 or 520-2177.

★ PRICE IS EVERYTHING 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 16' x 80' gorgeous home as low as \$215/month, 5% down, 9.75% VAR APR. 360 months. Hurry. First Come, First Served. U.S.A. Homes. 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 1-800-520-2177. 520-2177. Se Habla Espanol.

★ USED 3 BEDROOMS! SUPER-NICE-TRADE-INS. Finance Co. Repo Sacrifices! Many with wood siding, shingle roof, fireplaces. Starting at \$14,500 monthly, \$800 down, 10% A.P.R. 240 months. Also approved credit. Also CLEARANCE SALE on new single & doublewide! No credit. Bad credit, come see the credit specialists! 90% approval rate.

★ GREAT AMERICAN HOMES 1 mile west of Water Wonderland on Hwy 80. ★★ 561-8222 ★★

★ WE TURN HOUSES into Homes. New doublewide homes as low as \$300/month. 5% down, 10.5% APR. 360 months. U.S.A. Homes. 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX. 520-2177. 1-800-520-2177. Buy down financing with approved credit. Se Habla Espanol.

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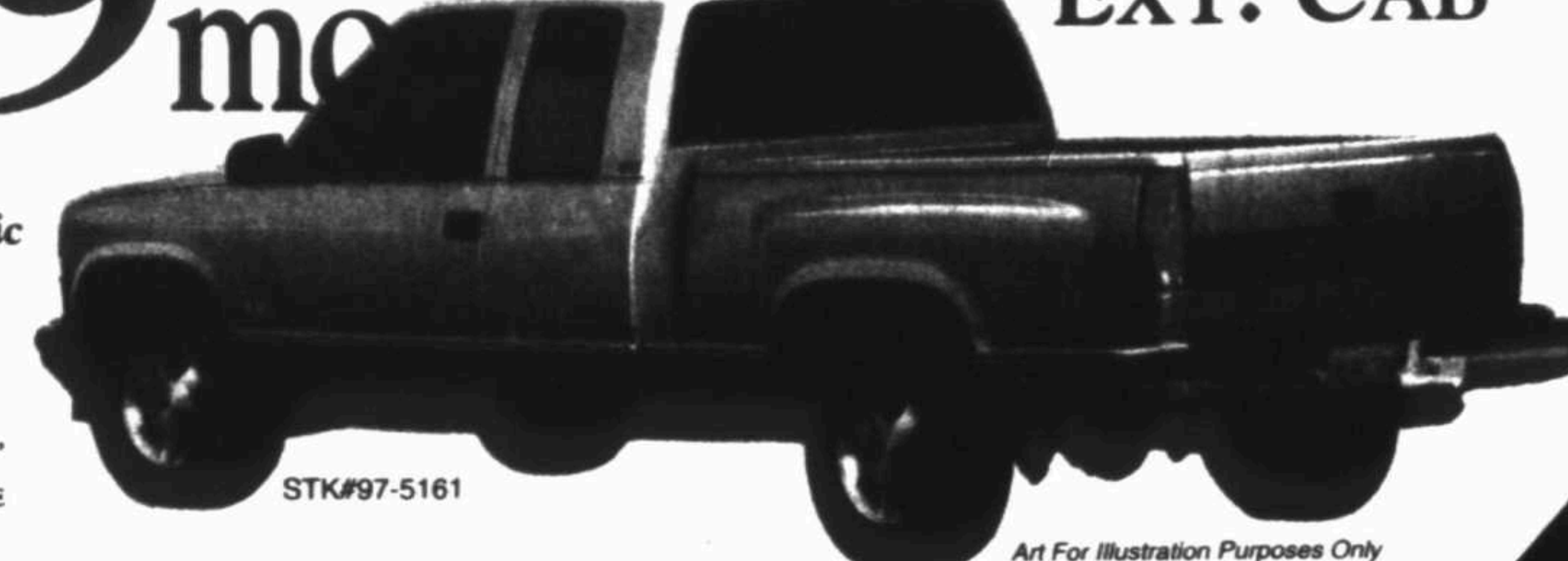
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