

Budget

Deficit not cut enough in plan, Page 5



Football

Bears, 'Skins make cold weather plans, Page 9

Court

Another justice decides to quit, Page 3

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Thursday

Snow stops, but chilling weather still lingers

By CATHY SPAULDING
Staff Writer

The sun broke through the lifting clouds this morning as a system that dumped 7 inches of snow on Pampa in the past two days moved out of the area.

But the sun melting the snow-packed roads will still cause hazardous driving conditions into the weekend.

Pampa was covered with a record depth of snow in 1987, KGRO-KMOX radio meteorolog-

ist Darrell Sehorn said today, warning that 1988 doesn't look any better.

Pampa area residents continue to be slapped with biting, sub-freezing temperatures and above-normal precipitation, Sehorn said. Temperatures today are expected to touch 20 degrees with lows dipping to near 5 degrees. Normal temperatures for this date are 49 and 22.

"And the cold weather will be here a while," Sehorn said, adding that temperatures should

rise to 28 degrees Friday and break into the 30s Saturday.

Wednesday's high reached only 13, with the overnight low dipping to minus 3 this morning. A light wind helped to keep the chill factor to only about 13 degrees below zero.

"There should be some snow melting Saturday and Sunday," Sehorn said. "But it will freeze back at night."

Sehorn said that the current cold spell is a continuation of a wave that helped make 1987 a

cord year for snow fall. The meteorologist said five feet of snow fell on Pampa in 1987, counting 21 inches during the freak spring blizzard and a total of 20 inches for December.

And Pampa is not alone. According to Sehorn, Pampa is locked in the "Siberian Express," a cold front that reaches from Montana to Maine and dips south into central Texas and the south Atlantic seaboard.

Consequently, travel is discouraged on icy and snow-packed roads throughout the region.

In Pampa, streets are passable but slick and bumpy, Pampa Street Superintendent Gene Winegeart reported.

Winegeart said city road crews have been out since midnight blading snow off lanes and sanding intersections.

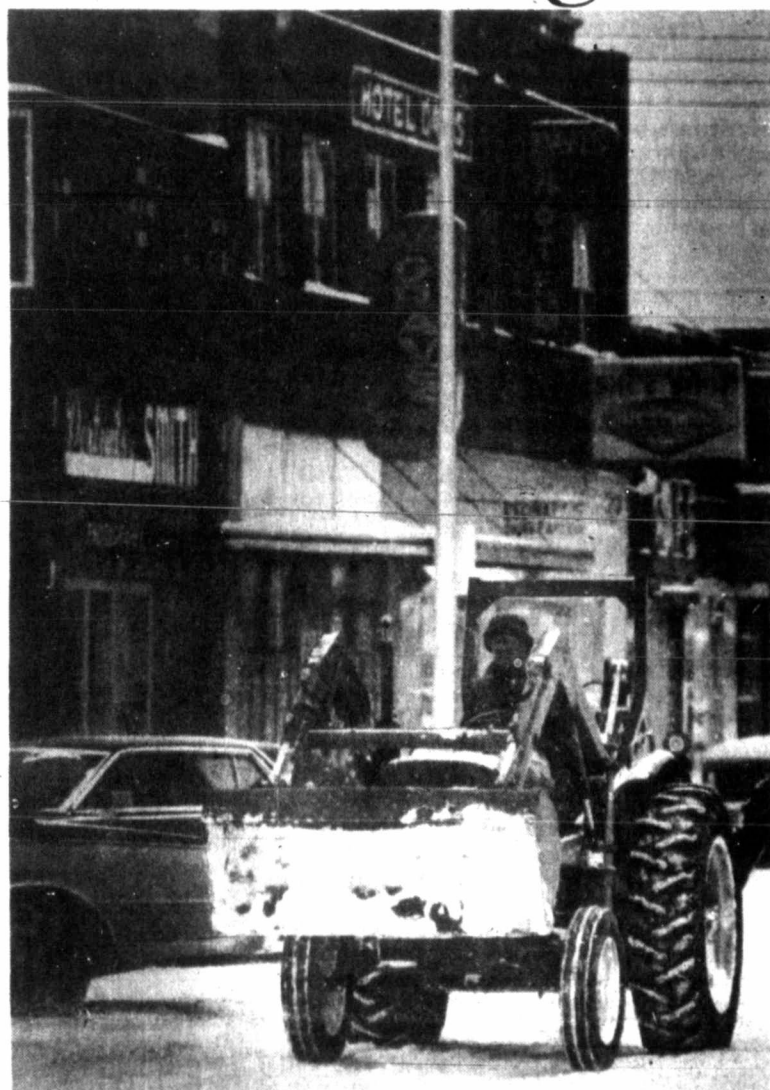
He added that crews are trying to keep downtown streets and main thoroughfares clear, although all city streets are somewhat passable. He explained that road crews pile the snow in the middle of the street so that drivers may park by the curb.

Winegeart expects to begin clearing the piles of snow by Sunday.

"I hear there's another storm coming in Friday," he said.

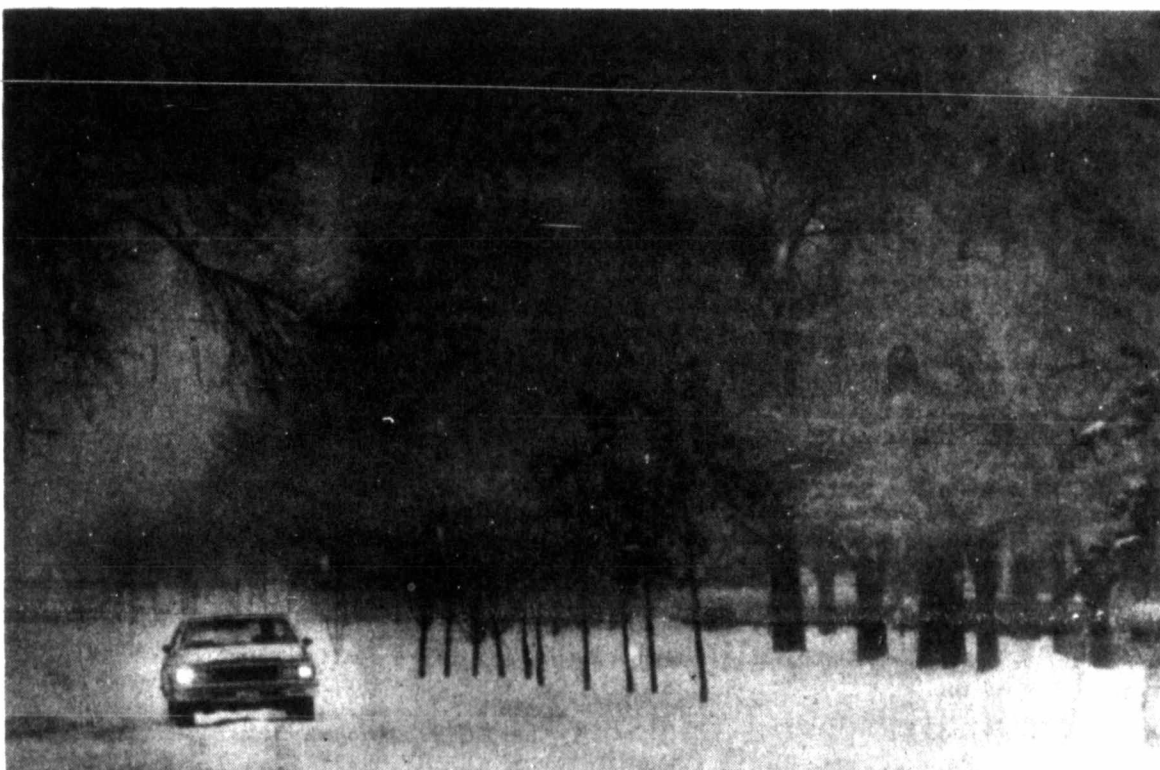
Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Mike Duncan of Pampa said travel is discouraged on all area highways.

"Roads are snow-packed all the way to Dallas-Fort Worth," Duncan said, adding that highway patrols in Oklahoma and New Mexico are discouraging all travel there.



(Staff photo by Duane A. Lavery)

City employee Leroy Hilbert drives a snow-removal tractor along downtown Foster Street Wednesday as snow continues to fall.



(Staff Photo by Duane A. Lavery)

A car makes its way slowly through the snow on Somerville Street Wednesday.

Arctic cold grips much of U.S.

By The Associated Press

A powerful storm piled up snow and glazed roads with ice in the Southern Plains today, stranding hundreds of travelers in Texas and forcing the Oklahoma Legislature to adjourn, while a cold wave kept much of the nation in its arctic grip.

Wednesday's storm headed east today after dumping about a foot of snow from Utah and southern Colorado across Oklahoma and southern Kansas to parts of Arkansas, and closing schools as far east as Memphis, Tenn.

Arizona, New Mexico, Missouri, and northern Mississip-

pi got lesser accumulations. Heavy ice and snow accumulations coated highways in northern Texas and Louisiana.

Much of the East was under winter storm advisories through Friday.

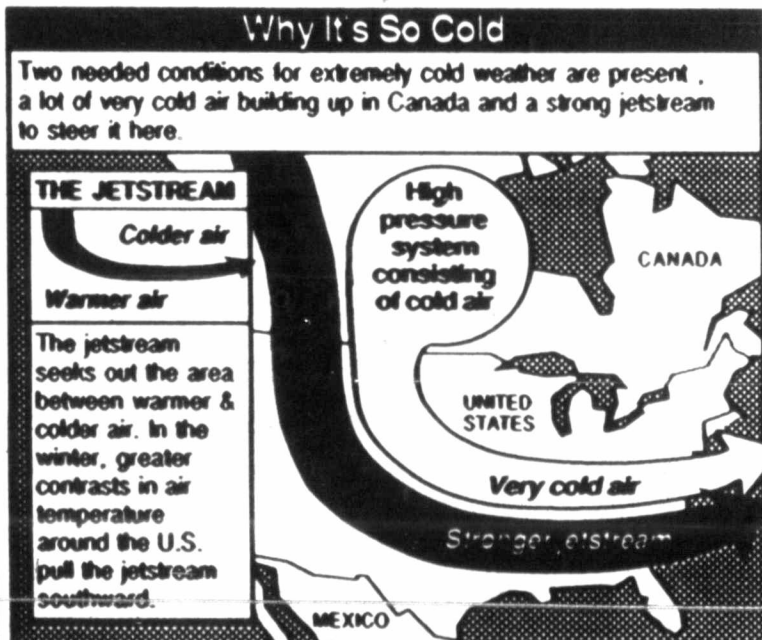
"We're not recommending travel unless it's life or death or God's will or something like that," said state Highway Patrol spokesman Lee Lamirand in Oklahoma City, where a record 11.9 inches of snow closed Will Rogers World Airport overnight.

State Transportation Director Neal McCaleb declared a storm emergency Wednesday and hired private contractors to help keep the roads open in what he called the "third 20-year storm" in a month.

"If the wind comes up, we're in a world of hurt," said Paul Gray, a Kansas Department of Transportation superintendent. "We can keep the snow plowed if we don't get wind. We can plow snow, but we can't plow visibility."

On Wednesday, subzero high temperatures lingered across Minnesota, Wisconsin, north-east Iowa and Indiana, and single-digit highs prevailed in Illinois and central New England, but light winds prevented deadly wind chills.

See ARCTIC, Page 2



This graphic illustrates the two conditions needed for extremely cold weather: a lot of very cold air building up in Canada and a strong jet stream to steer it down into the United States.

Staniswalis opens campaign here despite snowy weather

By PAUL PINKHAM
Senior Staff Writer

State Rep. Chip Staniswalis became the third Republican congressional candidate in two days to set out on a Panhandle campaign trek despite wintery weather and hazardous road conditions.

Staniswalis, R-Amarillo, stopped Wednesday in Pampa and Berger to say his experience of four terms in the Texas House qualifies him to be the area's next congressman.

U.S. Rep. Beau Boulter, R-Amarillo, is giving up his House seat after two terms to run for the U.S. Senate.

In addition to Staniswalis, Boulter's office is being sought by Republicans Bob Price, Larry Milner, Jim Brandon, Alan Pickering and Ron Buffum, and Democrats Bill Sarpalius, Ed Lehman and Randy Hollums.

Each of the GOP candidates has certain areas of expertise. Staniswalis, 38, said, but added that he is the only candidate that combines the best traits of each because of his experience in the Texas House.

"In a situation like this, experience is the qualifier," Staniswalis said. "I've had my arm



Staniswalis

twisted by the Speaker of the Texas House, and I've handled that to the satisfaction of the people of the Panhandle.

"That's the kind of testing by fire that's going to be needed in the U.S. House."

If there is a runoff election following the March 8 primary, Staniswalis predicted it will be between himself and former U.S. Rep. Price of Pampa.

Among the key issues he foresees in the race, Staniswalis mentioned welfare reform, Social Security and government spending. The deficit can never be con-

trolled until the federal government curbs spending, he said.

America needs a system of "workfare rather than welfare," Staniswalis said, calling the current welfare system a "disaster."

"There needs to be an incentive to get off of the welfare roll and onto the payroll," he said.

Staniswalis called the Social Security system a "personal issue" for himself and all "baby boomers" who worry that the system may be bankrupt by the time they reach retirement age.

"I just want to make sure the system stays viable," he said. "The people that are paying into the system now need to have confidence that it will be there when they're ready to retire."

On defense, Staniswalis said he supports continued research and development of Star Wars.

Staniswalis said he fully expects to be cleared of missaplication of funds allegations against him currently being investigated by Potter County District Attorney Danny Hill. He said he has urged Hill to expedite his investigation "so that I can get on about my business."

"We want this issue settled as soon as possible," Staniswalis said.

Soviets plan pullout of troops from Afghanistan

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union hopes to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan this year in a plan that could be worked out at U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva next month.

Soviet officials have been saying for months that the estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan could be withdrawn in 12 months or less.

But U.S. analysts in Washington said they believe Shevardnadze's comments Wednesday were the clearest signal yet that Moscow intends to meet its public pledge to be out of Afghanistan over a period of 12 months.

Shevardnadze's comments on the proposed pull-out came in Afghanistan, where he held talks that ended Wednesday. His remarks were carried by the Afghan news agency Bakhtar and distributed

in Moscow by the Soviet news agency Tass.

Shevardnadze returned to Moscow on Wednesday from Kabul, the Afghan capital, where he arrived on Monday and met twice with Afghan leader Najib.

The foreign minister was quoted as saying again that the United States and other Western countries must stop supplying arms to the Islamic rebels fighting Afghanistan's Marxist, pro-Soviet government.

But Tass hinted in a separate dispatch on Wednesday that there was progress on that issue, too. It said a "favorable situation" is developing in U.N.-sponsored talks at Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Afghan guerrillas have bases in Pakistan, which fills in for them at the talks. In the indirect

negotiations, the major issue on which the two sides have been unable to agree is how long it will take the Soviets to withdraw.

But Shevardnadze said conditions exist for a settlement, and that all the remaining questions leading to a Soviet withdrawal can be settled at a new round of indirect talks scheduled in Geneva next month.

"We would like the year 1988 to be the last year of the stay of Soviet soldiers in your country," Shevardnadze told Bakhtar. He said he had agreed with President Najib that "necessary conditions can be guaranteed shortly."

Tass said that during their talks, Najib offered some new ideas on how to end the fighting. The report did not elaborate.

Moscow is looking for a way to pull its forces out

of Afghanistan without leaving Najib's government defenseless against the fierce Islamic insurgency. Soviet forces moved into neighboring Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, to replace one pro-Soviet government with another and have remained to fight the rebels.

State Department officials in Washington said Wednesday that U.N. negotiator Diego Cordovez probably would travel to Islamabad and Kabul this month to set up the February meeting in Geneva.

One official said the Shevardnadze comments led U.S. analysts to conclude that "the Soviets are putting the best face on it for their Afghan allies."

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity. The minister said America and Soviet Union would serve as guarantors of such an agreement.

Texas/Regional

Convicted killer who desired execution gets wish

HUNTSVILLE (AP)—A Texas man who repeatedly said he wanted to die after he was convicted of killing a woman during a \$1 burglary of her home got his wish when he was executed early today following delays caused by confusion over stay requests.

Robert Streetman, 27, of Silsbee, was pronounced dead at 3:26 a.m., seven minutes after the lethal drugs began flowing through his arms.

He had no final statement, replying only, "No, sir," when asked if he wished to make a statement.

The execution came only after cautious state officials, concerned that an unprecedented middle-of-the-night second appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court may have been pending, halted the execution about 2:10 a.m. as Streetman was being strapped to the death chamber gurney.

Less than 30 minutes earlier,

the high court had deadlocked 4-4 on a request for a stay, apparently clearing the way for the nation's first execution this year.

A high court spokeswoman, Suzanne Ward, however, said no such second appeal was filed.

"We're willing to take as much time as possible," J. Kirk Brown, Texas Department of Corrections legal counsel, said.

Brown said once the Texas attorney general's office and the governor's office were certain no appeals were pending, the execution went ahead.

Brown said he understood Streetman was annoyed at the last-minute confusion.

"He was prepared to go forward with the process and had readied himself," Brown said.

According to department spokesman Charles Brown, "When they had the delay and they (officers) went to take him off the gurney, he said he wanted

to get it over with."

Streetman was convicted of the December 1982 slaying of Christine Baker, 44, of Kountze, who died when a single shot was fired at her through a window while she sat knitting and watching television in the living room of her home, her dog lying at her side.

Streetman was among four men who planned to rob the house because they believed a large amount of money was kept there. Trial testimony, however, showed the only item taken was Mrs. Baker's purse, which contained \$1.

They unknowingly missed \$64,000 in cash and checks hidden in the house. It wasn't until more than a month after her death that relatives accidentally found the envelope with the money.

"It was a stupid thing," the slain woman's husband, Nyle, said this week of her death.

"There was no purpose, no reason. Streetman to me was just a foul kid who went crazy — a total waste. His death won't correct anything."

Of the three others involved in the burglary, one received probation, another was granted immunity and the third is serving a 45-year prison term.

Streetman refused requests for interviews in recent months, but said in the past that he had been ready to die since the day he arrived on death row in 1983.

"Why stay here 10 years and still have the same thing happen in the end?" he said. "It's going to happen anyway."

Last week, he had a change of heart, and the Capital Punishment Clinic at the University of Texas Law School took over his case. On his final day, he changed his mind again, asking he be executed. Appeals continued, however, and federal judges in

Beaumont and New Orleans denied his attorneys' requests for a reprieve, sending the case to the Supreme Court.

Streetman spent his final day in his cell, writing in a notebook and reading, and visited for 90 minutes with his three sisters. He also visited briefly with his mother before a final meal of scrambled eggs, flour tortillas and french fries.

Streetman, who came within 30 hours of execution two years ago, was a 9th-grade dropout who worked as an oil derrick hand. Records show he started using drugs when he was 8 and was in and out of trouble with the law since then.

R.F. "Bo" Horka, the Hardin County district attorney who prosecuted him, labeled Streetman a danger to society.

"I was there when he made his confession, and I couldn't believe how cold he was," Horka said.

"He described how he just knelt down and calmly blew her brains out. It was like describing how he went hunting and shot a deer."

Streetman's execution was the first of the year in Texas, where 27 inmates have been put to death — more than any other state — since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

His death leaves 264 convicted killers on death row, including 10 with dates pending.

One of them is Ruben Cantu, who faced death early Friday for the 1984 slaying of a Bexar County man during a burglary. Cantu, who was the youngest person on death row when he arrived there in 1985 at age 18, lost a bid for a stay Wednesday when a state district judge in San Antonio refused his request. State attorneys, however, have said they expect the stay to be issued by an appeals court.

Campbell becomes the second justice to quit Supreme Court

AUSTIN (AP)—Just two days after former Chief Justice John Hill's replacement was sworn in on the Texas Supreme Court, another high court justice quit his job.

Justice Robert M. Campbell resigned Wednesday, saying he wants to campaign against changing the state's system of electing judges to an appointive one. Hill had resigned to campaign for an appointive plan.

Campbell's resignation was accepted by Gov. Bill Clements, who aides said would immediately begin looking for a successor.

"I feel that I, as senior justice on the court, must speak out," Campbell said in a statement distributed after he met with Clements.

"An unmasking of this proposal for appointment of our judges by an elite group instead of by election reveals it to be a mere scheme to give big-business interests the power to control our courts," Campbell said.

He said the proposals for appointing appellate court judges "constitutes a hypocritical deception."

Clements, who earlier appointed Thomas R. Phillips to become the first Republican chief justice, said his search for Campbell's replacement would be thorough.

"The Texas Supreme Court is at a crossroads. It is vitally important that our justices interpret Texas law based on fairness, judicial balance and reason. I am committed to finding an individual who meets that criteria," Clements said.

Campbell, 52, was most recently elected in 1986. His term didn't expire until the end of 1992.

Hill had no comment about Campbell's decision. "I sure don't," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday night.

Campbell in September had announced his candidacy for chief justice, but said two months

later that he didn't want to interrupt his court workload with an election campaign.

While saying he believes strongly in the elected judge system, Campbell didn't feel that his seat on the Supreme Court allowed him to speak out.

"To do so without violating my obligation to refrain from using the Supreme Court as a political platform requires my resignation," Campbell said.

Campbell, from Waco, was sharply critical of Hill's actions during the swearing-in ceremony Monday for the new chief justice. During that ceremony, Hill advocated changing to an appointive system.

"I have forced myself to neglect this obligation (to speak out) because I have felt a deeper obligation to refrain from being a party to the dragging of our Supreme Court down into the muck and mire of politics," Campbell said.

After Clements appoints a justice to serve this year, voters in November will elect someone to complete Campbell's term, said George Bayoud, Clements' chief of staff.

Campbell's resignation came as the latest shock to a Supreme Court that has been at the center of a storm of negative publicity in the past year. Last June, two justices were publicly rebuked by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

The Supreme Court received criticism nationally for refusing to hear the appeal of Texaco Inc. in its \$11 billion legal battle with Pennzoil Co.

The court also has been the subject of a recent segment on the CBS-TV "60 Minutes" program, which examined the role campaign contributions play in the election of Texas Supreme Court justices.

And this week, the controversy about such contributions was the subject of a Time magazine arti-



Campbell entitled, "Is Texas Justice for Sale?"

Campbell's resignation came after Democratic Party officials had urged Democratic officeholders not to resign in mid-term, which gives the Republican governor the opportunity to appoint successors.

Since he took office a year ago, Clements has appointed the new chief justice, Phillips, and Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance. Both replacements are Republicans.

"I don't understand why he (Campbell) would be more effective working for an elected judiciary when he is off the court," said Ed Martin, executive director of the Texas Democratic Party. "It doesn't make a lot of sense."

But Republicans said the resignations give them instant access to state government power.

"We've got now three statewide elected officials at little cost, and that's a heck of a way to do it," said John Weaver, executive director of the Texas GOP.

Officials: Texas won Sematech because of a solid proposal

AUSTIN (AP)—Austin could become an international hub of electronic wizardry now that Sematech has announced it will become the city's second national semiconductor consortium, officials say.

Sematech and the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. will complement each other, University of Texas Chancellor Hans Mark told a news conference Wednesday.

Texas, which lured MCC in 1982, beat out 11 other states to win Sematech after a months-long competition that ended Wednesday.

"MCC worries about computer architecture and software, whereas Sematech worries about the hardware," Mark said. "With these two organizations, we have in this town the potential to become the center of electronic manufacturing and electronic technology in the world."

The Sematech consortium was conceived to develop and test advanced manufacturing processes, materials and equipment for the U.S. semiconductor industry. It also is supposed to help the United States regain its edge in competing with the Japanese.

As the basis of transistors and other electronic components, semiconductors are the heart of computers, electronic consumer products and contemporary military weapons systems.

"Frankly, I think most of the things they (MCC and Sematech) will do together we don't even envision yet," former MCC head Bobby Inman said. "You'll find that they'll be out at the leading edge of what's happening in this country."

Charles Sporck, Sematech board chairman and president of National Semiconductor Corp., noted that a number of companies are members both of the new research center and MCC.

"The time is past when the United States can afford to run mul-

iple duplications of its efforts in the area of (research and development)," he said. "We clearly are going to logically work together to avoid that duplication."

Texas won Sematech because it had a solid proposal supported strongly by state officials, Sporck and other Sematech officials said.

"We ended up choosing Texas for a whole bunch of balanced reasons," Sporck said. "One very major one was the level of enthusiasm and support that we found across the whole broad spectrum of entities in Texas."

Sporck was joined at a news conference by Gov. Bill Clements, U.S. Rep. J.J. "Jake" Pickle, D-Austin, and officials of the Austin Chamber of Commerce and UT.

"This is a home run, believe me," Clements said. "This is a great day for Texas and for Sematech."

Although Sporck called Texas "the best of the best," he said the other 11 finalist states also offered strong proposals and will be awarded \$50,000 planning grants to submit proposals for university "centers of excellence" for semiconductor research.

Other finalists were Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida,

Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Wisconsin.

Sanford L. Kane, chairman of the Sematech site selection committee and an IBM vice president, said Texas had solid offerings in all areas.

The Sematech board approved the Austin site unanimously after finding that while other applicants may have been stronger than Texas in one area, they were weak in others, officials said.

Kane and Sporck declined to list weak spots in proposals submitted by the other 11 finalists. "At this point, what's the point of stepping on somebody after they've done such a fine job?" Kane asked.

Some Sematech employees could move into the Austin plant, a vacant Data General facility, as early as February, Clements said.

The consortium will employ about 700 people when operating at full capacity in about two years, Sporck said. About half the employees will be from the consortium's member companies and about half will be new hires, he said.

Most of the jobs will in technical and engineering fields, Sporck said.

A trip away from worries? Ha!

It was 65 degrees in Phoenix last week and my brother kept complaining about how cold it was there.

The Arizona "cold spell" didn't bother me — not when I could have spent the week as a Top o' Texas polar bear.

No, I had a different way to spend my sunny Arizona vacation — I worried my way through the week.

I started worrying when I started my vacation. I failed to make connections with my kitytsitter, so I left my house key in a Christmas card in the mailbox for her.

I just "knew" that the people who watched me deposit the key would come to take the key and rob my house. I just "knew" that Pepper would pretend she was a superconductor, race around the house and break my ceramic penguin Christmas tree ornament collection. I just "knew" that my dead, dry Christmas tree would burst into flames on Wednesday.

Dear Mr. Jesus. Please watch over my precious kitty and my ceramic penguin Christmas tree ornament collection. And keep my house from getting robbed or burned to the ground. Amen

I left my home Christmas Eve, halfway confident that the forecasted snowstorm wouldn't interfere with my airplane trip from Oklahoma City to Salt Lake City to Phoenix.

When El Paso reported a white Christmas, my half-confidence disappeared.

I awoke, two hours early, Dec. 26 to find the roads and my car covered with ice. My driver-side door was iced shut, so I had to load everything, including myself, through the passenger side door.

Once seated, I rolled down my driver-side window and broke away the ice from the inside. Mom, seeing the shards fly as she was scraping the front glass, panicked because she thought I broke a window. Mom panics when she sees a banana peel.

Despite the slippery OKC roads, I got to the airport in good time, as did hundreds of other leftover holiday passengers. I had to park in the overflow parking lot for the overflow parking lot, which was closer to Phoenix than it was to my terminal.

Dear Mr. Jesus. Please watch over my precious little car so it won't get stolen or lost. Amen.



Off Beat

By Cathy Spaulding

I got to the airport two hours early, or so I thought. It seems the airplane got cold and had to get its wings de-iced. It was apparently the only flight that morning that wasn't canceled — comforting, huh?

Anyway, the de-icing delayed my 9 a.m. flight to 11:30, to land in Salt Lake City at 3 p.m. My SLC - Phoenix flight was to leave at 3:05. Why didn't my high school have a track program?

Two hours turned to five hours.

As I sat in the airplane watching the pilot have trouble maneuvering a lift truck, I began wishing that Presbyterians used rosary beads.

After feeling my eardrum disintegrate somewhere over the Continental Divide, I made it to Salt Lake City. I managed to wheedle a flight to Phoenix without requiring a connecting flight at Timbuktu. The security metal detector didn't let my Dad's Christmas present through, even though it was only a flashlight.

Okay, Mr. Pilot. Take me to Phoenix before rush-hour or I'll shine this in your eyes.

I got to Phoenix in due course. The weather was wonderfully warm and the Mexican food was heavenly. A nagging worry about whether Dad would like my church's Christmas cantata which I taped for him was quelled when I learned that my little sister taped a heavy metal radio concert over it.

Despite that, I was ready to enjoy my vacation, at last. Until....

Midnight Monday. A vision appeared to me that made the rest of the trip unbearable:

Did I remember to turn off my headlights?

TV REPAIR
— All Brands
Professional Piano Tuning
TAYLOR SERVICES
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It's YOUR Money
by E.E. Simmons, CPA
GIFTS TO GRANDCHILDREN

Q. What kind of gifts can I give my 5 and 6 year old grandchildren for their education without causing tax problems for their parents?

A. As long as the children have no more than \$1,000.00 in unearned income (such as interest or dividends), it will be taxed at their low rate rather than at the parents' rate. You could give them growth stock which pays low dividends but which you believe will increase substantially in price. Or you might wish to purchase Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds. They sell at one-half of face value and are guaranteed to pay 85% of the average interest rate of U.S. Treasury notes and bonds. Minimum rate is 6%. They mature in 12 years when the grandchildren are more than 14 years old and therefore subject to tax at their own rate, rather than their parents'.

Presented as a public service by E.E. Simmons, CPA, 1311 N. Hobart, Pampa, Texas. Phone 665-3821.

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There'll be:

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Nation

White House: Budget may not have cut deficit enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the administration firms up a record \$1.1 trillion spending plan for fiscal 1989, it may have to reach beyond a budget pact with Congress "for more savings," President Reagan's budget director says.

But House Budget Chairman William H. Gray III, D-Pa., says any major departure from the Nov. 20 deficit-reduction agreement between Congress and the White House could touch off a new confrontation with Capitol Hill.

"The spirit of the budget summit called for reductions in defense and domestic spending and new revenues," Gray said. He said any additional "savings" proposed by the White House should "be along the same ratios."

Federal department heads got their first glimpse on Wednesday of Reagan's new budget proposal as

drafted by the Office of Management and Budget and approved by the president.

The next step is for the officials either to accept the OMB spending levels for their agencies or appeal to the White House. Even with the deficit cutting, the Reagan administration's 1989 budget proposal will represent an increase in spending from the \$1.05 trillion of this year.

The final budget plan will go to Congress in mid-February.

White House Budget Director James C. Miller III said Wednesday that he isn't certain a reduction of the annual federal deficit to the \$136 billion required for 1989 by the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing law can be achieved solely by the levels outlined in the Reagan-Congress agreement.

"If we cannot hit the \$136 billion ...

we'll have to go outside the agreement for more savings," Miller said. "But we would achieve those additional savings consistent with the spirit of the new agreement."

Miller added, however, that there was still a good chance that the deficit target could be reached without going beyond the spending limits outlined in the agreement.

That pact calls for a \$46 billion deficit reduction in fiscal 1989, which begins Oct. 1. Of that total, \$14 billion would come from new taxes and \$3.5 billion from the sale of federal assets.

Gray, in an interview, said he had learned the administration was considering proposing additional reductions in Medicare spending of as much as \$1.2 billion and in farm programs of up to \$100 million beyond the agree-

ment, claiming the original tabulations didn't provide enough savings.

Senior administration officials "sat in at the time the items were written," Gray said. "They approved the levels of funding for Medicare and agriculture in December. The president signed it, didn't he? Why, now, in January, are we hearing that Congress didn't quite do what they expected?"

According to administration officials speaking only on condition they not be named, the 1989 budget draft:

- Recycles a variety of former Reagan proposals, including sale to the private sector of Amtrak rail passenger service, the government's naval petroleum reserves and some regional power authorities.

- Advocates continued building of the Trident missile submarine while pro-

osing a cut in the active-duty strength of the Army.

- Earmarks slightly over \$1 billion for AIDS research and calls for increased spending on drug abuse programs.

- Increases the budget for space programs to over \$10 billion, up from the \$8.6 billion of the current year, including a restoration of cuts made by Congress in the program to orbit a manned space station by the mid-1990s.

- Calls for a restructuring of the Legal Services Corp., including lower levels of funding, but does not repeat earlier Reagan budget proposals calling for its complete elimination.

- Advocates the sale of some non-power programs operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, including a fertilizer research program.



(AP Laserphoto)

Judy Carney of Groveton, Pa., shows off a pitcher of water that flowed from the taps in her home Wednesday night, the first time since it was shut off Sunday due to a diesel fuel spill Saturday.

West Virginia, Ohio towns ready for oil slick on river

By The Associated Press

West Virginia residents hoarded water in bathtubs and garbage cans and Ohio officials filled outdoor swimming pools as a million-gallon oil slick pushed down the Ohio River today, threatening water supplies for hundreds of thousands.

Pittsburgh-area residents, however, rejoiced as water gushed from spigots Wednesday for the first time in three days. And utility officials lifted glasses of water in toasts as water pumps roared back to life following Saturday night's fuel spill.

"It is great. It's absolutely great," Pat Pierce, 42, of Robinson Township, said Wednesday night.

More than anything, Ms. Pierce and her three daughters were looking forward to "nice warm baths."

"I'm the first one," said Ms. Pierce, who was among 15,000 people without tap water. "They come after me."

Farther west, however, water was expected to run out by this afternoon for 8,000 people in Pennsylvania towns near the Ohio border. Water was being hauled in, and residents were urged to conserve.

"They're scared. We all take water for granted," said Vince D'Itri, emergency manage-

ment coordinator for Midland, Pa., one of the towns.

As of Wednesday, diesel fuel from the Ashland Oil Co. tank that collapsed along the Monongahela River near West Elizabeth, Pa., had spread to Steubenville, Ohio, 94 miles downstream. It was expected to reach Wheeling, W.Va., 114 miles downstream from the plant, sometime today.

In Steubenville, municipal swimming pools were filled despite near-zero temperatures, and some school restrooms were closed.

Crews in Wheeling rushed to finish a second pipeline spanning the Ohio River, and five tanker trucks were ready to keep hospitals open in case the water system is forced to close.

"I think we're as prepared as we possibly can be," said City Manager Mike Nau. "We might be criticized for doing too much if we don't have to shut the system down. But we've planned for the worst case scenario."

Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste said more than 1 million people could be affected if the slick reaches Cincinnati as expected by Jan. 24. He declared a state of emergency for Ohio River communities preparing to close water intake pipes or step up purification processes.

Seven-year notes yield average down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Yields on seven-year Treasury notes fell in the latest auction to the lowest level since June.

The average yield Wednesday was 8.67 percent, down from 9.51 percent at the last auction on Oct. 7.

It was the lowest rate since seven-year notes averaged 8.10 percent on June 25.

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Toyotas and Walkmans rise in price as the dollar falls

By PETER COY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — American consumers aren't feeling the full brunt of the dollar's nearly three-year decline despite big price rises for items such as cutlery, cameras and china.

Imported coffee, fruits and vegetables are cheaper now than when the dollar peaked in early 1985. It costs \$18.95 for a bottle of Moet & Chandon champagne on New York's fashionable Upper East Side, but that's only \$1 more than in the fall of 1986.

A cheaper dollar makes imports more expensive, but fears of a round of serious import-price inflation have eased in recent days along with the dollar's rebound from its depressed level of the final days of 1987.

The only drawback to the modest import price increases is that it means the falling dollar is not helping U.S. manufacturers combat the flood of imports as much as expected.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics says cutlery rose 40 percent, cameras 39 percent and china 50 percent in its tabulation of import prices between March 1985 and September 1987.

Price increases have been smaller for footwear (about 14 percent), furniture (about 19 percent), and apparel (about 13 percent).

Even though the Japanese yen rose 70 percent against the dollar in the two years from October 1985 to October 1987, the price of a typical car from Toyota Motor Corp. climbed only 24 percent.

Toyota's basic four-door Corolla sedan rose 24.5 percent during the period to a suggested list price of \$8,898 from \$7,148. The 1988 model, though, has a fancier interior, longer wheelbase, better suspension and more efficient engine. How does Toyota do it?

"Japan's nothing but a big factory. Raw materials come in at one end and finished products come out at the other, and raw materials prices

have gone down," said James Olson, spokesman for Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. in Torrance, Calif.

Toyota also cut overhead costs, froze hiring and, Olson said, took "a huge hit in profits" to maintain its U.S. sales. Toyota's U.S. market share actually rose by the end of 1987 to 6 percent from 5.6 percent a year earlier, he said.

French winemakers have tried to hold the line on their prices in order to hang onto their share of the U.S. market.

Even the modest French price increases have given an edge to winemakers in the United States as well as emerging winemaking countries such as Australia and Chile, whose currencies have fallen or steadied against the dollar.

Coffee prices are down 21 percent since early 1985, partly because of better crops and partly because the dollar has risen against currencies of the Latin American nations that produce the beans.

Sugar, likewise, is up a scant 7 percent, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data for the period from March 1985 to September 1987.

Consumer import prices overall rose 21 percent during the 2½-year period, the agency said. Import price increases for the months since September will not be available until the end of January.

The price of televisions 3.2 percent during the 2½-year period, the agency said, partly because the Japanese dominance of the market has been challenged by countries such as South Korea, whose currencies are closely linked to the dollar.

In contrast, the dollar's rise against the West German mark has contributed to a roughly 40 percent rise in prices of cameras, binoculars, telescopes and similar gear from West Germany.

Companies usually work hardest to hold the line on consumer prices because consumers are more sensitive to price than business customers.

Sony Corp., for example, on Monday put through price increases of 5 percent to 6 percent on consumer goods and 7 percent on professional products.

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Palestinians apparently abandon work stoppage plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—After receiving a warning from the Israeli army, Palestinian leaders in the occupied lands apparently abandoned plans to call for a work stoppage to protest an order deporting nine Arabs.

In another development, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin released new figures showing 1,978 Palestinians were arrested in rioting in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. The army previously said 1,200 had been detained.

Rabin on Wednesday told Parliament that of those, 908 have been released, 300 tried and sentenced, six acquitted

and the rest were awaiting trial.

Scattered violence in the occupied territories on Wednesday thwarted Israeli attempts to restore calm.

A bearded Arab youth shouting "God is Great!" jumped inside an army jeep Wednesday and stabbed an Israeli soldier in the hand before being shot and wounded by an officer. Elsewhere, four Palestinians were hurt in clashes with soldiers, and the army clamped curfews on several cities and refugee camps.

The Israeli military has killed at least 24 Palestinians since violence began

Dec. 8. No soldiers have been killed. Israel's use of live ammunition, mass arrests and deportation orders has sparked strong international criticism.

In Jerusalem, prominent Palestinians decided to cancel a news conference scheduled for today in which they had planned to call for a civil disobedience campaign to protest Israel's decision to deport nine Arabs.

Twelve Palestinian notables from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were to have taken part in the news conference, said Hanna Siniora, editor of the east Jerusalem-based Al Fajr daily.

"People from Hebron and Nablus were summoned to army offices and told they should not go to Jerusalem," Siniora said.

He declined to name the three Palestinians who had been warned. "We decided to postpone the news conference indefinitely, until we are able to get all the people," Siniora added.

An army spokesman said he had no information about the reported warnings.

"The authorities are not very pleased," Siniora said. "Our position has been declared, and we will continue

to carry on the idea."

The Palestinians had indicated they would ask Arabs in the occupied lands to stop paying taxes, boycott Israeli products and stay home from work.

About 60,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and 55,000 from the West Bank travel to Israel each day for jobs.

The nine Palestinians slated for deportation appealed Wednesday to military review boards. Five deportees appeared before judges in the West Bank prison of Jnaid and four in a military court in Gaza.

Convoy heads out of gulf



(AP Laserphoto)

The Kuwaiti supertankers Bridgeton, foreground, and Surf City head out of the Persian Gulf Wednesday, ending the 23rd convoy operation under U.S. escort. U.S. efforts in the

region "have been succeeding and have increased American prestige," Bahrain's information minister said.

Texaco agrees to pay water pollution fine

PORT ARTHUR (AP)—Texaco Inc. has agreed to pay \$30,000 in fines and make improvements to correct five alleged violations of hazardous waste-related regulations at its Port Arthur refinery, officials say.

The allegations involve hazardous and non-hazardous refinery wastes that Texaco Refining and Marketing Inc. disposed of at a landfill and dormant landfill at its plant off Texas Highway 87 in Port Arthur.

Landfarming is a process by which industrial waste is spread on the soil and tilled into the ground, where the soil's natural bacteria break it down.

Texas Water Commission spokesman Bill Colbert said Wednesday the alleged violations were

moderate and that the commission will have a better idea of the situation after Texaco supplies further details on the wastes placed in the landfill.

In an agreed order signed Dec. 22, Texaco neither admitted nor denied the alleged violations of the Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act and commission rules.

In addition to paying the \$30,000 fine by Jan. 22, Texaco agreed to monitor the groundwater around the landfill and landfarm quarterly, submit a plan to clean up groundwater contamination detected near the landfill, submit and put in place a system for detecting hazardous waste leaks from the landfarm, improve the dikes around the landfarm to control at least a "100-year storm" and post the additional \$720,000 in financial assurance.

Finance secretary predicts drop in inflation rate in '88

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli predicted Wednesday that the nation's monthly inflation rate will decline to 1 percent to 2 percent by the end of the year if a new "Economic Solidarity Pact" with labor and business is successful.

At a press conference at the National Palace, Petricioli forecast that the inflation rate will drop from over 10 percent this month to about 8 percent in March, and ultimately reach a level "of between 1 and 2 percent" by the end of 1988.

But he cautioned that the government would not stand idly by if the business or labor sectors fail to abide by the agreement, either by raising prices or demanding extra salary increases.

"If someone does not fulfill his pact obligations, the government will not abandon its own responsibilities," the finance secretary said.

Under the pact, workers received a total 38 percent hike in the minimum wage, and producers agreed to hold their price hikes to real increases in the inflation rate, which approached a 150 percent annual rate at the end of 1987.

Workers also will receive indexed minimum wage increases beginning in March.

Interest rates and producer prices will be strictly regulated in order to bring down Mexico's record-high inflation rate, Petricioli said.

Petricioli said that reforms in the government's budget and tax collection system would trim the inflationary fiscal deficit from 18 percent of the nation's gross domestic product to 10 percent by

the end of 1988.

He also said the administration's continuing import tariff reductions will "prevent (domestic) pricing abuses and excessive private pricing" by encouraging increased competitiveness with imported goods.

Petricioli credited the government's devaluation of the controlled peso rate by about one-fifth last month with permitting the anti-inflation program to achieve "maximum effectiveness."

Calling the newly announced plan to reduce Mexico's foreign debt burden by as much as one-fifth "a significant step forward," Petricioli nonetheless said the plan "is not a panacea" and called for Mexico's creditors to share "co-responsibility" in "searching for new solutions to the problem of the debt."

Finance Undersecretary Jaime Serra placed Mexico's total foreign indebtedness at \$102 billion, of which \$85 billion is public and the remainder private debt.

Under the plan, Mexico will offer a bond issue, backed by U.S. government bonds, to its commercial bank creditors in order to buy up portions of its debt at up to a 50 percent discount. Mexico would be able to retire up to \$20 billion of the debt, Petricioli said.

The finance secretary added that the amount by which Mexico will be able to reduce its debt servicing burden depends upon the discount creditors are willing to offer for the old debt.

Crude oil prices are mostly lower

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices have edged lower, led by a report that the nation's heating oil supplies have grown more than expected.

Contracts for February delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark crude, settled at \$17.82 per 42-gallon barrel at the New York Mercantile Exchange Wednesday. That was down 3 cents from Tuesday's close.

February contracts for wholesale heating oil, which had jumped 3.6 cents Monday and Tuesday, fell 0.11 cent to 53.48 cents a gallon, while contracts for February delivery of wholesale unleaded gasoline rose by 0.27 cent to 46.14 cents a gallon.

Late Tuesday, the American Petroleum Institute released statistics showing that stockpiles of distillates — which include heating oil and diesel fuel — had grown by a significant 5.5 million barrels last week over the previous week.

The figure was greater than the market expected, causing traders to sell, said Chris McCormack, an analyst at E.D.&F. Man International Futures Inc.

The report by the Washington-based trade organization showed only a 1 million-barrel decline in unleaded gasoline stocks, while crude supplies remained unchanged.

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Lifestyles



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Wedding portrait is heedless of divorce

DEAR ABBY: You were wrong, wrong, wrong to tell that woman who is about to marry a divorced man to "grin and bear it" when her fiancé takes her to his daughter's wedding, and is asked to stand next to his ex-wife so his daughter can have a picture of her parents together. Abby, they are not together anymore, and the daughter had better live in the present and forget the past.

The man I married was married before. He has two daughters in their teens, and when they marry, I do not intend to stand by and let my husband take a picture with his "ex" and children to preserve the illusion of a "family." They are no longer a family. As the wife of the father of the bride, I should be in the picture — not the ex.

BURNED UP
IN NEW CASTLE, PA.

DEAR BURNED: Please simmer down and read on:

DEAR ABBY: A letter in your column struck a nerve with me. I was 12 when my parents' marriage ended in a bitter divorce. When I married at 19, my mother had remarried and my father was soon to wed. My wedding went smoothly. I did not seat my divorced parents together. Neither did I expect them to dance together. All I asked them to do was to stand together for one picture with me and my new husband. I didn't do it to "preserve the illusion" of Mom and Dad together. It was my gift to me as a grown woman standing next to her parents.

DEAR ABBY: After years of searching for "Mr. Right," I have finally found him. We are very much in love and absolutely sure of our feelings for each other.

There is, however, one major obstacle standing in the way of our marriage. He wants children, and I do not. We each have sound reasons for our opinions and we respect each other's views.

Have you or your readers any suggestions? We are in desperate need of some creative thinking, and are quite open-minded.

STUMPED
IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR STUMPED: There can be no compromise. Either you must agree to have a family to please him, or he must agree to forgo having children to please you. Either way, you are bound to resent each other. Keep looking. Your "Mr. Right" is wrong for you.

DEAR ABBY: Why do people brag? I have a friend who really overdoes it. She brags about how well her married children are doing, how beautiful their homes are, what fabulous trips they take, and the expensive gifts they give her on all occasions. Of course, her grandchildren are smarter than anybody else's. One of them (she says) has the IQ of a genius.

By the way, before her husband left her for another woman, she bragged about what a great marriage they had.

How can I get her to knock it off? Her constant bragging gets on my nerves.

CAN'T STAND BRAGGERS

DEAR CAN'T: Some people brag to impress or convince others. Your friend was probably bragging to cover her unhappiness. Braggers are a pathetic lot. You can't get people to do — or not do — anything. But you can absent yourself from their company.

What teen-agers need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, getting along with their peers and parents is now in Abby's updated, expanded booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send your name and address, clearly printed, plus check or money order for \$3.50 (\$4 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054.525 Postage and handling are included.

Hosiery is now 'self-supporting'

By JOAN LEBOW
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Fashion

It's a matter of extreme gravity, a trend that raises a lot of questions. Like, how do they stay up? And what happens if they don't?

Those who can put such urgent doubts aside are ready for "thigh highs." Otherwise described as garterless stockings or (way)-over-the-knee socks, they are the latest look in hosiery at a time when fashion is long on legs.

This increasingly popular type of legwear may be a sheer or opaque stocking with an elasticized top that clings to the thigh. Some feel just like extra-long socks.

"There've always been tights, and there've always been socks," says hosiery designer Eric Smith, president of E.G. Smith. "Thigh highs combine both."

Another brand, Hue, has already trademarked the nickname "Thights."

But if good ol' tights, socks and stockings have provided plenty of comfort and style for years, thank you, why are thigh highs suddenly on the rise? One reason is they're different, at least to the most trend-conscious consumers.

"Young women have never known anything like them before," says a spokeswoman for Hanes Hosiery.

But the main reason, the experts say, is hemlines.

"It's really based on short skirt lengths," says Gary Wolkowitz, president and design director of Hot Sox. "We noticed women on the streets in Europe wearing a crossover look between socks and stockings. It has a whole sexy and sensuous look, without all that harnessing."

But haven't we been reading about how great short skirts look with solid or opaque, preferably black, hosiery that makes legs appear sleek and (relatively) trim? Very short skirts aren't for everybody, but stockings that leave a few inches of flesh gapping between hem and hose can only be for a swan-like minority, right?

Yes and no. Even Wolkowitz, who is already selling thousands of thigh highs and will churn out dozens of new varieties for spring and fall 1988, says, "Thigh highs cut off the leg right in the middle. I caution those whose bodies

aren't prepared for it."

But these long garterless stockings will also appeal to women who don't intend to bare their skin. Panty hose — without the panties — can be the way to stay cool under a long, full summer sun dress, or the way to keep shivering knees warmer under wool trousers.

That's the case at Fogal of Switzerland, a hosiery specialty store chain that caters to the high-income, high-fashion set throughout Europe and in a few American cities.

Deborah Eubanks, manager of Fogal's Madison Avenue store in New York City, says, "Most of our customers don't wear them with short skirts or to show the tops. They wear them for freedom, not fashion." Eubanks herself says, "I wore them to a wedding, danced my feet off, and they stayed up all night."

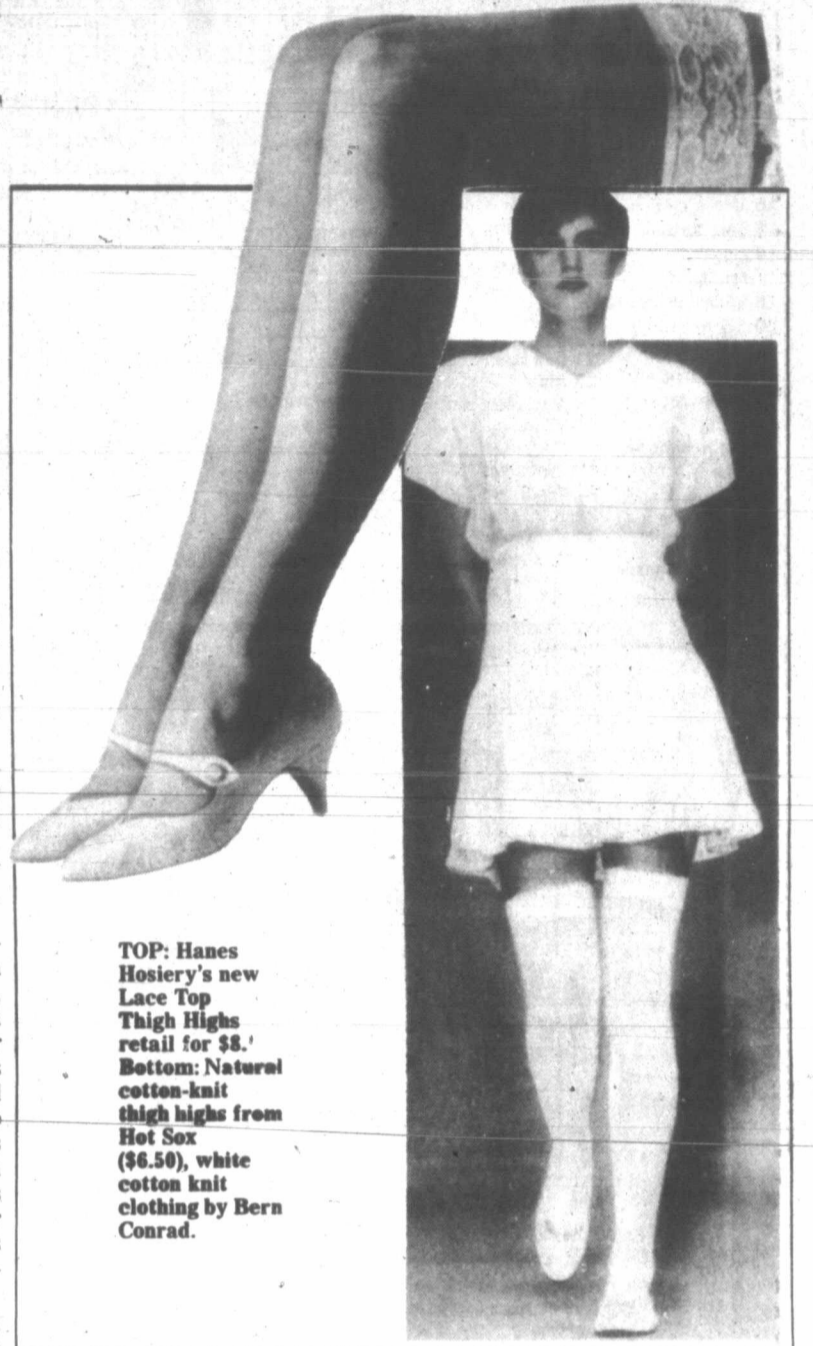
She says at Fogal, where thigh-high prices start at \$25 and hit \$70 for silk-blend hose, she can't keep enough of this new look in stock.

"We thought when the weather got cold, demand would taper off, but it hasn't."

Even with short skirts, however, thigh highs don't always mean maximum exposure. In winter, Hanes suggests layering them over tights for a multicolored or textural look. For spring, Hanes offers an eyelet-lace-trimmed thigh high — this year's answer to last spring's eyelet petticoats peeking out from under denim skirts. The company also makes dressier, mesh thigh highs for evenings and lace-top thigh highs for brides. Prices range from about \$6 to \$8.

Now that women are getting knee-deep into thigh highs, there will not only be more colors and patterns to choose from, but more lengths as well. Hot Sox makes solid and patterned styles that range from over-the-knee lengths on up. Wolkowitz says opaques will continue to be important, as will smoother textures. Colors include neutrals and pastels, and prices range from about \$6 to \$12.

The E.G. Smith spring thigh-high collection has a '60s inspiration, like the trend itself. Smith has designed a "hallucination"



TOP: Hanes Hosiery's new Lace Top Thigh Highs retail for \$8. Bottom: Natural cotton-knit thigh highs from Hot Sox (\$6.50), white cotton knit clothing by Bern Conrad.

group of tie-dye patterns, a "flower power" collection of knitted-in florals and a bold stripe theme he calls "women behind bars," all retailing for about \$16 a pair.

Although, for the most part, these solid opaque, bright-striped or pastel-patterned thigh highs are meant to be worn with a sense of fun, one more note of caution should be sounded.

In a perfect world, perhaps

women and men could wear whatever they want and be free from hassle or judgment. But those whose interpretation of this fashion trend is to wear black, sheer, seamed thigh highs with a banded top in full view below, say, a leather skirt, should be mindful of the harsh and violet overtones that look has taken on in our culture.

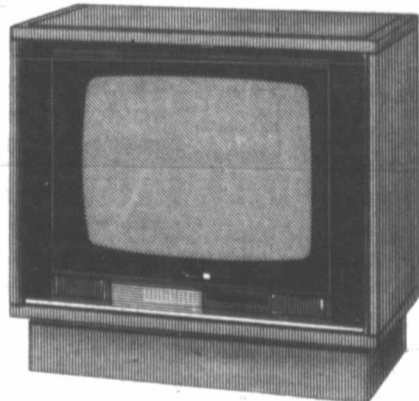
Stylish, perhaps, but smart? That's debatable.

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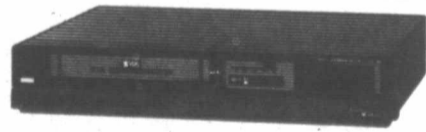
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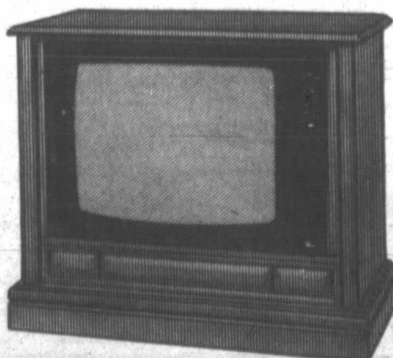
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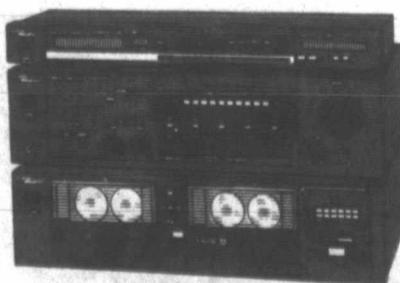
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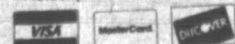
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Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Tax agency (abbr.)
- 4 B. DeMille
- 9 Wrath
- 12 Purpose
- 13 In readiness (2 wds.)
- 14 Haze
- 15 Mile's mother
- 16 Said further
- 17 Light feather
- 18 Steins' contents
- 20 Controlled by barrier
- 22 That thing's
- 24 Comparative suffix
- 25 Retirement plan (abbr.)
- 28 Askew
- 30 even keel
- 34 Facilitate
- 35 Crescent shape
- 36 "As you ..."
- 37 Lump
- 39 Physicians (sl.)
- 41 Amazon tributary
- 42 Olympic gymnast - Korbust
- 43 Ash-colored
- 44 Landing boat
- 45 de France
- 47 905, Roman
- 49 String instruments
- 52 Sac
- 56 I possess (cont.)
- 57 Transparent paper
- 61 Commerce agcy.
- 62 Own (Scot.)
- 63 Utopian
- 64 In favor of
- 65 Not new
- 66 Melts

DOWN

- 1 Metric foot
- 2 White frost
- 3 Diving duck
- 4 Of beaches
- 5 Conclude
- 6 Spanish hero
- 7 Arctic expanse
- 8 Narrow shelf
- 9 first you don't ...
- 10 Thorny shrub
- 11 Mild oath
- 19 Between MA and CT
- 21 In a line
- 23 Mire
- 24 Medicinal root
- 25 Villain in "Othello"
- 26 Streamlet
- 27 Work like
- 29 about
- 31 Astronaut - Armstrong

Answer to Previous Puzzle

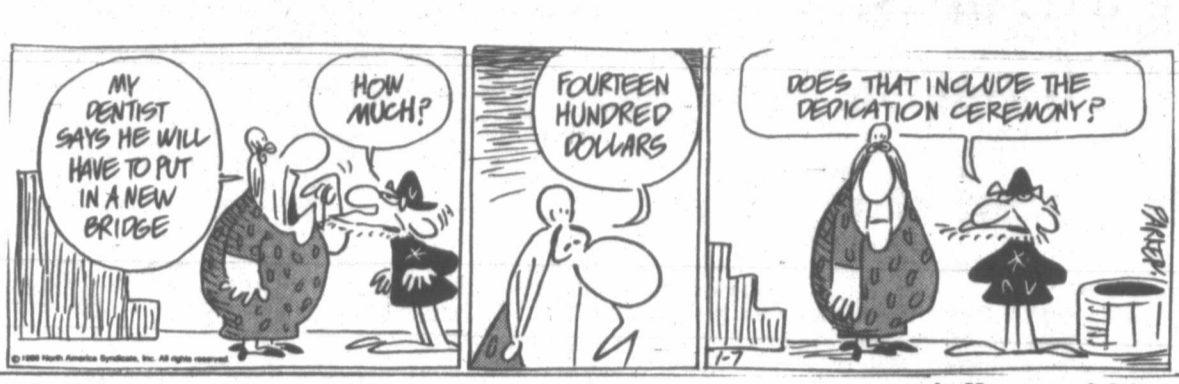


- 32 Circle part (pl.)
- 33 Trim
- 38 Bucket handle
- 40 Emblems
- 46 Legitimate
- 48 Deje
- 49 Hi or bye
- 50 Malevolent
- 51 Give temporarily
- 53 Prevalent
- 54 Barge
- 55 Farm measure
- 58 Anglo-Saxon letter
- 59 Grazing land
- 60 Binding custom

GEECH



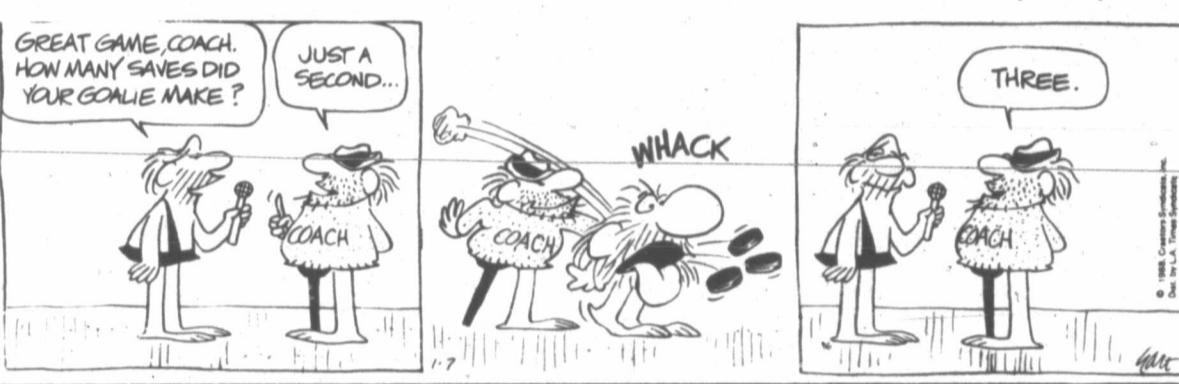
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B.C.



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

There will be a noticeable increase in your popularity in the year ahead. You'll also take more active roles in social organizations of your choice. Benefits will develop from your new approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Plans you've recently conceived that require support from others can be advanced today if they are not presented too forcefully. Use the soft sell. Major changes are ahead for Capricorns in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$1 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A secret desire for which you've been hoping looks like it will become an actuality. This will be due to the way a chain of related events may unfold.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) An important decision that has a direct effect on you looks like it will be decided in your favor. Don't be surprised if it's made by someone else.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Conditions are favorable careerwise today. The procedures you're presently using will yield good results. They will also be noticed by people you want to impress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your mode of operation will enhance your social image today and win you the respect and allegiance of two allies. Your status with your peers is improving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Creative changes you make in your surroundings at this time should produce the types of results you desire. Utilize your artistic abilities to spruce things up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You'll perform well today in areas that require mental dexterity or imaginative thinking, especially if you're involved with an equally talented associate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If any business or commercial dealings in which you're involved can be concluded today, you are likely to fare better now than you will later.

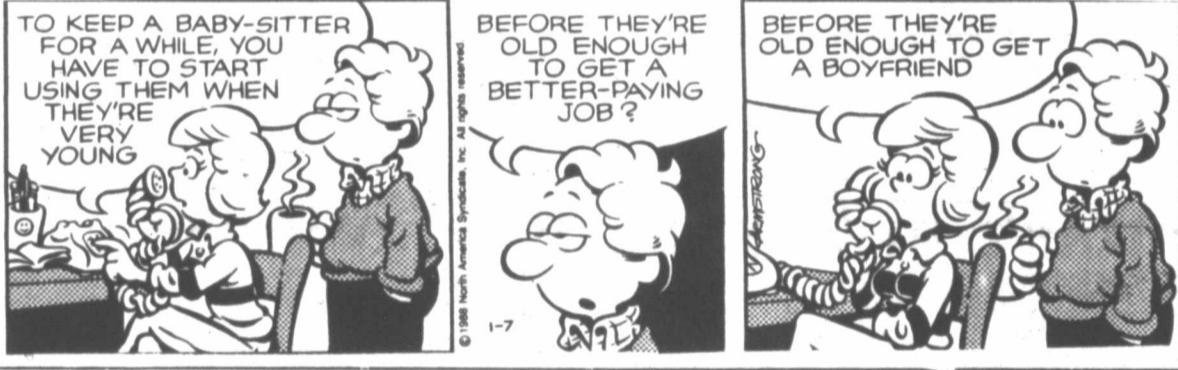
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A matter that concerns you as well as others may begin to falter a bit today. If this occurs, move in quickly and take over control yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today, if you have to put together a delicate arrangement, let the other guy do most of the talking while you do most of the listening. This could lead to better terms.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You'll have an opportunity today to take some positive steps regarding a new interest. Act on it quickly before your inspiration starts to wane.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You will try harder and be more successful at what you do today if you constantly remind yourself of the material motivations behind your efforts.

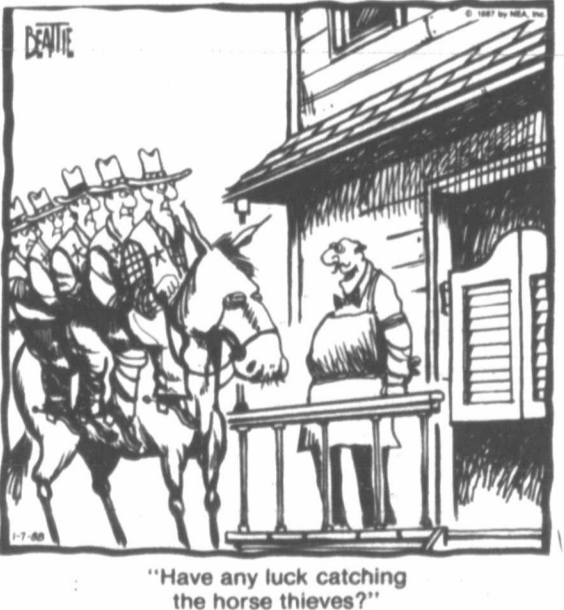
MARVIN



ALLEY OOP



SNAFU



The Family Circus



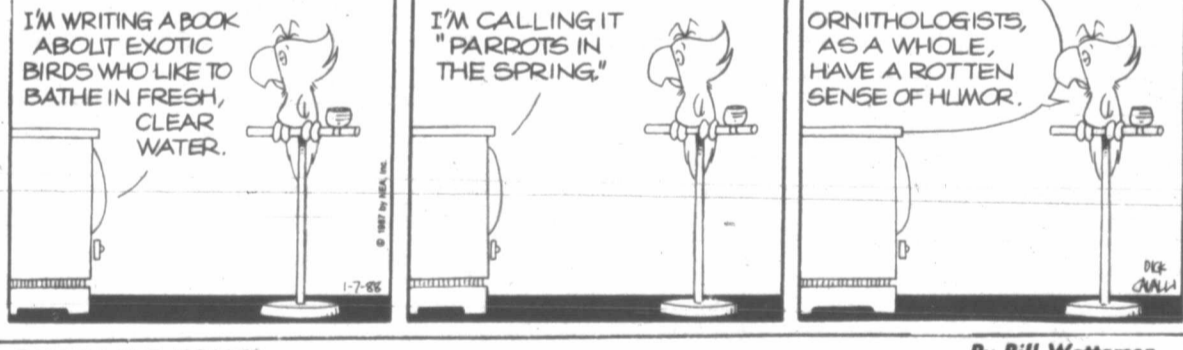
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American, Southwest have best on-time records

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Airlines and Southwest Airlines are the leaders in on-time performance after three months of government scrutiny, while Northwest and Delta are at the bottom of the latest rankings.

The Transportation Department's consumer scorecard for November, which was released Wednesday, showed American and Southwest as the only airlines landing more than 80 percent of their flights within 15 minutes of schedule. The two carriers were first and second in September and October as well.

Overall, the 14 airlines checked by the department reported that 76 percent of their flights arrived on time during November, about the same as in September but somewhat lower than October's 80.6 percent.

In the three months the ratings have been compiled, Northwest has been among the tardiest carriers. The airline, which also has ranked among the carriers with the most passenger complaints, was next to last in September, moved to 11th in October and dipped back to second from the bottom in November.

Delta Air Lines consistently ranks among the carriers with the fewest complaints against it by passengers (fifth best among 19 airlines during 1987), but its on-time record took a nose dive to the bottom in November, trailing the other 13 airlines.

Delta flights arrived on time 70.1 percent of the time during November. The airline has ranked among the half-dozen tardiest airlines in each of the three months and in November also had the highest percentage of chronically late flights that arrived late at least 80

percent of the time. USAir and Pacific Southwest Airlines, which earlier this year was purchased by USAir but operates independently, also have fared poorly in the on-time competition. USAir was last in September, PSA was last in October and neither has moved higher than 10th.

Piedmont Airlines was among the top five carriers in both September and October but dropped to 12th in November. Its on-time performance fell from better than 80 percent to 73.2 percent.

Continental Airlines dropped from third behind American and Southwest with a better than 81 percent on-time record during the first two months to 9th in November with 74.5 percent of its flights arriving promptly.

Meanwhile, the number of chronically late flights declined from 150 flights in September to 71 in November.

Nevertheless, 13 flights during November were still late nine out of 10 times and one flight — Delta 943 from Cincinnati to Jackson, Miss. — arrived late each of the 28 times it flew.

One out of every four flights arrived late at the 27 airports for which airport-by-airport statistics were reported.

The best on-time performance was reported by the Charlotte, N.C., airport, Chicago's O'Hare and Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, all with arrival rates of just over 80 percent.

The airport with the worst arrival record in November was New York's John F. Kennedy International, where flights arrived on time only 59.7 percent of the time. San Francisco International Airport, which had the worst record in October, with just over half its flights arriving on time, moved up a notch to 26th. It had 67.5 percent of its flights on

time in November. During November, the airlines reported 7.88 mishandled baggage complaints per 1,000 passengers compared with 6.94 complaints the previous month. United Airlines had the worst baggage record with 10.2 complaints per 1,000 passengers carried followed by Trans World Airlines with 10 per 1,000.

Also Wednesday, the department reported that consumer complaints against airlines to its consumer affairs office increased in December after declining for three months.

As it has during much of the year, Continental Airlines had the worst complaint record with 18.7 complaints per 100,000 passengers flown. Northwest Airlines followed with 15.78 and Eastern Airlines with 14.28.

Shuttle delays prove costly to planetary exploration plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's ambitious program of planetary exploration, already years behind schedule and hundreds of millions over budget, may be hurt again by the continuing problems in getting the shuttle back into space.

One project in particular, the Magellan probe to map Venus, faces a critical timeline. Under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's flight schedule, which envisioned the first post-Challenger launch on June 2 this year, the Magellan spacecraft would have been sent on its way from the cargo bay of the fifth shuttle, on April 27, 1989.

All of NASA's planetary probes are built to be launched from the shuttle.

"You only get a launch opportunity to Venus every 18 months," Samuel Keller, the second-in-command of NASA science programs, said in an interview Wednesday. At other times, Earth and its nearest neighbor are in the wrong position for targeting.

Every day these expensive science spacecraft spend on the ground costs huge sums that bring little return. And since the Challenger blew up two years ago, scientists with years of work tied up in the probes have seen their careers languish.

Just keeping Magellan, the \$1 billion Hubble Space Telescope and the Jupiter probe Galileo in storage has cost well over \$100 million. The space telescope, for example, costs \$6 million to \$8 million a month while it's grounded.

Depending on when the next shuttle is launched — possibly as long as three months beyond the June 2 date — NASA may be forced to jigger priorities for shuttle payloads. Those priorities were arrived at through painful evaluation of the limited space opportunities in the wake of the Challenger accident that killed seven astronauts.

Planetary exploration was hardest hit by the halt in manned flight and near-halt in launching unmanned rockets. The last U.S. planetary mission, the Pioneer probe, was launched to Venus in 1978.

The Soviet Union, in the meantime, was a major player in sending probes last year to meet Halley's comet and it has scheduled unmanned missions to Mars beginning this year.

On the first shuttle flight — named STS-26 because it is 26th in the shuttle series — Discovery will carry a giant Tracking and Data Relay Satellite that is critical to NASA operations. A single TDRS now in space is barely functioning and its first replacement was destroyed along with the Challenger in the explosion on Jan. 28, 1986. Without question, the TDRS retains the highest priority for shuttle flight.

The cargo bays for the next two missions are assigned to the Air Force exclusively. STS-27, originally planned for September, is to carry two military communications satellites. STS-28, with a December date, has an advanced reconnaissance satellite for its cargo.

On STS-29, originally scheduled for February 1989, NASA had planned to put up a second TDRS in order to extend coverage worldwide. Magellan then was to follow.

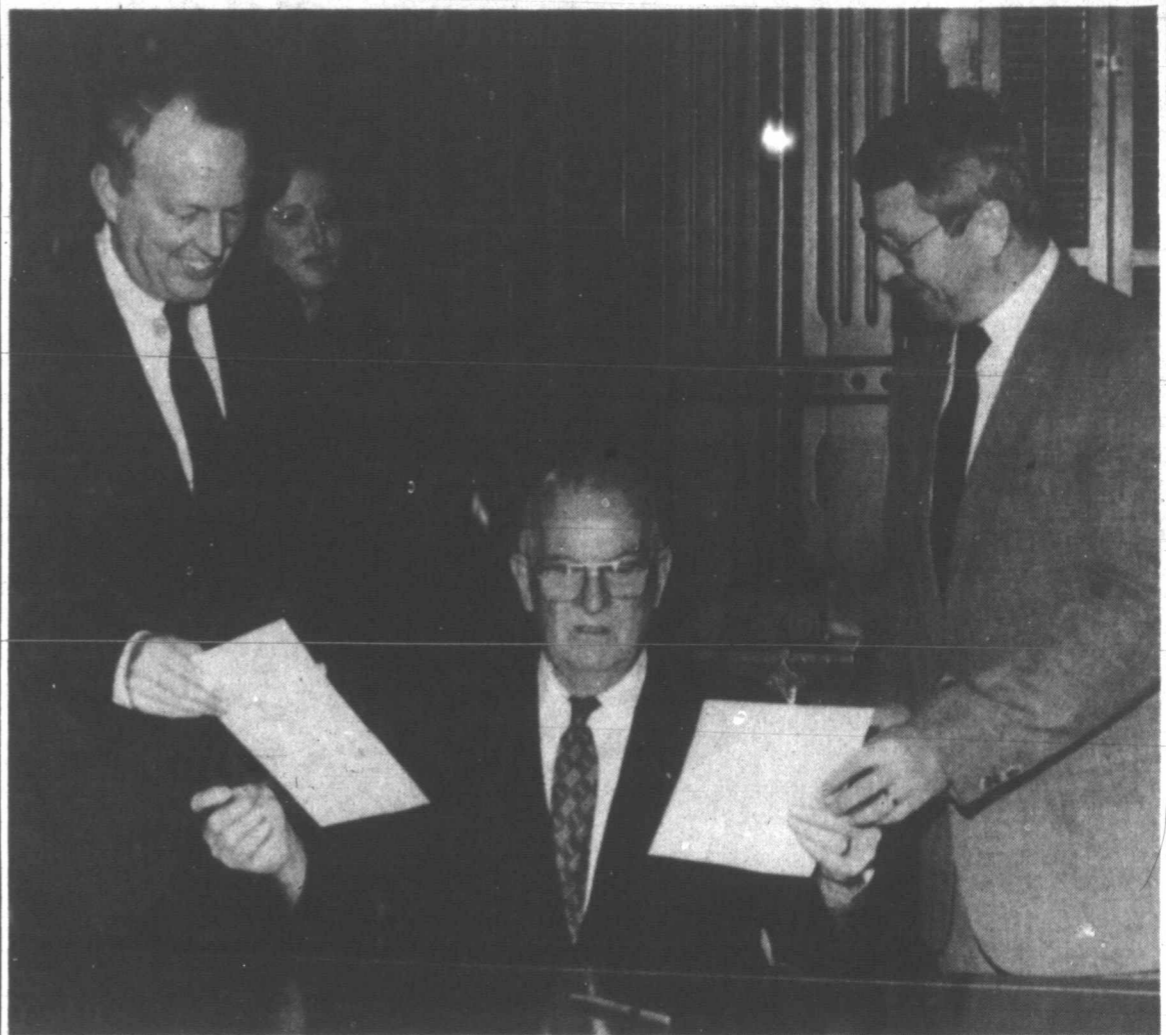
"I think an attempt may be made to move the second TDRS launch to some later time period," Keller said. "That would allow us to keep Magellan, Galileo and the Hubble Space Telescope where they are."

The Galileo mission to explore Jupiter and its largest moons was scheduled to depart on Oct. 9 next year. The space telescope, called the most ambitious space science project ever, is on the manifest for STS-31 on June 1, 1989.

"The big thing that happens when a spacecraft sits on the ground is that it costs me a lot of money, probably in the order of \$20 million to \$30 million a year," Keller said.

"You have to keep teams of people together. If you let them disappear, you can never re-create the team. You have to have those people around at the time of launch," he said.

Here they are



Texas Gov. Bill Clements hands a proclamation to school superintendents honored as co-winners of the Texas Association of School Board's competition. Winning the award are Donald Collins of the Klein district near Houston, left, and Ronald McLeod of El Paso.

Iran-Contra affair dogs Bush; Democrats assail one another

By LAURA KING
Associated Press Writer

Vice President George Bush, on his first campaign trip of the new year, faced a drumbeat of questions about the Iran-Contra affair, while the Democratic presidential contenders turned their fire on one another.

Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt derided Illinois Sen. Paul Simon's budget plan as "laughable," and Jesse Jackson criticized Simon, Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore Jr. for "abandoning the needy."

Bush, in Iowa, told reporters he expects more questions from Iran-Contra investigators, but said neither he nor President Reagan is the target of any probe.

"I will answer any question put to me by the special prosecutor," he said Wednesday. "It has been made clear to me I am not a target of any investigation, nor is the president."

Bush said he has not yet been contacted by special prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh or any of his aides, "but I will be."

Earlier, in Goffstown, N.H., Bush refused to say whether he had been contacted by Walsh, telling reporters: "We don't discuss what happens at a grand jury."

The Washington Post reported today it had obtained classified notes from Bush's Dec. 18, 1986, interview with the Tower commission, a panel appointed by Reagan to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

Notes of the Bush interview say he "did have a general knowledge of arms sales to Iran as a result of attendance at various briefings on the hostages and ... with the president," the newspaper said.

Bush told the Tower commission that if only half the allegations about Lt. Col. Oliver L. North were true, "he has run amok," the Post said. Bush told reporters Wednesday he considers North a hero, although the fired national security aide "clearly made some mistakes."

The Post said it obtained the Tower commission notes from someone who is not connected with any of the other presidential campaigns, Republican or Democratic.

Bush has consistently downplayed his role in the Iran-Contra affair, saying he was "out of the loop" on details and decision-making.

However, the committees last month released a White House memo dating from February 1986, which described Bush as supporting arms shipments to Iran.

Bush said earlier this week he would not reveal his private advice to the president on the arms sales. Bush has said he expressed "reservations" to the president about the affair but has declined to say exactly what he told Reagan.

Bush was campaigning today in Iowa, where a poll of registered Republicans indicated he was trailing Dole.

The same poll indicated Gary Hart has a 2-to-1 lead in Iowa over his closest Democratic rival. But Hart said it "doesn't mean a thing."

Jackson, campaigning in frigid northern Iowa, said Gore, Simon and Gephardt, along with the rest of Congress, had "surrendered to Reaganomics."

As a result of federal budget cuts, he said, 50,000 homes will not be weatherized this year.

"Today, one of the coldest days of the year, when you need heat ... they bring you a record of abandoning the needy," Jackson said.

Regulators behind study schedule

DALLAS (AP) — A federal plan for restructuring Texas' savings and loans has been only partially completed and may not be finished until the end of January, regulators say.

M. Danny Wall, chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, said in November that officials wanted to complete the study, as well as several government-assisted buyouts, by the end of 1987.

But so far, regulators have completed only the Dec. 16 acquisition of Mount Pleasant Savings and Loan Association by Sulphur Springs Loan and Building Association, in which \$3.9 million in federal assistance was provided.

David Colgren, a spokesman for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, said Wednesday that officials would not comment on the study until it is finished. He said the end of January is only a target date and the study could take even longer.

While regulators formulate the Texas strategy, industry sources close to the Dallas bank said officials are trying to expedite a plan to merge four to six troubled S&Ls into First Texas Savings Association, a \$3.5 billion Dallas thrift.

Another plan to merge troubled Alamo Savings Association of San Antonio into a healthier thrift also is under consideration, the Dallas Morning News on Wednesday quoted sources as saying.

S&L executives, many of whom have submitted

proposals to acquire troubled thrifts, are becoming increasingly anxious about when federal regulators will act.

"Everybody is anticipating when the problems will be confronted and the resolutions will begin," said C. Todd Miller, vice chairman of the Dallas bank and chairman, president and chief executive officer of Southwest Savings Association of Dallas.

The Texas study is being conducted by the Dallas bank under the direction of consultant Ellis T. "Bud" Gravette.

Gravette completed a study in 1982 for the New York superintendent of banks dealing with the structure of the savings bank industry in New York City. During that period, he was chairman and chief executive of Bower Savings Bank in New York, which he restructured.

Sources close to the Dallas bank told the Morning News that there have been numerous computer analyses examining how the most troubled Texas S&Ls could be merged with healthier thrifts using financial assistance from the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp.

In recent weeks, industry sources said Gravette and H. Joe Selby, a Dallas bank executive vice president, toured the state, calling on top managers of healthier thrifts to solicit their interest in participating in assisted acquisitions of S&Ls.

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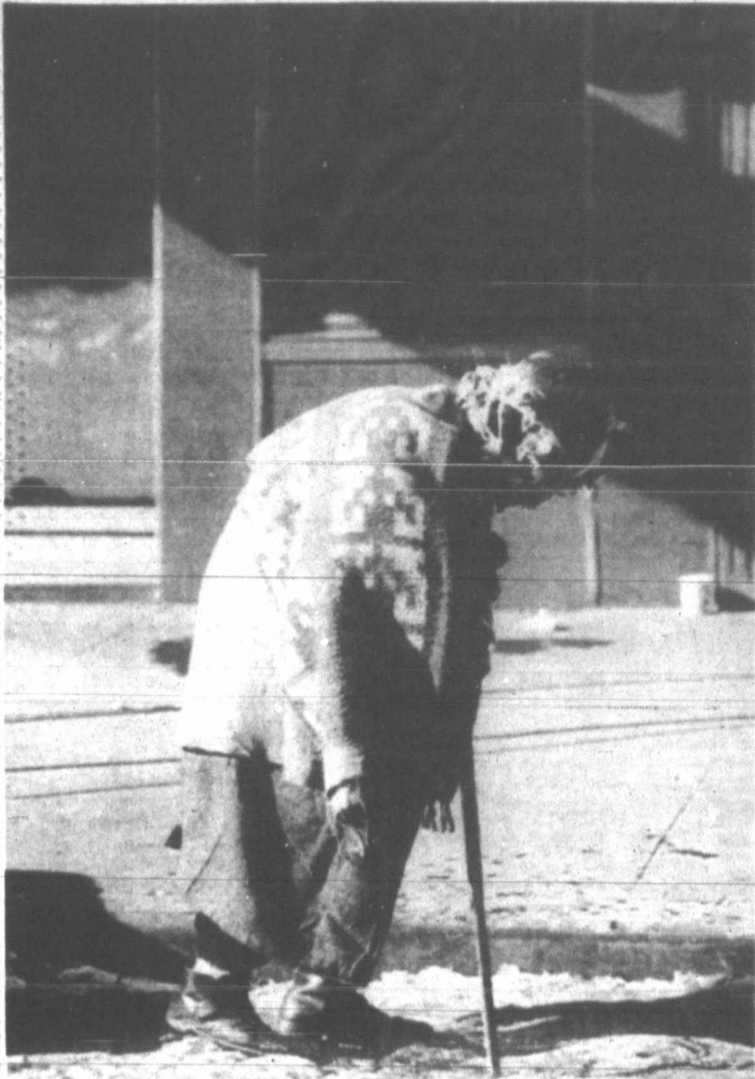
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Homeless and cold



(AP Laserphoto)

Christmas tree lights in the window of a New York bar lend a backdrop to an elderly woman as she picks her way along a gutter still filled with the icy remnants of Monday's snowfall. Temperatures early Wednesday hovered around 8 degrees and city shelters were full, but many homeless, like this one, were still on the streets.

Agency to bring babies from Honduras

WHITE SETTLEMENT (AP) — Gary Bennett says an adoption agency he has set up to bring Nicaraguan and Honduran babies to the United States is not built on politics.

"You have two choices," he said. "You leave them and they die. You bring them out and they live. Everybody says it's political. Babies aren't political."

Bennett has spent three years shuttling between this Fort Worth suburb and Honduras, ferrying food to the Nicaraguan rebels and sometimes burying babies who didn't survive the squalid jungle conditions.

Bennett, who gave up his Porsche and two Corvettes to take food and medicine to the rebels and to build a runway in Honduras with Lt. Col. Oliver North's help, said Tuesday that the adoption agency also will care for ailing children in Honduras.

"This isn't a baby business. It's a baby-saving business," said Bennett, whose adoption agency was licensed two weeks ago by the Texas Department of Human Services.

On his most recent trip to the Contra camps in Honduras, four pregnant women begged him to take their babies after birth, Bennett said. A village elder whose three children had

died also pleaded with Bennett to take his youngest and last child.

"They don't give them up to me because they don't love their babies. They give them up because they do love their babies," Bennett said.

His non-profit adoption agency, La Mosquita Coast Child Find, is named for the eastern region of Nicaragua and Honduras where the mortality rate reaches 65 percent for refugee children, he said.

More than 40,000 Miskito Indian and black refugees have fled villages destroyed by warfare and are living in jungles with no food, clothing or medicine, Bennett said.

Bennett decided to help the rebels in November 1984, after learning that Nicaraguan bullets downed a U.S. helicopter. He gave up his work as an air-conditioning contractor and became a part-time revolutionary.

The former U.S. Navy Seabee officer took food, clothing and medicine to the Contras, teaching them how to clean rifles and machine guns.

Relying on his experience setting up military encampments in Vietnam and with

North's help, he built a runway for planes carrying supplies. Because of his ties to North, Bennett was investigated by the Iran-Contra congressional subcommittee but was cleared of any wrongdoing.

For every sick baby he has brought back, Bennett said he has left hundreds behind. Some children remain because Bennett had trouble raising money to finance the trips.

It will cost one couple who signed up for an adoption \$7,400, plus a trip to Honduras.

"Our main concern is not to transport them all over here, but also to help them help themselves in their own country," said agency director Sarah Duhon, a minister and nurse.

Inside the Contra Shop, an Army surplus store Bennett runs in White Settlement, he cuddles 21-month-old Angie, a Miskito Indian toddler whose mother gave the baby to Bennett.

At 3 months, Angie was emaciated, weighing only 7 pounds. "I told her mother the only way we could help her was in the States," he said.

Seventeen months later, the child weighs 28 pounds. Bennett plans to adopt her.

Clements prepares for crowded jails meeting

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements and officials from 24 counties meet today to continue looking for ways to relieve overcrowding at county jails packed with prisoners awaiting transfer to state prison.

"I don't see any solutions at this point, but all my lines of communications are open," Clements said Wednesday.

The Texas Department of Corrections, which is under federal court orders against overcrowding, has been accepting a limited number of new inmates in recent months. That means county jails, particularly in urban areas, have to hold convicted felons until TDC space becomes available.

"I think we have a common problem and exactly how we solve that problem I'm not sure at this point. I don't think they are either," Clements said of the county officials.

Today's meeting follows a December session in which Clements talked about county jails with Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson, Harris County Judge Jon Lindsey and Tarrant County Judge Roy English.

"It's not just a state problem. It's not just a county problem, and it's not just a federal problem. We're all in the soup together," Clements said.

Today's meeting is a closed session.

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