

**Robert Knowles**  
AUTOMOTIVE

ONE-800-3223 - 101 N. Hobart - 800-299-6699

**Boyd Financial Services**

Eddie & Ernie Boyd  
Hughes Building Suite 190A  
665-6165 or 1-800-678-3662

**ROBERT KNOWLES**  
**WEST TEXAS**

FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY  
701 W. BROWN 665-8404

# Pampa

Vol. 90 No. 237 • Pampa, Texas  
50¢ Daily • Sunday \*1

## Gray County Justice of the Peace announces re-election bid

Bob Muns, Justice of the Peace for Precincts 1 and 3 has announced his intent for re-election.

Muns has been a justice of the peace for seven years. He has over 300 hours of specialized training to enable him to carry out his duties as a justice of the peace. Muns was employed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. for almost two years as a fingerprint technician. He later became an officer with the United States Park Police in

Washington, D.C. where he served for over ten years.

He was retired from the federal government on disability retirement for injuries he received in the line of duty. He was the recipient of the United States Department of Interior National Park Services Commendable Service Award upon his retirement.

Muns attended numerous schools while employed with the U.S. Park Police. Among those schools were advanced and latent fingerprints, crime scene

search, collection and preservation of evidence, sex crimes

investigation and arson. He attended schools conducted by the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Bureau of Drug Abuse Control as well as narcotics training at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Muns trained police officers in drug investigation and narcotics identification. He also trained officers in basic and advanced fingerprints.

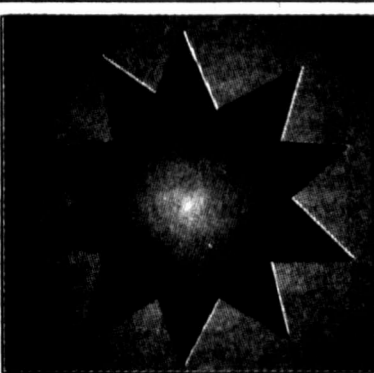
A member of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification, Muns is also a member of the Texas Panhandle Child Death Review Team, the Crisis Coordinating Council in Pampa and the Community Awareness and Emergency Response Committee in Pampa.

He and his wife, Jean, have

four children, three of whom are living: Greg Muns of Georgetown, Texas; Cindy Wolken, Amarillo, and Michele Dyson, Pampa. They have ten grandchildren. Members of the First Baptist Church of Pampa, Muns and wife, Jean, are both active in Sunday school and he is a member of the adult choir.

Judge Muns expressed his desire to continue to serve the citizens of Gray County in a "fair and equitable manner," in his position as a judge, "treating all citizens the same."

Muns



Low tonight 25 degrees.  
High Wednesday 55.  
For weather details, see Page 2.

**PAMPA** - The filing deadline for the 1998 election is Friday, Jan. 2. Although the rest of the Gray County Courthouse will be closed, County Clerk Wanda Carter will be in her office until 6 p.m. Friday for the filing deadline.

**ALANREED** - Don C. Dorsey of Alanreed announced his candidacy for election of justice of the peace in Precinct 4.

**AMARILLO** - A High Plains Irrigation Conference is scheduled for Jan. 7 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The opening session is at 9:30 a.m. There is a seven dollar registration fee.

**PAMPA** - The Veterans of Foreign War Post #1657 in Pampa will be hosting its third annual "Black-eyed Pea and Cornbread Feed" free to the public on Thursday, Jan. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the post on 105 S. Cuyler. Donations will be accepted and used to cover food costs and for the repair of the VFW wall.

"But I don't want people to think they have to donate, because they don't," said Veteran Don Emmons. He emphasized that this is a free event and the post does it as "good will" toward the community.

For more information contact Emmons at 669-3760 or call the VFW at 669-1264.

**PAMPA** - Pampa Postmaster Richard A. Wilson is retiring.

There will be a come and go reception beginning at 9 a.m. Friday in the basement of the Pampa Post Office.

Wilson has been postmaster in Pampa since 1982.

- Ozie Maple Tollett Ferguson, 88, mother of a Pampa resident.
- Glee A. Parsons, 81, died in Pampa.
- The Rev. Charles Ray Shugart, 56, former pastor of First Assembly of God Church of Pampa.
- William Clark Stanton, 80, of Pampa.

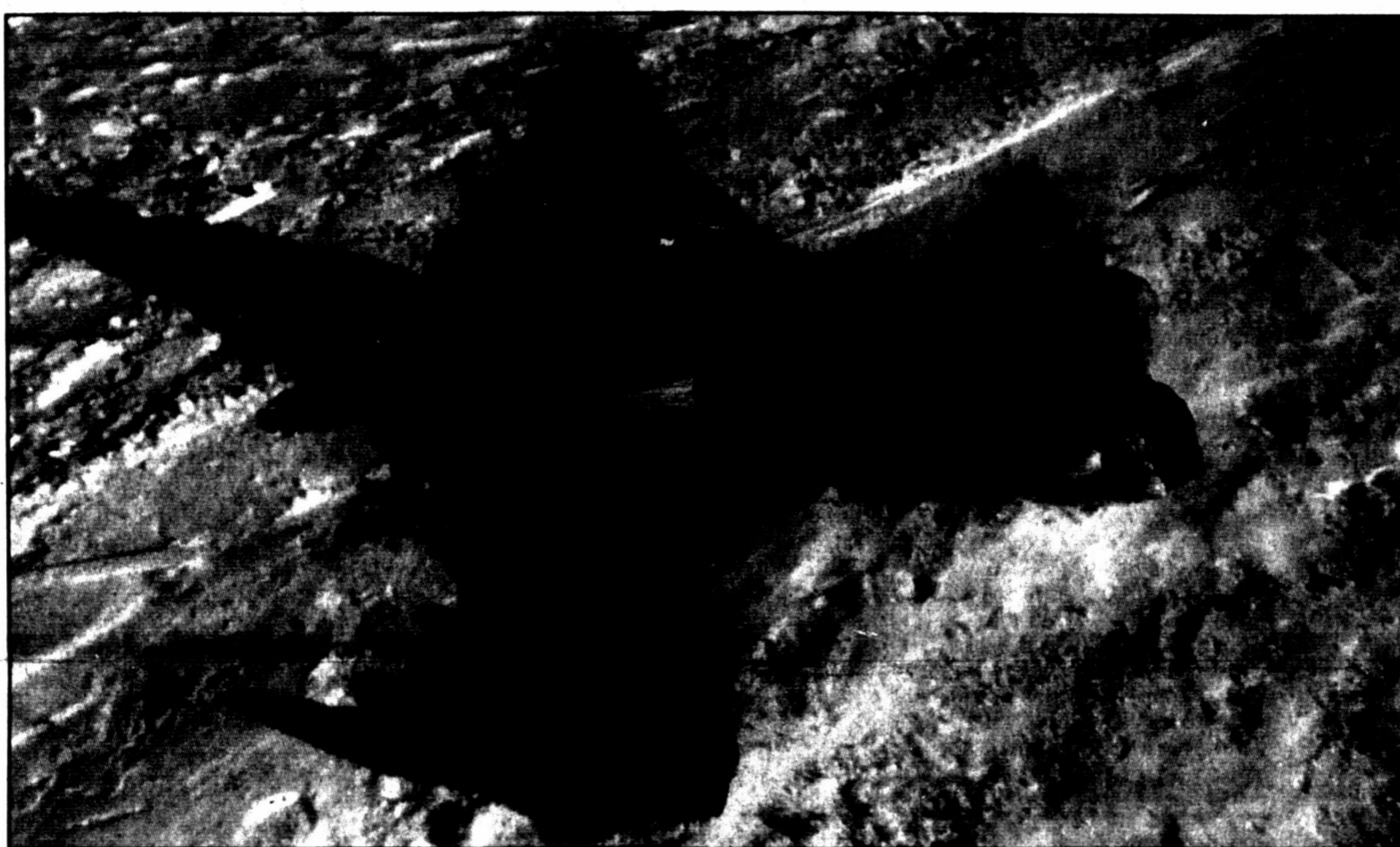
Classified .....8  
Comics .....6  
Editorial .....4  
Sports .....7

HealthStar D.M.E.

**AMERICAN HOME PATIENT**

1541 N. Hobart • Pampa, Texas  
806-669-0000 • 800-753-3910

## Slippin' and a slidin' in Central Park



Desirae Rochelle, 8, and Lauren Coutts, 6, take advantage of the clear skies and sunshine to enjoy some last minute sledding down the hills of Central Park this week before warmer temperatures melt the packed powder on the slopes.

## PEDC studies compressing problems

By JEFF WEST  
Staff Writer

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation was meeting today to decide on a loan guarantee for a Pampa compressor manufacturer.

Dick Van Bergen of International Compressor Systems got right to the point in Monday afternoon's PEDC meeting that was recessed so board members could study their information packets.

"We're here because we have an unforeseen cash flow problem," he said.

ICS makes, remanufactures and maintains custom compressors steam turbines and pumps. They operate across the U.S. and Canada. Of the 14 employees, all but one lives in Pampa.

Van Bergen said each compressor is custom built. Last year, one job got them in trouble. One of three owners and employees of the company was in Canada and bid a job for Chevron Canada at just over \$174,000. The job ended up costing nearly \$314,000. Bergen said apparently the partner did not study the specifications carefully enough.

The company said due to that loss and a job which has been delayed, they do not have the money to meet daily operating expenses and pay their creditors until new jobs start in January.

Van Bergen and Langley came with Phil Gentry of the First Bank Southwest to ask the PEDC to guarantee a loan of \$150,000 from the bank. If they were not willing to guarantee it all, Gentry said he would take any guarantee to the banks board for consideration.

After questioning the two engineers, the board recessed until 11 a.m. today. If the board decides to proceed, the matter will be taken up at the city commission meeting at noon today.

## Snow brings good and bad to area agriculture

By Jeff West  
Staff Writer

The recent snow may not have been good for travel but it was good for the wheat, according to Gray County's Agriculture Agent Danny Nusser.

Nusser has no figures on the exact amount of moisture in the snow because, he said, the amount of snow varied so much from area to area. On a trip he took this week, he said snow was much less once he dropped down off the caprock.

"Most of the news is positive concerning the wheat crop," Nusser said. "Some are concerned about the cold, but snow is a good insulator. The moisture is good for all crops."

He said that wheat can tolerate cold weather at this stage of growth. As long as there is moisture, there is very little problem with freeze injury.

"We have more freeze in a drought situation," he said. "The moisture acts as an insulator."

Unfortunately, what is good for one sector of agriculture

can be bad for another.

"This has had a negative effect for the cattlemen," Nusser said. "When you have the cold with this type of wind, it's very stressful for the cattle."

He said cattle ranchers were having to take a lot of time feeding and taking care of cattle. When you have this kind of snow, according to Nusser, it covers up available forage so ranchers have to put out food and also to watch closely to keep sickness rates down.

He has had no reports so far

about cattle losses due to the storm, but expects there will be some.

He said that another problem for some cattle and cattlemen this time of year is that many of the cows are calving.

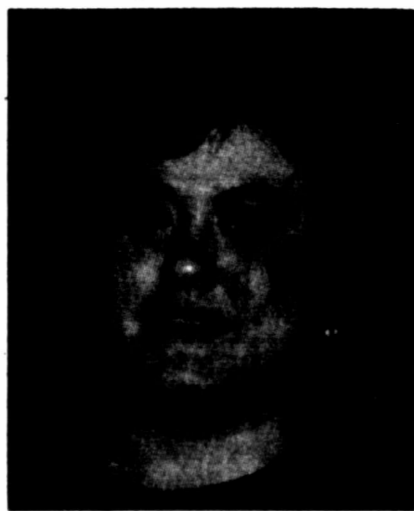
"There's lots of problems with calving with this type of weather," he said.

Another area that Nusser said may be a problem because of the ice is with area trees. He said home owners will have to watch out for trees that were damaged by the ice.

## Quite frankly... What is your New Year's Resolution or do you have one?



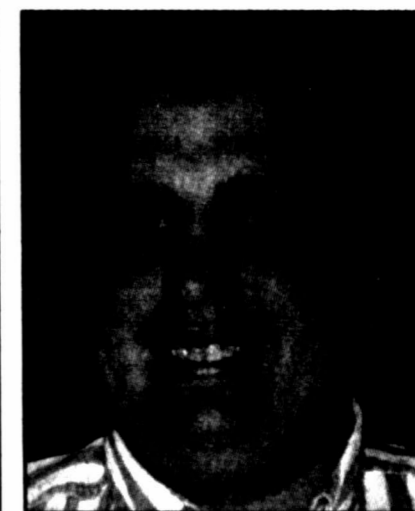
"I've broken too many, so I haven't come up with one this year."  
- Frances Hefley



"I don't have one."  
- Judy Riggle



"Didn't make one since I break them anyway."  
- Jerry Noel



"I'm still working on last year's New Year's resolution."  
- Kevin Collingsworth



"I haven't made one yet, but I will."  
- John Cook Sr.

Coronado Center **Hogies Deli** 665-0292

**ALL AROUND BAIL BONDS**  
116 West Foster • Pampa, Texas • Jack Ward • 669-9911



# Some retiring lawmakers eligible for nearly \$100,000 pension

WASHINGTON (AP) — A healthy pension plan that members of Congress created for themselves will let some retiring lawmakers collect roughly \$100,000 a year for life.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, will be eligible for at least \$96,462 if he resigns as planned before the end of his term.

Although most members are enrolled in the same retirement plans as other federal employees, lawmakers accrue benefits at a faster rate. Plus, congressional pensions are adjusted each year for inflation, setting them apart from most retirement plans in the private sector.

"It's one of the most outrageous perks congressmen have," said David Keating, vice president for National Taxpayers Union, a conservative group that advocates less government spending.

According to the taxpayers' group, which calculated congressional pension estimates for retiring lawmakers at the request of The Associated Press, some lawmakers will be going home with pensions of about five times the national average.

Reps. Joseph McDade, R-Pa., Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., and Sidney Yates, D-Ill., will be eligible for \$98,694 each, about three-fourths of their \$133,600 salary, when they leave office in 1999 after a combined 104 years.

Benefits for Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, will exceed \$90,000 after factoring in a separate Marine Corps pension for his past duties as a combat pilot and astronaut.

According to a 1994 Labor Department study, the latest available, a

private sector employee earning \$50,000 or more was eligible for pension benefits averaging \$17,062.

Members of Congress defended the retirement benefits, which are taxable.

"Almost all my adult life has been spent in public service in the Marine Corps and the Senate," Glenn said. "I have made the required contributions to the system and will retire from the Senate at the end of next year with a pension based on those years of service."

Aides for Yates and Gonzalez said the lawmakers deserved healthy pensions after more than three decades of public service. Yates spokeswoman Mary Bain added that the 88-year-old lawmaker could have opted to collect benefits over a longer period by retiring at 65.

Hamilton's office declined to comment, while McDade's did not return telephone calls.

McDade, in his 18th two-year term, is the most senior House Republican. Hamilton and Yates have served 17 terms each. Gonzalez is in his 19th term, while Glenn is retiring after four six-year terms.

Lawmakers elected since January 1984 fall under a less generous pension system, but members who joined before then have continued earning pension credits using the old formulas.

In 1995, Congress approved language that would have brought future earnings more in line with those given to other federal workers, but it was part of a broader budget bill vetoed by President Clinton for other reasons. Congress has not passed similar legislation in the current session.

# Texas politics: Party chairman, Bill White, says Democrats are equal to challenge in New Year

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite decisions not to seek re-election by Attorney General Dan Morales and several key Texas House committee chairmen, state Democratic Party Chairman Bill White says he is optimistic about the coming new year.

The announcements by Morales, considered one of the party's strongest statewide candidates, and by five key House Democrats have Republicans thinking that they can take the majority in the 150-member House and sweep all the offices on the statewide ballot in 1998.

"We won't lose all the statewide races," White said. "It just won't happen. The Republicans have been and will be stronger statewide than at the local level because television money drives those races more."

"But I think we will make gains in the Senate and keep the majority in the state House. The congressional majorities are the most important things we are focusing on."

The GOP has 17 of the 31 seats in the Texas Senate, its first majority in either chamber in 120 years.

The Democrats' 82-68 advantage in the Texas House has become increasingly fragile as a number of powerful House committee chairmen, mostly Democrats, have announced their retirements.

Those saying they won't seek re-election include Reps. Allen Hightower, D-Huntsville, chairman of the House Corrections Committee; Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, chairman of the House Public Health Committee; Allen Place, D-Gatesville, chairman of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; Mark Stiles, D-Beaumont, chairman of the House Calendars Committee; and Keith Oakley, D-Terrell, chairman of the House Public Safety Committee.

"I don't think the danger of losing the majority in the House played a role in people leaving," White said. "I talked to each one and they expressed personal reasons."

"Most of it is a changing of the guard, I don't think Texans want people to go into public office and just stay there until they die. I think it's a healthy thing."

Texas Republican Party spokesman Robert Black said he would expect White to try to

sound optimistic heading into a new year.

"But when the holiday egg nog wears off, he'll realize the state is a conservative, Republican state and that liberals are out of step with what Texans feel and think," Black said.

In other developments: — Texas Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, who is seeking the Republican nomination for land commissioner, on Monday formally filed to be on the primary ballot.

Patterson unveiled two plans that he said would result in \$76 million in cost savings to Texas taxpayers.

He said the state has a large enough population of veterans to justify construction of 42 veterans homes, which are operated privately and are funded by the federal government. By building the 42 homes, the state would save \$42 million in Medicaid spending, Patterson said.

He also proposed using natural gas owned by the state to generate electricity that could be sold to public schools across the state. Such a move would generate \$23 million annually for the Permanent School Fund, which is used to help fund public education in Texas, while saving school districts \$11 million off of their current electric bills.

— Tim Turner, a Houston landman, announced that he was withdrawing his bid for the Republican nomination in the land commissioner's race.

"This race has attracted a surprising number of well qualified and well financed candidates," Turner said. "I simply could not raise the money necessary to win this race."

Other Republicans in the primary field for land commissioner include Patterson, former Texas Secretary of State Tony Garza, Houston businessman David Dewhurst and retired Air Force major Don Loucks.

Richard Raymond, a state representative from Benavides, is the only announced candidate in the Democratic primary.

— Charles F. Baird formally announced that he will seek re-election to Place 1 on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

"What I will run on will be my qualifications and experience," said Baird, a Democrat who has served on the state's highest appeals court for criminal cases since 1990.

## New Life Assembly project



(Community Camera photos)

Darlene Ascencio, Tony Marsh and members of New Life Assembly of God recently prepared coats and toys for community distribution. Many families of the community participated in the event which will be sponsored annually by New Life Assembly of God.

## Two food companies sue San Angelo meat packing plant

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A lawsuit has been filed against a San Angelo meat packing plant in connection with what two food companies allege was the sale of "spoiled and slimy" beef.

The lawsuit was filed by Jason Foods Inc. of Illinois and Triple B Foods Inc., of Dallas, against Lone Star Beef seeking at least \$10,000 in damages and another \$5,000 or more in attorney's fees and court costs.

It alleges that the San Angelo company breached its contract to sell good products.

John Cross, president of Lone Star, said Monday that the lawsuit

is a problem for former plant owner Mike Evans, who sold the company earlier this year before beginning a 30-month federal prison sentence.

"We're not involved in the suit, period," Cross said. "It's a meat claim from back in July. We didn't buy the company until September first."

The packing plant, once known as Evans Meat Co., did business as Lone Star Beef Processors Inc. between March 31 and Sept. 1. It is now owned by Cross and vice president Burley Smith, since has changed its name to Lone Star Beef LLC.

Saying he was not familiar with the allegations in the lawsuit, Cross referred questions to Jim Carter, one of Evans' attorneys. He could not be reached for comment, according to the San Angelo Standard-Times.

John Sims, an Lubbock attorney who represents the plaintiffs, said the lawsuit, filed last week, has nothing to do with Evans.

At the center of the lawsuit is a July 30 transaction in which the Illinois-based firm bought 42,000 pounds of beef "cheek meat" worth more than \$33,000 from Lone Star.

The lawsuit alleges that the

buyer had to pay for the meat before inspecting or rejecting the shipment.

Sims said the load had been pre-sold to Triple B Foods, which in turn pre-sold it to Garcia Foods of San Antonio to be turned into "barbacoa," or barbecue.

**CINEMA 4**

Home Alone III (PG)  
 Flubber (PG)  
 Rainmaker (PG-13)  
 Scream 2 (R)

2 Features Nightly  
 Call - 665-7141 - 24 Hrs.

**THE Pampa NEWS**

403 W. ATCHISON • PAMPA, TEXAS  
 TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525  
 1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520  
 EMAIL: kbd@pan-tex.net • pamnew1@pan-tex.net

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays and holidays by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall  
 Ass. Publisher-Editor: Kate B. Dickson  
 Advertising Director: Rick Clark  
 Office Manager: Helena McKnight  
 Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch

**SINGLE COPIES**  
 Daily 50¢/Sunday \$1.00  
 Member: Associated Press

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
 CARRIER HOME DELIVERY

1 yr.....\$84.00	6 mos.....\$42.00
3 mos.....\$21.00	1 mo.....\$7.00

**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
 Mail In Roberts, Gray, Carson, Wheeler And Hemphill Counties In Texas

1 yr.....\$102.00	6 mos.....\$51.00
3 mos.....\$25.50	

Mail All Other Areas In U.S.

1 yr.....\$114.00	6 mos.....\$57.00
3 mos.....\$28.50	

Single Copy Mail  
 Daily.....\$1.50 Sunday.....\$2.50  
 No mail subscriptions are available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid 3 months in advance.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE**  
 The entire contents of The Pampa News, including its logotype, are fully protected by copyright and registry and cannot be reproduced in any form for any purpose without written permission from The Pampa News.

**HOME DELIVERY**  
 All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the News Office any payment that exceeds the current collection period.

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS**

So that our employees may spend the New Years Holiday with their families we will observe the following...

**EARLY DEADLINES**  
 WE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

**DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY**

Day of Insertion	Deadline
THURSDAY, JAN. 1.....	TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 12 NOON
FRIDAY, JAN. 2.....	TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 3 P.M.
SUNDAY, JAN. 4.....	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 12 NOON

**CLASSIFIED LINE ADS**

Day of Insertion	Deadline
THURSDAY, JAN. 1.....	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 12 NOON
FRIDAY, JAN. 2.....	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 4 P.M.

**CITY BRIEFS**

Day of Insertion	Deadline
THURSDAY, JAN. 1.....	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 3 P.M.

All other DEADLINES will remain at their regular times. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your friends a safe and happy holiday.

**We Will Be Closing Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> So That Our Employees May Spend Time With Their Families**

**Happy New Year**

**We Invite You To Bank With Us Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Thank You**

**BOATMEN'S FIRST**  
 PAMPA BANKING CENTER  
 100 N. CUYLER • 665-8421  
 MEMBER FDIC  
 Where You Are Number One

**NBC**  
 National Bank of Commerce  
 1224 N. Hobart Member F.D.I.C. 665-0022

**FirstBank Southwest**  
 Pampa  
 Member FDIC  
 300 W. Kingmill • 665-2341 • Pampa, Texas

VIEWPOINTS

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS  
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

L.W. McCall  
Publisher

Kate B. Dickson  
Associate Publisher/Editor



Inside the Beltway  
with  
Sen. Hutchison

Texans weigh in on campaign finance reform

In large margins, Texans strongly support reforming federal campaign finance laws by imposing limits on a broad range of contributions. My annual questionnaire, which your newspaper published last August, asked Texans to tell me how they feel about the ongoing campaign finance reform debate.

Of those who responded, 87 percent favor stricter limits on contributions from non-citizen permanent U.S. residents; 86 percent favor stricter limits on labor unions' contributions and 71 percent said they support imposing stricter limits on contributions by individuals.

Asked if you think there should be limits on the amount of money individuals or organizations can spend to support or oppose candidates or specific issues, 74 percent of Texans answered yes. But only 22 percent of you favor government funding of campaigns.

Here are some of your comments on this perplexing issue: From Arcadia: "Individual contributions should be unlimited because restricting them would be a limit on free speech. I am against government funding of any campaigns."

From Lake Jackson: "No contributions should be allowed by any entity except a (singular) qualified voter. Contributions should only be acceptable from an individual's current personal earnings or savings. Corporations, foreign countries, labor unions, trade associations, etc. are not voters and should be prohibited from giving financial support to anyone or any party. The U.S. Constitution is clear about qualifications to vote, and the same should apply to contributors to political campaigns."

From Aledo: "We are not even enforcing our current laws. Deregulate individual contributions, but require full, immediate disclosure. Forbid business and political action committee (PAC) contributions, including unions."

From Port Isabel: "There should be a clear-cut cap on campaign contributions to level the playing field. Special interests should not be allowed to influence government this way. Capping contributions would allow them to represent us, not whoever has the most money. Right now, when money talks, government listens."

From Vernon: "I think non-citizen permanent residents should not be allowed to contribute toward campaigns. If they are not willing to become legal citizens, they should not have a say in any area of government... The buying of candidates needs to be stopped. Candidates need to focus on what is best for the United States instead of pleasing special interest groups."

From San Antonio: "The cost of campaigns should be borne by the candidate entirely, but with free TV and radio time. That way the candidates would not be influenced by corporate interests."

From Hurst: "There shouldn't be any limits on spending or donations, but we should require contributions and expenditures to be reported within three days on a web site, so everyone will know where support comes from."

From Blanco: "Public campaign finance is a misuse of tax dollars. If you're not a U.S. citizen, you have no right to participate. The whole system is out of control."

From Garland: "It's simple. Increase the limit on what an individual can donate (either individually or through a PAC or corporation) to \$5,000 for any legitimate candidate or party. All congressional candidates should be required to raise 75 percent of their funds within their home state. On the income tax returns, people could select \$10, \$25 or write in up to \$100 for support of presidential and senatorial races."

From El Paso: "I believe in total freedom for all people. Anyone from any country should be able to donate or vote."

Congress will take up campaign finance reform next spring. I have introduced a bill designed to remedy the most significant shortcomings in federal campaign finance laws.

These new rules would help return control of federal campaigns and elections to individual voters. My bill:

—Limits to \$250,000 the amount a Senate candidate may reimburse a candidate for loans the candidate makes to his or her own campaign.

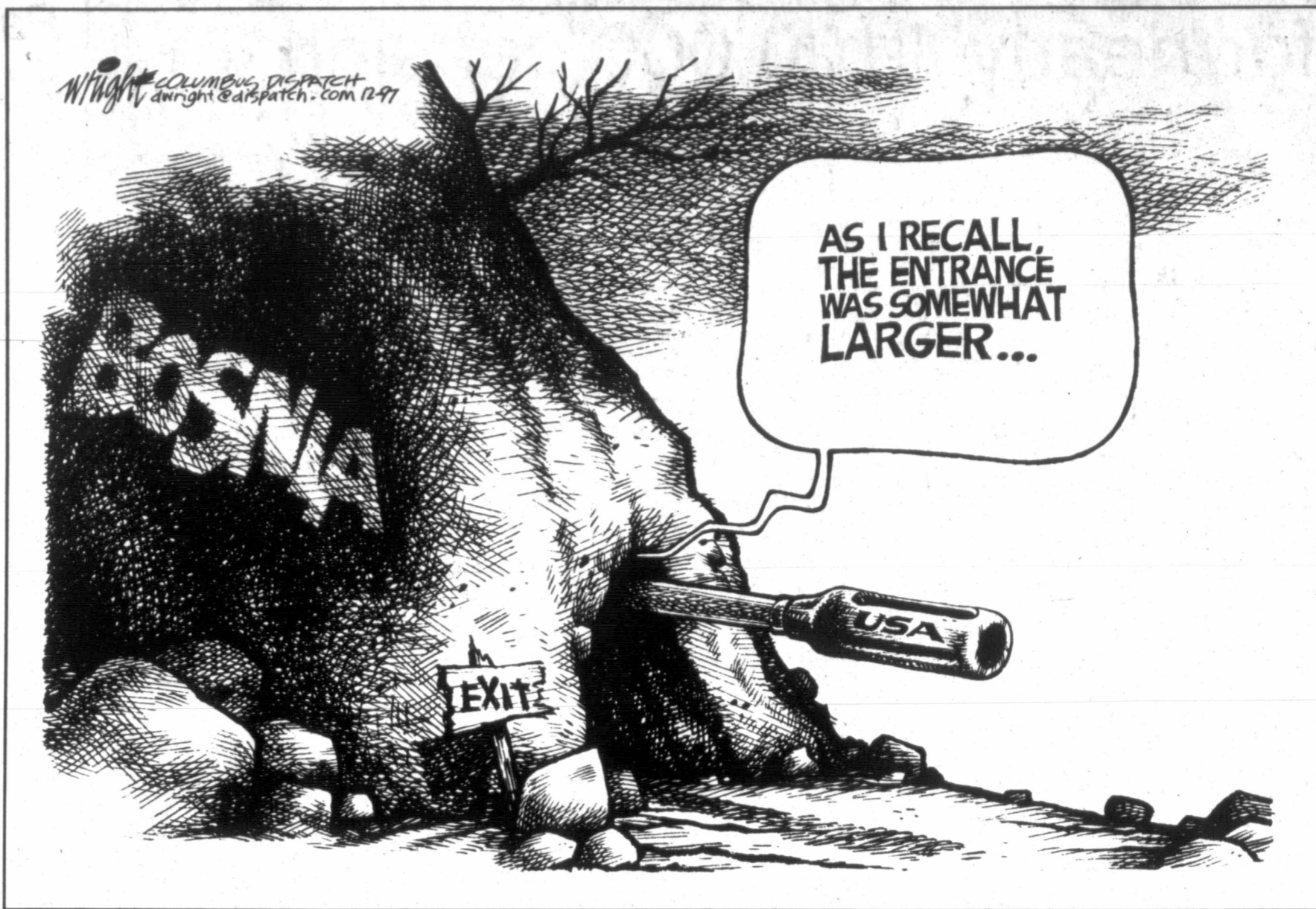
—Requires at least 60 percent of a Senate candidate's campaign funds to come from individual residents of his or her home state.

—Curbs the congressional franking privilege for mass mailings during election years.

—Limits PAC contributions to the same level as allowed for individuals; indexes this uniform limit to the rate of inflation.

—Prohibits contributions from non-U.S. citizens.

These are clear, workable reforms designed to encourage greater political participation while curbing the abuses that are undermining public confidence.



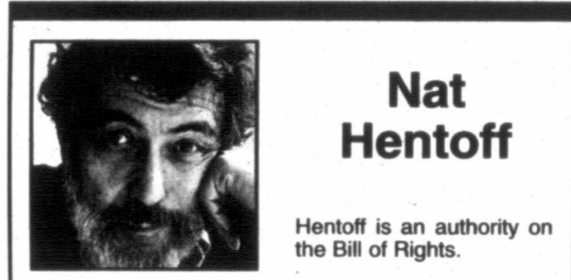
Forum bungled Taxman case

In rebuttal to my recent column on the settlement of the Piscataway Township vs. Taxman case, the Black Leadership Forum — a coalition of major civil rights organizations — has continued its fictive accounts of the history and nature of the case. The lawsuit began when a white high school teacher, Sharon Taxman, was fired and a black teacher, Debra Williams, was retained in the interest of diversity.

These black leaders underplay the ordeal of Debra Williams, who was indeed abandoned at the end by the Piscataway school board and the Black Leadership Forum. She was not named a litigant, but there would have been no case without her. When the Forum arranged to pay Sharon Taxman to prevent the Supreme Court case, we all know the right wing has a lot of money, but my concern is that right-wing foundations — as intensely committed to their principles as she is to hers — are quite capable of trying to rescue one of their losing cases by paying off the other side. Taking care of lawyers' fees and adding a big bonus might lead the other side to drop a case and try again later.

In a remarkable attempt to rewrite history, the Black Leadership Forum maintains this was never an affirmative action case. It was, they say, a "regrettable personal discrimination case." Yet from day one, the school board regarded it as an affirmative action case, and hauled out its affirmative action policy. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals saw it as an affirmative action case, and so did both the Bush and Clinton Justice Departments.

As for the Forum settling the case by arranging to pay Taxman \$433,500, civil suits are often settled, as the forum says, but it is rare for a high profile case — considered the most visible of the current Supreme Court term — to be snatched away from the Court on the eve of oral arguments.



Nat Hentoff

Hentoff is an authority on the Bill of Rights.

Executive Director Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, writing for the Black Leadership Forum, misses my point on the possible precedent set by this way of buying off a Supreme Court case. We all know the right wing has a lot of money, but my concern is that right-wing foundations — as intensely committed to their principles as she is to hers — are quite capable of trying to rescue one of their losing cases by paying off the other side. Taking care of lawyers' fees and adding a big bonus might lead the other side to drop a case and try again later.

It should be noted, for history's sake, that the Piscataway case was originally taken by the Bush Justice Department, which opposed the firing of Sharon Taxman for reasons of race alone.

It was the Clinton Justice Department — led by Deval Patrick, assistant attorney general for civil rights that turned the case around and supported the firing of Sharon Taxman because of the color of her skin.

No prominent civil rights leader objected to that turnaround by the Clinton forces. Indeed, many agreed in print and on television with Deval Patrick. It was only when the case appeared to be a sure loser that the civil rights establishment hastened to make a deal so that

Sharon Taxman would drop her lawsuit.

As for my allegedly quoting "Black Leadership Forum members out of context," Kweisi Mfume's remarks were taken down by me from a *Nightline* broadcast, and to make sure, I obtained a transcript of the program. Mfume did indeed say that "civil rights groups in this country have learned the tactics of the extreme right wing, have adjusted to them, and have found a way to beat them at their own game."

Is this the way the rest of the Black Leadership Forum intends to go?

I have no trouble understanding the motivation of the Forum in preventing the Piscataway case from reaching the Supreme Court. If the full reasoning of the Third Circuit had been upheld by the Supreme Court, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act would be held to prevent any race-conscious employment preferences not based on specific findings of racial discrimination. In addition to ruling out diversity as a cause of action, the Court could have ended many affirmative action agreements throughout the country.

But the desperate last-minute move to pay off Taxman would not have been necessary if the black leadership had been alert enough — at the beginning of the Clinton administration's turnaround on the case — to protest strongly and publicly to the Clinton-Patrick position that Taxman should have been fired because she is white.

Instead of rewriting facts, the Black Leadership Forum might look back on Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Walter White, Charles Houston and Whitney Young to learn something about the quality of leadership that speaks truth to power — without spinning.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 1997. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1853, the United States bought some 45,000 square

miles of land from Mexico in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

On this date:

In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1903, about 600 people died

when a fire broke out at the Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1911, Sun Yat-sen was elected the first president of the Republic of China after the fall of the Chinese dynasties.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin pro-

claimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

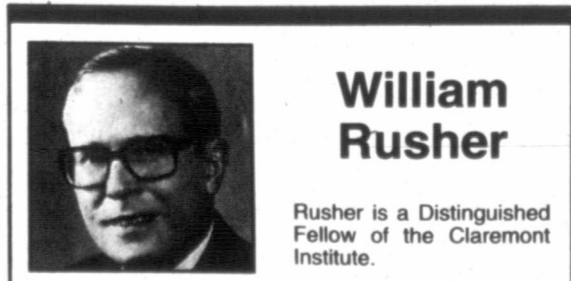
In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.

Three cheers for Mitch McConnell

After watching the national debate over campaign finance reform for lo these many months, I have come to the conclusion that Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is exactly right. What's more, he occupies that exalted position in splendid but lonely isolation.

Ask the American people if we need "campaign finance reform" and about 97 percent of those polled will answer "Yes." That's because we think, as a general proposition, that money is the root of most of the evils in politics and we'd all be better off if the mess was cleaned up. If you get more specific and ask whether contributions of "soft money" should be sharply limited, you will still get a large affirmative response because the term "soft money" sounds obnoxious, and limiting it sounds agreeably bipartisan.

But what if you point out that businesses favor the Republicans with contributions of "soft money" (meaning money not spent on specific candidates) whereas labor unions favor the Democrats with millions of dollars worth of TV ads paid for by forced exactions from union members who may not even vote Democrat? You will discover that public enthusiasm for limiting soft money is sensibly linked to an equal enthusiasm for limiting union expenditures — above all expenditures financed by involuntary contributions. But that, it turns out, is something the Democrats in the Senate will filibuster to death.



William Rusher

Rusher is a Distinguished Fellow of the Claremont Institute.

So the frenzied drive for "campaign finance reform," and especially for limiting "soft money," turns out to be nothing but a sly unilateral attack on a means of financing essential to the Republican Party, and — since the Republicans control Congress — it isn't going anywhere soon.

But the liberals who are pushing campaign finance reform have bigger ideas than merely nailing "soft money." What they really can't stand is the Supreme Court's 1976 decision in *Buckley vs. Valeo*, which held that spending on political campaigns is a form of speech, and as such is protected by the First Amendment. The idea that a rich man ought to be able to spend unlimited amounts of his own money on his own candidacy or somebody else's (provided he doesn't "coordinate" his efforts with anybody else's) strikes liberals as bitterly unfair. That's why Colorado governor Roy Roemer, the Democrats' national chairman, has gone so

far as to call for a constitutional amendment if necessary, to reverse the Court's decision.

Enter Sen. McConnell. As he pointed out recently, "A spending limit on speech would be like saying: You are free to travel but you can only spend \$100 to do so. Just how free to travel are you under that limitation?"

Then he asked — and answered a most interesting question: "Why do they want to shut us up? Many American institutions comment on politics, and most of them are on the left the press (80 percent on the left), academia (95 percent on the left), and Hollywood (100 percent on the left). To the extent that they shut us up, they will have more power. That would be a disaster for America, but more particularly a disaster for conservatives."

McConnell is right on the mark. Why should the Sulzberger family, which owns the *New York Times*, or the Graham family, which owns the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, be able to spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year spreading their liberal views around the country, while equally wealthy conservatives are limited to relative pennies? I can see why the *Times* and the *Post* are so eager for "campaign finance reform," but why does everybody else kneel at the same altar?

Everybody, that is, but Mitch McConnell. As he warns: "Make no mistake, when you hear the three words 'campaign finance reform,' some liberal is trying to shut you up."

### Chamber Gold Coats



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Formerly La Fiesta, Amber's Mexican Food was named recently by owner Anna Romero after her granddaughter, Amber Jenkins. The Chamber of Commerce Gold Coats honored the restaurant owners Monday morning for becoming a new Chamber member. Top photo, left-right: Kerrick Horton, Anna Romero, owner; granddaughter Amber Jenkins, Josie Vega, co-owner; and Gladys Vanderpool. Meanwhile Chamber Gold Coats Richard Stowers and Jerry Foote attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Billy Scribner Welding, Inc. The company moved into new facilities just three months ago. Bottom photo, l-r: Stowers, Billy Scribner, Carilyn Downs, Terry Peters, Ferrell Yearwood, Foote and in back Russ Kilcrease.

## Budget storm could undermine Israeli-Palestinian peace process

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 1998 budget has run into a political storm that could badly undermine his efforts to revive the troubled peace process.

If the budget fails to pass by Dec. 31, the government in effect goes on probation and becomes hostage to coalition hard-liners who oppose Netanyahu's plan to withdraw Israeli troops from the West Bank, a move long promised the Palestinians.

With his coalition already frayed, several preliminary budget-related bills were defeated Monday in the Knesset, sparking calls for new elections.

Among those calling for a new vote were coalition whip Meir Shetreet of Netanyahu's Likud Party and the leaders of two key allied parties, Police Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan.

"This government cannot function," Eitan said. "We need to go to the people."

Others, however, are predicting that when the dust settles, Netanyahu, who has overcome many crises since taking office in June 1996, will survive again.

State budgets have always been the focus of fevered bargaining in Israel, with coalition members able to extract funds for their constituencies by threatening to topple the government.

But this year's dealing has been particularly embarrassing to the government, the result of a weak economy and the fact that Netanyahu's coalition is made up of unusually vocal religious parties and sharply defined factions within Likud.

The problem is compounded by the fact that Netanyahu's coalition, which controls 66 of the 120 Knesset seats, is divided between supporters and opponents of the peace process.

Centrists like Kahalani and Foreign Minister David Levy have been threatening for months to bolt the coalition because they feel Netanyahu, who once opposed the Israel-PLO accords altogether, is evading Israel's commitment to hand more West Bank land to the Palestinians.

On the other hand, some hawks like former Cabinet minister Benny Begin openly admit they

will vote against the budget because they oppose even Netanyahu's halfhearted peace moves.

If the roughly one-third of the coalition who are hard-liners scuttle the budget Wednesday night, under Israel's revamped electoral system Netanyahu gets an extra three months to pass it before his government falls.

But failure to pass the budget by the regular deadline could erode the government's already tenuous credibility and paralyze it. And during the three-month grace period, his hands would be tied on the peace process.

Netanyahu is expected at the White House in January, when he has reportedly promised to present concrete plans to carry out one of the three West Bank troop pullbacks pledged by mid-1998.

The economy has slowed dramatically after a half-decade of tremendous growth. With tax revenues dwindling, the fiscally conservative Netanyahu has insisted on \$657 million in cuts in defense, education and social spending.

The dovish opposition — which would have voted against Netanyahu in any case — is outraged because the budget, while cutting back on many essential social services, diverts massive funding to religious programs demanded by Netanyahu's allies.

The Maariv daily said that in recent negotiations Netanyahu offered to add up almost \$1 billion to the budget, almost half in response to demands by the three religious parties. Netanyahu said the figures were lower.

Also discontented are Netanyahu's coalition allies representing Israel's neediest groups, including lower-income Sephardic Jews, Russian immigrants and ultra-Orthodox Jews.

These parties — as well as leaders of another key constituency, the 150,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank — have been demanding, and reportedly receiving, promises for additions of hundreds of thousands of shekels in recent days.

"I have been in this house for almost 20 years and I don't remember ever, with any budget...the blackmail being so strong," Shetreet said.



Your Local Carhartt Dealer

WAYNES

WESTERN WEAR, INC.

Open 9-6 Daily; 9-8 Thursday; Closed Sunday  
1504 N. Hobart 665-2925

**Just A Reminder!**  
The Following Pampa News Subscription Rate Changes Take Effect Immediately

Monthly - \$8.00  
Quarterly (3 mos.) - \$22.00

All other rates remain the same

## Unabomber: Kaczynski team left with few options

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The abrupt withdrawal of Theodore Kaczynski's psychiatric defense suggests that his own lawyers are bargaining with the Unabomber defendant in a desperate bid to save him from the death penalty.

With Kaczynski stubbornly refusing to be examined by psychiatrists and threatening to fire the lawyers who planned to depict him as a madman, the defense is left with few options less than a week before opening statements to the jury.

First, they sought to negotiate with the government. When that failed they had to bargain with their client.

But Monday, the defense served notice that it will not call mental health experts as witnesses during the guilt-or-innocence phase of the trial. This after making clear in hun-

dreds of pages of pretrial documents that it believes Kaczynski is schizophrenic and could not form the intent to kill anyone.

"They have difficult facts and a difficult client," said Laurie Levenson, associate dean of Loyola University Law School.

"This may be the only deal they could make with him." The deal, if there is one, would eschew expert testimony about Kaczynski's mental state during the guilt-or-innocence phase, then present psychiatric evidence during the life-or-death penalty phase.

The government contends Kaczynski, a Harvard-educated mathematician-turned-hermit, is responsible for all 16 Unabomber attacks from 1978 to 1995 that killed three people and injured 29. He is charged here with four attacks that

killed two men and maimed two others.

He could be sentenced to die if convicted. He is charged separately in New Jersey with the third fatality blamed on the anti-technology Unabomber.

"The government is likely to say that he's not crazy, he's evil. And even if he had mental problems, he had enough brain power to know what was right and wrong," Levenson said.

"Maybe the reason he's not cooperating is because the government could get a psychiatrist to say definitively that he's not crazy."

Public defenders Quin Denvir and Judy Clarke have said they believe Kaczynski suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, an illness marked by delusions and a persecution complex. They first gave notice of the plan for a mental defect defense last June.

Defense experts who examined Kaczynski before he began resisting all such inquiries said his insistence that he is not a mental case supports the theory that he is indeed schizophrenic.

One of his own lawyers has called Kaczynski "a high functioning schizophrenic" whose elevated intelligence masks a deeply troubled mind.

Newly released transcripts of private meetings between the defendant, his lawyers and U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. disclosed that Kaczynski had been writing to the judge complaining about disputes with his attorneys.

**Menu**

Meals on Wheels  
WEDNESDAY  
Chicken pot pie, pickled beets, corn, jello.

THURSDAY  
Holiday.

FRIDAY  
Spaghetti and meat sauce, green beans, breadsticks, fruit cocktail.

with United Way everyone wins

**FirstBank Southwest**  
National Association  
**Pampa**  
Member FDIC

300 W. Kingsmill • 665-2341 • Pampa, Texas

**Pampa Optimist Club**

Boy's Basketball sign-ups will be on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.  
4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who played last season need to sign up on Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> from noon till 6:00 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders who did not play last year will need to sign up and try-out Monday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will need to sign up Tuesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-ups will be limited, so be early. Coaching spaces available.  
For more information call Rusty Gallagher at 669-7179.

# Bad Manners Meet Worse At Dinner Party Gone Awry

DEAR ABBY: I am a Chinese-American from Taiwan. I have a college education and have lived in San Francisco for 10 years.

My friends "Arthur" and "Larry" are a Japanese-American couple who have lived in a deluxe mansion for 22 years. One day, they invited "Ron" and me for a homemade dinner. At the last minute I brought along "Richard" without calling them for permission. Arthur was angry when he saw that I brought an extra guest and said to me in the kitchen, "It is very rude to bring a guest with no advance notice. Didn't your mother teach you any manners?"

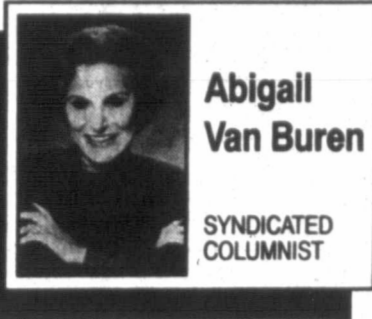
All I could say was, "Sorry, sorry!" He refused to cook the meal and left the house in a huff. Larry entertained us and said to me, "I don't mind the extra guest."

In my family, my mother always welcomed extra guests by saying, "Don't worry — all we need is to provide one more pair of chopsticks for the guest."

The next day, Larry informed me that Arthur had decided to punish me by not talking to me for three months. He bought me a book on etiquette by Emily and Elizabeth L. Post.

Abby, was my innocent mistake really that terrible, or did Arthur overreact? What should I do after the three-month punishment? Beg him for forgiveness, or end the friendship?

WONDERING



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR WONDERING: Although it's considered bad manners to bring an uninvited guest to a dinner party without first asking permission from the host, it is far worse manners for a host to refuse to cook the dinner and walk out!

Yes, indeed, Arthur overreacted. He owes all of you an apology. However, what you do following the three-month silence depends entirely upon how much you value the relationship with this couple.

DEAR ABBY: I have never written to you before, but I felt compelled to do so after reading the letter from "Not Guilty by Association," the daughter of the racist father.

I want to applaud this young lady for her courage and strength in refusing to allow her father's misguided beliefs to infect her life. She

is probably not aware of the fact that she has broken a link in the chain of racist hate. Racism is taught, not inherited. The only way we will ever eliminate this deadly infection, which is a crime against all mankind, is through teaching our children that it is wrong to hate anyone based on skin color, race or religious beliefs.

I want this young lady to know that she, herself, is a victory in the battle against this infection. Because she chose not to follow her father and become a link in the racist chain, her children will be raised to see individuals for who they are, and not for any external reasons.

Although you face a very difficult situation, "Not Guilty," please know that many people stand behind you and wish you God's blessing. Your personal fight against racism is a fight for all who want to rid the world of this deadly infection.

MICKEY CASE, FALLBROOK, CALIF.

DEAR MICKEY: I'm pleased to pass along your message of support. Ultimately, we must all be judged by what we stand for, and not the thoughts and deeds of our parents.

For Abby's favorite family recipes, send a long, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet No. 1, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 6107-0447. (Postage is included.)

aspects indicate that spontaneous developments will offer you the greatest promise today. Try to balance your agenda against new events.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Shifting conditions could develop in a manner that will enable you to tie up an important matter today. Make this your top priority assignment.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You will not inconvenience anyone if you drop in on an old friend uninvited. Your pal might be happier to see you than you are to see him or her.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Good things could come in pairs today. You might have two opportunities, but one will be maternally based, while the other will pertain to intangibles.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** You can set a positive example today that will uplift the spirits and courage of those who emulate you. Do not hide your light under a bushel.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Something of special importance might undergo a favorable transformation today. This shift-

ing condition could result in benefits for everyone involved.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Project yourself into events or activities today that could provide you with opportunities to meet new people. Valuable associations could ensue.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Matters that have a direct effect upon your career should not be treated with indifference today. You are on a lucky roll, so make the most of it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Enterprises that are a tad daring and innovative are likely to be the most successful ones for you today. Use your imagination!

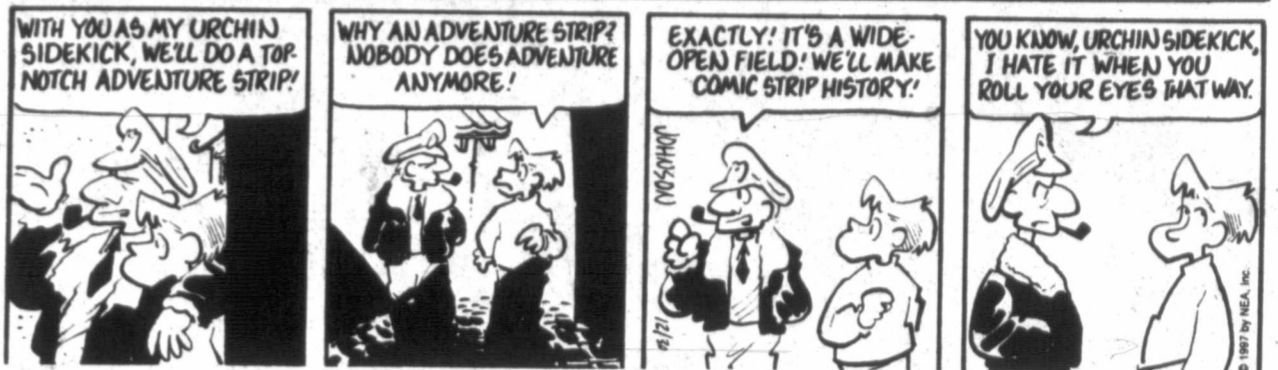
**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** If you've been anxious to get your mate's consent on a critical change you want to make, this is a good day to put the issue on the table.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** You have some big pluses going for you today that will become evident once you are challenged. You are a fast thinker with profound judgment.

©1997 by NEA, Inc.



For Better or For Worse



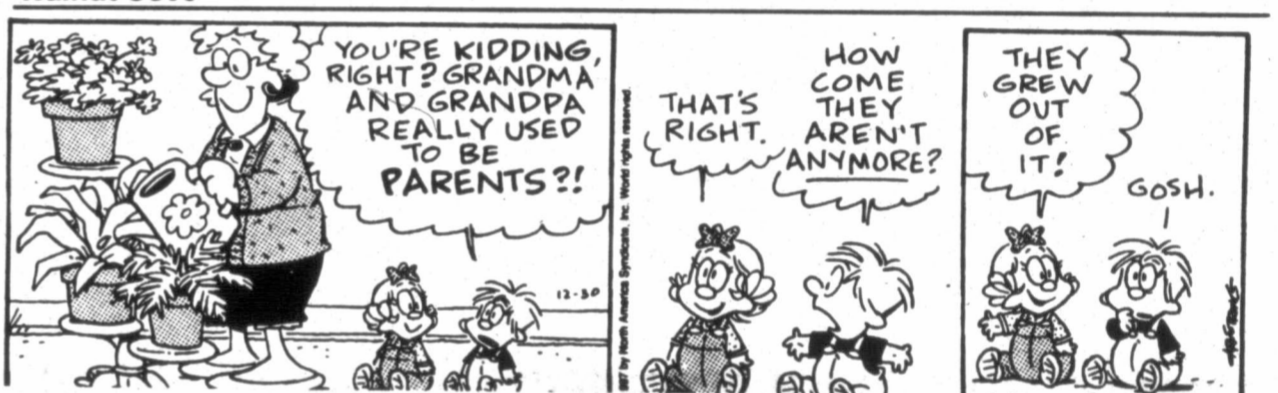
Ario & Janis



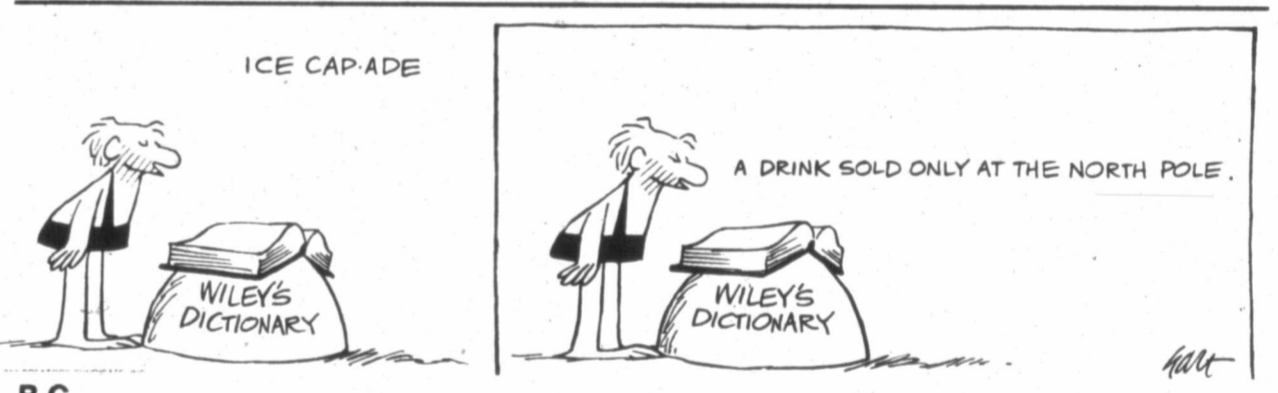
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



ICE CAPADE

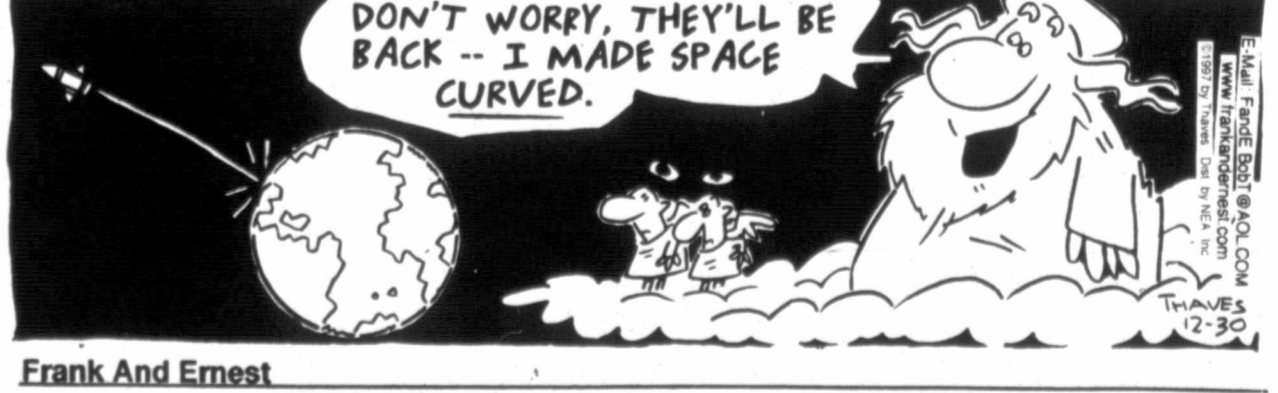
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

## Horoscope



Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1997

In the year ahead, you could make an important friend in your chosen field of endeavor. This alliance will grow in strength and each party will derive benefits in special ways.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Be aware that your abilities supersede the faith you have in yourself. You do not need the approval of others before doing what you need to do. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** The



12-30  
©1997 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by Cowles Synd. Inc.

"I'm makin' it for Barbie."



12-30  
©1997 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

"I see why we have to refill everybody's glasses so often."

### The Family Circus



Marmaduke

### Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts









### Meredith House



(Special photos)  
Meredith House employees, Tonya White and Christine Henderson, top, presented gifts to Virginia Teel on Christmas Day while Georgia Corse, of Meredith House, gets her mail from mailman and Santa's helper, Gordon Flynn.

## Ex-nurse charged with murder after wave of hospital deaths

NEWPORT, Ind. (AP) — Even among those trusted to care for the neediest and most vulnerable patients, Orville Lynn Majors stood out.

His bosses at Vermillion County Hospital, where he was a licensed practical nurse in the intensive care unit, once praised his people skills. Paula Holdaway remembers him leaning over her mother's hospital bed, kissing the 80-year-old woman's forehead and brushing her hair back.

"It's all right, punkin," Ms. Holdaway remembers Majors saying to Dorothea Hixon, who was then given an injection. "Everything's going to be all right now, punkin."

A minute later, Hixon was dead.

Majors was charged Monday with murdering her and five others by injection at a hospital where deaths in the intensive care unit reached what prosecutors described as an "epidemic." They say patients were 43 times more likely to die on days when he was on duty.

Majors, 36, is jailed without bond. He was scheduled to appear today in Vermillion Circuit Court in Newport, about 15 miles north of Clinton, where the hospital is located.

He has maintained his innocence. His lawyer, I. Marshall Pinkus, said there is no evidence Majors did anything wrong.

Relatives of the dead were horrified.

"My husband wasn't sick enough to die," said Mildred Smith, who lost 74-year-old Cecil a day after he was admitted for pneumonia. "This was the last thing that I expected. I would like to put him rest but I can't, not until he (Majors) is convicted."

Increasing suspicions about Majors prompted hospital officials to study the number of deaths. The conclusion that Majors had been present for many of them prompted them to call state police.

Investigators spent nearly three years and \$1.5 million investigating 130 intensive care deaths that happened while Majors was on duty from 1993 to 1995. Police have said he was a suspect in as many as 100 deaths. A search of his former home turned up a variety of drugs, syringes and needles.

Authorities declined to elaborate on the charges. But a state police commander, Lt. Charles Ellis, said a computer analysis of the case finished in November was a turning point.

During the period Majors worked at Vermillion, now known as West Central Community Hospital, a death occurred every 23.1 hours he was on duty, the study found. When he was off duty, a death occurred every 551.6 hours.

The investigation included the exhumations of 15 patients, including the six people named in the affidavit — all of whom died from injections. Ranging in age from 56 to 89, all were said to be in stable condition before they died suddenly.

An autopsy revealed some of the deaths were consistent with the injection of potassium chloride, which can cause the heart to stop. It is the same drug used to kill some condemned prisoners.

In two cases, police said, a witness saw Majors give a patient an injection just before the patients died. A nurse once saw Majors standing over a victim with syringe in hand, investigators said, and in another case Majors was the last person seen with the patient.

The hospital suspended Majors in March 1995, after it began an investigation into the death rate. The State Nursing Board revoked his license for five years in 1995 for practicing beyond his authority by giving emergency drugs and working in an ICU without a nurse present.

The study found that deaths at the hospital reached "epidemic" proportions from July to December of 1994, and that Majors was "uniquely and very strongly associated with that mortality," according to the affidavit.

### Dressed in Blue

When was a society need someone to blame or a reason to hide behind our own shame who's held responsible and made to pay due more often than not, it's those dressed in blue

We seem to forget why there is a need for law enforcement to help control greed we seem to forget whose life's on the line when we call for help after being robbed blind

We count on protection when someone offends and call for assistance on which we depend however, we're innocent when citation is due and actually place blame on those dressed in blue

We sit in our homes on each Christmas Eve never considering who might have to leave a warm cozy fireplace with all gathered 'round to go to a crime scene where trouble is bound

We don't remember who's spending their night on or off duty making sure we're alright we forget to give credit where credit is due we've grown to expect it from those dressed in blue

We often are selfish and seem to forget that officers also have needs to be met each one has sworn to protect and to serve without ever asking for what they deserve

We here at Tralee would like to commend Pampa PD for the time that they spend ensuring the safety of everyone who takes it for granted from those dressed in blue.

The year is near done, it's late in December but we here at Tralee will *always* remember that with your help, women can be assured that violence in families will not be endured.

In consideration of those dressed in blue for all of your efforts and for all that you do Tralee Crisis Center's message to you: WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU, BECAUSE IT IS DUE!

Written by Linda Town  
Tralee Crisis Center

## Mexico massacre: More Mexican Indian refugees flee villages in Chiapas highlands ...

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — They trickled in from surrounding mountain hamlets, carrying whatever belongings they could on their backs, fleeing months of terror by armed gunmen.

Clothed in threadbare ponchos and crude sandals, the latest group of Indians seeking refuge in the violence-torn highlands of the southern Mexican state of Chiapas trudged for hours in the bone-chilling dampness.

At the government's National Indigenous Institute grounds, the mostly Tzotzil Indians sat, shivering and waiting for food. Many said they had nothing to eat in the last two days but a few tortillas with salt.

A few dozen armed federal police and soldiers had escorted the 300 Indians to safety on Monday, but the protection came too late for some.

After months of ignoring warnings from the Roman Catholic Church, human rights groups and others, federal authorities have moved to help — but only after dozens of gunmen killed 45 people in the town of Acteal last week.

All in all, about 5,000 people have fled their villages since Saturday, following months of terror by armed gangs affiliated with Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Mireille Roccati, president of the National Human Rights Commission, said 3,500 refugees had come to the town of Polho alone, 37 miles north of San Cristobal, the state's second biggest city. Hundreds more sought refuge in nearby villages.

Survivors of the Dec. 22 attack in Acteal have blamed PRI-affiliated gunmen.

The gunmen, dressed in black uniforms, gunned down people in a five-hour killing spree — mostly women and children — in the village that sympathized with the Zapatista National Liberation Army rebels.

It was the state's biggest number of deaths since the Zapatistas took up arms Jan. 1, 1994, to demand better treatment and living conditions for the dirt-poor Chiapas Indians, who are a majority in the state.

More than 145 people were killed in fighting between the Zapatistas and the army until a truce was called 12 days later. An uneasy truce has since been in effect, punctuated by a few sessions of uneventful peace talks.

Last week's massacre sparked widespread outrage in Mexico. Church, civic and opposition political leaders are demanding the government take over the Chiapas state government and call new elections.

Leaders of National Action and Democratic Revolution — the two biggest opposition parties — are also demanding the resignation of Interior Secretary Emilio Chuayffet, who is in charge of domestic security.

In Mexico City, in the Chiapas capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez and half a dozen other state capitals, sporadic demonstrations have been held to protest the killings.

Meanwhile, PRI leaders tried to distance the party from the scandal. They have been insisting the PRI does not approve of the killings, even though some gunmen said they belonged to the party.

## Foot fracas has Austin couple up in arms

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin man who dangles a fake foot from the back door of his van as a joke has filed a complaint against a gun-wielding police officer who put him in handcuffs, believing the foot was real.

Austin construction engineer Jim Rankin, 44, filed the complaint against University of Texas police Sgt. Chris Myers.

UT police have declined comment while they look into the matter.

"An internal investigation will be conducted regarding your contact with Sgt. Myers on Dec. 16, 1997, and the allegations described in your letter to (UT Police) Chief (Donald) Cannon," UT Police Lt. Robert L. Ewan said in a letter to Rankin.

Rankin was sitting in rush-hour traffic early in the morning of Dec. 16 on Interstate 35 in a red '97 Dodge Caravan when he said a man carrying a UT police badge approached him with his gun drawn and told him to get out of the vehicle.

"He jumped out of a ... completely unmarked car," Rankin said. "Then suddenly there's a guy with a pistol right at my face yelling, 'Get out! Get out!'"

Rankin said the man told him to get up against his van, then put handcuffs on him. Rankin said it then dawned on him that the plastic foot might be the problem.

"I said, 'That foot's fake. It's plastic,' and he said, 'We don't know that yet,'" Rankin said.

## Protesters warn Walt Disney Co. of future 'presence' at theme park

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Criticizing the gay-friendly policies of the Walt Disney Co., about 75 protesters said they may try to establish a "presence" at Disney World.

The protests Monday morning led to traffic jams as protesters passed out leaflets and carried signs that read "Choose Jesus over Mickey."

Three people were arrested, including a leader of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, the Rev. Flip Benham. They were charged with obstructing public streets.

After that, the officer touched the gag foot, Rankin said.

"He says, 'That's a sick, sick joke. That's disgusting,'" Rankin said.

Rankin said he then was led, still handcuffed, across a parking lot into a nearby delicatessen.

"All the officer said to us was, 'Would you dial 911?'" said Rankin. "We did that. Then he proceeded to lead the gentleman back outside. It was morning rush hour. He had him stand by his car in handcuffs. It was very embarrassing. Cars were driving by."

In defending his actions, Myers told the Austin American-Statesman, "I'm very cautious about that because it's not unusual to find body parts in a vehicle. He (Rankin) said it was a Halloween prank. He must love Halloween."

Rankin said he and his wife, Susan, have owned the foot since before Halloween of last year and frequently drive around town with it hanging out of the back of their car as a joke.

"Some people put wreaths on grilles, others put fake feet out the back," Rankin said.

The Rankins said they were surprised anyone would think the fake foot might lead to a real leg.

"I'm normally the one driving the van and the foot around," Mrs. Rankin said. "And the only one fooled before was a 3-year-old at preschool."

In May, leaders of the 15 million-member Southern Baptists voted to boycott Disney's "anti-Christian and anti-family direction."

Monday's protesters, mostly people attending a youth conference at a church in Palm Bay, listed many of the same reasons as the Baptists for their boycott: Disney's granting of health benefits to same-sex partners of employees, allowing "Gay Days" at its theme parks and having Ellen DeGeneres, the star of the ABC show *Ellen*, to come out as a homosexual. ABC is owned by Disney.

# READY... AIM... SHOOT...

## A Picture For The Pampa News

Want to take a photo for the newspaper, but you don't have a camera?  
Just borrow The Pampa News' Community Camera!  
It's Free. It's Easy.

**Community Camera Is Great For**

- Church Events
- School Activities
- Field Trips
- Civic Clubs
- Class Reunions
- Sports Teams
- Family Reunions
- And More!

To reserve the Community Camera, or for more information, call The Pampa News at 669-2525.