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Clinton accuses Gingrich of 'blackmail'

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is accusing Newt Gingrich of trying to "blackmail" him on the budget and says the Republican House speaker was wrong to back out of a deal to appoint a commission on lobbying reform.

"I mean, that frustrates me," Clinton said, recalling shaking hands with Gingrich in New Hampshire last June on a proposal to set up a bipartisan commission to study lobbying and political reform.

"We should have done it," Clinton said. The president elaborated on his differences with Republicans today as he met with Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee. He said GOP budget-cutting plans would "deny 300,000 elderly people the right to be in nursing homes" and "eliminate all the quality standards for nursing homes."

He said Republicans would raise taxes on

working families and allow corporations to "loot their pension funds." "This budget does all those things. Those are the choices."

In a session with about 50 newspaper reporters on Monday, Clinton said he had "basically a decent working relationship" with Gingrich, R-Ga., despite disagreements with him on policy.

The largest dispute, Clinton asserted, was over Gingrich's threat to hold up a vote on legislation increasing the nation's debt limit until Clinton endorses a GOP plan for balancing the budget in seven years.

"Blackmail is not the way to do it. And I'm not going to be blackmailed," Clinton said. "We are not going to have a unilaterally dictated budget."

Gingrich's position is both wrong and irresponsible, Clinton asserted.

The House speaker reiterated Sunday that he is not going to back down and would consider only very short-term extensions of borrowing authority until a budget is reached.

"The Republican Party in the House and Senate has a historic opportunity to keep faith with the American people and to insist on a balanced budget," Gingrich told the Michigan GOP's biennial leadership conference.

The government faces two upcoming deadlines that could result in a shutdown of services: the beginning of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1 and the expected running out of borrowing authority around Nov. 15.

None of the 13 spending bills needed to keep the government in operation has yet passed Congress, and Clinton has threatened to veto most of them.

While the White House and Congress are working on a stopgap measure to keep the government from shutting down on Oct. 1, Gingrich has threatened to block a vote on raising the debt ceiling in mid-November if Clinton doesn't endorse a seven-year plan to balance the budget.

"I'm not going to sign a budget that I know will put people out of nursing

homes or deprive people of the chance to go to college or children the chance to be in Head Start or compromise the environment," Clinton said.

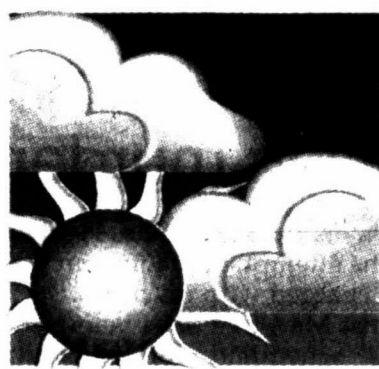
Clinton predicted a budget compromise. "There may be some vetoes first, but I think in the end, we'll reach accord."

Clinton also said he probably shouldn't have used the word "funk" to describe the national mood, since it had reverberations of the "malaise" speech made by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

"It was no doubt a poor choice of words," he said.

In an interview Friday aboard Air Force One, Clinton said people were troubled by economic dislocations and tumultuous times and that, "I'm trying to get people out of their funk."

Clinton said he'll stand by the point he was trying to make: "Last year, last November, plainly the country was in a kind of an anxious mood, a negative mood, a frustrated mood about the government."



Low tonight in mid 50s, high tomorrow near 90. See Page 2 for weather details.

PAMPA — A pair of teenage boys were returned to Memphis, Texas on Monday after a wrong way turn on a one way street caught the attention of a local policeman.

The boys, 15 and 16 years old, were driving a stolen 1987 Oldsmobile when Officer Kyle Battin stopped them traveling westbound at the intersection of Randy Matson Avenue and Charles at 8:03 a.m. Monday.

A 17-year-old in the car ran from officers and is still being sought, Battin said.

The young man is wanted on two outstanding warrants, burglary of a habitation and possession of marijuana from Hall County, Battin said.

He said no charges were filed in Gray County. The Oldsmobile is impounded in Pampa.

PAMPA — The Pampa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet in regular session Thursday at 5 p.m. in the city commission chamber at City Hall.

Items on the agenda to be considered include the disc golf course, the board's survey, youth swimming board and a change in meeting time.

The board will also hear reports from Parks Director Reed Kirkpatrick and Recreation Director Shane Stokes.

Meetings are open to the public.

PAMPA — Lamar Elementary will host an open house for parents and students Thursday at 7 p.m.

Parents will be given the opportunity to visit their student's classroom during the evening. Refreshments will be provided, and door prizes will be available.

The second and third grade classes will provide a music program for entertainment.

The open house was not scheduled on the school calendar parents received at the beginning of the year.

PAMPA — Coronado Shopping Center will hold its 6th Annual Car Show on Saturday.

Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the show will feature various cars on display, with trophies to be awarded. Dash plaques and T-shirts will be provided for all entrants.

In addition, Pokey the High Country Chevy Clown and friends, Panhandle Clowns, will be on hand for the children.

Another activity includes peddle truck pulls, with residents encouraged to get friends together to form teams to pull against each other.

Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels.

For more information, call (806) 665-2001 or 665-8612.

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P.J. Day storytime



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Hannah Smith, 3, reclines against her mother Karen as they both prepare for storytime at the Lovett Memorial Library this morning. Hannah and other children her age were dressed in pajamas for "P.J. Day." The library offers storytime every Tuesday from 10-10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5. For more information, call 669-5780.

Appraisal District board accepts budget

By CHIP CHANDLER
Staff Writer

Following suggestions from the taxing entities, the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors adopted this morning a \$498,958 budget in a format split among appraisal and collection costs.

The budget adopted was approximately \$6,000 less than proposed earlier this year by Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley, and almost \$31,000 less than last year's budget.

It does include a four percent increase in salaries from last year — \$283,872 from \$272,954 — on a suggestion by board member

Lewis Meers, but that salary increase is less than originally proposed by Bagley.

Meers said the changes he proposed in the budget would make an overall 5.8 percent decrease.

The board unanimously adopted the budget as amended with little discussion.

Two formats were originally presented to the board in June at the suggestion of Pampa Independent School District Business Manager Mark McVay.

The first format was consistent with budgets in the past, grouping appraisal and collection costs in one budget. The second separated them out with a difference of \$7,800.

The board also adopted a change in the district's contribution toward retirement, reducing that contribution by 1.42 percent.

The district had learned that its retirement system was overfunded. The change in contribution will save the district approximately \$4,000 per year, according to Bagley.

The option selected by the board will still allow for a 10-year vesting and a rule of 80 (person's age plus years of service must equal 80).

Also during the meeting, the board met in executive session for over one hour to discuss personnel matters.

PEDC board adopts its 1996 fiscal budget

By CHIP CHANDLER
Staff Writer

Pampa Economic Development Corporation board members adopted a \$179,497 budget during their regular meeting Monday afternoon, a budget almost \$6,500 less than originally proposed in August.

Accounting for the change: no salary increases for PEDC Executive Director Jack Ippel or Project Coordinator Carol Cofer.

August's budget proposal included a \$5,000 raise for Ippel and a \$1,630 raise for Cofer, but board president Victor Raymond wanted to leave payroll increases out of the year's budget.

Raymond told the board that since they normally review salaries at the anniversary date of hiring, making a budgeted increase would be premature.

He said that if necessary, the board could amend the budget to provide raises, but that there would likely be sufficient excess money in the budget.

PEDC ended the 1995 fiscal year with about \$37,000 left in that year's budget.

The budget was approved unanimously and was expected to be presented to the city commission today for its approval.

Raymond had requested that the budget committee review the proposal in August and strive

for a ceiling of between \$179,000 and \$180,000.

In other items, Ippel told the board that a special meeting might be required to discuss a labor survey of the area.

At the board's last meeting, Ippel described a survey that would show potential businesses the level of underemployment, salary and benefits in the area.

Underemployment, Ippel explained, occurs when a person is employed at a level under his or her education level; for example, when a person trained as a chemical engineer is pumping gas.

In other action and discussion, the board:

- Considered joining a Panhandle Regional Planning Committee revolving loan fund;
- Discussed a local company's request for aid in purchasing new equipment and a building;
- Declared a copy machine surplus property, allowing Ippel to advertise for its sale.

Cofer reported to the board that representatives from the Small Business Administration who had been in Pampa for two weeks helping local citizens and businesses fill out disaster loan applications had left town. They did leave Cofer with the information and supplies for people to continue filling out applications until Oct. 30, she added.

Teen saline abortion survivor to speak for pregnancy center

A teenage survivor of a saline abortion is set to speak at the Top O' Texas Crisis Pregnancy Center fund raising banquet.

Californian Gianna Jessen will speak and sing at the banquet planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, at M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the center, 118 E. Browning, or All Its Charm, 109 W. Francis, and The Gift Box, 117 W. Kingsmill. The dinner is to be catered by Kevin's.

Advanced tickets must purchased. Prime seating tables may be reserved for \$150 by calling the center at 669-2229 or 1-800-658-6999.

Jessen will perform Michael W. Smith's "Friends" during the evening.

Jessen, 14, was delivered as the result of a third trimester saline abortion undergone by her teenage mother. She weighed two pounds at birth and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

She was subsequently adopted by the daughter of her foster mother and was able to continue with her long-time family in San Clemente.

Jessen was active in Christian Youth Theater in San Diego, Calif., where she performed in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Pollyanna* and other musical productions. She



Gianna Jessen

won the part of Alice in Wonderland in the CYT musical tour group.

She has performed on a children's worship tape for Vineyard Music which was released in 1991. She is active in the pro-life ministry, where she sings and shares her personal testimony to help save unborn children.

Jessen is home schooled, and lives with her mother, Diana DePaul, an older sister and pets. DePaul is former chairman of Crusade for Life in North San Diego, Calif.

Governors divided over GOP plan to cut Medicaid strings

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Watch what you wish for — you may get it.

That adage could prove apt now for governors who soon may have the entire Medicaid program dumped in their laps.

For years, governors from both parties — including Bill Clinton in Arkansas — clamored for Congress to free them from Medicaid's straitjacket of mandates and red tape.

But the Republican block grants now moving through Congress would also be shorn of some of the dollars governors have counted on to provide medical care to society's neediest children and adults, aged residents of nursing homes, the disabled and severely retarded.

Many governors and state Medicaid directors contacted by The Associated Press had high hopes for the GOP plan to turn the program over to the states.

"It is heartening to see Congress come to conclusions we at home have known for a long time — that those who live in the states know what's best for their people," said Kansas Gov. Bill Graves, a Republican.

But Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson, a Democrat, said, "I'm extremely concerned that in their haste to balance the budget back there they'll bust the budget down here."

House Republicans say their blueprint for "MediGrants" would boost federal spending from \$89 billion this year to \$124 billion in 2002, even as they cut the growth rate in Medicaid spending from 10 percent a year to 4.9 percent.

But if Medicaid were left on its current trajectory, the states would get \$177 billion from Washington in 2002, the Clinton administration maintains.

So, what the GOP calls a 39 percent increase, the White House terms a 19 percent reduction.

The extra money would be needed in part to expand the Medicaid rolls from 36 million to 45 million people. Medicaid, which now covers poor

children born since Sept. 30, 1983, is supposed to cover all poor children up to age 18 by 2002.

Even some Republicans are unhappy with the formula the House Commerce Committee devised to divide its "MediGrants."

GOP governors from New York and New Jersey — which operate large, generous Medicaid programs — say they could not live with their allotted increases of just 2 percent starting in 1997.

At the same time, some lawmakers from Sun Belt states contend the formula would lock in inequities that favor the Northeast.

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, complained that Medicaid now spends just \$1,785 in federal money on each poor person in Texas. The GOP plan would raise that to \$2,834 in the year 2002, but that is still \$1,020 less than the \$3,854 that New York now gets from Medicaid for each of its poor.

Indiana worries that it may pay a price for being frugal after cutting nearly \$500 million from its Medicaid reimbursement rates over the past two years. Jim Verdier, the state's Medicaid director,

said the formula should not be based on 1994 spending, when some states let Medicaid go unchecked.

Verdier, who works for Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh, said Republican governors welcoming the slowdown in spending growth "don't really understand how contentious and difficult it is going to be."

But Will McCain, chief of staff to South Carolina Gov. David Beasley, a Republican, praised the House MediGrant plan.

"If they will leave the bill like it is now, we can do it," McCain said. "We can have a good program ... that better suits South Carolina without all the strings attached by the feds."

Medicaid's strings are notorious, with dozens of eligibility categories and coverage requirements.

Half the beneficiaries are children, but they cost only \$1,300 on average in 1993, compared with \$7,956 for the blind and disabled and \$8,536 for the elderly. Medicaid's steepest bills often come not from hospitals but from nursing homes and institutions that care for the severely retarded.

State briefs

George Strait fans tie up telephone lines

AMARILLO (AP) — George Strait fans seeking tickets to the country singer's Oct. 19 concert overloaded city phone lines for about two hours Monday.

Assistant city manager Alan Taylor said so many people called the Civic Center box office when the tickets went on sale at 9 a.m. that "it started to squeeze off our direct-dial numbers."

Callers trying to reach city offices — including the police department — heard a busy signal until about 11 a.m.

But Taylor said there were no glitches in the 911 system or the city's general number, where extra switchboard operators on duty Monday answered calls within 10 seconds. No emergency calls were lost, he said.

Taylor said the concert's 6,400 tickets sold out in five hours.

Plant makes international disaster aid shipment

LUBBOCK (AP) — Victims of Hurricane Marilyn will receive the first international disaster shipment from the Breedlove Dehydration Plant.

Officials with the South Plains Food Bank said their high-tech facility on Monday shipped 9,000 pounds of dehydrated potatoes and soup mix to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Those packages will yield 126,000 servings of potatoes and 105,000 servings of soup when mixed with water, officials said.

Breedlove turns leftover fruits and vegetables from farmers into dried meals that are easy to transport.

Child support payments

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General Dan Morales says parents who owe back child support are taking seriously the threat of having their driver, professional and recreational licenses suspended.

Morales said Monday more than \$1 million was collected by Sept. 22.

The license suspension law cracking down on deadbeat parents went into effect Sept. 1.



Standing in front on a 1995 Buick, unclaimed prize for the recent Hole-In-One choir fundraiser, are, from left, Sam White, Bob McGinnis, Guy Green, Bob Thrasher, Scott White, Dan Schneck, Travis Johnston, Herb Harvey, Bill Hammer and Tim Thomas.

Pampa High School Choir Boosters name winners of annual Hole-In-One fundraiser

Ten men were named winners in the recent Hole-In-One fundraiser sponsored by the Pampa High School Choir Boosters.

But none made the requisite hole-in-one needed to claim the top prize, a 1995 Buick Park Avenue, courtesy of Culberson-Stowers Inc.

The winners of the Hole-In-One preliminary round held Sept. 8-9 at Hidden Hills Municipal Golf Course, in order,

were Guy Green, Sam White, Bob Thrasher, Bob McGinnis, Herb Harvey, Bill Hammer, Dan Schneck, Tim Thomas, Travis Johnston and Scott White.

McGinnis was closest to the pin in the final round at Hole No. 12.

PHS Choir Boosters thank the many entrants and sponsors for their contributions in making this year's annual Hole-In-One fundraiser activity a success.

Sponsors included Culberson-

Stowers Inc., Four R Industrial Supply, Uniglobe Travel Inc., David's Golf Shop, National Bank of Commerce, Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors, Mr. Gatti's of Pampa and Rheams Diamond Shop.

Also sponsoring the event were Pampa Sign Co., Wayne's Western Wear, Mickey Piersall's Golf Shop, Boatmen's First Bank, FirstBank Southwest, T Shirts & More, and Topographic Land Surveyors.

WT sets GRE review

CANYON — The West Texas A&M University Office of Continuing Education will offer a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) review course from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Saturday.

Cost of the course is \$40; pre-registration is required. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday.

For more information or to register for the course, call (806) 656-2037.

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Economists see no more interest rate cuts by Fed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve's solitary cut in interest rates may be all the relief borrowers are going to get, many economists are starting to believe.

These analysts point to a rebound in home and auto sales, a drop in unemployment and signs of life in the country's beleaguered manufacturing sector as evidence that the long economic expansion has regained its footing and is not in need of further interest rate reductions.

"The Fed is patting itself on the back rather solidly right now," said David Wyss, economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. in Lexington, Mass. "The economy is doing better than expected and that means they don't have to cut rates."

Members of the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee, composed of Fed board members and regional bank presidents, were meeting today behind closed doors to decide whether to make any changes in interest rates.

There was an almost universal belief among analysts that the central bank would not cut rates at this week's meeting.

That view was strengthened by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's comments last Friday before the Senate Banking Committee, in

which he presented a very upbeat assessment of the economy's prospects, forecasting that growth was strengthening while inflationary pressures were declining.

While there was near universal agreement that no rate reduction was in store this week, analysts were split on what might happen at the Fed's last two meetings of the year, on Nov. 15 and Dec. 19.

Some economists said more rate reductions were possible, especially if growth in coming weeks falls short of expectations. Further rate cuts now would mean a stronger economy in 1996, something that would be appreciated by a president running for re-election next year. Analysts noted that President Clinton must decide by next March whether to reappoint Greenspan as Fed chairman.

"Economically and politically, it makes sense for the Fed to get some more easing done in 1995," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Norwest Corp. in Minneapolis.

But other analysts disagree, saying economic circumstances have changed dramatically since the central bank reduced the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter percentage point on July 6.

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Uncle Says Gift That Goes Unthanked Will Go Ungiven

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are having a disagreement about whether or not we should continue to send birthday gifts to our nephew. He is 8 years old, and we have been sending him gifts since his birth, but we have never received an acknowledgment for any of them.

My husband recently informed me that if we don't receive an acknowledgment this year, it will be the last birthday gift we send him.

I think it's unfair to punish the child for something his parents failed to teach him. My husband, on the other hand, feels that if we don't send the boy a gift, he will ask his parents why we didn't send one, and they will figure it out.

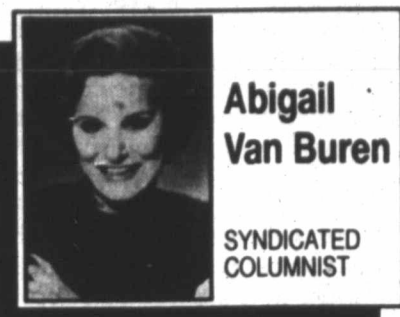
We have agreed to abide by your advice.

TO BESTOW OR NOT TO BESTOW

DEAR BESTOW: I agree with you. It's unfair to punish an 8-year-old child for something his parents failed to teach him as a common courtesy.

It's far better to tell his parents that they should teach their son that every gift deserves a prompt "thank you" from the child — even if it is printed in a childish scrawl.

DEAR ABBY: I am a loyal read-



Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

er of your column, and thought you might enjoy this clipping I copied from the one taped to my mother's refrigerator. It has been there forever, and I don't know where it came from (a magazine, I think).

Although I hate to admit it, it sounds just like my sister and me when we were in our obnoxious teens. Now that we're 24 and 21, I see where our parents were coming from when they grounded us for weeks at a time!

Hope you think it's worth sharing with your readers.

AMY JOHNSON, PHOENIX

DEAR ABBY: I'm sure many readers will identify with it. Read on:

MY MOST UN-FAVORITE LINES FROM MY KIDS ...

"Not now. I'll do it later."
"How come I always have to do everything?"
"You just don't understand!"

"You don't trust me."
"Well, Dad said I could."
"I did turn the volume down."
"Everybody is doing it."
"I did clean it."
"But, Mom—"
"I call this 'smartmouth.' My husband calls it 'talking back.' And my daughter calls it 'communication.'"
"What do you call it?"
SOMEBODY'S MOM!
Amy, I call it typical talk from a typical teen-ager.

DEAR ABBY: "Roy" and I are planning our wedding. It will be the second for both of us; we are both divorced. We both have grown children from our previous marriages.

My problem is that Roy wants me to wear a white wedding gown, and I say that since I'm not a virgin I will look ridiculous. Am I wrong, Abby? Roy has agreed to abide by what you say.

Please don't use my name or the name of my town because the population is less than 10,000, and you know how people in small towns talk.

BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR BRIDE: The second-time bride usually forgoes wearing all white. You could wear a long or short dress in a very pale color — off-white or white with color in the trim or your accessories. An afternoon dress, long or short, or a traveling suit is also appropriate.

yield to doubts in any form.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In order to achieve objectives today, you must go all out. Do not use half measures when full force is required. Be the pusher, not the one dragging your feet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Special knowledge you possess has greater value than you realize. This might become evident to you today if you market what you have to offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might reap some unique benefits today from an arrangement in which your primary goal is to help another further his or her expectations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) People will respond to your ideas and suggestions more readily today if your presentation is sprinkled with humor. Use smilesmanip when selling or promoting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This can be a very rewarding day for you if you're prepared to earn what you want. Your gratification will be proportionate to the effort you expend.

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Calvin & Hobbes



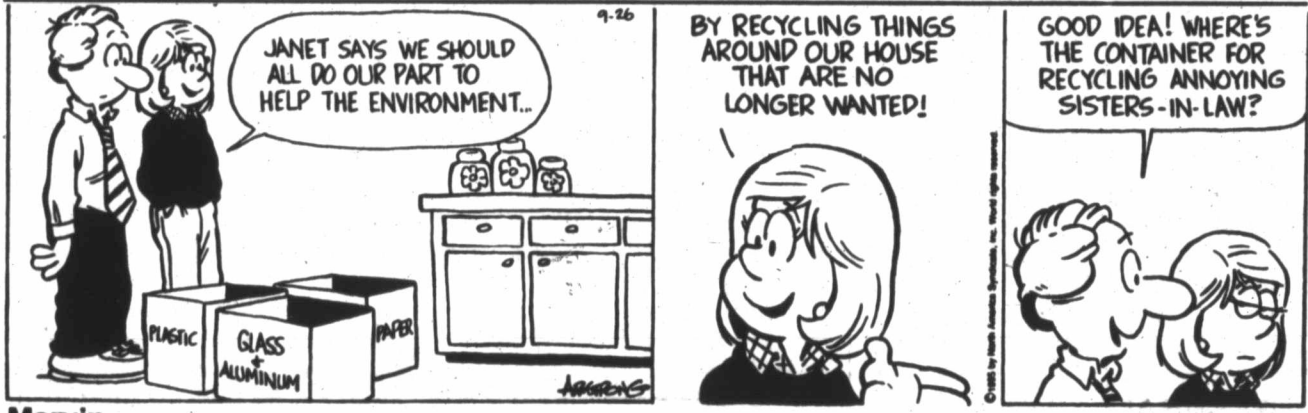
Arlo & Janis



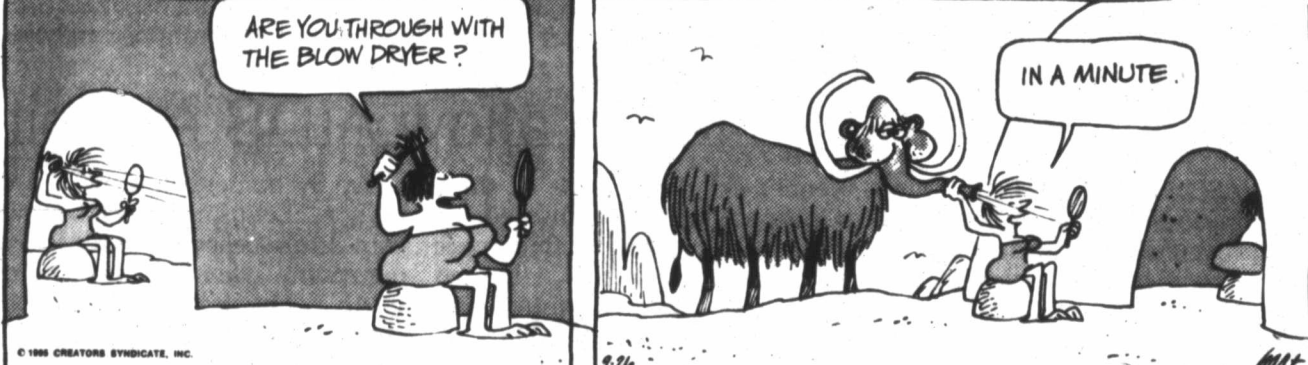
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank & Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1995

You could begin to receive the type of lucky breaks in the year ahead that seemed to go to others rather than to you in the past.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) This is a good day to wine and dine someone you owe socially. When you reciprocate, make it a memorable experience. Libra, 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 10150. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) An important matter that has been difficult to con-

clude can be successfully wrapped up today if you keep your eye on your objective. Stay focused.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your skills as a salesperson could be very impressive today. However, be certain you're promoting would benefit everyone concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today you might have more opportunities than usual to strengthen your material position. Do not treat this day with indifference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Endeavors or enterprises you conceive or personally direct have solid chances for success today. You mustn't hesitate to tool your own horn.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Be alert for an arrangement today where you could earn a commission or derive special benefits from helping others wire a deal together.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are now in a brief cycle in which several things you've been hoping for have extraordinary chances of becoming realities. Don't



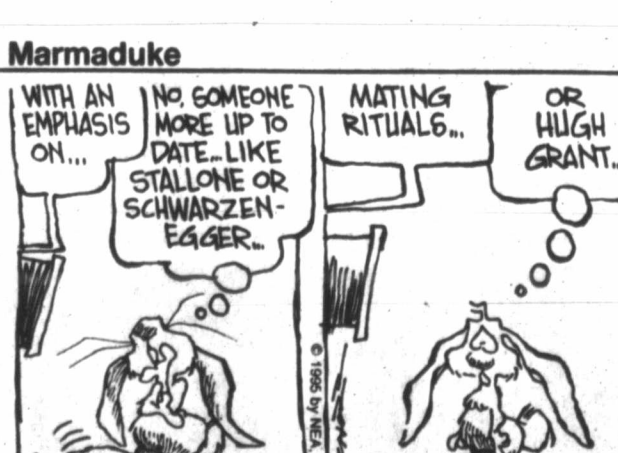
The Family Circus



Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Peanuts



Peanuts



Mallard Filmore

Quints: Father sexually abused them

TORONTO (AP) — The once-enchanting saga of the Dionne quintuplets already had been tarnished by exploitation. Now the three surviving sisters, world-famous as toddlers in the 1930s, say they were sexually abused by their father.

The usually reclusive sisters — Annette, Cecile and Yvonne, now 61 — made the allegation publicly for the first time during a rare interview over the weekend on Radio-Canada's French-language television channel.

"We've come to a point where we had to liberate ourselves from the past and turn the page," Annette Dionne said Saturday when asked why she waited so long to break the silence.

The sisters became international celebrities after their birth — two months prematurely — in the northern Ontario hamlet of Corbeil on May 28, 1934.

Weighing less than two pounds each, they were the first known surviving quintuplets.

Their seemingly miraculous survival, and their family's impoverished background, inspired three Hollywood movies and made them the sensation of Depression-era Canada.

The identical quintuplets were taken away from their parents and made wards of the Ontario government, which put them on display for as many as 6,000 people a day who came to watch them play behind a one-way screen.

Their father, Oliva, fought a nine-year battle to regain custody of his daughters. They were

returned to their parents in 1943, and the abuse began soon after, the sisters said.

Annette said their father, who died in 1979, would take the girls out one at a time in the family car and sexually assault them.

As a teenager, Annette said she tried to discuss the abuse with a Roman Catholic priest at their private school. The advice she received was "to continue to love our parents and to wear a thick coat when we went for car rides," she said.

The sisters said the abuse continued for several years.

They never told their mother about the assaults "so as not to aggravate the situation," said Cecile Dionne.

Oliva Dionne and his wife, Elzire, already had five children — three boys and two girls — when the quintuplets were born.

One of those siblings, Therese Callahan, on Monday challenged her sisters' claims about sexual abuse.

"We assert that we had good parents, and that to our knowledge our father was certainly not a sexual abuser," Mrs. Callahan told the *North Bay Nugget*, an Ontario daily. She said she was speaking on behalf of the other older children in the family.

However, Pierre Berton, who wrote a book about the quintuplets, said he had been told years ago by the husband of one of the quintuplets about the sexual abuse. Berton said the sisters wouldn't talk about it.

Females implicated in genocide butchering in Rwanda savagery

By PATRICK McDOWELL
Associated Press Writer

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Amid the 10,000 inmates packed into the hellhole of Kigali's sweltering central prison are 342 women who pass their days washing clothes and nursing babies. Like the men, each awaits judgment for genocide.

The women represent a largely overlooked aspect of Rwanda's plunge into savagery last year: female participation in butchering at least 500,000 people over three months.

Women were implicated at almost every level, according to Rwandan officials and a report by the London-based group Africa Rights — from Cabinet ministers and regional administrators to professionals, teachers, nurses and housewives. Even nuns.

The officials say the role of women as killers and "cheerleaders" for murder was unprecedented in any other genocide this century.

"The difference between our genocide and the German one was that theirs was carried out by the government against the people," said former Justice Minister Alphonse-Marie Nkubito. "Here, it was the government that mobilized the people to kill each other."

Instigated by extremists in the former Hutu-dominated regime, the slaughter of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus was carried out by soldiers, police, militias and ordinary people swept along by hatred, fear and opportunism.

Some women were actively involved, killing with machetes and guns, said Rakiya Omaar, an Africa Rights investigator. Others acted in support roles — allowing murder squads access to hospitals and homes, cheering on male killers, stripping the dead and looting their houses.

Africa Rights has provided accounts by witnesses and survivors who point accusing fingers at women — especially the educated Hutu elite. For the latter, the motive was often to secure a coveted job or property, Omaar said.

"I think one can safely say that educated women who took a leadership role did so voluntarily," Omaar said in an interview. "They bear a greater responsibility than the peasantry. They were role models."

Among the prominent Hutu women who stand accused:

— Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, the former minister for Family and Women's Affairs, is alleged to have taken part in nightly massacres in the company of her grown sons. She fled Rwanda in July 1994 and cares for unaccompanied children at a refugee camp in Zaire.

— Valerie Bemeriki, a radio broadcaster, called upon Hutus to "fill up" Tutsi graves and urged listeners to phone in the locations of Tutsi hideouts.

— Nuns Gertrude Mukanganu and Justine Kizito, now sheltered by the Benedictine order in Belgium, called Tutsis who

sought refuge "dirty" and allegedly supplied gasoline to burn some alive, including the immediate families of Tutsi nuns.

No accurate numbers tell how many women took part in the slaughter.

One gauge may be Kigali prison. Of 10,000 inmates, all are men and boys except for the 342 women and their 116 children too young to be sent away.

Africa Rights says women's traditional image as peace-loving nurturers has helped female killers escape the scrutiny of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front, which won last year's civil war and now runs the country.

Like everyone in the prison, the women have been accused of genocide but none has had a formal court hearing due to the shambles that mass murder and war left of Rwanda's justice system.

The women spend their days bare-breasted in suffocating heat. They share open latrines, change the diapers of wailing babies weak with diarrhea and prepare meals of beans and crackers.

All say they are falsely accused.

"There were massacres by the RPF in our neighborhood," said Christine Niyigena, 30. "Three people were killed." She meant Hutus.

And before that? Did the Hutu militias kill anyone? The reporter meant Tutsis.

"Yes."

"How many?"

"I don't know. Should I count?"

Russian TV cancels Solzhenitsyn's talk show

MOSCOW (AP) — He's dour. He's dull. And now he's off the air.

Russian Public Television canceled writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn's talk show, a 15-minute Monday night monologue scathingly critical of post-Soviet Russia and the people who run it.

The Nobel laureate's wife, Natalia, said Monday the cancellation reeked of Soviet times, when Solzhenitsyn was persecuted and imprisoned as a dissident,

then forced into exile.

She said a message left on Solzhenitsyn's answering machine told Russia's most revered living writer that the network was pulling the plug. "He wasn't even allowed to say goodbye to his audience," she said.

She linked the cancellation to the "beginning of a fierce election campaign" for Dec. 17 parliamentary elections. "RPT is getting rid of broad-

casts criticizing the government.

Naturally, the first to go, as happened 30 years ago, was Solzhenitsyn," she said.

In fact, it was the second political program taken off the air in a matter of days.

On Friday, the network took the public affairs program *Versions* off the air because its host had what a network spokesman called "an unsuitable approach to the Russian political landscape."

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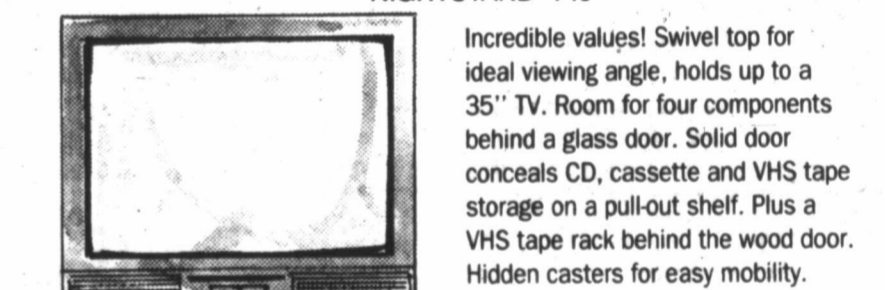
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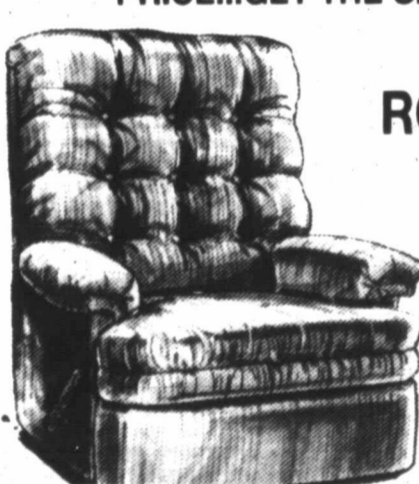


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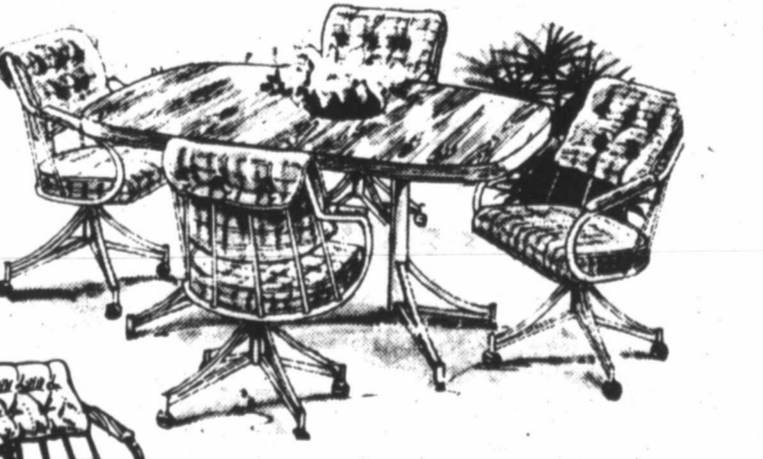
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