

**T**exans think Texaco's \$10 billion bond is unfair and will ultimately cost consumers, according to poll.

BUSINESS — 1C

**A** balanced diet should contain all the fiber an individual needs, according to columnist Marian Farr.

CONSUMER — 6D

**S**tate Board of Education member Katherine Raines was in Midland Wednesday to discuss education reform.

LOCAL — 1D

**R**ay Charles talks about his life and his music before his Feb. 8 performance with the Midland-Odesa Symphony.

— SPOTLIGHT



# Midland Reporter-Telegram

Daily 25c, Sunday 75c

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986

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## NASA expands search for clues into explosion

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A Navy ship steamed into port with 1,000 more pounds of wreckage from shuttle Challenger today as NASA expanded the search for clues into the explosion of the ill-fated space ship and its crew of five men and two women.

The debris included the first electronic pieces recovered from the sea.

At the Kennedy Space Center, on the road to Challenger's launch pad, someone planted seven American flags to honor the dead astronauts.

Among those killed were Christa McAuliffe, a 37-year-old Concord, N.H., teacher selected as NASA's first common citizen to take a space trip. Her crewmates were commander Francis R. Scobee, 46; pilot Michael J. Smith, 40; Judith A. Resnik, 36; Ronald E. McNair, 35; Ellison S.

■ Reagan sends message to Christa McAuliffe's high school, related stories — Pages 2A, 2E

Onizuka, 39 and Gregory B. Jarvis, 41.

The deaths were the first in flight after 55 successful U.S. astronaut flights in 25 years, including 24 previous shuttle missions.

President Reagan telephoned relatives of the crew members Wednesday to offer condolences and he and his wife, Nancy, will attend a memorial service for the astronauts Friday at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the space flight training base.

One of those who received a call was Dr. Marvin Resnik, the father of Ms. Resnik.

He said Wednesday he is still haunted by the screams around him at the Kennedy Space Center as the shuttle burst into flames.

"I can still hear their screams. It was awful," he said in an interview at his home in Akron, Ohio. "The Smith kids (the children of the shuttle's pilot) were screaming, 'Daddy, Daddy, we want our dad — you said you would not leave us...'"

The search continued as the space agency impounded tapes that recorded performance of the shuttle's systems every one one-thousandth of a second. Officials said they might be the most crucial piece of evidence in the investigation.

Please see SHUTTLE, Page 2A



Sheriff's Office and Police Department officers raided an east Midland house Wednesday and arrested seven men, two of whom are pictured above, on drug-related charges. Left, officers search the yard for possible hiding places.

## Mexico and Venezuela discuss effect of oil glut

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — The presidents of Mexico and Venezuela, Latin America's two largest oil producers, meet in this Caribbean resort today to discuss the crippling effect of the world oil glut on their heavily indebted economies.

The welfare of both countries is closely linked to the price of oil, which has fallen to below \$20 a barrel on some markets recently. The two countries' treasury ministers say a sustained drop below that price could devastate their countries.

Mexico and Venezuela are among the Third World's largest debtors. Mexico has a foreign debt of \$96.4 billion and Venezuela owes foreign creditors \$35 billion, both mostly to American banks.

Venezuela depends on oil for 90 percent of its export earnings and

petroleum makes up 70 percent of Mexico's foreign earnings. Both nations' ability to repay their foreign debts has been threatened by the drop in oil prices.

"We are going through an emergency, a very real one which, if not acted upon with speed and wisdom, could make the summer of 1982 (when oil prices first started dropping) look like a relatively calm and quiet period," Mexico's oil minister Jesus Silva Herzog, was quoted in media reports as saying in London, where he is attending a conference on the international debt issue.

Venezuela's energy minister, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, said in Caracas that the oil market should not have any illusions that all the problems of the market are going to be

solved" by the meeting between Presidents Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico and Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela.

However, Venezuela was expected to pressure Mexico to change its pricing tactics.

Hernandez Grisanti currently is president of OPEC. He is a leading proponent of cutting exports worldwide to maintain prices, but Mexico, through its state oil monopoly PEMEX, has been trying to defend its export level at 1.5 million barrels daily even if it has to sacrifice some revenue.

Mexico is an independent producer which until last year refused to follow OPEC guidelines.

Please see OIL, Page 2A

## Seven men arrested in drug raid; Small amount of marijuana found

By MARK LEWIS  
Staff Writer

A raid on a ramshackle house at 1402 Garden Lane Wednesday netted seven arrests but less than a pound of confiscated marijuana, according to Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Newsom.

"We sure felt like there was a lot more there than what we found," Newsom said this morning.

Investigators had been observing

the rambling, one-story house Wednesday afternoon. After marijuana was found in several cars stopped after leaving the house, officers obtained a search warrant and moved in about 8 p.m.

Needles, cookers and other drug paraphernalia were found in and around the house, and lab tests may reveal traces of heroin, Newsom said. But the hoped-for haul of marijuana eluded the investigators, possi-

bly because most of it already had been sold.

Of the seven Midland men arrested, three were to be charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, two with possession of marijuana, one with felony possession of marijuana, and one with unauthorized carrying of a weapon. Their ages ranged from 19 to 38.

Please see RAID, Page 2A

## Price of coffee soaring

By RON GILMORE  
Staff Writer

Midland coffee consumers like others across the nation have been startled recently when shopping for their "mountain grown."

They've found the prices have gone mountain high.

"It's damn high," said Britt Priddy, owner of Mr. D's Grocery, 2603 N. Midland Drive. "It's all due to the conditions in Colombia. We got a letter from the Inde-

pendent Grocers' Association that said based on current coffee conditions, an increase is probable and prices may vary."

The letter referred to an onslaught of freezing weather and drought in late 1984 that left major coffee-producing areas in South America with severe crop damage.

Priddy, like other grocers in town, was forced to raise the price two weeks ago when supplies of lower-priced java ran low.

"Ours went from \$3.49 per pound to \$4.19 per pound," he said.

His prices reflect what generally has happened in other Midland stores.

Charlie Stephens, manager of Albertsons, 1002 Andrews Highway, said, "The wholesale price for a 24-pound case of coffee has gone from around \$70 to \$100."

Please see COFFEE, Page 2A

## Modern medicine hasn't calmed people's fears of quarantines

By STEVE LEVINE  
Reporter-Telegram Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Like the Black Death — where it originated as a public health measure — the word "quarantine" scares most folks.

It conjures up visions of homes boarded up and guarded, of yellow "Keep Out" notices, of a time when medicine could do nothing about some very deadly diseases but try to stop their spread to other people.

The quarantine practice began during the epidemic of bubonic plague — the Black Death — that swept through Europe and parts of Asia in the 14th century. Officials in merchant cities such as Venice quarantined travelers for 40 *quaranta* (Italian) days to prevent them from bringing the deadly disease into the city.

Modern medical practice, particularly germ-killing antibiotics, have all but eliminated the practice for plague and most other illnesses.

"What we do is very different from what public health officials did 100 years ago," says Christy Reed, a staff epidemiologist at the Texas Department of Health.

Texas physicians have reported no more than one case of plague per year since 1920. Antibiotics such as tetracycline and streptomycin allow cures today of a disease that once destroyed entire cities. The Health Department reports two cases of

Please see AIDS, Page 2A



## Freeing passenger

Rescue workers struggle this morning to free a woman trapped in a Chevrolet station wagon on Interstate 20 several miles east of town. A witness saw the woman's car traveling east in the median about 8:30 a.m. It then cut across the east-bound lanes and wrapped itself around a utility pole, he said. Two passengers were able to leave the car, but firefighters were using the Jaws of Life to extricate the driver, whose identity had not been established by press time.

Cody Bell, Reporter-Telegram

Today's Index			
■ PEOPLE: Prince Charles and Princess Diana are planning a ski vacation to the Swiss Alps	Page 5D	Weather	
■ NATION: Sailor being tried in the murder of the lieutenant who blocked his promotion	Page 5A	Tonight clear with low near 40. Details and colored weather map on Page 8A.	
Business	1C	Local	1D
Classified	3E	Markets	3C
Comics	4D	Obituaries	2D
Consumer	6D	Opinion	6A
Crossword	5D	Sports	1B
Horoscope	4D	TV Schedule	5D
Service			
Delivery	682-5311		
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**WORLD**

Opposition Philippine presidential candidate Corazon "Cory" Aquino is held back from an enthusiastic crowd Wednesday.

AP Laserphoto



**Marcos appoints last election commissioners**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Saying he was responding to "some of my friends in the U.S. Embassy," President Ferdinand E. Marcos appointed the last members of the national election commission today, eight days before the Feb. 7 special presidential election.

U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth said Monday that filling the nine-member commission's two vacancies with qualified individuals would be a "significant confidence-building step, but time is drawing short."

Critics have charged the commission, mostly composed of friends of Marcos, would help rig ballot counting in order to keep the 68-year-old Marcos in office. Marcos has been in power 20 years.

Marcos said today during a speech to the Manila Rotary Club that the "idea of losing has never entered my mind." He added, however, that he would turn over power peacefully to opposition candidate Corazon Aquino if she wins the election.

Meanwhile, a military announcement reported that unknown gunmen shot to death two local leaders of Marcos, raising to 16 the number of people killed in pre-election violence in the Philippines.

The announcement of two leaders'

deaths said armed men believed to be communist guerrillas gunned down Mayor Lorenzo Padua of Goa today as the official, riding in a motorcycle, was conducting a house-to-house campaign in Camarines Sur province, 188 miles southeast of Manila.

The Philippine News Agency and the military announcement reported the death of village headman Pedro Liabore. The news agency said he was killed in Camalig, 40 miles south of Goa by unidentified men on Wednesday while he was on his way to a market.

Military authorities said they were investigating the incidents to see if they were connected with the election campaign.

Padua, a former World War II guerrilla, was known as an anti-Communist fighter.

The Philippines News Agency quoted Camarines Sur Gov. Felix Fuentebella as saying Padua's slaying was "the act of cowards (with) dark political motives."

The new election commissioners were identified by Marcos as Jaime J. Layosa and Ruben E. Agpala, giving no details except that the appointment of Layosa was recommended by the private poll watchdog body Namfrel.

**Independent union workers protest salary limits in Mexico City**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thousands of workers, most of them from independent unions, marched to the main city square on Wednesday to protest high

prices, limits on salaries and the foreign debt.

Carrying banners and signs that read "No to the payment of the foreign debt" and "For de-

mocracy and higher salaries," the workers marched from the Monument to the Revolution a little over a mile to the Zocalo, in front of the National Palace, where

they held a two-hour meeting.

They also demanded respect for labor contracts, democracy in unions and changes in the country's economic policy to the poor.

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**'Stupid' ban on political T-shirts, posters lifted**

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government today revoked a day-old police order that would have barred bumper stickers, posters and T-shirts emblazoned with political slogans in Cape Town as Parliament opened there.

The Wednesday order from Brig. Chris Swart, police commander in Cape Town, would have banned all visual means of political expression in six Cape Town districts for two weeks under state-of-emergency powers, beginning today.

The order was ridiculed by white opponents of the white-led government, with one calling it "stupid." A liberal newspaper, The Cape Times, said the measure was "reminiscent of a banana republic."

Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange, responsible for police matters, said after meeting with Swart today that the ban had been rescinded, but said police would not hesitate to act if demonstrations or protests threaten public order in the next two weeks during ceremonies for the opening of Parliament, scheduled to begin Friday.

Le Grange said the original intent of the ban had been to prevent public gatherings that would threaten order. He did not explain why the order had included bumper stickers, T-shirts and other means of individual political expression.

Initial reports had indicated that the ban would encompass a larger area than just the Cape Town vicinity.

South Africans opposed to apartheid, the system of racial separation that disenfranchises the 24-million member black majority and guarantees privileges for the country's 5 million whites, often wear shirts bearing slogans like "The People Shall Govern."

Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the opposition Progressive Federal Party in the white chamber of Parliament, was among the critics of the ban.

Slabbert and others noted it came just before President P.W. Botha's opening address to Parliament on Friday, and said, "I always try to comfort myself that this government cannot come up with anything more stupid than they have just done. But they always manage to disappoint me."

The ban was issued under new powers granted police to cope with widespread anti-apartheid unrest, and prosecution could have resulted in penalties of up to 10 years in prison and the equivalent of \$8,000 in fines.

Several members of the Progressive Party had said they planned to arrive at Parliament in defiance of the order with bumper stickers on their cars declaring, "Apartheid is the Emergency."

In other developments, police headquarters said a black man wounded in Wednesday clashes between police and blacks in Munsieville, a township outside Krugersdorp west of Johannesburg, died in a hospital this morning.

Several people have been killed in recent rioting in Krugersdorp townships, where residents have mounted a boycott of municipal buses over a range of grievances. Witnesses have accused police of stopping blacks on foot and in taxis and trying to force them onto buses to break the boycott.



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**WORLD IN BRIEF**

**Convicts can't be bought**

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Prime Minister David Lange today said it was unlikely France would pay compensation for the bombing of a Greenpeace protest ship unless New Zealand frees two French agents who pleaded guilty in the attack.

Lange, however, said he would refuse to do that.

"France very simply wants to buy back two criminals. Therefore we are not negotiating on the same point," Lange said on national radio.

He said his Labor government now believes the chances of obtaining reparations for the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland on July 10 are "not good" because France refuses to negotiate compensation while its agents remain in custody.

France has admitted its intelligence operatives were responsible

for planting bombs aboard the ship, which was to lead a flotilla to protest French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. A Greenpeace photographer was killed in the explosion.

The New Zealand leader repeated that the two jailed French nationals, Maj. Alain Mafart and Capt. Dominique Prieur, would not be released early or deported while his government was in office.

**Libyan tip-offs end**

ROME (AP) — Italian and West German officials say information from Libyan intelligence agents enabled them to foil some planned terrorist attacks, but an Italian source said such tip-offs have ended in the past few years.

The statements by German and Italian officials came in interviews in Bonn and Rome in which they

discussed European reluctance to join in the sweeping U.S. economic sanctions against Libya. They spoke on condition of anonymity and would not provide details of the cases.

One West German official said previous Libyan anti-terrorist assistance to the Europeans is an example of the "complexity" of a situation he said "the American public may not understand."

The United States has declared the Libyan government of Col. Moammar Khadafy to be responsible for the Dec. 27 terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports. Twenty people were killed, including five Americans and four of the terrorists, and about 120 people wounded.

The killers have been linked to Abu Nidal's Palestinian terrorists, a group the Reagan administration says is primarily supported by Libya. Fraudulent Tunisian passports used by the Vienna terrorists have been

traced back to Libya.

**Diplomat vanishes**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A Romanian diplomat visiting Greece with a trade delegation disappeared in Athens, a spokesman for the Greek government said.

Miliades Papaioannou, the government spokesman, said Wednesday that police had begun a manhunt for the diplomat, one of a four-member

mission. He did not identify the man.

"The Romanian diplomat has been missing since Friday and the Ministry of Public Order is conducting a search for him," Papaioannou said.

**Walesa will negotiate**

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa were quoted by a West German magazine as saying he stands by the state-

ments for which the Polish government is putting him on trial, but that he also is seeking reconciliation the authorities.

Bunte, a magazine published in Munich, on Wednesday quoted Walesa and a close associate, the Rev. Henryk Jankowski, as saying Poland's problems could be solved only by cooperation among the people, the government and the Communist Party.

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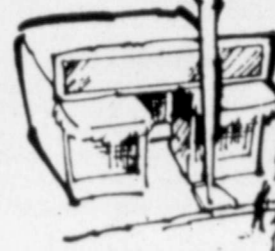


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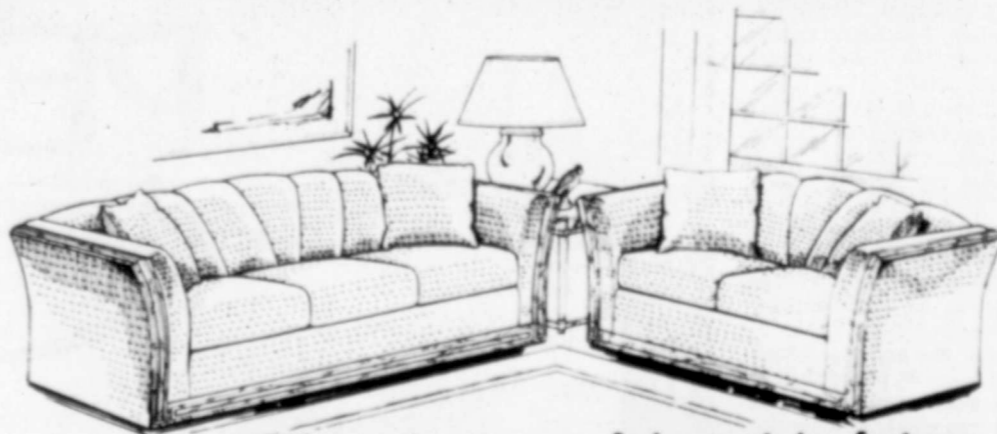
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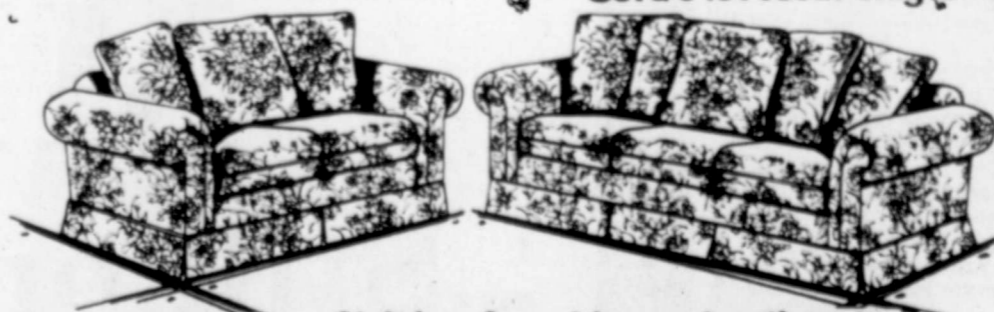
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# Navy murder trial carries threat of death penalty for Garraway

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Mitchell Garraway Jr. liked the Navy so much that he left home to enlist when he was 17 without his mother's permission.

Now, 3½ years later, his mother watches and takes notes as a panel of his peers weighs testimony in his trial on a charge of killing a lieutenant who blocked his promotion.

If convicted of first-degree murder and given the maximum sentence, Garraway, now 21, could be the first sailor put to death in 137 years.

"He always loved the Navy," his mother, Mattie Umrani, said during a break in the trial. "He wanted this to be his life. It turned out to be an unhappy ending for such a young life. He's just beginning to come into the reality of the incident."

"I spent most of my time crying," she said. "It has been overwhelming to come see the whole thing. I was saddened for the victim and his family, too. This is not a one-sided thing. The victim was somebody's son, too."

Mrs. Umrani said she had sent a note to the family of the victim, Lt. James K. Sterner, 35, expressing her regrets, but that she never heard back from them.

"I didn't expect to," she said. "It was something I felt I had to do morally."

Only three chairs from Mrs. Umrani in the small courtroom sits James Backstrom, a cousin of Sterner who is representing the family. He has nothing to say.

The case has drawn little attention in this resort, which several years ago was the site for the sensational first trial of Claus von Bulow. Only a dozen or so reporters, relatives and



NATION



Mitchell T. Garraway Jr., right, is escorted to his court martial at the Newport Naval Base Tuesday in Rhode Island. Garraway is charged with murdering a Navy lieutenant aboard a frigate last June.

AP Laserphoto

spectators have been in attendance for most days of the trial.

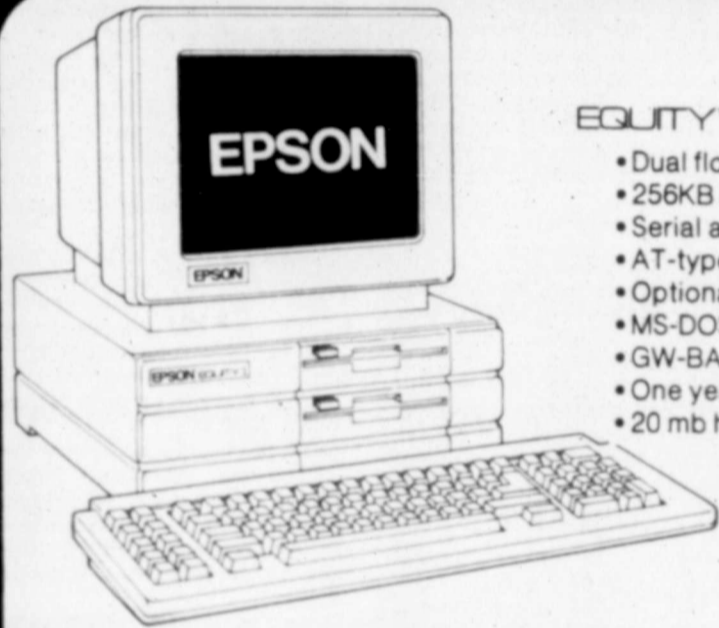
An officer, who spoke on the condition that his name not be used, said that although the Newport case is an isolated one, it strikes at the heart of what the Navy does.

"There is a very special relationship between the crew and the ship's

officers," he said. "It never entered my mind that such a thing would occur. It is one of the things you would never expect."

Garraway has admitted stabbing Sterner in the back with a Marine survival knife aboard the frigate USS Miller off the coast of Bermuda last June.

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# Angolan rebel Savimbi claims U.S. oil money supports Marxists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, visiting government officials here, appears to be receiving support from the State Department in his efforts to bring attention to U.S. business investments in the West African nation.

Savimbi, here seeking American backing for his struggle against the Cuban-backed government in Luanda, has long been troubled by the benefits the Marxist authorities have received from Angola-based U.S. firms. He was to discuss the matter with President Reagan today.

On Wednesday, State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb, echoing an earlier statement by Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, said U.S. businesses help Angola to buy military equipment and pay Cuban troops there.

"This supports the war rather than

the search for peace," Kalb said.

His remarks were aimed mostly at the Chevron Corporation's Gulf Oil subsidiary, which has operated for many years in Angola with U.S. government support.

Savimbi's meeting with Reagan followed sessions Wednesday with Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

"I had a one-hour and 10-minute discussion with the secretary of state and I am satisfied and I hope there will be progress," Savimbi told reporters after his meeting with Shultz, declining to answer further questions.

Savimbi then met with Weinberger and Adm. William J. Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for 30 minutes.

Savimbi noted the presence of 35,000 Cuban soldiers in his country

along with an unspecified number of Soviet advisers, and said his forces were facing government troops that were being supported by Soviet-made helicopter gunships and attack planes, an aide to Weinberger said.

On Capitol Hill, Rep. George W. Crockett, D-Mich., who is fighting proposals to help Savimbi, called Angola "perhaps the most democratic revolutionary government in all of Africa."

Chevron pumps 83,000 barrels a day under an agreement with the Angolan national oil company, according to company officials.

Kalb said the United States would welcome American investment in Angola over the long term but said it is more difficult to justify ongoing operations there.

## Plan would close nation's polls at 9 p.m.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Wednesday approved a plan to have all polling places in the 48 continental United States close at 9 p.m. EST on presidential Election Day.

The bill would approve extension of Pacific Daylight Savings Time in presidential years until after Election Day, so polls in the West would close at 7 p.m. local time.

Rep. Al Swift, D-Wash., a former TV newscaster, said the legislation, which passed 204-171, would "ensure

every voter has a chance to cast a ballot before the results are announced."

He said Hawaii and Alaska asked to be exempted from the bill.

The idea is to keep network newscasters from announcing the winner before the presidential election is over.

Swift said networks have agreed not to use exit poll information to "in any way hint at a probable winner until the polls are closed in a

given state."

An opponent, Rep. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said he did not believe the networks would honor their word. But the House refused to approve an amendment that would force the networks to renew their pledge prior to each presidential election.

Under provisions of the legislation, which now goes to the Senate, polls would close at 9 p.m. in the East, at 8 p.m. local time in the Central zone, and 7 p.m. local time in the Mountain and Pacific zones.

## Americans spend 10 percent of '84 GNP on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — America paid an average of \$1,580 per person for health care in 1984, more than 10 percent of the nation's gross national product, but the investment is paying off in lower death rates from killer diseases, a new study says.

The annual report on the nation's health, released Wednesday by the Health and Human Services Department, says life expectancy once again has hit a record high, while infant mortality once again has set a record low.

Death rates from heart disease have fallen by 26 percent since 1970, while death rates from stroke have fallen 46 percent.

Changes in personal health habits — fewer people smoking, more watching their blood pressure and cholesterol levels — are credited with part of the gain. But the country also has paid for the changes in dollars.

The United States spent \$387.4 billion in 1984 to support a medical industry that employs 7.9 million people. Exotic technology has flourished. The number of sophisticated CAT-scan diagnostic procedures more than quadrupled from 1979 to 1983; ultrasound diagnostic scannings tripled.

Altogether, health spending increased by 9.1 percent in 1984. And the medical inflation rate of 6.2 percent far exceeded the overall inflation rate of 4.3 percent.

Still, the increases in medical inflation and in overall spending were lower than previous years. The 9.1 percent increase was the smallest in 20 years, and medical inflation was in double digits only five years ago.

Problems remain. Black infants are at twice the risk of white infants of dying in their first year of life, a gap that has remained virtually constant for at least 25 years. And infant mortality, a key indicator of a nation's health, is no longer falling at the rate it maintained through the 1970s.

But overall, said HHS Secretary

Otis R. Bowen, "this country's health record is impressive."

Among his figures:

- Infant mortality fell to 10.6 deaths per 1,000 births in 1984, based on tentative data. That is better than the 12.6 deaths per thousand rate of 1980, or the 1970 rate of 20.0 or the 1960 rate of 26.0. But on the world stage, it is mediocre. Finland's rate is 6.5, and the United States ranks only 14th in the world.
- The rate of decline of infant mortality is slowing, averaging about 2.6 percent a year in the last three years compared with about 4.5 percent during the 1970s.
- The death rate among white infants was 9.7 per 1,000 births; among black infants it was 19.2. The ratio of about 1.9 black infant deaths for each white infant death extends back to at least 1960.
- A child born in 1983 could expect to live 74.6 years, a record high. The longest life expectancy is enjoyed by white females, 78.7 years; the shortest by black males, 65.4 years.
- On average, a man who turned 45 in 1983 could expect to live to 74.7, more than three years longer than his 1950 counterpart. A woman celebrating her 45th birthday in 1983 could expect to live to 80.4, more than 4 1/2 years longer than her counterpart of 1950.
- Smoking is declining in both sexes. The decline is dramatic for men — from 52.1 percent in 1965 to 35.4 percent in 1983 — but small for women — 34.2 percent to 29.9 percent.
- Lung cancer death rates continue to increase, a 35-year trend attributed to the aging of the population with the highest percentages of smokers. The rate of increase is slowing for men and accelerating for women, the study said, reflecting the change in smoking patterns in the last 20 years. Lung cancer soon will surpass breast cancer as a killer of women, the study said. Among women aged 55 to 74, it already has.

## NATION IN BRIEF

### Study: Cigarette smoke threatens non-smokers

WASHINGTON (AP) — People who complain about smokers' cigarettes aren't being finicky, they are rebelling against a potentially deadly health hazard, says a government health-safety official.

Cigarette smoke can be life-threatening, even if it's somebody else puffing, the official said Wednesday, arguing that tough restraints on "passive smoke" could save thousands of people from dying of lung cancer or other diseases.

"The non-smokers' rights movement has been portrayed by tobacco interests as an assemblage of finicky busybodies intent on imposing their values on smokers," said John C. Topping Jr., staff director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation.

"In the past year, the passive smoking issue has taken on new dimensions as evidence has mounted that involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke may be one of the leading environmental sources of death," he said.

that it was possible something could be uncovered that could lead to prosecution, the newspaper said.

### Gun-sale bill opposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten law enforcement organizations today asked House members, "in the name of sanity," to oppose Senate-passed legislation that would permit interstate sales of firearms.

The police groups, in a statement prepared for a news conference, said the bill would add "to the carnage" of violent crime "by allowing more guns to slip into the hands of criminals."

The organizations oppose efforts by Rep. Harold Volkmer, D-Mo., chief sponsor of the House version of the bill, to bring it to the floor by a rarely successful discharge petition.

### Kellogg fights spies

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (AP) — Kellogg Co. will end its 80-year-old tradition of plant tours, which has allowed millions of people to witness the birth of a corn flake, for fear some visitors might steal the company's new cereal-making technology.

The company will end the tours April 11 following a \$500 million plant modernization, Vice Chairman Robert L. Nichols said Tuesday.

### Ferraro probe ending

NEW YORK (AP) — Former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro is unlikely to be prosecuted by the Justice Department, which is wrapping up a lengthy investigation of her finances, The New York Times reported today.

The Times, quoting an unidentified federal law enforcement official, said Ferraro would probably be cleared of allegations of improper financing in her successful 1978 congressional campaign.

However, officials cautioned that the probe was not completed, and

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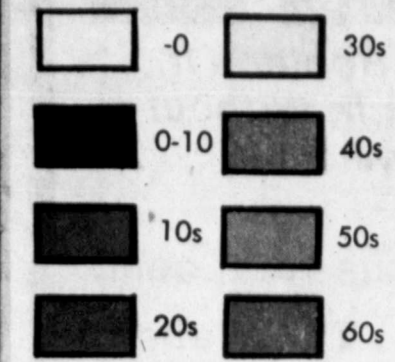
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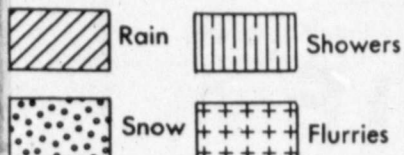
WEATHER SUMMARY

Conditions forecast for 7 a.m. Friday

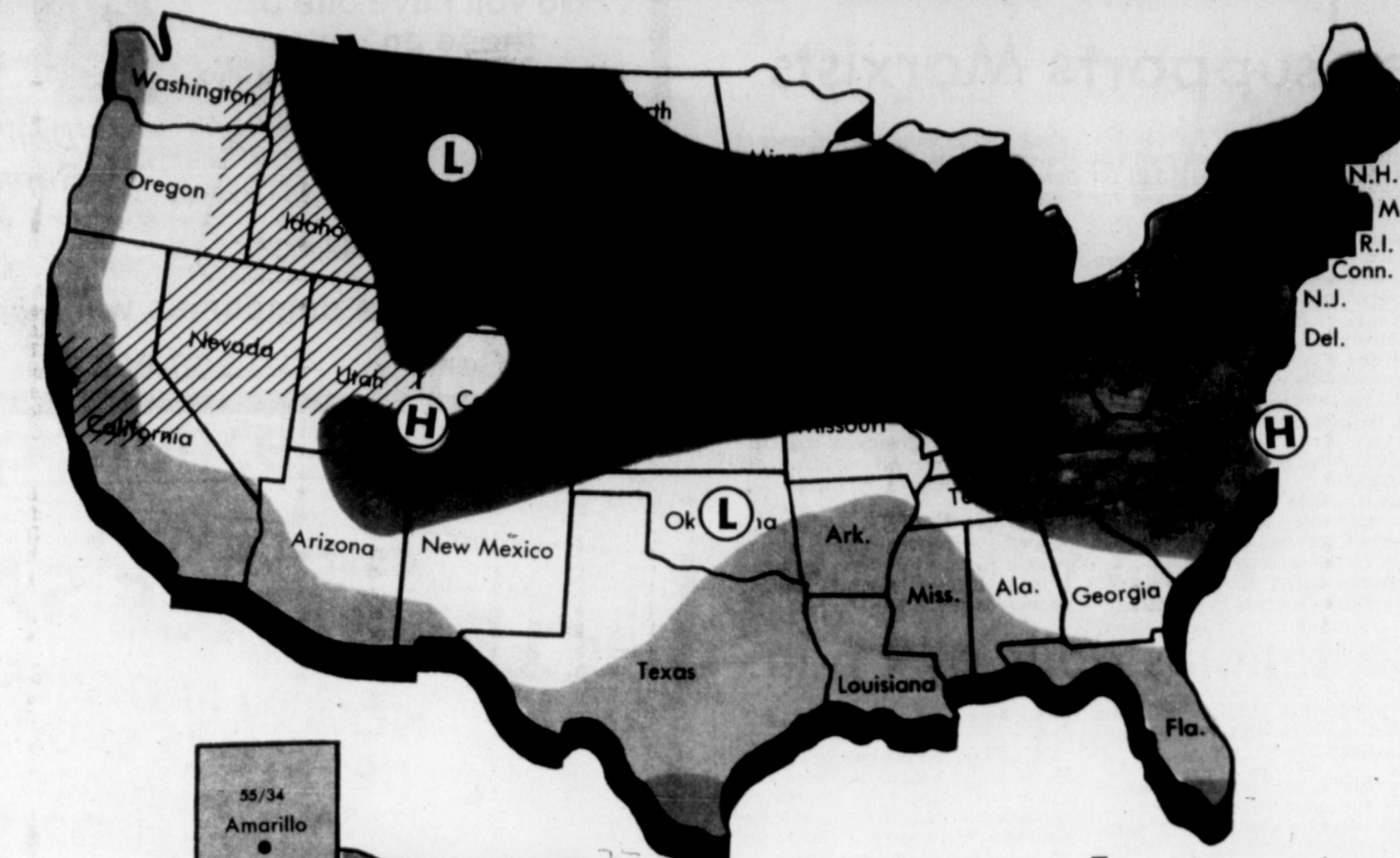
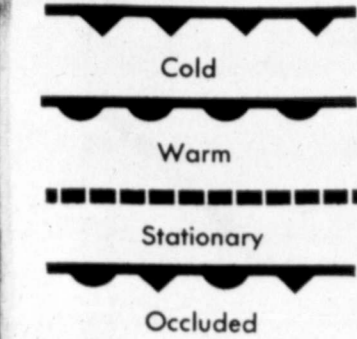
TEMPERATURES:



PRECIPITATION:



FRONTS:



Clear skies, mild weather in forecast

From Staff and Wire Reports

Clear skies and mild temperatures are in the picture for the Midland-Odessa area on Friday, according to the forecasters at the National Weather Service at Midland Regional Airport. A high near 70 is predicted.

Tonight will be clear and cool with a low near 40 being called for. Winds will be out of the south tonight at five to 15 mph and increasing on Friday to 10-20 mph.

Wednesday's high of 63 was 15 degrees below the record high set for Jan. 29 in 1967. This morning's low was 22 degrees above the record low of 8 set for this date in 1961.

STATE

A large high pressure system extending from the Midwest to the Southwest kept Texas weather pleasant and free of precipitation today.

A weak cool front stalled along the lower Texas coast, resulting in some low clouds over South Central Texas and some fog in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Skies were clear over the rest of the state.

Forecasts call for fair skies over West Texas tonight with some clouds forming over portions of North Texas and South Texas. Lows tonight will be in the 30s in the Panhandle and in the 40s and 50s over the rest of the state except in extreme South Texas where readings will dip only to the 60s.

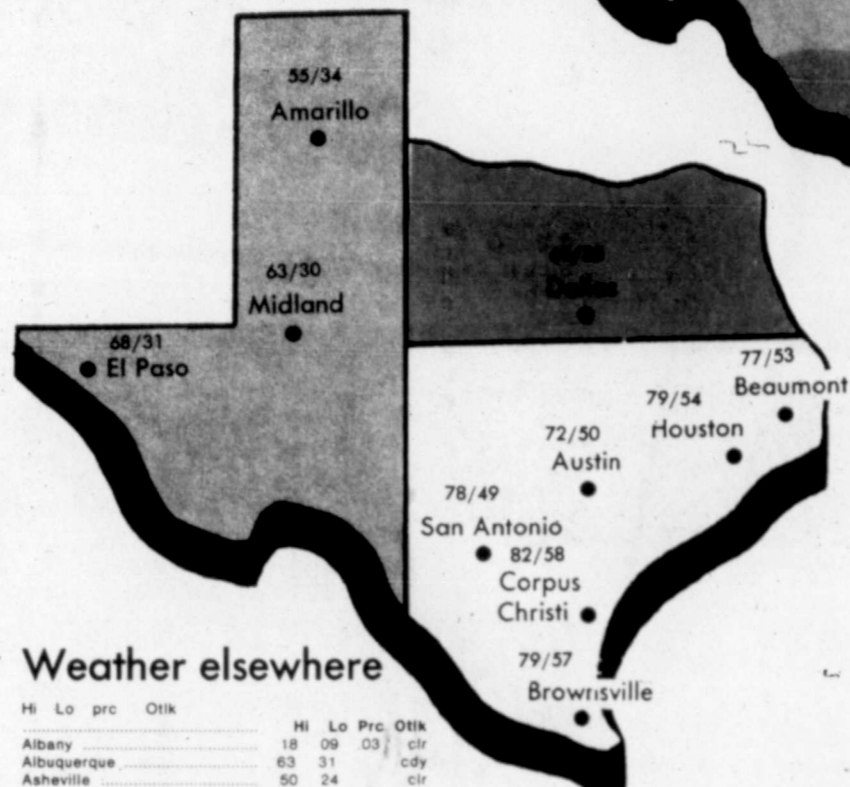
It will be partly cloudy in North-east Texas and over most of West Texas Friday. It will be mostly cloudy over northern sections of South Texas and mostly clear in the south. Highs Friday will be mostly in the 60s and 70s, ranging from the 50s in the Panhandle to near 80 in the Big Bend area of Southwest Texas.

NATION

An Atlantic storm spread snow from the Northeast to the Midwest today, while rain and snow covered broad sections of the West and freezing rain glazed roads in parts of Montana.

The tail of an icy cold front lingered in northeast Tennessee, dropping an inch of snow and making driving conditions hazardous, while the central and western part of the state basked in temperatures in the 40s and 50s.

Snow ranged from Ohio and eastern Kentucky across the mid-Atlantic Coast states to southern Maine. A winter storm warning was issued for Cape Cod and the islands of eastern Massachusetts.



Texas temperatures

Table listing temperatures for various Texas cities including Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Bryan-College Station, Corpus Christi, Dalhart, Dallas, Del Rio, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston, Hondo, Houston, Junction, Kingsville, Laredo, Longview, Lubbock, Lufkin, Marfa, McAllen, Pecos, San Angelo, San Antonio, Stephenville, Texarkana, Victoria, Wichita Falls, and Wink.

Text boxes providing weather forecasts for North Texas, West Texas, and South Texas.

Midland statistics

Weather forecast and statistics for Midland, including temperature readings for the last 24 hours and local temperatures for the day.

Weather elsewhere

Table listing weather conditions for various cities across the United States, including Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, Baltimore, Billings, Bismarck, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Charleston, S.C., Charleston, W.V., Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, S.C., Columbus, Oh., Dayton, Denver, and Detroit.

Extended forecast

Saturday through Monday forecast: West Texas: Partly cloudy Saturday through Monday. Chance of rain Sunday and turning cooler north Monday.

Advertisement for Aladdin House Furniture featuring a Brass Table Lamp. Includes pricing (\$99 to \$49) and store address (3504 W. Wall, 694-6649).

Large advertisement for Video Concepts' Super Annual Home Entertainment Sale. Features various electronics like VHS recorders, audio systems, and televisions with significant discounts.

Advertisement for 'Lights Fantastic' featuring a 'Special Purchase' of an Ultrasonic Humidifier for \$79.88. Includes store address (3205 W. Cuthbert Suite A-6, 699-7529).

Advertisement for 'Big Screen TVs' at Midland Park Mall. Features various models from RCA, Quasar, Hitachi, and Mitsubishi, with prices starting from \$1,699. Includes store address (697-7865) and sale end date (February 6, 1986).





# Aguirre unhappy as Mavs win

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Mark Aguirre-Dick Motta feud took the glitter off the Dallas Mavericks' 126-114 victory over the San Antonio Spurs that included a club record 37 consecutive free throws.

Rolando Blackman celebrated his selection to the National Basketball Association West All-Star team Wednesday night by scoring a game-high 25 points. Aguirre, who had 22 points, was in one of his moods after the game.

A disgruntled Aguirre fired another volley in his running disagreement with Motta, saying "Dick has no feeling for me and I have no feeling for him, but I can survive."

Aguirre said he knew he would be ignored on the All-Star team because of his three-game suspension by Motta a month ago.

"I knew I wasn't going to make it after my run-in with Dick," said Aguirre. "I knew I had blown it all." "I could be playing the starting small forward (in the All-Star) game if I was with some other team," Aguirre said. "It's strictly business between us now. He's a good coach but we have no relationship."

Asked if he wanted to be traded, Aguirre said "I love Dallas but they are not going to trade me."

Motta said he noticed a "different mood" in Aguirre after Blackman was informed of his All-Star status. "I haven't said anything to him but I'm surprised by what he said," said Motta. "Sure I have feeling for him. I have five years invested in him."

Motta said Aguirre's mood changed like the weather. "I think Mark will have a different attitude tomorrow," said Motta.

Motta said he didn't know the Mavs were approaching the NBA record of 39 free throws in a row.

"I knew we didn't miss any free throws in the first half and I couldn't remember if we had missed any free throws in the second half going into the fourth quarter."

Rookie Detlef Schrempf's miss with 4:13 to play ended the Mavericks' charity streak.

"We've been concentrating more in free throws in practice and it paid off," said Motta.

Dallas finished with 38 of 41 free throws for the game.

San Antonio hit only 17 of 32 and Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons said "We just need to practice more. I told our players that it is embarrassing to be a pro and miss that many free throws."

"I want them practicing free throws now instead of shooting one-on-one against each other," the coach said. Alvin Robertson and Steve Mitchell led the Spurs with 20 points each as Dallas moved by them by percentage points into third place in the NBA Midwest Division.

Jazz 107, 76ers 86

Adrian Dantley scored 14 of his 30 points in the third

## NBA Roundup

period as Utah handed Philadelphia only its third loss in 13 games.

Dantley, who moved past Bob Cousy into 25th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list, helped the Jazz extend a 44-36 halftime lead to 77-64 after three quarters. The 76ers cut the deficit to 91-84 with three minutes to go, but a three-point goal by Dantley sparked a 16-2 Jazz spurt the rest of the way.

Moses Malone led Philadelphia with 21 points.

### Pistons 107, Hawks 94

Vinnie Johnson scored 18 of his 24 points while Detroit was outscoring Atlanta 32-18 in the fourth quarter.

The Hawks started the final quarter with a 76-75 lead and they were still in the game midway through the period before Johnson scored nine consecutive points to spark a 15-4 streak that gave the Pistons a 98-89 lead with 2:26 left.

Bill Laimbeer added 20 points for Detroit, while Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins led all scorers with 30.

### Suns 118, Clippers 108

Walter Davis and Larry Nance combined for all of Phoenix's points during a 19-11 run in the fourth quarter that turned a one-point deficit into a 113-106 lead with 1:20 to play against Los Angeles.

The lead changed hands six times in a span of 1:33 before Davis connected on a pair of free throws to give Phoenix the lead for good at 102-100 with 4:57 left in the game.

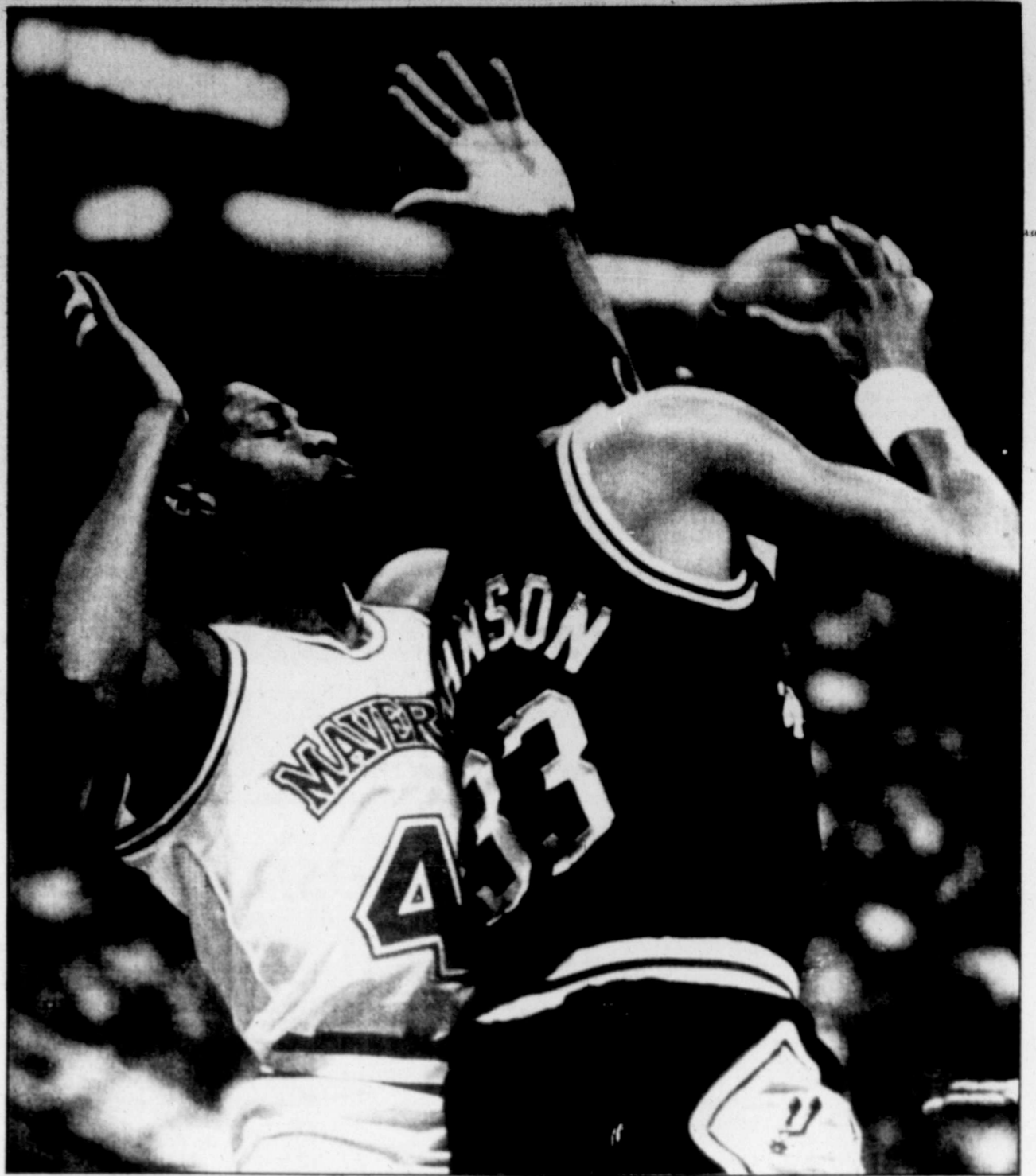
Davis scored 30 points and Nance 24 for the Suns, while Rory White scored a career-high 32 for Los Angeles.

### Pacers 92, Bullets 88

Indiana scored only 16 points in the fourth quarter, but still defeated Washington by holding the Bullets to 13 in the same span.

The game was tied 10 times and there were 26 lead changes before Steve Stipanovich's layup with 6:40 left gave the Pacers the lead to stay at 83-81. Washington, which had its four-game winning streak snapped, was 1-for-11 from the field in the first nine minutes of the final quarter.

Herb Williams, who led Indiana with 25 points, hit two free throws with 2:13 to go and a baseline jumper with 1:47 left to give the Pacers their biggest lead of the game at 89-84. Jeff Ruland, coming back after missing 24 games with a fractured ankle, and Gus Williams led the Bullets with 18 points each.



Sam Perkins and Steve Johnson (33) collide in Dallas. The Mavericks beat the San Antonio Spurs, all-Texas NBA showdown Wednesday night in 126-114.

# Patriots' drug testing controversy picks up steam

By HOWARD ULMAN  
AP Sports Writer

FOXBORO, Mass. — The unprecedented, overwhelming vote by New England Patriots players to submit to drug testing by the National Football League team has unleashed a storm of controversy that threatens the program before it gets off the ground.

The first action could come today, with the NFL Players Association saying it will file charges against the Patriots. Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFLPA, was quoted by the Boston Globe as saying the union would file with the National Labor Relations Board in New York. "We intend to protect the inno-

cent," Upshaw said. The union contends a voluntary testing program violates its collective bargaining agreement with the NFL.

The team's player representative said the naming of six Patriots who allegedly used illegal drugs will kill the plan and could lead to a strike.

And one player said "my name shouldn't be involved in this mess."

Further developments were expected today when New England General Manager Patrick Sullivan and Dr. Armand Nicholi Jr., who said he is in charge of testing the players for drugs, planned to release a statement.

The Patriots' 46-10 loss to the Chicago Bears in last Sunday's Super

Bowl was barely 12 hours old when the players voted Monday morning in New Orleans to become the first NFL team to approve voluntary drug testing.

Repercussions were swift.

UPSHAW SAID Tuesday that a voluntary testing program "is in direct opposition to our collective bargaining agreement."

That agreement provides for testing only if a player had a known drug problem and had tested positively, or if the team physician has cause to believe a player has a drug problem.

On Wednesday, the Boston Globe reported that Raymond Clayborn, Tony Collins, Irving Fryar, Roland

James, Kenneth Sims and Stephen Starring admitted to Coach Raymond Berry that they used illegal drugs. Sullivan said he told the Globe he would not deny such a report.

Offensive tackle Brian Holloway, the Patriots' player representative who is in Hawaii for Sunday's Pro Bowl, was quoted in Wednesday's Pittsburgh Press as saying, "I can guarantee you, with the release of those players' names, you have seen the end of the voluntary program with the Patriots."

Holloway also was quoted by the Press as saying, "You're going to see a dramatic strike taken by the union."

He later toned down his remarks

and said, "one thing that needs to be done is for someone to sit down and talk firsthand with Gene Upshaw. There are so many allegations flying around, a national situation, we need to sit down at a table and talk about it. I reserve comment beyond that."

SULLIVAN SAID he is surprised by the controversy that followed that decision.

"I can't believe what a mess this has become," he said.

Berry said he was willing to endure the difficulties spawned by the vote if it would lead to a voluntary testing program that would save players from using drugs.

Holloway said confidentiality was one of the conditions for the pro-

gram. Sullivan and Berry denied that, saying that even if they refused to comment, there was no guarantee that drug users' names wouldn't be published.

"I told the players it's a possibility" that their names would become known, Berry said. "There's nothing I could do about that. I hoped they wouldn't but that was out of my hands."

Patriots' guard John Hannah, in Hawaii for the Pro Bowl, called the Globe account "a typical Boston press story trying to distort what we accomplished. There was no drug problem as far as I know. I've been playing with them, around them in the locker room and I saw no indication of drugs."

## ScratchPad

Associated Press

### FOOTBALL

BOGALUSA, La. — Robert "Big Bird" Smith, a reserve defensive lineman with the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League, was arrested with four others in a drug raid at a house, police said.

Smith, 23, of Bogalusa, played on special teams with the Vikings last season — his first year in the NFL.

### BASEBALL

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Giants owner Bob Lurie, who vowed after last season his team had played its last game in Candlestick Park, said the team will play its 1986 schedule in the much-maligned stadium.

The Giants finished the 1985 season with a 62-100 record, worst in franchise history and third worst in the major leagues for the year.

Lurie, who purchased the Giants in 1976, put them on the block after the 1984 season, then took them off the market last winter. He's been involved for months in discussions with city

officials and others on a variety of schemes to replace Candlestick with a downtown stadium.

### BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — Forwards Adrian Dantley of the Utah Jazz and Alex English of the Denver Nuggets, 1-2, respectively, in the National Basketball Association scoring race, were among seven players added to the Western Conference team for the All-Star Game against the East Feb. 9 at Dallas.

Centers Akeem Oluajuwon of the Houston Rockets and Artis Gilmore of the San Antonio Spurs, and guards Rolando Blackman of the Dallas Mavericks, Clyde Drexler of the Portland Trail Blazers and Marques Johnson of the Los Angeles Clippers were also selected as reserves by the conference coaches.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Alabama and Ohio State, two of the top names in college football, will get the 1986 season underway by playing in the fourth annual Kickoff Classic.

Alabama and Ohio State finished 13th and 14th, respectively,

in the final 1985 Associated Press poll. They have met only once, Bear Bryant's Alabama team winning 35-6 over Woody Hayes and the Buckeyes in the Sugar Bowl of Jan. 2, 1978.

### BOWLING

GRAND PRAIRIE — Rookie Purvis Granger, bowling in his first national tournament, jumped from 15th place into the lead after the second round of the \$150,000 Quaker State Open.

Granger, 21, of Lafayette, La., averaged 226 through the first 12 games and led a star-studded field with a pinfall total of 2,717. He holds a 54-pin edge over Kent Wagner of Palmetto, Fla.

### TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA — Fifth-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden's victorious Davis Cup team opened play in the \$465,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championship by beating Matt Anger of California, 6-2, 6-3.

Greg Holmes, the No. 16-seeded player, from Danville, Calif., advanced to the third round of 16 players by beating former Czechoslovakian national champ Libor Pimek 6-2, 6-4.



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Sports Scoreboard

All Star Rosters

AFC All Stars

NEW YORK (AP) — The 1985 American Conference Pro Bowl team selected for the Feb. 2 National Football League's all-star game at Honolulu (X-leave).

NFC All Stars

NEW YORK (AP) — The 1985 National Conference team selected for the National Football League's all-star game at Honolulu Feb. 2 (X-reserve).

NHL All Stars

The rosters for the Wales and Campbell Conference teams for the NHL game Feb. 4.

Wales Conference

Table with 3 columns: Player, Team, Pos. Lists players like Mario Lemieux, Steve Yzerman, and Mike Bossy.

Campbell Conference

Table with 3 columns: Player, Team, Pos. Lists players like Neal Broten, Neal Genzel, and Dave Semick.

NBA at a Glance

Table with 3 columns: Team, Record, Game. Lists teams like Atlanta, Boston, and Chicago with their win-loss records and next game.

College Basketball Scores

Table with 3 columns: Team 1, Team 2, Score. Lists scores for games like Alabama vs. Mississippi and Duke vs. Wake Forest.

NHL at a Glance

Table with 3 columns: Team, Record, Game. Lists NHL teams like Washington, Toronto, and Boston with their records.

NHL Sums

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Assists. Lists statistics for teams like Pittsburgh, New Jersey, and Washington.

NBA at a Glance

Table with 3 columns: Team, Record, Game. Lists NBA teams like Boston, Philadelphia, and Detroit with their records.

West Texas Sports

Softball

The Midland Softball Association will hold an organizational meeting and team sign-up for the 1986 Spring/Summer leagues at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 26.

Boxing

Midland's Roddy Blake, brother of Rockin' Robin Blake, recorded an early knockout over Victor McCray of Dallas.

Marathon

The Marathon of the Great Southwest is scheduled for March 15 in Abilene and will offer 5000 meter, half marathon and marathon races.

Bowling

Fairmont Park Lanes will hold a World Class tournament, Feb. 7-9. Entry fee is \$35 and handicap is 90 percent of 210 with 63 pins as maximum.

Johnston sought for Stars try out

Where is Charles Johnston? The former Midland High and Midland College basketball star is the target of a search by the Meadowlark Lemons and the Shooting Stars.

UIL District Realignment

AUSTIN (AP) — Here are the new high school football and basketball districts and districts released to day by the University Interscholastic League.

Girls 4-5A

Table with 3 columns: Team, Record, Game. Lists girls' basketball teams like Dallas, El Paso, and Fort Worth.

Advertisement for IBM XT computer. Includes text: 'The Permain Basin's Most Popular Personal Computer', 'Only \$1895', and 'IBM COMPUTER CENTERS'. Features an image of the IBM XT computer system.

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#908

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**2.19** Ea.

SAVE 80¢

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Coupon Effective: Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1986

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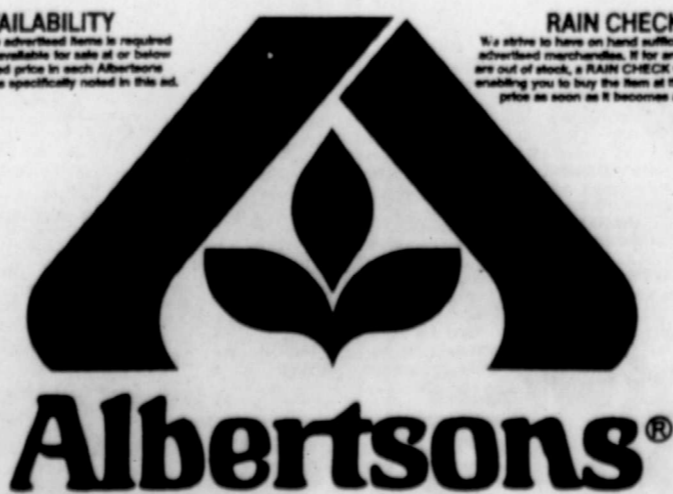
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SAVE 1.00

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**Pull-A-Parts**  
Fresh



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SAVE 70¢

#911

Coupon Effective: Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1986

Limit 2 Per Coupon Per Customer

Albertsons

## MARKETS

### MORTGAGES

Rates compiled

CHICAGO (AP) — Average mortgage rates for single-family homes in 10 metropolitan areas as of Jan. 29, as compiled by the Chicago Title Insurance Co. The rates are for 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages for 80 percent of the value of the house.

Jan. 29	Prev. Wk
percent + points	percent + points
Boston 11.00 + 2.0	11.00 + 2.0
Chicago 11.00 + 2.0	11.00 + 2.0
Dallas 10.75 + 1.0	10.75 + 1.0
Denver 11.00 + 2.0	11.00 + 2.0
Houston 11.25 + 1.25	11.25 + 1.25
Los Angeles 11.00 + 2.5	11.00 + 2.5
Minneapolis 11.00 + 2.0	11.00 + 2.0
New York 11.00 + 2.0	11.25 + 2.0
Phoenix 11.00 + 2.0	11.00 + 2.5
Washington 10.50 + 3.0	11.00 + 2.0

### MONEY

**Dollar mixed**  
LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell to a new seven-year low against the Japanese yen today but regained lost ground against most major currencies in later European trading. In Tokyo today, the dollar fell for a sixth consecutive day against the Japanese yen, closing at 193.96 yen, down from 194.30 yen. Later, in London, the U.S. currency recovered slightly, to 194.06 yen.

**GOLD**  
But gold drifted lower in later dealings; and at midmorning, London's five biggest bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$355.40. Gold also was being traded at a bid of \$355.40 in Zurich, up from \$354.50 in the Swiss center late Wednesday.

**SPOTMARKET**  
W.T. INTERMEDIATE  
Latest quote \$19.60; previous quote \$20.15; year ago \$25.65.

W.T. SOUR  
Latest quote \$18.50; previous quote \$19.10; year ago \$25.35.

Latest quotes are from Wednesday, January 29. Previous quotes are from the previous working day.  
Source: Wall Street Journal

**STOCKS**  
N.Y.S.E. Issues Consolidated Trading Wednesday, Jan. 29  
Volume Shares 226,583,780

Issues Traded 2,046	Up 797	Unchanged 363	Down 888
N.Y.S.E. Index 121.29	+ 0.19	S.&P. Comp. 210.29	+ 0.48
Dow Jones Ind 1,568.94	+ 2.52		

## Texans think Texaco bond unfair, poll says

AUSTIN (AP) — Pennzoil Co. is shrugging off findings of Texaco Inc. opinion polls indicating that many people believe the \$10.5 billion in damages Texaco has been ordered to pay Pennzoil was unfair and ultimately will cost consumers.

Texaco distributed the results of three polls — taken for it in Texas and nationally during December and January — to top state officials and members of the Texas congressional delegation.

A copy of the poll, which Texaco officials said hadn't been generally released, was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Texaco spokesman Gregory Good said the poll results were sent to Texas officials because "what it confirmed was that the attitude of citizens of Texas — matched very closely by citizens across the country — was that we definitely should have a chance to pursue our appeal in the Texas courts."

The results also showed "that the judgment itself was unfair and not in the best interests of the citizens of Texas," Good said.

But Pennzoil spokesman Bob Harper in a phone interview from Houston said, "Pennzoil feels that Texaco's survey has about as much credibility as those experts who predicted that the Patriots would win the Super Bowl."

A Houston jury in November ordered Texaco to pay Pennzoil Co. a record \$10.53 billion in damages for interference with Pennzoil's merger with Getty Oil Co. Texaco acquired Getty in 1984.

State District Judge Solomon Casseb Jr. upheld the judgment, the largest civil damage award in U.S. history, and added another \$600 million in interest.

Texas law requires that Texaco post a \$12 billion bond — the jury

### Texaco loses bid to have judge removed

HOUSTON (AP) — A state administrative judge has refused to disqualify a Texas judge who ordered Texaco Inc. to pay \$11.1 billion for interfering in Pennzoil Co.'s merger with Getty Oil Co.

Texaco's request to disqualify State District Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., who presided over the final eight weeks of the complex, 4½-month trial, was rejected by Second Administrative Judge Thomas Stovall Jr.

Stovall appointed Casseb to the case in October after the original trial judge, Anthony Farris, became ill.

On Nov. 19, a jury held that Texaco deliberately interfered in a binding merger agreement between Pennzoil Co. and Getty Oil Co. before it acquired Getty in 1984. It awarded Pennzoil an unprecedented \$7.53 billion in actual damages and an additional \$3 billion in punitive damages.

Casseb upheld the award in December and added \$600,000 in interest.

Texaco has asked for a new trial and raised a technical challenge to Casseb's qualifications to hear the case. A hearing on the request for a new trial has not been set by Casseb.

Casbeb was appointed as a "retired judge," and as such would not have to be administered an oath of office before returning to the bench. Texaco, however, alleged Casbeb was not technically retired because he had not served enough time as a judge earlier to qualify for state retirement benefits.

"I see no need for further hearings on this matter," Stovall said Wednesday. He also said that Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hill had signed a certificate of Casseb's retirement in May.

Texaco spokeswoman Anita Larsen in White Plains, N.Y., said the company had no comment on Stovall's ruling. In Houston, Pennzoil spokesman Bob Harper also declined to comment.

Texaco law requires that Texaco post a bond of \$12 billion — the amount plus interest and court costs — before it can appeal.

But earlier this month, Texaco persuaded U.S. District Judge Charles L. Brieant in White Plains to lower the bond to \$1 billion.

Pennzoil has appealed the ruling to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, arguing the bond reduction was improper interference by a federal judge in a state court proceeding. A hearing is scheduled for Feb. 11.

award plus interest and court costs — to appeal. But earlier this month, Texaco persuaded U.S. District Judge Charles L. Brieant in White Plains, N.Y., to lower the bond to \$1 billion.

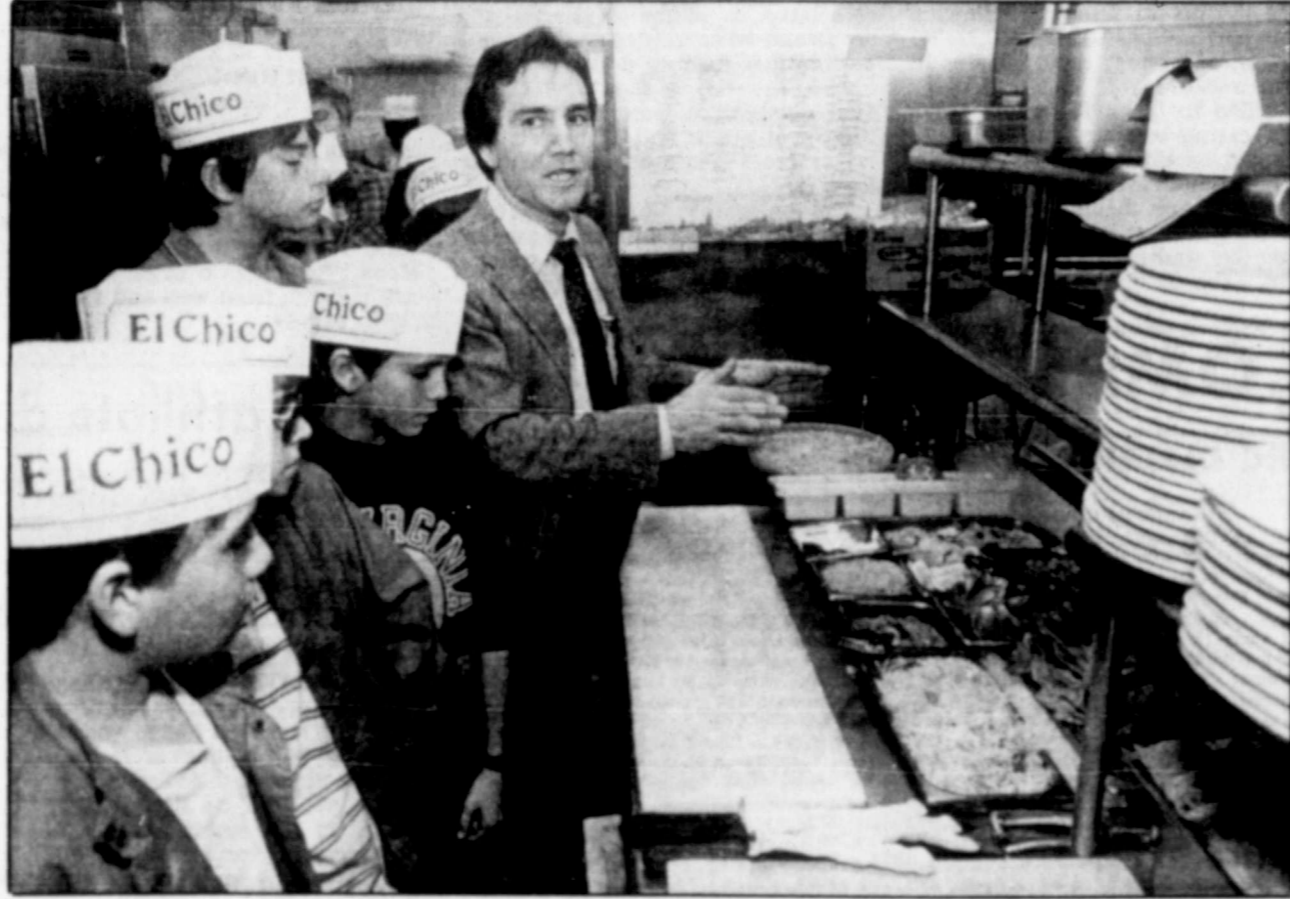
In conducting a national telephone poll for Texaco of 1,200 people from Jan. 7 to Jan. 9, Penn and Schoen Associates Inc. of New York asked respondents whether the jury's award was fair. Twenty-four percent said it was fair, while 58 percent said it was unfair. Another 18 percent said they didn't know.

Asked whether such settlements ultimately will cost consumers, 74 percent said "consumers will pay," while 15 percent said consumers have "nothing to fear."

Another question asked whether "Texaco should be required to post a \$12 billion bond to appeal?" Twenty percent said yes, while 62 percent said no.

In analyzing the survey, Douglas E. Schoen wrote that two surveys each conducted with about 900 Texans during December yielded results "consistent with those which were obtained in the national survey."

Texaco's Good said the company commissioned the polls for internal use and later decided to show it to Texas officials and congressmen.



Jeff Shariff, general manager of El Chico, leads Hillander School sixth graders on a tour of the restaurant's kitchen.

## Midland restaurateur dishes out lesson on free enterprise

By DEANNA NEAL  
Business/Oil Writer

Midland elementary students touring El Chico's Midland facility get more than a free lunch and a kitchen tour, they also get a free lesson on the business world and the free enterprise system from Manager, Jeff Shariff.

"Dedication and hard work are the keys. This is a great country, and it's continued greatness depends on how well you kids prepare yourselves for it," Shariff told the children.

Shariff, who fled from his native Iran during the overthrow of the Shah, is sold on America and the free enterprise system and he is anxious to share it with children.

A group of 16 sixth grade students from Hillander school listened intently to Shariff as he told them how he chose to become an American citizen.

He tells them he came to America in the late 70's without knowing a single word of English. But within a year, had not only mastered the language, but had enrolled in an Iowa College to major in mathematics.

Already holding a degree in civil engineering, Shariff was impressed with the intelligence of Americans and the hard work that Americans put into business.

And that is the message he brings to the children that

visit Midland's El Chico facility. He said, "I have never regretted my decision to get involved in business. It is hard work, but it always pays off."

Shariff said he initiated a program for school children to visit El Chico's in response to questions that young children asked him as they were dining in the restaurant. "Children today are very curious and very bright. As more and more children would ask me questions about how a particular food was prepared, I began to get this idea to show them, first hand, how things are done in a restaurant."

One of the things they were most curious about was how fried ice cream was made, he said. Shariff brings the school tour into the kitchen at the noon rush hour to let them experience the speed and skill with which the food is prepared. They are also shown the giant walk-in freezers and huge steam kettles in which the beans are prepared.

To date three groups of school children have joined Shariff as his guest for lunch, followed by a tour of the El Chico kitchen and an impromptu lecture on the greatness of American free enterprise and what it takes to run a successful business.

"One of the first lessons you learn," said Shariff, "is that the manager usually has to work harder than any of his employees, and the harder he works, the harder his employees will work for him."

## Phillips reports lower earnings for year

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (AP) — Phillips Petroleum Co., after a year in which it continued to dispose of assets to reduce debt incurred from fighting hostile takeovers, reported lower earnings for the fourth quarter and for all of 1985 Wednesday.

The company said its fourth-quarter earnings were \$166 million, or 70 cents a share, before a restatement of earnings by quarter. That compared with fourth-quarter 1984 earnings of \$160 million, or 37 cents a share.

Total revenues for the quarter were \$3.9 billion, compared with \$4 billion in 1984.

The company restated earnings for all four quarters of 1985 as a result of electing early application of Financial Accounting Standards Board rule changes affecting pension accounting, effective Jan. 1, 1985.

That resulted in earnings for the fourth quarter being reduced \$71 million to a restated \$95 million, or 39 cents a share, while earnings were restated upward by \$71 million for the other three quarters of the year.

For the year, Phillips reported earnings of \$418 million, or \$1.44 a share, on total revenues of \$15.8 billion. This compares with 1984 earnings of \$810 million, or \$1.75 a share, on total revenues of \$15.75 billion.

"Earnings in the fourth quarter benefited significantly from our strong operating performance and from our asset sales program," said C.J. Silas, Phillips chairman and chief executive officer. "After-tax profits from asset sales in the fourth quarter amounted to \$314 million.

## Trade deficit expands to record \$148.5 billion in 1985

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit widened to a record \$148.5 billion in 1985, as imports in December alone outpaced exports by \$17.4 billion, the government reported today.

The December deficit itself was an all-time monthly high. For the first 11 months of 1985, the deficit had averaged \$12.0 billion a month.

In advance of today's report, however, many economists said that the deficit may have peaked last year and could head down as imports gradually become more expensive with declines in the value of the dollar.

But the Commerce Department's

merchandise trade showed that such a turnaround had not materialized by year's end.

The 1985 trade deficit was up 20.4 percent from the then-record \$123.3 deficit of the year before.

In all, U.S. imports totaled \$361.6 billion in 1985, up 6 percent from the preceding year. Exports totaled \$213.1 billion, falling 2.2 percent from 1984, the report said.

Japan accounted for roughly one-third of the overall deficit. Imports from Japan exceeded exports by \$49.7 billion in 1985, up from \$37 billion the year before.

The U.S. deficit with Western Europe in 1985 was \$27.4 billion, \$22.2 billion with Canada, \$13.1 billion with Taiwan, and \$11.6 billion with members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

December's trade deficit was up 27 percent from the \$13.7 billion of November.

Exports during the month fell by 5.3 percent, to \$17.0 billion, while imports soared by 8.7 percent, to \$34.4 billion, more than double the export total.

Helping to propel the December deficit upwards were \$4.1 billion in new car imports, up 5.9 percent from the month before.

Meanwhile, agricultural exports declined in December by 0.22 per-

cent, to \$2.5 billion, while oil imports increased by 10.1 percent, to \$3.5 billion.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said that the index of leading indicators — the government's main gauge of future economic activity — rose a sharp 0.9 percent in December.

That matched an August increase that was the largest since a 1.3 percent rise in January 1985.

Part of the nation's surging trade imbalance has been blamed on the high value of the U.S. dollar on foreign currency exchanges. A strong dollar makes domestic products relatively better buys against imports.

The value of the dollar has declined about 24 percent against other major currencies from its peak last March. However, economists said it often takes six months to a year before declines in currency values translate into trade balance changes.

The United States did not run a surplus with any of its major trading partners last month.

For December, the U.S. trade balance showed deficits with Japan of \$5.5 billion; with Western Europe, \$3.7 billion; Canada, \$2.9 billion; OPEC, \$1.6 billion; Taiwan, \$1.2 billion; Mexico, \$900 million; Korea, \$600 million; and Brazil, \$200 million.

## Drilling activity falls in uncertain oil market

DALLAS (AP) — Energy experts say uncertain world oil prices pushed domestic drilling activity to historical low points and nationwide this week.

The number of Texas rigs has dropped to 560, the lowest point since October 1974, based on the Hughes Tool Co. rotary rig count.

The barometer of oilfield drilling activity dropped to 1,671 in the United States, representing the lowest level since September 1976, officials said.

Experts said reduced drilling activity, one symptom of the recent plunge in world oil prices, was expected to be followed by more consolidations, joint ventures and bankruptcies in the drilling and oilfield services sectors.

Drilling and exploration dropped significantly since crude oil prices started declining in 1983, depressing the prices oil drilling and service companies can charge.

"Pricing pressures are competitive as ever," Guy Marcus, spokesman for Dallas-based Halliburton Co., told The Dallas Morning News.

Prices for spot oil dropped again Wednesday. West Texas intermediate, the U.S. benchmark crude, closed at \$19.66 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange in contracts for March delivery, down from Tuesday's \$20.17 close.

Officials said Houston-based Global Marine Inc., the largest publicly owned oil service company in the United States, filed for reorganization under federal bankruptcy laws Monday because of the offshore drilling rig contractor's \$1.1 billion debt.

Western Co. of North America, a Fort Worth-based oil industry service company, reported losses of \$67.3 million in 1985, bringing Western's three-year cumulative losses to \$108.2 million.

Company officials blamed the losses on declining demand for onshore pressure pumping services.

"The degree of uncertainty is so great that people are waiting," said Ike Kerridge, chief economist at Hughes Tool. "They see no reason to start drilling programs if they don't know the price of oil and the effects of pending tax legislation."

"The industry doesn't like the uncertainty. It's risky enough without it," he said.

Kerridge said drilling plans can resume when oil prices show some signs of stability and tax consequences for the energy sector are settled in Congress.

"It will be an awfully tough first half of the year," he said. "There will be more companies filing for Chapter 11, or merging or forming partnerships."

## Donnelly resigns as SouthWest chairman

By JOHN PAUL PITTS  
Business/Oil Editor

Arthur Donnelly has resigned as chairman and president of Midland SouthWest Corp. and will be replaced by Gail A. Siler, according to Robert F. Anderson, president M.A. Hanna Corp.

Donnelly, 42, who was elected to the member of the board of Midland SouthWest in 1975 and became chairman and chief executive in 1977, will remain with Midland SouthWest Corp. as a member of the board of directors and a consultant.

A lifelong resident of Midland, the University of Texas graduate, said he was resigning from Midland SouthWest to pursue other business interests that would not have been possible while managing Midland SouthWest.

Donnelly is credited with having principally designed and implemented a multi-step financial restructuring strategy that will result in the Midland firm being entirely debt free, upon completion of certain financial swap of preferred for debt. The series of transactions which began in 1982 will leave Midland SouthWest with \$34.6 million in permanent equity capital, with approximately 98.8 percent owned by M.A. Hanna Co.

"Upon completion of these



Arthur Donnelly  
transactions, Midland SouthWest will have one of the strongest footings in the oilfield service industry. With Hanna's support, SouthWest will be in a very unusual position for a drilling company — it will be in a growth posture rather than a survival posture," said Donnelly.

Please see SOUTHWEST, Page 4C



This afternoon's stock market report

Table of stock market data including NYSE, AMEX, and OTC listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

Table of stock market data including NYSE, AMEX, and OTC listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

American Exchange

Table of American Exchange stock market data including NYSE, AMEX, and OTC listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

INVESTOR'S GUIDE

Upon co-owner's death, bonds go to survivor

By BILL DOYLE
Q. Over the past 30 years, my wife and I have accumulated a very large number of Series E and EE, U.S. Savings Bonds. All these bonds are in co-ownership form, in both our names. If one of us dies, must the bonds be cashed, at once, by the survivor?

A. No! Upon the death of either co-owner, savings bonds become the sole property of the surviving co-owner, to do with as he or she sees fit. At that point, the survivor can either redeem the bonds, retain them as they are, have them reissued to remove the name of the dead co-owner or reissued with the name of a new co-owner or beneficiary added.

To have the bonds reissued, the surviving co-owner must provide a certified copy of the deceased co-owner's death certificate.

Let's assume you die first. That's realistic, because men do have shorter life expectancies than women.

Your wife won't be required to redeem those bonds. Unless she's in dire need of cash, it would be a mistake for her to do so and be socked with income tax on all the interest that has accumulated on the bonds over the past three decades.

Q. My accountant disagrees with the column in which you wrote: "When accumulated (U.S. Savings Bond) interest is reported on a deceased bond owner's final (income tax) return, he or she becomes responsible for income tax only on interest that builds up on the bonds after that." "When that accumulated interest is not reported on a final return, heirs have the tax liability for all past and future bond interest."

Where did you get your information for that statement?

A. My source was a booklet entitled "Legal Aspects," (SBD-1482) published by the Treasury Department's U.S. Savings Bond Division.

Tell your accountant to get a copy from the nearest savings bond office. On Page 3, he'll find the following: "...if the person filing the final income tax return of the decedent elects to include all interest earned on the bonds to the date of the decedent's death, the (co-owner's, beneficiary's or heirs') tax liability would extend only to the interest accruing from that date."

Based on the buying mailbag, there's a great deal of confusion on this subject — even among accountants and tax lawyers, who should be aware of these details.

Q. I have 13 \$1,000 Series E, U.S. Savings Bonds, nearing their 40-year final maturity, after which they no longer will build up interest — four in 1988 and nine in 1989. I cashed one last year and was jolted by the federal income tax I had to pay on its accrued interest.

What is the most advantageous way to handle my remaining 13 bonds? Should I exchange them for HH bonds?

A. Don't do anything with them until November 1987, at the earliest. As this column keeps stressing, Series E and EE bonds must be held for at least five years after Nov. 1, 1982, in order to get the valuable — and higher — interest rate.

Once your bonds have passed their next semiannual interest accrual date following Nov. 1, 1987, you can either redeem them or exchange them for HHs.

If you redeem them, you'll be hit with federal income tax on their accumulated interest. If you exchange them, you'll postpone that tax bite until you redeem the HHs received in the exchange.

Assuming you make the exchange, you'll receive semiannual HH bond interest checks. You'll have to pay federal income tax on that HH interest. But that tax will be small, compared to the tax you postponed.

HHs now being issued pay interest at an annual 7.75 percent rate — 3.75 percent every six months. There's no telling what interest will be paid on HHs issued in future years. If interest rates fall, interest on new HHs could be reduced.

Bill Doyle is a syndicated columnist for King Features. He welcomes written questions, but will be able to provide answers only through the column.

Address your question to Investor's Guide, King Features Syndicate, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund data including fund name, price, and change.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund data including fund name, price, and change.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund data including fund name, price, and change.

Additional listings

Table of additional stock listings including company name, price, and change.

# Gannett considering bid for Louisville Courier-Journal

Los Angeles Times —  
Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — Gannett Co. Inc. Chairman Allen H. Neuharth said this week the publisher of USA Today, based in Rosslyn, Va., is considering bidding for The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times newspapers, which the Bingham family put up for sale earlier this month.

The Washington area apparently has no shortage of parties interested in acquiring the Louisville newspapers. In addition to Gannett, The Washington Post Co. and Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke are considering bidding.

Barry Bingham Sr., who announced his intention earlier this month to sell the Louisville newspapers and other family holdings because of a family dispute, said Monday he received a phone call from Cooke and referred him to Goldman, Sachs & Co., the investment banker that is handling the sale for the Bingham family. Cooke said Monday he has not decided whether to bid for the properties.

Last month Cooke acquired the Los Angeles Daily News from Tribune Co. for \$176 million and said he wants to acquire additional media properties, especially newspapers.

Neither Cooke nor any of the other interested parties has received any of the confidential financial information about the properties that would be necessary to

prepare a bid, Bingham said. Bingham said Goldman was in the process of preparing information describing the family's holdings, and added that no final decision has been made about who will receive this information and be invited to submit bids.

"This is going to take some time," Bingham said Monday.

Meanwhile, The Associated Press reported that Neuharth, speaking at a press conference at the Economic Club of Detroit, said he has been in contact with the Bingham family and that any Gannett purchase would come only under "the friendliest of circumstances." Neuharth was in Detroit to discuss Gannett's soon-to-be-completed acquisition of The Detroit News.

In addition to the Louisville newspapers, which have a combined daily circulation in excess of 300,000, the Bingham family has said it plans to sell two Louisville radio stations, the city's CBS television affiliate and the Standard Gravure Corp. printing operations.

Newspaper analyst John Morton said Monday he estimates the newspapers will be sold for about \$300 million and the remainder of the properties for a total of \$100 million. Morton said The New York Times Co., which has a chain of newspapers in the southeast, has indicated it is interested in bidding for the Louisville newspapers.

"There is some question about who they (the Bingham family) are going to invite," Morton said.



Allen Neuharth, chairman of Gannett Co. Inc., answers questions from the press concerning a possible bid for the Louisville Courier-Journal.

# Cold weather sends U.S. heating bills up sharply in December

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cold weather that swept across the nation in December sent Americans' heating bills up sharply, with the typical bill topping \$150, or \$18.59 above normal, government statistics show.

The average national heating bill was \$150.71 for December, compared with the normal heating bill of \$132.12 for the month. U.S. consumers posted the third-highest temperature-related heat demand in 55 years of recordkeeping.

The bill was about \$41 more than the average in December 1984, when milder weather prevailed. This December's weather was similar to that of December 1983, the most recent

very cold December. And while fuel prices were not much changed, government statisticians said a direct comparison of consumer costs could not be made because of differing methods of calculation that were used two years ago.

"All three major residential heating fuels experienced above normal temperature-related consumption at the national level," according to a report Monday from the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.

Americans heating with electricity saw their bills rise 15 percent above normal for the month, with natural gas costs up 14 percent and heating

oil users paying 12 percent more, according to the service's Assessment and Information Services Center.

The above-normal heating costs stemmed from weather that averaged from 4 degrees to 8 degrees below normal during the month.

Excessive costs varied considerably by region and fuel, however, ranging from a high of \$70.61 more than normal for natural gas users in the East North Central states to a low of \$3.53 extra for electric heat in the Pacific states.

For the heating season so far — October, November and December — the nation's total heating bill was estimated at \$20.8 billion, about 3

percent above normal. Of that, \$10.8 billion was spent in December.

The Assessment Center compiled the average heating costs for the nation's 71,941,600 home-heating customers based on the weather in each part of the country for the month, the costs of gas, oil and electricity and the share of homes using each fuel in each area.

Here are their estimates of the average household heating bill in December for each region, and the departure from a normal December:

—New England, \$167.34, \$9.70 above normal. Includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

—Middle Atlantic, \$197.23, \$14.05 above normal. Includes New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

—East North Central, \$190.08, \$33.06 above normal. Includes Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

—West North Central, \$166.06, \$32.85 above normal. Includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.

—East South Central, \$111.30, \$20.92 above normal. Includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

—West South Central, \$99.96, \$15.52 above normal. Includes Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

—Mountain, \$101.83, \$6.13 above normal. Includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

—Pacific, \$108.15, \$9.32 above normal. Includes Washington, Oregon and California.

The monthly energy use calculations do not include figures for Alaska and Hawaii.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Southwestern Bell increased earnings in 1985

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Southwestern Bell Corp. has reported earnings of \$996 million in 1985, up from \$883 million in the previous year.

Revenues for the year were \$7.92 billion, the St. Louis-based company said Wednesday, compared with \$7.19 billion in 1984.

For the last quarter of 1985, the company earned \$230 million on revenues of just over \$2 billion. The results compared with earnings of \$224 million on revenues of nearly \$1.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 1984.

Southwestern Bell Corp.'s principal subsidiary is Southwestern Bell Telephone, which provides telephone service to customers in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. It also is the parent company of Southwestern Bell Publications Inc., the nation's largest directory publisher.

### Treasury to borrow \$23 billion to fund deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department says it plans to borrow a record \$23 billion next week to finance the burgeoning federal deficit.

The borrowing announced Wednesday will come at what is known as a "quarterly refunding," a series of three auctions of Treasury securities held one week in every three months. This refunding takes care of much of the government's needs for new cash to finance a deficit that now stands at \$1.95 trillion.

The previous record borrowing at a quarterly refunding was \$22.5 billion last November. That amount was part of a record \$63.4 billion in cash raised during the October-December quarter.

### Reagan nominates new agriculture secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has nominated veteran agribusiness figure Richard E. Lyng to be secretary of agriculture.

The choice was welcomed Wednesday by members of Congress, but questioned by a group that lobbies for government consumer and nutrition programs.

Lyng, who will replace resigning secretary John R. Block, declined interview requests until after he was confirmed by the Senate — an action that was expected to be routine.

### Investors sweeten offer for Kaiser Aluminum

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — An investor group led by Oklahoma businessman Joseph A. Frates has sweetened its offer for Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. by \$1.50 a share, to \$21.50.

Under the new bid disclosed Wednesday, the group would buy each of the remaining shares for \$8 in cash and a package of securities with a combined face value of \$13.50, said Leonard T. Conway, a partner in Asset Management Associates, one of the investors in the Frates group. The group already controls an 18.6 percent stake in the aluminum producer.

### Steel producers expect loss of \$200 million

DETROIT (AP) — U.S. steel producers will show a collective loss of more than \$200 million when calculations on 1985 earnings are complete, but this year should be the first profitable one since 1981, according to the American Iron & Steel Institute.

The improvement will be due primarily to the continued strengthening of the Japanese yen, quotas on steel imports, inflation and continuation of tax credits, institute Executive Vice President James Collins said Wednesday.

### Productivity dropped 1.3 percent in 1985

WASHINGTON (AP) — Productivity, the efficiency with which the nation produces goods and services, dropped at an annual rate of 1.3 percent the last quarter of 1985, the sharpest decline in four years, the government said.

Excluding farming, the productivity drop was even greater — 1.8 percent — the Labor Department said Wednesday.

The downturn reflects the slowdown in economic growth last year and may indicate a long-term return to higher inflation rates, analysts said.

## SOUTHWEST

(Continued from page 1C)

In 1973 he was promoted to director of mineral development, and later to director of coal development in 1978. In 1979, he was promoted to his present position of vice president of energy development. Siler will relocate to Midland and will maintain his duties as vice president of energy development for M.A. Hanna in addition to new duties as chairman and president of Midland Southwest Corp.

Midland Southwest Corp. was originally formed in 1966 as a real-estate based spinoff of First National Bank, and at one time was the owner of the Midland Hilton. The firm entered the natural gas gathering business in 1978 and in 1980 acquired Tri-Service Drilling Co. The firm is also engaged in the distribution of valves for oilfield, refining and chemical projects.

He said that throughout the growing industry crisis of the past five years, M.A. Hanna Co. had exercised the highest standards of fiduciary responsibility in the conduct of its relationship with Midland Southwest and had earned the right to be more directly involved in its day to day affairs.

"While continuing as director and consultant, I will have the opportunity to continue to play a role in the evolution of Midland Southwest while concurrently having the freedom to pursue other entrepreneurial business opportunities that the severely depressed industry environment is offering with increasing frequency."

A graduate of Duke University and a former U.S. Navy officer, Siler was previously employed at Ford Motor Co., prior to joining M.A. Hanna as director of purchasing in 1986.

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STATE

# Group defends breed of dogs; Boy still critical

DALLAS (AP) — While a 6-year-old Longview boy mauled by pit bulls clings to life, the president of the Southwest Pit Bull Association defended the breed of dogs.

Stephen Mark Fiengo Jr. was bitten more than 100 times when he was attacked by the dogs last week. He remained in critical condition late Thursday at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas after receiving 143 pints of blood and undergoing five operations.

But Teresa Jacoby, head of the pit bull association, said the attack was unusual and should not be used to condemn the breed.

"It's the club's feeling that any dog that bites a man should be put to sleep," she said.

Mrs. Jacoby said she thought the dogs attacked Fiengo because they were in a frenzy after attacking another dog. She said it's virtually unheard of for a pit bull to attack a human.

Meanwhile, Parkland doctors said Fiengo seems to be fighting to survive.

"We're shocked that he survived," said Dr. Michael Foreman, a surgeon. "We thought he would have died that night, but at 4 a.m. he opened his eyes and responded to his name. Then we went into a full court press."

Stephen arrived at Parkland, not breathing and with a faint pulse.

"Nobody has seen wounds like this since the war," Foreman said. "He's been dead already, and he's beaten the odds."

But, doctors still are unsure if the boy will survive.

"He's a tough little guy," said the boy's father Stephen Fiengo Sr. "He keeps hanging in there."

# Insurance-rate hike needed to save companies

AUSTIN (AP) — The recent 30.7 percent rate hike in workers' compensation insurance was designed to keep more Texas companies from going broke, according to Insurance Chairman Lyndon Olson.

"That was the hardest vote I have ever had to cast since I have been on the board," Olson, a member of the board since 1978, told the House Committee on Workers' Compensation on Wednesday. "We felt we acted responsibly."

Olson said the industry wanted a 40.8 percent increase.

He appeared before the House study group assigned the task of deciding what, if anything, the 1987 Legislature should do about what many call a crisis in the liability insurance industry.

"It is up to us to decide if we recommend a fine-tuning of state laws or a major rewrite," said Rep. Richard Smith, R-Bryan, committee chairman. "We cannot tell at this point."

Smith said the committee would hold hearings in March in Houston, Bryan, San Antonio and Dallas to get comment from the public and industry.

The insurance board sets rates that Texas insurance companies may charge for insurance to cover in-

jured workers, while the Industrial Accident Board provides data on the number of employers who have the coverage.

"I have a letter from U.S. Sen. (Lloyd) Bentsen, from one of his supporters who said he has paid out only \$300 in claims the last 10 years yet he will have to pay a \$10,000 premium for workers' comp this year," said Roy Evans, a committee member and an employee of the U.S. Department of Labor in Dallas.

Texas is only one of three states in which workers' compensation insurance is not mandatory. Some employers take out private liability insurance policies and some go "bare," Olson said.

In 1984, there were 337 insurance companies writing workers' compensation. Olson said a recent survey showed that only 294 of the 615 companies licensed to write workers' compensation are actually issuing policies.

"In the calendar year 1984, the companies writing this line of business wrote \$1,612,131,428 in workers' compensation insurance premiums, which is some \$24 million less than 1982," Olson said.

There were seven liability insurance companies placed in receivership in 1982 compared with 77 to 82 in 1985, Olson said.



State Board of Insurance Chairman Lyndon Olson tells a House committee on workers' compensation in Austin Wednesday the 30.7 percent increase in workers' compensation insurance was necessary to keep Texas insurance firms from going broke.

# Woman testifies in father's murder trial

LIVINGSTON (AP) — The daughter of a high school principal accused of murder testified that two statements she made contradicting her father's alibi were incorrect.

Vanessa Fontenot, 25, testified Wednesday about statements she made to a grand jury and to a Texas Ranger concerning her father's activities the day murder victim Billy Mac Fleming disappeared.

Her father, Hurley Fontenot, 48, former principal of Hull-Daisetta Woodson Junior High School, is on trial for the shooting death of Fleming, 38, who coached and taught math and science at the school.

Fleming disappeared from the Liberty County school April 12. His body was found 10 days later on a logging road in Polk County. He had been shot twice in the back of the head.

Prosecutors allege Fontenot, who is free on \$50,000 bond, and Fleming were rivals for the affections of Laura Nugent, 36, the school secretary.

Ms. Fontenot, an Austin financial clerk, told the ranger and jury panel last year that her father called her between 8 a.m. and noon on April 12.

But on Wednesday she said she remembered her father called her about 5 p.m. on the day in question.

Fontenot has said that on April 12 he called his daughter from Houston Intercontinental Airport. He said he had gone to the airport to pick up his daughter, who was flying in from Austin.

He gave investigators a parking stub from the airport indicating he was there between 5 p.m. and 5:10 p.m.

Miss Fontenot testified she never made any plane reservations for April 12. But under questioning by defense attorneys, she said she could have forgotten about the weekend travel plans.

She said she changed her story after reviewing her employer's appointment calendar.

"I knew the (father's) call came in

at about 5 p.m. when an appointment for my boss was also coming in," she said.

Fontenot was the last person to report seeing Fleming alive. He said he gave the coach a ride to his truck in the school parking lot on April 12.

Fontenot has told investigators that after dropping Fleming off at his truck about 2:50 p.m., he ran some errands, then drove to Hobby Airport in southeast Houston to pick up his daughter. When she did not show, he said, he decided to check Houston Intercontinental Airport.

He said he telephoned Miss Fontenot in Austin from a pay phone at the airport and gave investigators the parking stub as proof.

Prosecutors have said it would be impossible for Fontenot to make the trip from the school to the two airports in two hours.

Two other witnesses testified Tuesday that Fontenot had been seen in his hometown about 4 p.m., giving him only one hour to make the trip.

# No-pass, no-play rule still hitting Dallas schools hard

DALLAS (AP) — For the third time this school year, almost a quarter of Dallas students face disqualification from sports activities under the no-pass, no-play rule that bans students with failing grades.

Figures released Wednesday by officials of the Dallas Independent School District show that 24.5 percent of the district's 4,300 students taking part in sports are failing in one subject or another.

Under the statewide no-pass, no-play rule, students who fail a course are disqualified from extra-curricular activities, including athletics, for six weeks.

Otto Fridin, the district's deputy superintendent, said the latest figures compare with 27 percent failures in the first six weeks of school and 25.3 percent in the second six weeks.

"I would certainly say there's a lot

more work that we need to do," said Fridin. "I had hoped to see an improvement over the past by this point."

The student athletes are participating in seven sports, basketball, baseball, track, soccer, swimming, tennis and golf.

The new rule has also hit hard in the Dallas suburbs.

# Nurse disputes story of maggots in patient's sores

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — There is no truth to allegations that maggots bred in a bed sore on an elderly nursing home patient, a licensed vocational nurse has testified in the Autumn Hills murder-by-neglect trial.

Mary Harris, who worked at an Autumn Hills nursing home in Texas City, said she never saw maggots there.

Ms. Harris testified Wednesday in the murder trial of Autumn Hills Convalescent Centers Inc. and four of its current and former employees.

They are charged in the Nov. 20, 1978, death of 87-year-old Einora Breed. The elderly woman died 47 days after she was admitted to the Autumn Hills home in Texas City.

The state claims poor nursing care caused Mrs. Breed to die of starvation and infection.

The defense claims Mrs. Breed died of a recurrence of colon cancer. In earlier testimony, nursing aide Sherel Johnson told the court she found maggots in a bed sore on Mrs. Breed's body.

Ms. Johnson testified she told Ms. Harris about the maggots.

"Is there any truth to that story?" defense attorney Tom Sartwell asked.

"No, there is not," Ms. Harris said.

Under cross examination, prosecutor Mike Guarino asked Ms. Harris if she remembered telling a state investigator prior to the trial she did not remember Ms. Johnson.

"I didn't at that time," she said.

"Didn't you testify that she was like a daughter to you?" Guarino asked.

"Yes, she had a small daughter," Ms. Harris responded.

"She was like your daughter but you didn't remember her," Guarino said.



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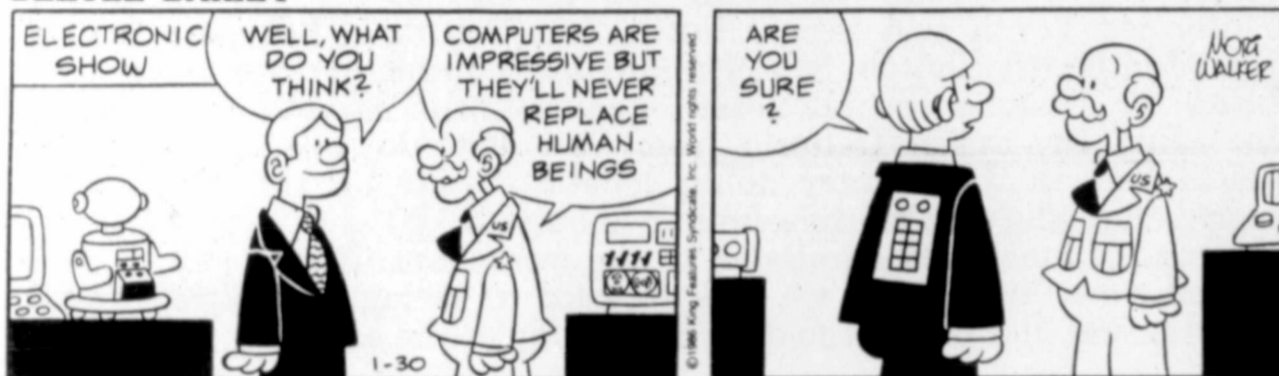
BLONDIE



MARY WORTH



BEETLE BAILEY



PEANUTS



SHOE



ANDY CAPP



CATHY



DICK TRACY



STEVE ROPER



Your horoscope

By JEANE DIXON

Friday, January 31, 1986

YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY: A change of environment makes both your work and your personal relationships more rewarding...

CELEBRITY BIRTHDATES: actresses Carol Channing and Suzanne Pleshette, author Norman Mailer, actor James Franciscus...

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Research proves helpful today. Keep good records; you may need them to substantiate claims...

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An excellent time to invest in real estate...

estate. A renovation project will increase the value of your property. Conservative behavior makes you more attractive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Protect your original ideas -- they could mean a financial bonanza. Avoid taking on loved one's problems if already feeling overloaded...

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The emphasis now is on protecting what you have. Put valuables in a safe place on guard against careless mistakes...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be more tactful with your loved ones and they will do almost anything for you! You may need to seek a legal opinion on a difficult situation...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid doing business with friends or you could lose both money and a pal. Be wary of someone who carries tales -- you could become the next victim...

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Seek a second opinion if you have doubts about an expert's advice. Someone's ambition will both excite and

repel you! Keep your distance until you have a clearer picture of what is happening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Free yourself to work on creative projects by delegating routine tasks. A reorganization boosts your productivity...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A family argument can be quickly resolved if you will agree to a compromise. Well-intentioned friends or relatives offer advice of dubious value...

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An excellent day to make some long-term plans! A chat with mate or partner proves very enlightening...

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be feeling ambivalent about someone or something. By Monday, everything will seem much clearer...

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep busy behind the scenes and you will avoid a run-in with a difficult supervisor. Adopt a "hands off" policy to a confusing situation.

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RENDER UNTO CAESAR

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ 9 7 5 2, ♥ A 9 8 4, ♦ 9 7, ♣ K 9 6. WEST: ♠ K J 10, ♥ Q J 10 5, ♦ J 10 8 2, ♣ J 2. EAST: ♠ 3, ♥ K 7 6 3 2, ♦ K Q 5 4, ♣ Q 10 4. SOUTH: ♠ A Q 8 6 4, ♥ Void, ♦ A 6 3, ♣ A 8 7 5 3.

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass. Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

You don't have to be a mathematical genius to be a good bridge player. But a knowledge of the basic probabilities is essential to success. Study this hand.

There is considerable difference of opinion about whether South should open the bidding with one club or one spade with five cards in each black suit. Regardless of which he chooses, his side should reach a contract of four spades in comfort.

West led the queen of hearts, taken by dummy's ace as declarer sluffed a diamond. If declarer had to lose only one trump, he could afford to lose two tricks in the minors...

Since he had escaped a diamond lead, declarer realized that, if clubs broke 3-2 (a 68 percent chance), he could afford to ignore the spade finesse, which offered only a 50 percent chance of success. He could af-

ford to concede two trump tricks since his diamond loser would go away on a good club.

At trick two declarer led a club to the ace and returned the suit to the king. When both defenders followed, the contract was laydown as long as trumps were no worse than 3-1. South simply led a trump to the ace and, when neither defender showed out, he abandoned spades in order to concede a club trick to the opponents.

Now East shifted to a diamond,

but it was too late. Declarer won and led a club, discarding a diamond from the table. Whether or not West ruffed was immaterial—the defenders could score only two trump tricks in addition to the club.

Note that declarer would have been defeated had he tried the trump finesse at trick two. West wins and shifts to a diamond, and declarer must concede a trick in each minor as well as two spades.

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GARFIELD



PEOPLE

Charles, Diana want to ski alone

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana will start a ski vacation in the Swiss Alps next week with a photo session on the slopes...



Davis, Helen Hayes and Greta Garbo. His films include "Joan of Arc," "Show Boat," "With a Song in My Heart" and "The Carpetbaggers."

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. (AP) — Retired actor Victor Mature, who once flexed his muscles in such movies as "Samson and Delilah" and "The Robe," turned 70...

Charles, 37-year-old heir to the throne, and Diana, 24, will spend 10 days starting Feb. 6 at Klosters, their favorite ski resort...

The couple, who will be vacationing with friends, have agreed to pose for the media shortly after arriving but then expect to be left alone...

On their first ski vacation to Liechtenstein in 1983, the couple's hopes of an idyllic second honeymoon were dashed by reporters and photographers.

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Hope Lange married theater producer Charles Hollerith Jr. in a private ceremony at the home of friends in Monterey, Calif., a publicist says.

The marriage Wednesday was the third for Miss Lange, 54, and the second for Hollerith, 58, said publicist John Springer.

Miss Lange won two Emmy Awards for her 1968-69 television series "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir." She has also appeared in a number of films, including the 1957 Oscar nominee "Peyton Place."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rock 'n' roll legend Little Richard was charged with reckless driving and other counts in an October traffic accident that put him in the hospital for three weeks...



The 53-year-old singer, whose real name is Richard Wayne Penniman, also was charged Wednesday with driving without a license...

Penniman, now a preacher and gospel singer, suffered a broken thigh bone and cuts after the sports car he was driving smashed into a metal traffic control box and a wooden pole Oct. 8...

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Leif Erickson, best remembered for his role in the television series "The High Chaparral," has died of cancer. He was 74.



Erickson, who portrayed character Big Jon Cannon for the television show, lost his battle Wednesday night with the disease that first sickened him in March...

Born William Wycliff Anderson, the actor changed his name the year after his 1937 Broadway debut as Lewis in "Golden Boy." His first effort with the new name was playing John Merritt, M.D. in "All the Living."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HURRY! I WANNA SHOW YOU THE BIGGEST ICICLE EVER!" "OO BAD YOU DIDNT GET HOME SOONER IT WAS A WHOPPER!"

SCRAM-LETS WORD GAME

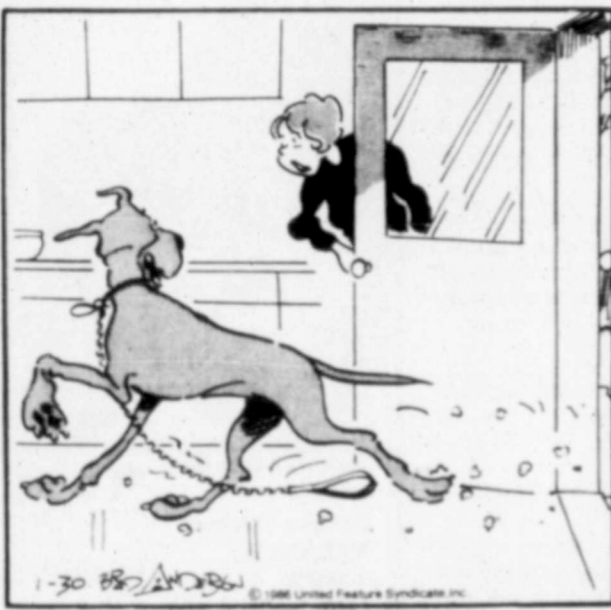
Word game puzzles with scrambled letters and numbered squares to be filled in.

Complete the chuckle quoted by filling in the missing words you develop from step No. 3 below.

SCRAM-LETS ANSWERS

Wiggly — Zombi — Knead — Unison — MY GAIN. I gave my daughter some of my clothes since I had gained weight.

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"Can't you tell when Phil has lost his nerve and let go of the leash?"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Know what I'm gonna learn as soon as I get into oneth grade?"

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Evening TV Schedule

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 1986

Programs subject to change without notice

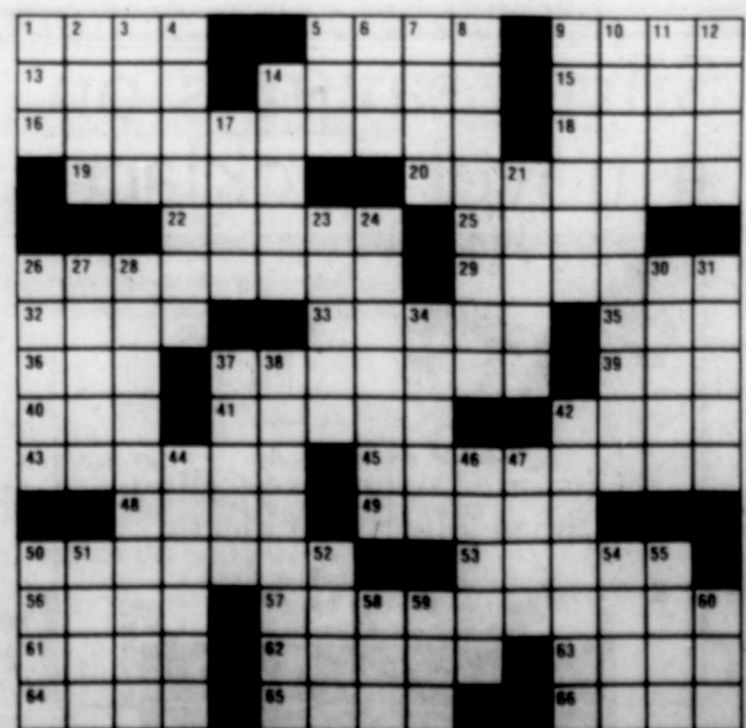
Table with columns for Networks (KMD, KOSA, KTFX, etc.) and Expanded Cable Services (SHOWTIME, TMC, DISNEY, etc.) listing TV programs and their times.

DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Edited by Trude Michel Jaffe

- ACROSS: 1 Sound from the veidt, 5 Composer of "Giselle", 9 Jaeger's relative, etc. DOWN: 1 Sleepy fellow, 2 Norwegian king, etc.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: SARAH'S SLASHER, PRELATE PICTURE, RIVIERA INTERNE, etc.





## CURIOUS SHOPPER

# Plastic soda bottles determined safe by FDA

By SONJA HEINZE

Q. Is soda in plastic bottles harmful to the body? People are telling me that this is so. Rose Wilson, Scranton, Pa.

A. The Society of the Plastics Industry has a section called the Plastic Bottle Information Bureau, and Terry Yacona, its representative, claims that plastic soft drink bottles, constructed from a material called polyethylene terephthalate, otherwise known as PET, have been determined by the Food and Drug Administration to be safe for use in packaging foods and carbonated and alcoholic beverages. This material is also used for heart valves and artificial blood vessels.

The plastics industry further claims that plastic materials are be-

coming so widespread because this is what consumers want.

If you walk into a supermarket, however, and find all the glass bottles suddenly replaced with plastic bottles, this doesn't necessarily mean that's how you want your soda contained. It simply means you have no choice in the matter.

Elizabeth Davenport, a spokesperson for Environmental Action, a Washington-based conservation group, asserts that "profits are usually the overriding factor in companies' decisions on materials."

Plastic is cheaper packaging than paper or glass. By replacing aluminum soft-drink cans with PET, a project in the works, manufacturers will be able to increase their profits by 15 percent.

The major problem with all this plastic is that it does not rot. Long

after you and I have turned to dust, an empty Mazola bottle will nestle on a sandy beach for eternity.

Furthermore, although the plastics industry maintains that, properly incinerated, these plastics turn into simple carbon dioxide and water vapor, there are other experts who contend that we are dealing with a group of chemicals that are not fully understood and whose presence in landfills and improperly operated incinerators is causing an increase in deadly dioxin in our environment when burned, and is stopping valuable methane from being generated when mixed with garbage.

Q. Last summer I parked my car under a pine tree and did not know that somebody had cut some branches from it. The top of my car

is still covered with marks left by tree sap dripping on it and I'm unable to remove them. Any suggestions? Marianne Gruber, Ventnor, N.J.

A. Mary Ann Peach, consumer education manager at Johnson Wax, sent some printed material that advises, under the heading "Tree Sap and Bird Droppings," that problems from these substances can usually be remedied with a rubbing compound.

I asked for specifics, such as what sort of rubbing compound and what the procedure involves. Peach's personal response was different from the printed material I had been sent earlier. This time she advised that tree sap and bird droppings can be successfully removed with a polishing, not a rubbing, compound. Both products are available in automotive stores.

Readers who have met and solved this problem please explain to us how you did it.

Q. I have heard that green potatoes are not good for you and should not be eaten. Green potatoes are in the bags of potatoes that you buy in the supermarket. You have no way of knowing if you are eating green potatoes in a restaurant. What can be done about this? Mary Solek, Tuckerton, N.J.

A. When a potato is green, it means that it has been exposed to light for an excessive period of time.

Poisons then develop in the vegetable as a natural defense against insects, fungi and bacteria. If you eat them, you won't die but you could get sick.

There's no way, of course, of knowing what color the potato was that you ate in a restaurant, but I would optimistically assume that the chef would reject green potatoes not only because they're slightly bitter, but also because sick customers are not good business.

If you can help it, don't buy potatoes in the bag. Buy them one by one, and when you get them home, keep them in the dark, preferably in a cool bin as opposed to the refrigerator.

Have a consumer-oriented question? Write to Sonja Heinze, care of this newspaper.

Sonja Heinze is a columnist for King Features Syndicate Inc.



## CONSUMING INTERESTS

# Starting 'homemade' soup time consuming

By LINDA ANDERSON

In the heart of the long (well, in some places anyway), cold winter, nothing soothes a tired body as much as hot, homemade soup.

Unfortunately for those of us who work outside our homes, making homemade soup takes a lot of time. Vegetables have to be washed, cut up and cooked, meat has to be simmered to make the broth, noodles have to cook and the whole dish has to be simmered together to get the flavors to blend just right.

Beatrice (the company that keeps introducing itself to us in commercials as "We're Beatrice!") offers a line of Soup Starters — which are basically the fixings for soup, dried

and put in a container — for those who want homemade soup with less fuss. All the cook has to do is add fresh meat.

The usual taste-testers sampled beef vegetable Soup Starter for taste, price and advertising accuracy. The cook in this case was the older teenager (wasn't that thoughtful?).

Soup Starter is marketed in 7.3-ounce containers, and is priced at \$1.25. When used according to label directions, one package yields about five servings of soup. (Price listed is from a local supermarket. Price at other locations may vary.)

Label advertising claims "We did all the shopping, chopping, slicing

and dicing. All you do is add fresh beef ..." Inside the container is a packet of powdered stock mix — its label advertising claims "The great taste starts here. Good cooks agree the most important element of good homemade soup is the stock. That's why this stock packet is so important. Inside is a special blend of herbs, spices and flavors made especially for Soup Starter Homemade Soup Mix."

Some of the ingredients used to make this "homemade" soup include dehydrated vegetables (including potatoes, yellow split peas, carrots, onions, red bell peppers, celery and leeks), macaroni, barley, sugar, salt, modified food starch, tomato pow-

der, onion powder, monosodium glutamate, glyceryl monostearate, sodium sulfite and sodium bisulfite added as preservatives, thiamine hydrochloride, torula yeast, disodium inosinate, disodium guanylate and turmeric.

I don't know about you, but I don't have a lot of those ingredients in my kitchen, as a general rule.

Soup Starter does take time to prepare. The meat has to be cut up and browned, the soup mixture has to be brought to a gentle bubble and the whole dish has to simmer for 90 minutes. Maybe it isn't as much trouble to make Soup Starter soup, but the product takes almost as long to make as real homemade soup.

In the taste test, the testers

seemed to be divided by age. Everyone older than 12 who tried it thought it was fine — quite tasty, even — and those who were younger than 12 didn't like it much. That probably has less to do with younger and older taste buds than it does with the fact that my younger children are not very fond of beef-type stews or soups.

The soup did have a dried-soup whang to it, and it is probably high in salt, but those of us who finished our bowls enjoyed it and the cook was very proud of her accomplishment. So was I.

Linda Anderson is a Reporter-Telegram Lifestyle writer.



## EXTENSION EXTRA

# Good diet contains enough fiber

By MARIAN FARR

Is it necessary to buy special high-fiber foods for health? Not if you're eating a well-balanced diet that includes about 15 grams of dietary fiber for every 100 calories. Marketers have capitalized on medical scientists' call for more dietary fiber as a possible cancer preventative, by introducing a number of high fiber products. For example, several cereals with nine to 12 grams of fiber per one-ounce serving are now on the market shelves.

However, more fiber isn't always necessary. Nutrition research over the years has identified several useful properties of dietary fibers. Reduction of cholesterol absorbed by the intestine, alteration of the ratio

of types of fats absorbed or changes in the transit time of digested food through the intestine have all been reported.

However, the researchers also point out that high bulk diets may cause a loss in the absorption of essential vitamins or minerals. Reduced absorption of proteins, fats, minerals and vitamins can result from 35 grams of dietary fiber per 100 calories per day. Research is continuing to determine both the best types and amounts of fiber for a healthful diet.

In the meantime, the person who eats a balanced diet containing the recommended four servings of vegetables and fruit each day, as well as four servings of whole grain breads

and cereals, should be able to get enough fiber from regular foods.

Vegetables, fruits and whole grains are the most common food sources of fiber. Some of the foods highest in fiber include broccoli, raw cabbage and carrots, dried beans and peas, wheat bran, oatmeal, dried prunes, unpeeled apples and other fruits with skins.

Marian Farr is Midland County Extension Agent, Home Economics.

## Party benefits Abused Children's Shelter

The proceeds are still being tallied, but it's estimated that the Abused Children's Shelter's Super Bowl Party benefit netted between \$20,000-\$25,000, according to Paula Ahders of the shelter's board of directors.

"It was a very boring game, but other than that it was very nice," she noted.

Approximately 250 people attended the \$25-per-person fund raiser which took place in Ector County Coliseum's Barn G.

Participants watched the Super

Bowl game on large screen televisions, barbecue was provided by the Chuck Wagon Gang and there was an auction at half-time.

The Abused Children's Shelter, a 24-hour emergency care facility in Odessa, has aided about 1,000 abused, abandoned and neglected children since being chartered in 1978 as the Odessa Youth Shelter.

"The shelter services Midland County with about 20 percent of the children a year being from Midland County," Ms. Ahders said.

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# The changing face of credit turns wealth to debt

Los Angeles Times-  
Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — For Chris G., sliding into debt — \$25,000 worth of debt — was, unfortunately, all too easy.

The unsolicited credit cards that kept coming in the mail permitted Chris to maintain the style of living she and her husband had grown accustomed to before she quit her \$25,000 a year job six years ago to raise the first of her two children.

"At the beginning I had only four credit cards — a Visa, a MasterCard and two store cards," recalled the Silver-Spring, Md., woman, who agreed to talk on the condition that her identity not be disclosed.

Then, thanks to her previous good credit history, the unsolicited credit cards began pouring in. "They just rolled in," she said. "If you're a credit-card addict like I am, you use them. In the end, I had five Visa cards from different banks that sent them to me to use free."

With thousands of dollars of credit available from each card, "we just kept borrowing and borrowing and borrowing to live. ... I always had reasons: We needed snow tires; the boys needed pajamas; the Christmas Wishbook had arrived from Sears." Besides, she added, it was easy to rationalize the borrowing. "I figured I could always deduct the finance charges from my income tax."

IN THE end, though, the borrowing "got us in a real hole." Finally, she and her husband — who did not know the extent of the debt until last summer — visited a credit counselor. They have now put themselves on an excruciatingly tight budget to permit them to repay all of their debts within five years. As for the credit cards that got them into trouble, "we had a burning ceremony. ... Now I pay cash for everything."

Chris' tale of woe may be extreme, but her basic problem with credit is by no means unique. With a growing number of lenders eagerly dishing out the credit, thousands of Americans are acquiring debt almost as naturally as they turn on a television set.

From traditional automobile loans to credit cards to new lines of credit that are linked to the value of their homes, consumers have been taking on debt at a pace unmatched since the end of the Korean war, when consumers splurged to satisfy the unmet needs of the war years.

Today, according to figures from the Federal Reserve System, Americans have tallied up a total of \$664.2 billion of debt for loans — car, property improvement, home equity, mobile home, recreational vehicles and personal loans. That sum is more than triple the \$223.2 billion rung up in consumer loans 10 years ago.

For home mortgages, there is another \$1.4 trillion of credit outstanding — also nearly three times the \$483 billion outstanding 10 years ago. Consumer debt has grown faster

than consumer income and faster than the economy itself. While most economists had, as a result, expected consumer borrowing to slow down last year, it continued to rise sharply, growing at an annual rate of 21 percent in the first half of 1985 and 18.8 percent in the third quarter. Over the last three decades, the normal annual growth rate has been about 13 percent.

THE GREATEST growth in credit has come in the use of bank cards as financial institutions aggressively pursue consumers, mailing unsolicited bank cards across the country to attract new customers. Between Dec. 31, 1983 and Oct. 31, 1985, bank credit card debt rose from \$44.2 billion to \$73.7 billion — a 67 percent increase in less than two years.

Even so, most economists do not believe that the current high level of consumer debt poses a threat to the economy as a whole, particularly when it is compared to all the different types of debt being incurred by various segments of the country.

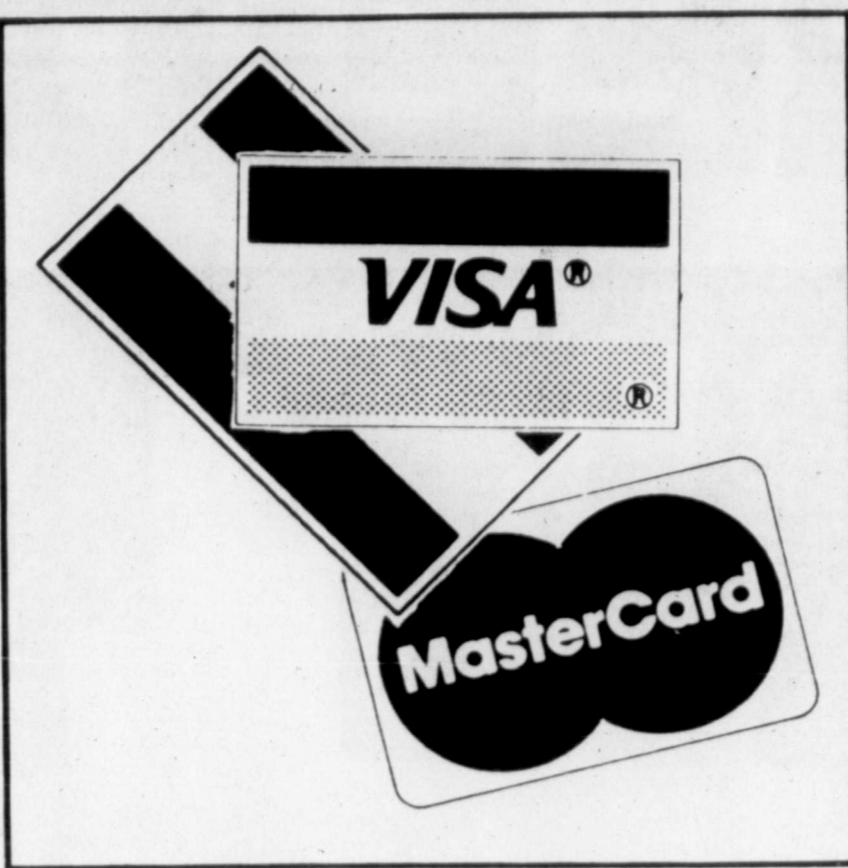
"What consumers are doing on their balance sheet is considerably less than what the government is doing on its balance sheet or business is doing," noted Charlene Sullivan, associate director of Purdue University's Credit Research Center.

What's more, households appear in better shape to repay their debt than in the past. For even as they borrow, they are increasing their liquid assets — checking and savings accounts, stock, money market funds, bonds and other financial instruments that can be readily converted into cash — according to Daniel Van Dyke, a vice president and senior economist for the Bank of America. Five years ago, installment debt accounted for 10.9 percent of consumer liquid assets. Today, that ratio is 9.9 percent. "Installment debt has grown faster, but assets have grown faster," Van Dyke said.

But by some of the measures economists use to determine whether consumers are in debt over their heads, households would appear to be in trouble. Consumer debt — excluding mortgages — is equivalent to 19.2 cents of every dollar of spendable income. That compares with 17.8 cents at the end of 1979 — the peak of the previous recession.

DELINQUENCY RATES on credit payments are also rising, with 2.39 percent of all consumer installment loans (excluding bank card loans and mortgages) more than 30 days late as of Sept. 30, 1985, the last available figures. Although that level is below the record 2.91 percent delinquency rate posted 11 years ago, it is higher than the 2.1 percent recorded a year earlier.

Delinquencies on bank-card loans, however, are near their all-time high, with 2.88 percent of all payments for such loans more than 30 days late at the end of September. Although that may sound like a small number, economists point out



that it is up sharply from the 2.1 percent delinquency rate recorded for a year earlier.

Mortgage loan delinquencies, meanwhile, have declined somewhat since January 1985, when they were at a record high — 6.19 percent — for the last five years. At the end of September, those rates had dropped to 5.64 percent.

Credit counselors don't need to see these figures to know that a growing number of families are overextended. They know simply by the sharp increase in the number of clients that are turning to them for help. "We're definitely seeing a marked increase in the number of clients," said Joanne Kerstetter, executive director of the Consumer Credit Counseling and Educational Service of Greater Washington. "Our waiting list this year is about four weeks; it used to be only a week and a half a year ago. For the first six months of 1985, the number of families we saw increased by 25 percent."

WHAT'S MORE, their debts were far higher than previous clients. "The debt load, excluding secured debt such as loans for homes or cars, averaged \$7,000 this year; last year it was less than \$5,000," Kerstetter calculated. Contributing sharply to the increased debt load was the average number of credit cards each family carried — from four to five last year to seven to nine this year, Kerstetter said.

This rapid expansion of consumer debt is causing increasing concern among many economists who fear that the overextended consumer soon will have to put a brake on

spending. That in turn, could lead to a sharp slowdown in the economy, which for the past year has been spurred on by consumer spending.

"Since the fourth quarter of 1982, consumer spending has been a major driving force in U.S. economic growth," Allen Sinal of Shearson Lehman Brothers said. "Can the consumer keep it up? Likely not, with the odds favoring a substantial slowdown, but no collapse, in consumer spending during the fourth quarter of 1985 and in 1986," he added.

With every other sector of the economy weak, that could spell trouble, said Sandra Shaber, vice president of consumer economics for Chase Econometrics.

But Shaber and many other economists pointed out that the sharp growth in consumer credit numbers may be misleading because the numbers include credit-card charges that are made primarily as a convenience rather than for a loan.

"Consumer credit is growing rapidly, but not at a crisis rate," said Leo Mullin, executive vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago, one of the nation's biggest issuers of credit cards, with about \$3.2 billion outstanding on the Visa and MasterCard issues.

"WHEN PEOPLE say that credit is higher than ever, it's true, but it's not quite as scary as it sounds because we pay for things differently than we used to," said Fabien Linden, executive director of the Consumer Research Center at the Conference Board.

"Not too long ago, you withdrew money from the bank and paid cash.

## DEAR ABBY

### Eating habits: More than matter of taste

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Recently my wife and I toured England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and we noticed a strange habit in all these countries that puzzled and disturbed us. While eating, they held their forks upside down as compared to the way we Americans hold ours.



Van Buren

I tried to explain to them that the fork is curved so as to facilitate the lifting of the food to the mouth. They "rake" their food onto the fork with their knife. (And you should see how they eat their peas!)

Also, after cutting meat, they do not set the knife down and change the fork from the left hand to the right; they eat left-handed, which looks rather awkward.

When I mentioned this to an Englishman, he laughed and said, "We are one up on you; switching the fork from the left hand to the right hand is wasted motion."

Abby, please inform us as to where they acquired these strange eating habits. — THE WILBURS IN BEL-

FAIR, WASH.

DEAR WILBURS: Their habits evolved from custom. Don't complain; the English have come a long way from the days when King Henry VIII ignored the utensils, ate with his hands and tossed the bones over his shoulder!

DEAR ABBY: A Chicago reader wanted to know what happened to the grocer, pharmacist, milkman, etc. who used to give her mother such beautiful calendars for Christmas, she had a hard time deciding which one to hang in her kitchen.

I can tell her. They have been put out of business by the giant chain stores because so many people shop only where they get the lowest price. I can't blame anyone for wanting to get the best deal possible, but if you want service, search out the small locally owned business, where the

owner works shoulder to shoulder with his or her employees.

You may have to pay a little more than the discount store charges, but remember the old saying, "You get what you pay for." — PAUL EICHORN, DENVER

DEAR PAUL: Right on!

DEAR ABBY: What would you have done if you were served a drink with lipstick on the rim of the glass? This took place at the home of an acquaintance, not a close friend. — DIFFICULT DILEMMA

DEAR DIFFICULT: I belong to the "do-unto-others" school. Were I the hostess and a guest was served a drink with lipstick on the glass, I would appreciate having it called to my attention.

Abigail Van Buren is a columnist for Universal Press Syndicate.

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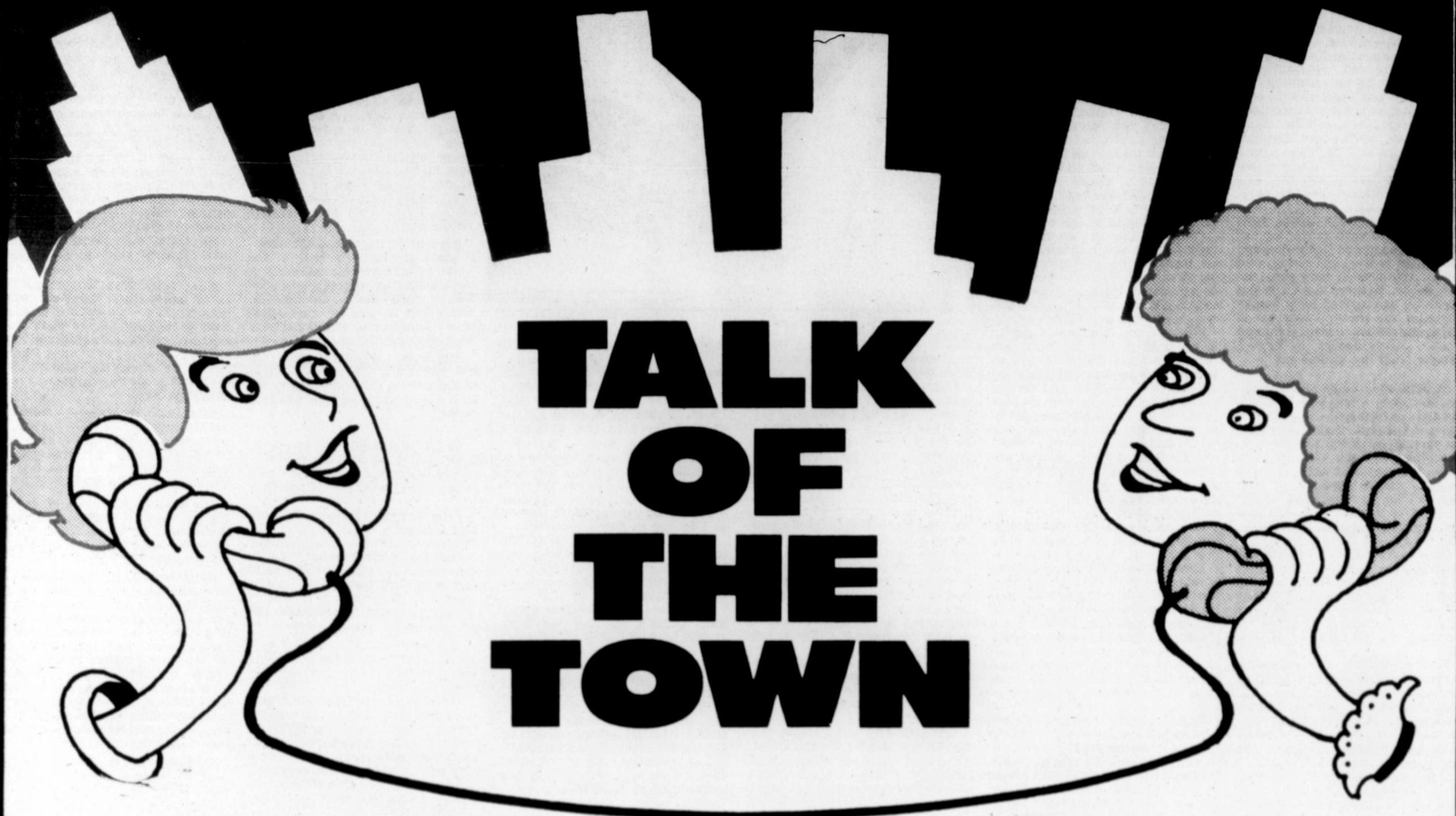
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### Opponent says White may have been 'first nerd'

AUSTIN (AP) — A Democratic gubernatorial hopeful says Gov. Mark White's failure to participate in high school activities may have made him "one of the first nerds in Texas."

A. Don Crowder, opposing White in the May 3 primary, displayed a copy of White's high school yearbook entry at a news conference Wednesday and said a lack of entries for extracurricular participation may account for the governor's refusal to ease the "no-pass, no-play" academic rule and his lack of support from teachers.

The first-term governor's aides said Crowder was wrong on all counts.

"The governor was very active during junior high and high school and worked to support his family since the seventh grade. In addition to working after school, he was quite active in a number of school activities, including school plays and church activities," said Mark McKinnon, White campaign spokesman.

"The governor is 100 percent, four-square behind education and behind teachers. He's just trying to raise the standards," McKinnon said.

The "no-pass, no-play" rule, pushed by White as part of the state's school reform laws, prohibits students from all extracurricular activities for six weeks if they fail any class.

Crowder said the lack of listings of extracurricular activities in White's entry in his high school yearbook entry from Lamar High in Houston "indicates to me and leads me to believe that perhaps Mark White was one of the first nerds in Texas."

"I think that shows and gives a clear indication of why he does not favor extracurricular activities and wants to punish those who would choose to engage in them and learn from that experience," Crowder added.

Crowder said the rule should be eased to bar only students who don't make a 75 percent average of all their course grades. Failing that, the suspension period should be reduced to one to three weeks, he said.

Crowder also accused the governor of becoming "vicious" with teachers who complained about White's endorsement of limited drug testing of public and private workers, including teachers.

When leaders of some teacher organizations complained, White said those individuals didn't look closely enough at his remarks to understand that he meant testing only in cases where drug use is suspected.

Crowder said White's dealings with teachers have alienated them and threatened teachers' voting support for the Democratic Party.

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<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Save 30%. Polyester fiberfill. 12 oz. *; for crafts, more.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>1.37</b> Pkg. With Coupon Limit 6</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>2 receiving blankets. Cotton; 30x40" ea.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>3.44</b> Pkg. With Coupon Limit 3</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Murphy Oil Soap. For all wood surfaces, more. 16 fl. oz.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>97¢</b> Ea. With Coupon Limit 6</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Shower curtain liner 6x6'</p> <p>Our 5.97 Sale Price</p> <p><b>4.97</b> Ea. With Coupon Limit 2</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Drink cups. 100; plastic, 5-oz. size. Great for parties.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>88¢</b> Pkg. With Coupon Limit 4</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Save 34%. Rag rug. Multicolored, reversible. 24x45"</p> <p>Our 2.38 Sale Price</p> <p><b>1.57</b> Ea. With Coupon Limit 4</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>MacGregor Nylon roll bag. Lightweight, contrasting colors.</p> <p>Our 8.97 Sale Price</p> <p><b>4.97</b> Ea. With Coupon</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Paper towels. 100, 2-ply sheets; prints. 74-sq.-ft. roll.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>2 \$1</b> Rolls With Coupon Limit 6</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Malted milk balls with chocolate-flavored coating.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>88¢</b> Ctn. With Coupon</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Save 22%. AM/FM stereo with cassette. 8-W output.</p> <p>Our 4.97 Sale Price</p> <p><b>34.97</b> Ea. With Coupon</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p>Fram oil filters. Popular sizes for many U.S. import cars.</p> <p>Sale Price <b>2.27</b> Ea. With Coupon</p> <p>Coupon Good Thru Sat. Feb. 1, 1986</p>	<p><b>FILM DEVELOPING SALE</b></p> <p><b>STANDARD VALUE</b></p> <p>1 color print of each negative. For 110, 126, 35mm or disc film.</p> <p>12 EXPOSURES ..... <b>1.86</b></p> <p>15 EXPOSURES ..... <b>2.54</b></p> <p>24 EXPOSURES ..... <b>3.37</b></p> <p>36 EXPOSURES ..... <b>4.47</b></p> <p>at your Kmart Photo Center</p>

### STATE in brief

#### Work on reactor halted

DALLAS (AP) — Work at Unit 1 of Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant came to a halt and 250 construction workers were laid off when plant officials discovered a construction permit had expired six months ago.

Dick Ramsey, spokesman for Texas Utilities Generating Co. said the permit expired Aug. 1, 1985, and would take about 30 days to renew.

The 250 Brown and Root Inc. employees who remained on the job Wednesday will be transferred to jobs on the second reactor unit, Ramsey said.

"It was simply an oversight on our part," he said. "We're concerned. It's regrettable."

All construction work on Unit 1 stopped at 11 a.m. Wednesday after the utility was notified by officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Tuesday night.

The order will affect construction areas common to both units of the plant, Ramsey said.

#### Texas Cavalry rides again

DENISON (AP) — The resurrected Texas Cavalry will carry a cargo of congratulatory letters from 49 states' governors when it rides again in mid-February from Denison to Austin.

William Miller of Denison is the impetus behind the Cavalry and the letters congratulating Texas for 150 years of independence from Mexico. The letters will be delivered to Gov. Mark White.

Miller formed the 2nd Cavalry, named himself colonel and drafted 49 letters asking governors of each state to participate in the event. Miller also recruited the posse that will ride with him to deliver the letters to White.

He said he will don an authentic Cavalry uniform and hit the road with his trailblazers on Feb. 15, with the letters.

#### Railroad loses appeal

AUSTIN (AP) — Missouri Pacific Railroad must pay \$5.4 million in damages in a fatal traffic wreck caused by a driver who stopped to look for a lost baseball cap, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

Clay Dove died in the Dec. 9, 1982, collision near Placedo in Victoria County. Dove, a Missouri Pacific worker, was a passenger in a van driven by a transport service hired by the railroad.

The driver crossed Farm Road 616 and stopped on the shoulder on the other side of the road, facing traffic. An oil truck came around a bend and slammed into the van, killing Dove and another passenger, George Smithwick.

The lawsuit filed by Roselyn Dove, Clay's widow, and his two children, blamed the driver.

Court records said the driver was looking for a cap lost the previous night.

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Cheeseburger plate with onion rings and potato. **1.99**



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Valentine Love Lines

Send a Message To The One You Love Most Forget the gag gifts and give them something to really go ga-ga for. Send your special someone a message through our "Lovelines" page to be run February 14. Make it silly or mushy or really imaginative. It costs only \$4.00 for 15 words and each additional Word is 20 cents. Best of all - our classified personnel will call your "Lovelines" recipient to make sure they read the Valentine's Day paper and see the page!

Bring your "Lovelines" message in to the journal or mail it to us using the form below. The deadline for placing such messages is February 12 at 5p.m. Add that special Touch for just a little more. #1 \$1.50 #2 \$1.50 #3 \$2.00 #4 \$2.00

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1977 SUBURBAN Silverado, 454-hp... 1976 FORD F100 Super... 1976 El Camino... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

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1986 28 ft SunVista trailer... A nice 1974 Holiday Travel Trailer... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

400 Auctions

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CAMERA 35mm Olympus OM-10m... Wading outfit, torch regulators... 10 ton combo air unit... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

430 Household Goods

32 Yards, plush green carpet... KING Size Comforter and Pillow cases... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

490 Computers and Accessories

INDIVIDUAL seeking word processor... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

500 Pets and Supplies

VALENTINE Poodles, AKC Miniature Schnauzer-Champion lines... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

520 Store, Shop, Cafe Equipment

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600 Rooms For Rent

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480 Cameras and Supplies

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340 Motorcycles

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1982 Glastron fish and ski... 1982 Yamaha... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

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1985 Turbo Saratoga SP... 1975 33 foot travel trailer... 1971 Mac Truck... 1974 4088 Trail Mobile Van...

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