

Hereford Brand



96th Year, Vol. No. 251 Deaf Smith County, Texas

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

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Wide range of business conducted by DSCHD

BY SPEEDY NIEMAN
Editor-Publisher

Directors of Deaf Smith County Hospital District, in regular session Tuesday night, continued study on a long-range planning proposal, accepted a settlement offer from the U.S. Department of Justice on some old Medicare payments, authorized Administrator Jim Robinson to make an offer on real estate north of the hospital, and honored Dr. Howard Johnson with a plaque presentation.

The board also approved an elective deferred retirement plan for employees, accepted a bid proposal on long distance phone service, approved operations and financial reports, and heard department presentations from Grace Bennett, business office manager, and Darlene Cornelius, personnel director.

The board met in closed session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss evaluation of the administrator. Directors returned to open session and reported they had decided to do an indepth review of Robinson in September, which would mark his first anniversary with HRMC. The board then approved a motion to give the administrator a 2.68 percent salary increase.

Mal Manchec, board president, surprised Dr. Johnson with the presentation of a plaque from the board honoring Johnson for delivering 5,000 babies and for his "tireless devotion and dedication to the health of the entire community throughout 32 years of service" at the hospital.

The plaque included a photo of Dr. Johnson holding the 5,000th baby delivered at the hospital. His wife, Carolyn, also surprised the doctor by showing up for the presentation.

Johnson, who had been requested to make a report at the meeting, later discussed trends in obstetrics and pain management. He indicated that the current trend has been toward the use of epidural anesthesia and encouraged the board to evaluate the addition of that service for patients at HRMC.

Rodney Bailey, chief financial officer, reviewed the letter from the Justice Department which informed the hospital it could be prosecuted under the Federal False Claims Act for accepting Medicare payments to which it was not entitled. The letter said an audit concluded that between 1987 and 1991 there were five claims processed that should not have been paid.

Three claims, totaling \$679.49, were for non-physician outpatient services which were not entitled, and five duplicate claims were listed at a total of \$1,228.72. The letter stated the hospital was potentially liable for (See HOSPITAL, Page 2)



Waiting for harvest

This photo shows a closeup of wheat in a field at the north edge of Hereford which is almost ready for the 1997 harvest. Unusually wet weather has delayed the annual event this year, however crews are slowly moving into the area to get the annual project completed. Some wheat from distant fields has already been delivered to Hereford area grain storage facilities.

Helms criticizes Albright decision to send envoy to Hong Kong appointed legislature

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A dispute has arisen between Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Sen. Jesse Helms over her decision to send an envoy to witness the installation of a Chinese-appointed legislature in Hong Kong on Monday.

When the colony reverts from British to Chinese rule, Albright will attend the initial "handover" ceremony but decided early on to boycott the installation of the appointed legislature because it signifies the dissolution of Hong Kong's elected legislature.

The official rationale was that Hong Kong already has "a perfectly

good legislature in place" and doesn't need an unelected legislature.

But State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Tuesday that Albright will send U.S. Consul General Richard Boucher to the swearing-in of the new legislature.

"He has to work with the new legislature," Burns said Tuesday. "For practical reasons, he will attend."

The disclosure touched off an angry response from a spokesman for Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"It undermines Albright's message by conferring legitimacy on the puppet legislature," Helms' spokesman, Marc Thiessen said.

Boucher's presence will be "read in Beijing as a wink and a nod," he asserted.

Japan and Australia have decided to send their foreign ministers to the ceremony. Officials said it was not clear what plans other countries have.

Hong Kong is the final stop of an Albright trip to Asia that also includes visits to Vietnam and Cambodia. She is due in Hanoi Thursday night. Recent violence in Cambodia has raised the possibility that her visit there will be abbreviated.

Stopping here Tuesday for a speech and an overnight stay, Albright told a gathering of the Commonwealth Club that the appointment of a provisional legislature by China was unjustified.

"Since the provisional legislature includes 10 members defeated in 1995 elections, it was also at odds with the popular will," she said.

"As a result, I will not participate in the swearing-in ceremony when I visit Hong Kong. And we will be watching closely to see if free and

Cargo ship, Mir collide

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - A cargo ship crashed into the space station Mir during a practice docking today, springing a pressure leak in one of the Mir's six modules. The crew of two Russians and one American rushed to shut a hatch to the damaged section and all on board were reported safe.

"The pressure is normal in the rest of the station and the crew is out of danger," said Vera Medvedkova, a spokeswoman for the Russian Mission Control Center near Moscow.

NASA spokesman Rob Navias said the pressure inside the damaged module was "heading toward zero."

The leak meant that oxygen in the module was pouring out. Space stations, like aircraft, are pressurized to maintain proper oxygen levels for the crew.

The collision occurred at 1:20 p.m. Moscow time (5:20 a.m. EDT) while the Mir crew was using manual controls to practice docking the Progress cargo ship, Medvedkova said. No one was aboard the cargo ship.

Today's crash was the latest in a string of problems on the 11-year-old Mir, which was designed to last only five years.

Recent breakdowns have led to friction between Russian and U.S. space officials, as the American side questioned the station's safety. Russian authorities insist the Mir can operate safely through 1999.

Still, the station's automatic docking system has repeatedly failed, the temperature control system sprung three leaks this spring, the main oxygen-generating system went down in March and a fire in February filled parts of Mir with smoke.

The Progress cargo ship was disconnected from Mir on Tuesday. The crew tried to re-dock it today, but it hit the module's solar battery, Medvedkova said.

Navias said there were no plans yet to abandon Mir. A Soyuz spacecraft is always docked to the station so the crew can quickly return to earth if their lives are in danger.

In addition to American Michael Foale, the Mir is staffed by Russian cosmonauts Vasily Tsibliyev and Alexander Lazutkin.

Foale has been living on Mir since mid-May, when he replaced Jerry Linenger, who experienced a series

(See MIR, Page 2)

May jobless rate in Texas drops notch to 5.1 percent

AUSTIN (AP) - Unemployment in Texas fell to 5.1 percent in May, a slight decrease from the 5.2 percent unemployed in April, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

The commission on Tuesday said the number of nonagricultural jobs grew by 27,800 last month. Service producing industries accounted for 75 percent of those jobs, largely

concentrated in services and trade. May's 5.1 percent unemployment was three-tenths of a percent lower than the 5.4 percent posted in May 1996.

Bryan-College Station had the lowest unemployment rate, at 2.0 percent, matching the area's rate in April.

McAllen-Edinburg-Mission recorded the highest rate of 15.9 percent. That was half a percent lower than the 16.4 percent rate posted in April.

Rates of unemployment in the urban areas of Texas as announced by the Workforce Commission for May, compared with revised April figures (in parentheses) were:

- Abilene 4.2 (4.0)
- Amarillo 3.8 (3.7)
- Austin-San Marcos 2.9 (2.9)
- Beaumont-Port Arthur 7.8 (8.1)
- Brazoria 7.2 (7.1)
- Brownsville-Harlingen 11.9 (12.1)
- Bryan-College Station 2.0 (2.0)
- Corpus Christi 7.5 (7.6)
- Dallas 3.6 (3.6)
- El Paso 10.8 (10.8)
- Fort Worth-Arlington 3.5 (3.5)
- Galveston-Texas City 7.8 (8.1)
- Houston 5.0 (5.1)
- Killeen-Temple 4.8 (4.8)
- Laredo 9.8 (10.5)
- Longview-Marshall 7.0 (7.0)
- Lubbock 3.7 (3.6)
- McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 15.9 (16.4)
- Odessa-Midland 5.2 (5.2)
- San Angelo 3.4 (3.2)
- San Antonio 3.8 (3.7)
- Sherman-Denison 4.6 (4.7)
- Texarkana 7.3 (7.0)
- Tyler 5.3 (5.3)
- Victoria 5.1 (5.2)
- Waco 4.4 (4.2)
- Wichita Falls 4.0 (4.2)

FBI questioned state police about Clinton relationships

By PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - FBI agents and Whitewater prosecutors have questioned Arkansas state troopers in recent months about their knowledge of any extramarital relationships President Clinton may have had when he was governor. The Washington Post reported today.

It's part of an effort by Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr to find close Clinton associates in whom he may have confided and who might have knowledge about the truth of sworn statements Clinton has made in the course of the Whitewater investigation, the newspaper said.

But one trooper questioned about Clinton's personal life said investigators seemed more interested in

portraying the president as a "womanizer" than in uncovering details of financial transactions.

"In the past, I thought they were trying to get to the bottom of Whitewater," Roger Perry told the Post. "This last time, I was left with the impression that they wanted to show he was a womanizer," said the 21-year veteran of the Arkansas state police force.

Perry, who had been questioned before in the Whitewater probe, said a prosecutor and FBI agent interviewed him in April for more than 1 1/2 hours in Starr's office.

The Post reported that eight troopers who served on Clinton's security detail had been asked about 12 to 15 women by name. It quoted deputy Whitewater prosecutor John

Bates as saying it is "perfectly appropriate to establish the circumstances of the contact" between Clinton and the women, who could be potential witnesses.

Investigators told the newspaper such questions became essential in determining who might have participated in intimate conversations with the then-governor about his business dealings.

In another development, sources told The Associated Press that Whitewater prosecutors suggested last year they might seek a search warrant to hunt through the White House family residence for a box of documents. That sent White House lawyers scrambling to avert what could have been an election year embarrassment.



Hospital board honors Dr. Johnson

Dr. Howard Johnson was honored by the Deaf Smith County Hospital District board of directors Tuesday night in recognition of 32 years of dedicated service to the hospital and community, as well as his unprecedented delivery of 5,000 babies. Mal Manchec, board president, made the surprise presentation, which was attended by Dr. Johnson's wife, Carolyn.

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Lifestyles



Pilots recognized

Elvira Enriquez, left, and Claudia Smith, right, were named Pilots of the Year for 1996-1997 during the Tuesday morning meeting of Hereford Pilot Club. Pictured with the honorees is Martha Jones, who was installed as club president during the meeting. Other officers for the coming year are Brenda Thomas, president-elect; Jodi Keese, corresponding secretary; Cindy Karo, recording secretary; Kim Leonard, treasurer; and directors Mary Edwards, Jayne Euler and Smith.

Ann Landers

Woman in abusive relationship vows to stay, 'no matter what'

Dear Ann Landers: As I write this letter, I can barely see the paper because the tears are streaming down my cheeks. I never thought I would be in this situation, but here I am -- in an abusive relationship.

I walked home from the movies with my boyfriend last night. We were right across the street from the police station when he smacked me square in the face. I guess I said something he didn't like. "Joe" kept right on walking, and like an idiot, I ran after him. A police officer who was standing nearby warned me. He said, "Lady, that guy will hurt you. Don't chase him." But I did anyway. Joe then slowed down so I could catch up to him, but apparently, he was still angry because he punched me in the mouth again.

Ann, I've seen women discuss abusive boyfriends on talk shows, and I've always thought they must be stupid to stay with those men. Now I see their side of it. I know I deserve better, but I can't help myself. The day after Joe hit me, he called and apologized for his behavior. He said he wasn't himself because he had been drinking. I realize that is no excuse, but I'm going to take him back anyway.

Please stop your readers not to judge me or anyone else in this situation unless they have gone through it. I love Joe and want to be with him always, no matter what. -- Average Girl in Every City, USA

Dear Average Girl: You've already told me you want to be with Joe always -- "no matter what." OK. That's fine with me. But here is what you can expect: black eyes, perhaps a broken nose, maybe a busted jaw, neighbors calling the police, midnight trips to the emergency room and lying to your family and friends about the multiple facial bruises. This scenario is common for women who stay with abusers.

I beg of you, read what I have written and take it seriously. Your

only hope is therapy. You need to understand why you have so little self-esteem that you think you deserve getting knocked around by your boyfriend. Please, please go for counseling. You need help.

Dear Ann Landers: You've printed several letters about how expensive it is these days to attend a wedding. We certainly can relate to that. We would like to give a nice gift on these occasions, but it is getting out of hand.

My husband, "Michael," and I both come from big Catholic families. I have 14 nieces and nephews. Michael has 17 -- all between the ages of 15 and 29. Within the last two years, six of my nieces and nephews and four of Michael's have gotten married. This year, there are four more weddings scheduled. Do you see a solution? -- Broke in the Big Apple

Dear Apple: An unusual gift can be far more impressive than an expensive one. Use your imagination. For example -- frame the wedding invitation and present it to the couple. Take photographs of the ceremony and candid shots of the guests and put them in an attractive album. Bring your videocamera and present the videotape to the newlyweds. If you use your imagination, you can save yourself a lot of money and give the bridal couple a gift that is unique.

Gem of the Day: People who cannot lead and refuse to follow make a dandy roadblock. They impede progress and are hard on the nerves. We all know a few who fit this description.

Is life passing you by? Want to improve your social skills? Write for Ann Landers' new booklet, "How to Make Friends and Stop Being Lonely." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check

or money order for \$4.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Friends, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$5.15.) ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1997 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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SELENA ANACONDA
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MY BEST FRIENDS WEDDING
1:35 - 4:15 - 7:30 - 9:45 PG-13

CON AIR Nicholas Cage
1:45 - 4:25 - 7:20 - 9:40 R

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Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, June 25, the 176th day of 1997. There are 189 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana.
On this date:
In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.
In 1868, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina were re-admitted

to the Union.
In 1906, a love triangle came to a violent end atop New York's Madison Square Garden as architect Stanford White, the building's designer, was shot to death by Harry Thaw, the jealous husband of Evelyn Nesbit.
In 1942, some 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers raided Bremen, Germany, during World War II.
In 1950, war broke out on the Korean peninsula as forces from the communist North invaded the South.
In 1951, the first commercial color telecast took place as CBS transmitted a one-hour special from New

York to four other cities.
In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled that the use of an unofficial, nondenominational prayer in New York public schools was unconstitutional.
In 1967, the Beatles performed their new song, "All You Need Is Love," during a live international telecast.
In 1975, the People's Republic of Mozambique came into being, ending nearly five centuries of Portuguese rule.
In 1981, the Supreme Court decided that male-only draft registration was constitutional.
In 1995, Warren E. Burger, the 15th chief justice of the United States, died in Washington, D.C., of congestive heart failure at age 87.
Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II received Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at the Vatican, a meeting fraught with controversy because of allegations that Waldheim had hidden a Nazi past.
Five years ago: Both houses of Congress rushed to pass a back-to-work order ending a national rail strike; President Bush signed it June 26. The space shuttle Columbia, carrying seven astronauts, blasted off on a two-week mission.
One year ago: A truck bomb killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds at a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.
Today's Birthdays: Movie director Sidney Lumet is 73. Actress June Lockhart is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eddie Floyd is 62. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Willis Reed is 55. Singer Carly Simon is 52. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 51. TV personality Phyllis George is 48. Rock singer Tim Finn (Split Enz; Crowded House) is 45. Rock singer George Michael is 34. Rapper Candyman is 29.

Thought for Today: "The press, like fire, is an excellent servant, but a terrible master." - James Fenimore Cooper, American author (1789-1851).

Senior Citizens

MENUS
THURSDAY-Beef brisket, oven brown potatoes, buttered carrots, fried okra, green onion/pickle, cornbread, apricot crisp; or polish sausage, apricots.
FRIDAY-Fried pollock with lemon wedge, creamed potatoes, spinach with hard cooked egg, coleslaw, whole wheat bread, lemon cheese cake; or ham, fruit cup.
MONDAY-Frito pie, corn, fried okra, applesauce jello, salad, biscuits, carrot cake; or parmesan chicken, fruit.
TUESDAY-Chicken fried steak, country gravy, oven browned potatoes, Italian green beans, tossed green salad, chocolate pudding; or salmon patties, D'zerta pudding.
WEDNESDAY-Polish sausage, hashed brown potatoes, sauerkraut,

pickled beet salad, fruit, peanut butter cookies, whole wheat bread; or smothered chicken, yellow squash.
ACTIVITIES
THURSDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., oil painting 9-11 a.m., Thrift Shop open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
FRIDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., Thrift Shop open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
SATURDAY-Games 12 noon-4 p.m.
MONDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., doll class 1-4 p.m.
TUESDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., decorative tile painting 1-3 p.m.
WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., ceramics 1-3 p.m.



The Great Sphinx near Giza, Egypt was built about 4,500 years ago.

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Record setting Johnson still loses game

Giving up 11 hits overshadows left hander's strikeout mark

By Associated Press
Randy Johnson put himself in the record book. He would've rather put himself in the win column.

Johnson struck out 19, the most ever by an American League left-hander and one short of the major league mark. Still, his Seattle Mariners lost 4-1 Tuesday night to Mark McGwire and the Oakland Athletics.

"I've said all along that strikeout games and low-hit games are kind of just icing on the cake," Johnson said. "The biggest thing was to go out there and win the ballgame."

"I struck out 19 guys, but I still got an 'L' next to my name," he said.

Johnson (11-2) walked none, yet gave up 11 hits, including a 538-foot homer by McGwire. It was the longest of McGwire's 356 career home runs, and the longest recorded drive in the 21-year history of the Kingdome.

"When you have a great pitcher in Randy Johnson out there, you get pumped up to face him," McGwire said of his former Southern California teammate. "Vice versa, he is pumped up to face me."

Johnson struck out 18 in the first eight innings, two short of the record done twice by Roger Clemens.

In the ninth, Johnson had an 0-2 count on Scott Brosius, who flied out. George Williams followed with a home run, then Johnson struck out rookie Mark Bellhorn for No. 19.

With a chance to tie Clemens, Johnson got his last out on a fly ball

by rookie Jason McDonald.

"I was more worried about wanting to win the game than the strikeouts," Johnson said.

Johnson's previous strikeout high was 18, in eight innings at Texas on Sept. 27, 1992.

In other AL games, New York defeated Detroit 12-9, Cleveland beat Minnesota 12-5, Baltimore downed Milwaukee 6-2, Chicago beat Kansas City 4-0, Boston topped Toronto 9-6 and Anaheim beat Texas 7-6.

Johnson has led the AL in strikeouts four times, and leads the majors this year with 157.

The 6-foot-10 lefty became the fifth pitcher to fan 19, joining Nolan Ryan, Tom Seaver, Steve Carlton and

David Cone. Like Johnson, Carlton lost when he struck out 19.

"That's the way it goes," said Johnson, who had won seven straight decisions.

McGwire hit an RBI double off the right-field wall in the third inning. In the fifth, one of baseball's most prolific power hitters of all time showed what happens when he connects squarely on a 97 mph fastball from one of baseball's hardest throwers ever.

McGwire's 27th homer eclipsed his previous long ball, a 514-foot shot this season at Tiger Stadium. Colorado's Andres Galarraga hit a 529-foot drive at Florida in May.

Seattle had won five in a row and the A's had lost five straight. Yankees 12, Tigers 9

Tino Martinez hit his second home run of the game, tying his career high with five hits and breaking a ninth-inning tie at Tiger Stadium.

New York led 9-3 in the sixth, but Detroit made it 9-all on pinch-hitter Melvin Nieves' three-run homer in the seventh.

Martinez opened the ninth with his 25th homer off Mike Myers (0-4), and Chad Curtis added a two-run homer off Doug Brocail. One out later, Brocail hit Derek Jeter in the hand with a pitch, causing the benches to clear. There were no punches thrown, but Brocail was ejected.

Raul Casanova and Damion Easley also homered for the Tigers, who have lost three in a row. Indians 10, Twins 5

Jaret Wright won his major league

debut, Jim Thome hit two home runs and Sandy Alomar extended his hitting streak to 23 games as Cleveland beat visiting Minnesota.

Wright, son of former major league pitcher Clyde Wright, was the Indians' first-round pick in the 1994

draft. Clyde Wright also made his big league debut against the Twins, pitching a four-hitter for the California Angels on June 15, 1966.

Wright allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings. He gave up home runs to Ron Coomer, Marty

Cordova and Scott Stahoviak. Alomar hit a two-run double in the sixth. Thome hit his third home run in two days and 11th in June, and

Matt Williams and Brian Giles also homered. White Sox 4, Royals 0

Working quickly, Wilson Alvarez stretched his scoreless streak to 17 innings as host Chicago beat Kansas City for its fourth straight win.

Alvarez (6-6) allowed four hits in eight innings, and has permitted just one run in his last 32 2-3 innings. The left-hander has picked up his pace on the mound ever since an interleague game at Cincinnati, when an NL umpire told him he'd get better calls if he wasted less time.

Harold Baines hit a two-run double. With 1,388 RBIs, Baines ranks 50th on the career list, one behind Ted Simmons.

Orioles 6, Brewers 2
Shawn Boskie won for the first time as a starter this season, pitching Baltimore past Milwaukee at County Stadium.

Boskie (4-3) had been 0-2 with a 10.76 ERA in four starts, but worked five solid innings. Arthur Rhodes

finished with four perfect innings, striking out five.

Cal Ripken hit a two-run double during a five-run second, and Pete Incaviglia homered to start the third. Red Sox 9, Blue Jays 6

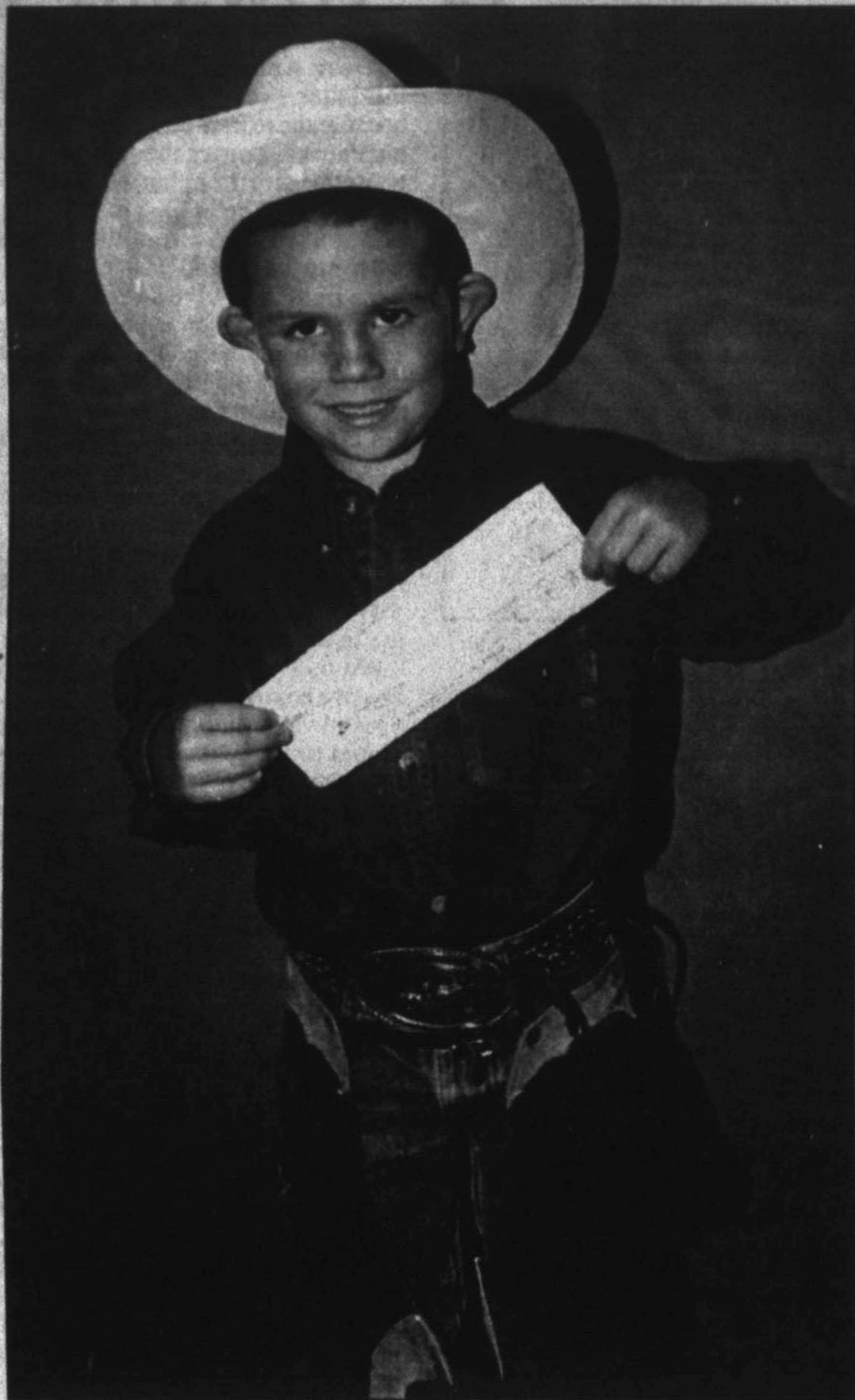
Nomar Garciaparra had four hits and scored four runs as visiting Boston beat Toronto for its fourth straight victory.

Garciaparra homered, doubled and singled twice. Darren Bragg homered and drove in three runs, and Scott Hatteberg singled twice during a five-run second inning.

Joe Carter homered as the Blue Jays lost their fourth in a row. Angels 7, Rangers 6

A pair of pet llamas did nothing to change the luck of the Rangers, who lost their seventh in a row and for the 16th time in 21 one-run games. Anaheim won its sixth straight game as Craig Grebeck singled home the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning off John Wetteland.

Texas president Tom Schieffer had two llamas - the animals are a sign of good luck in Peru, he said - brought in to stand around the batting cage at The Ballpark in Arlington during pregame practice.



Rodeo winner

Coe May, son of Keith and Shirley May, proudly shows the \$12 prize check he won for a third place finish in the Mutt 'n Bustin' (Sheep riding) event at the Shamrock Rodeo Saturday.

Hill hit by ball; X-rays negative

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Texas Rangers starting pitcher Ken Hill left Tuesday night's game against the Anaheim Angels in the fourth inning after being hit by a line drive in the right leg.

Hill gave up a leadoff single to Garret Anderson in a 3-3 game that nailed Hill in the right shin. Hill fell to the ground, attempted to get to his feet, then fell again.

The Rangers right-hander was helped off the field by two team trainers.

X-rays were negative, and Hill was listed as day-to-day by Texas.

Comets almost overwhelmed by crowd

Sellout audience watches Houston claim second WNBA victory

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Comets' first home crowd was almost too big and supportive for the team's own good.

Overwhelmed by the largest crowd ever to see a women's professional basketball game in the United States, it took awhile for the Comets to settle into playing basketball for a 70-55 victory over the Phoenix Mercury Tuesday night in their home WNBA opener.

"You come in expecting to play before 7,500, then it goes to 10,000, then to 12,000 and all of a sudden it's a sellout," Comets coach Van Chancellor said. "That's quite an adjustment to make. You get caught up in that. You want to do good."

The crowd of 16,285 - the previous record was 16,102 at Sunday's game in Phoenix between the Mercury and

the Charlotte Sting - gave the Comets (2-0) a warm welcome on the floor that is also home to the NBA Rockets.

The Rockets helped with the welcome, too. Charles Barkley presented a dozen roses to each Comets player before the game and several other Rockets players also attended the game.

The Comets liked the attention. "No one said anything about the crowd but when we got out on the court we said 'Wow,'" guard Kim Perrot said. "It was such a good feeling. I don't think we could have won without the crowd."

The Mercury took an 11-4 lead to start the game but the Comets battled back for a 34-24 halftime lead and never trailed again.

Houston had to survive a pair of second-half Phoenix charges. Phoenix cut Houston's lead to 38-37 with 15:26 to play and 46-44 with 8:51 to go.

"This was a lesson well learned," Phoenix coach Cheryl Miller said. "Sometimes it's good to get your tail kicked between your legs."

After the Mercury pulled to 46-44, Perrot hit a fast-break basket and Acrain followed with two baskets and

the Comets pulled steadily away. Cynthia Cooper was only 2-of-11 from the field but made eight of nine free throws for 13 points.

Toni Foster led the Mercury with 13 points and Marlies Askamp had 12.

After they stumbled to open the game, the Comets went on a 30-13 run the rest of the half. The spurt included a 13-0 run at one point.

Two free throws by Catarina Pollini with 5:45 left in the first half gave Houston its first lead 21-20. Wanda Guyton had 11 points in the half.

Dallas may get player to help

DALLAS (AP) - With the sixth pick in today's NBA draft, Don Nelson could find the exact player needed to begin turning around the Dallas Mavericks. Problem is, the pick was traded before he was hired.

Instead, the 15th player taken in the draft will be Nelson's first as the Mavericks general manager. He'll also have the 35th choice in a draft many say is basically a crapshoot after slam-dunk No. 1 Tim Duncan.

Dallas' biggest needs are for a small forward and a backup center. However, coming off a 24-58 season that kept the Mavericks out of the playoffs for the seventh straight year, the team could use help everywhere.

Speculation has the Mavericks eyeing San Jose State's Olivier Saint-Jean and Providence forward Austin Croshere and Tennessee-Chattanooga's Johnny Taylor. Nelson also may throw a curve and try bulking up the frontcourt with Tulane's Jerald Honeycutt or Cal-State Bakersfield's Johnny Taylor.

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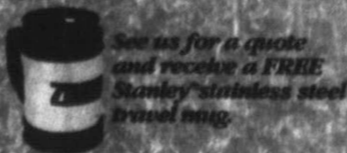
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Baerga's homer leads hot Mets to victory

Strong pitching, homers propel Pirates to 8-3 win over Houston

By Associated Press
 Carlos Baerga remembered, which made it especially sweet.
 In three of the four games the Cleveland Indians lost to the Atlanta Braves in the 1995 World Series, Baerga made the final out - twice with Mark Wohlers on the mound.
 Now, Baerga is playing for the hottest team in the National League, the surprising New York Mets. Tuesday night, it was payback time.
 "I think it's one of the best feelings I've ever had in my career," he said.
 In the eighth inning, Baerga's two-run homer tied the game. In the ninth, he slapped a liner to left-center off Wohlers to give the Mets a 6-5 victory over Atlanta.

Big 12 players could do well in NBA draft

AUSTIN (AP) - Players from the year-old Big 12 Conference could fare better in today's NBA draft than any other conference, league coaches say.
 University of Texas coach Tom Penders says the conference is expected to have as many as three lottery picks, five first-rounders and at least eight players chosen out of 58 total in the two-round draft.
 "And it could have been more," Penders told the Austin American-Statesman for today's editions. "I didn't see a league this past season that had more NBA prospects than ours."

It's possible, coaches say, that the Texas Tech center Tony Battie or Colorado guard Chauncey Billups could go quickly, probably among the top five.
 "It's a great basketball league," Tech Coach James Dicke said. "There are outstanding coaches and tradition-rich programs. I just hope we don't get our underclassmen raided every year."
 Battie is leaving Tech after his junior season and is generally considered the top interior prospect behind Duncan.

WAC to benefit from Bowl Alliance change

By EDDIE PELLIS
 Associated Press Writer
 The Western Athletic Conference and Conference USA got respect. The Bowl Alliance added teams without throwing its system into disarray.
 Everybody seemed satisfied, even Brigham Young, which had the most to complain about after a snub last year that pointed out the weaknesses of the Alliance.
 "We pretty much have to understand and deal with the situation," BYU athletic director Rondo Fehlberg said. "It's no good to march around with a chip on our shoulder, say we deserve more credit and act like the Rodney Dangerfield of the NCAA."
 The key to this week's agreement was the provision that more or less guarantees a spot in an Alliance bowl to a champion from either conference that finishes the season ranked sixth or higher, beginning in 1998.
 WAC commissioner Karl Benson said when negotiations began last November, the conference was

"It was a nice night for me," he said. "They had my number in the World Series."
 In other NL games, Cincinnati edged Montreal 7-6 in 10 innings, Florida stopped Philadelphia 4-1, San Francisco downed San Diego 4-1, St. Louis defeated the Chicago Cubs 7-2, Pittsburgh beat Houston 8-3 and Colorado downed Los Angeles 6-2.
 Baerga's heroics gave the Mets their sixth consecutive win, including two straight over Atlanta, and put them 11 games over .500 for the first time since July 30, 1991. It also moved New York to four games behind the first-place Braves in the NL East.
 "It means so much more to us," said winning pitcher Greg McMichael (4-6), who spent four seasons with Atlanta before joining the Mets in the offseason. "We're trying to get in the hunt. We're right where we need to be."
 With Wohlers (2-3) on the mound in the ninth, Todd Hundley walked with one out and Carl Everett singled, Hundley going to third. That brought Baerga, who was 0-for-5 in his career against Wohlers, to the plate.
 "Car-los, Car-los," chanted the Shea Stadium crowd, knowing Baerga has raised his average from .161 to .289 since April 28.

Atlanta manager Bobby Cox decided to pitch to the second baseman.
 "I'm not surprised they didn't walk Baerga," New York manager Bobby Valentine said. "They were probably afraid of Wohler's control there."
 His liner over the shortstop's head scored Hundley with the game-ending run, and as he crossed first base, Baerga pumped his fists high in the air.
 "Things are sure not going our way, I tell you that," Cox said.
Rockies 6, Dodgers 2
 At Los Angeles, Darren Holmes (3-1), starting in place of ailing Rockies ace Roger Bailey, pitched eight strong innings, and Larry Walker hit his 22nd homer in Colorado's victory.
 Holmes, normally a reliever, gave up five hits while walking two and striking out a career-high seven. He retired 16 of the last 18 batters he faced.
Marlins 4, Phillies 1
 At Philadelphia, Al Leiter (7-5) allowed only one run in six innings and Jim Eisenreich and Gary Sheffield each drove in a run as Florida handed the Phillies their ninth loss in 10 games.
 Leiter allowed only four hits, struck out seven and walked five.

Robb Nen worked the ninth for his 20th save.
 Philadelphia starter Scott Ruffcorn (0-2) gave up only two hits in 4 1-3 innings, but walked 10 while striking out three.
Pirates 8, Astros 3
 At Houston, Jon Lieber pitched seven strong innings and Al Martin and Kevin Young hit back-to-back home runs as Pittsburgh moved within 1 1/2 games of the Central Division-leading Astros.
 Lieber (4-8) beat Houston for the first time since July 14, 1994, giving up one unearned run, striking out five, walking five and holding the Astros scoreless after the second inning.
Cardinals 7, Cubs 2
 At St. Louis, Andy Benes (6-3) allowed four hits in seven innings for his 100th career victory and Ron Gant broke out of a slump with three hits and three RBIs as the Cardinals won for the third time in four games.
 The Cubs have lost six of seven and have been outscored 32-15 in that stretch.
 It took Benes three tries to get the milestone win. Terry Mulholland (5-8) was the losing pitcher.
Reds 7, Expos 6
 At Montreal, Lenny Harris singled home the winning run in the 10th inning to snap Cincinnati's three-game losing

streak. Eduardo Perez homered, drove in three runs and had a career-high four hits for the Reds.
 Jeff Shaw (2-0) got the win despite allowing Mike Lansing's homer in the ninth that tied the game 6-6.
 Henry Rodriguez homered and drove in four runs for the Expos.
Giants 4, Padres 1
 At San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit his 17th homer and Shawn Estes won his fifth straight start, allowing one

run in eight innings in the Giants' victory over San Diego.
 Bonds led off the third with his fifth homer in six games. The Giants scored three runs in the second on a run-scoring double by Damon Berryhill and RBI singles by Darryl Hamilton and Jose Vizcaino.
 Rod Beck pitched the ninth for his NL-leading 25th save, while Danny Jackson (1-5), lost his fifth straight start.

Houston sets Oilers free; cash settlement approved

HOUSTON (AP) - The NFL team once known as the Houston Oilers, already establishing a new identity in Tennessee, will pay \$3.5 million to its old landlord.
 Harris County commissioners approved Tuesday the cash settlement that allows the Oilers to escape from their Houston Astrodome lease a year early. That leaves only similar and expected consent from the city of Houston to officially make the Oilers the Tennessee Oilers, a name they already have adopted.
 As part of the deal, the Oilers also give to the county their dilapidated

7.2-acre practice facility.
 The Oilers valued the place near the Astrodome at \$1.5 million, but some of their own players characterized it as a dump. Harris County Judge Robert Eckels said the site could be leased or used as a county park or perhaps razed and replaced with an Olympic-class swimming center.
 "I'm pleased we have now got this behind us," Eckels said after the 3-0 vote. "I think it's a fair deal for the taxpayers of Harris County. We come in with a practice facility and cash. I think we're coming out ahead of the game."

According to the terms of the agreement, the Oilers' lease at the Astrodome will end July 31 and the Oilers' payments will be stretched over four years.
 The first payment is due either the day the Oilers leave Houston or Aug. 15, whichever date comes first. The last payment is due Jan. 15, 2001.
 The Oilers had sued the city, county and Astrodome USA, the company that manages the county-owned Astrodome, to prevent them from interfering with Nashville negotiations.
 Under a court agreement, the Oilers need approval from all three before they can get out of the final year of their 10-year lease at the Astrodome.

The commissioners' action took just a few seconds and was included in several dozen items rubber-stamped simultaneously. There was no discussion before the formal vote, in which the issue was lumped together with items like road projects, land purchases, employee parking space authorization and permission for one employee to attend a computer class.
 Oilers owner Bud Adams decided to take his team to Tennessee because Houston officials refused to build him a new stadium. The team will play in Memphis beginning this fall and until its taxpayer-paid Nashville stadium is finished.
 "I wish the Oilers well in Nashville," Eckels said. "I wish Bud Adams luck. He's still active in this community. I hope he will support our efforts to get another team here, and they play the Nashville Oilers in the Super Bowl some day."
 "I'm relieved to get this behind us but it's really just one more step in the process to take care of the Astrodome complex."

The Oilers earlier agreed to pay \$350,000 to Astrodome USA and drop claim to \$2.5 million in revenue lost when a 1995 exhibition game was canceled because of Astroturf problems.
 City attorney Gene Locke has said talks with the Oilers were continuing but has declined to discuss details.
 "My understanding is everything is worked out," Eckels said.
 The team is already largely gone. Players had their last practice in Houston earlier this month and the team's equipment was headed to Tennessee.
 County commissioners earlier this year approved an agreement in which they would have received a \$5.25 million settlement that included the practice facility. But under the plan approved Tuesday, the county gets \$250,000 less so the Oilers can pay the city's legal fees. Mayor Bob Lanier had demanded the payment from the lawsuit brought by the Oilers.

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Cultural obsession with thinness can result in exercise bulimia

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Maybe you can't be too rich, but you can be too thin.

Those breathtakingly slender models you see on treadmills, lifting weights and track running in TV commercials are literally sick, says Dr. Randall Flanery, assistant professor of community and family medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

"The models you see in magazines and TV are on average 83 percent of their ideal body weight," Flanery says. "We define anorexia as being 85 percent of your ideal body weight. Their weight makes them anorexic."

More is at stake that just the health of the models, he says. The target

audience - mostly women - may accept the message that they must look the same, and their efforts result in exercise bulimia.

"These ad campaigns perpetuate a cultural bias that you are judged on the narrow characteristics of appearance and body size. We put this big emphasis on how you look, which is mostly unattainable."

Flanery says these are women who are at the gym at six in the morning and again at six at night. They spend hours every day there, exercising longer and harder because they think they've eaten too much. Then they might get an injury, like a stress fracture, but carry on anyway. They neglect school, work or home life to

purge calories at the gym.

Flanery has developed a program to work with students - from seventh grade through college - to get them to develop an awareness of eating disorders and exercise bulimia. He asks them to chart what they think is an ideal weight and then how they rate their own bodies. Flanery says that girls invariably choose a thinner image than boys do. Often girls will rate themselves as heavy, even if they are fairly thin.

"The girls think you have to be much thinner than the average American woman to be considered attractive. Unfortunately, American has a cultural obsession with thinness that will take a long time to overcome, if we ever do."

To Your Good Health

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Please discuss shoulder impingement syndrome. I was diagnosed with it three months ago following three days I spent staining our deck. The healing process seems awfully slow.

How do I avoid this the next time I stain the deck? — C.S.

ANSWER: Tendons from your upper back muscles cross over your shoulder to their final destination on your upper arm. Shoulder impingement syndrome occurs when those tendons are compressed between the bones of your shoulder.

Overuse leads to inflammation and swelling of those tendons. The shoulder cannot accommodate a smooth gliding of swollen tendons. Pain, especially when you raise your arms above your head, lets you know that all is not well.

For healing, rest is essential. Not complete rest, however. If you keep the shoulder totally immobile, bands of scar tissue might form and freeze the shoulder stiff. Then you would have a problem worse than the origi-

nal one. A physical therapist can guide you in exercises designed to keep your shoulder limber without overtaxing it.

Anti-inflammation medicines — ibuprofen, indomethacin, naproxen — can reduce pain and swelling. You should take such medicine regularly until you heal.

On rare occasions, surgery comes into play, to remove any bony spurs that might be squeezing the tendons.

Three months is time enough for impingement syndrome to heal. Schedule another visit to your doctor. At this point, your program needs a change.

How to avoid the problem in the future? A flippant answer is don't stain the deck again. Only kidding. You have got to strengthen your shoulder muscles well before you attempt another deck-staining venture. And you shouldn't do the whole job in three days. Take time to rest your shoulder.

Again, a physical therapist can

come to your aid in showing you what exercises can prevent a repeat of impingement syndrome.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: In a recent column you wrote about medicines that create a short-term menopause to treat endometriosis. What medicines are used to interrupt estrogen production? — M.N.A.

ANSWER: With endometriosis, bits of the uterus lining have migrated to spots where they should not be. The ovary is a favorite spot, but any structure in the pelvis can be a target. Even such distant sites as the rectum can contain fragments of the uterus lining tissue.

The transplanted tissue responds to the stimulation of monthly estrogen production just as the uterus lining does. That causes the pain of endometriosis.

Turning off estrogen production dries up the displaced lining tissues. Synarel nasal spray is a popular medicine for that purpose. The oral medicine Danocrine can achieve the same end.

Don't be misled. Drugs are just one of several ways to deal with the painful condition of endometriosis.

I'm sending you my report on endometriosis. Others can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 37, P.O. Box 5539, Riverton, NJ 08077-5539. Enclose \$3 and a self-addressed, stamped (55 cents) No. 10 envelope.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: A doctor told me to take Anacin for a painful knee. I continued to take it for several years. During that time, I developed a rectal itch. No doctor could find an answer for me.

Then a nurse told me to stop taking Anacin for a stool exam. The itch stopped within a couple of days. I hope my discovery will help others. — J.S.

ANSWER: A number of foods and food additives have been implicated as causes of rectal itching. Caffeine is one of them. Anacin is a combination of caffeine and aspirin.

It would be interesting to know if you are a coffee drinker. If you aren't, then we can more confidently put the blame on the caffeine in your Anacin.

Other possible culprits include tomatoes, citrus fruits, cola drinks and chocolate.

Thank you for alerting others to a possible cause for an annoying problem.



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German Sauerkraut with Apples and Dried Cherries
Sauerkraut mit Äpfeln und Kirschen

Vegetable oil spray 1 small red onion, sliced 1 16-ounce can sauerkraut, rinsed, drained, and squeezed 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and shredded	1 medium apple, peeled, cored, and chopped ½ cup dried cherries, raisins, or currants ½ cup low-sodium chicken broth 1 tablespoon brown sugar ½ teaspoon caraway seeds
--	--

Spray a large saucepan with vegetable oil spray. Sauté onion in saucepan over medium heat for 10 minutes, or until tender, stirring often. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes. Serve warm.
Serves 8; ½ cup per serving.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving		
77 kcal Calories	0 mg Cholesterol	0 gm Saturated Fat
1 gm Protein	174 mg Sodium	0 gm Polyunsaturated Fat
19 gm Carbohydrate	0 gm Total Fat	0 gm Monounsaturated Fat

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In addition to the detailed maps, *The Roads of Oklahoma* has information and illustrations that capture some of the unique qualities of the state. Specific listings offer a wealth of travel information that covers everything from Oklahoma's roadside attractions to its history to helpful phone numbers for travelers.

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Baby bears
Members of the Sparklers 4-H Club are pictured with stuffed bears they helped make as a community service project. The bears will be sent to Russia for distribution in orphanages.

Tips for making health decisions

HOUSTON (AP) - Resist the urge to give vitamin supplements to the little folks at your house who pick at their food.

Over-the-counter supplements can be toxic, and megadoses can be very bad news, says Dr. Kathleen Motil of the USDA's Children's Nutrition Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

"Too much iron can be fatal, and there are cases where excess vitamins A and D can damage the kidneys, heart and brain," she says.

Motil says vitamin supplements are unnecessary for any child who is healthy and eats a balanced diet. "Even the most finicky eater will get enough vitamins and minerals with a varied diet that includes meat, dairy products, grains, fruits and vegetables," she says.

CHICAGO (AP) - Pack-a-day smokers can expect to lose at least two teeth every 10 years, according to the Academy of General Dentistry.

Citing two separate 30-year studies, the organization says that smokers are two times more likely to lose their teeth as non-smokers.

"The good news is that the risk of

tooth loss decreases after you quit smoking," says Dr. Fred Magaziner, spokesman for the group. "But the bad news is that the risk of tooth loss was still higher among the quitters than among those who never smoked."

The studies suggest that smoking encourages periodontal disease, which leads to tooth loss.

HOUSTON (AP) - Got a cold? Do your friends and relatives a favor by washing your hands a lot.

They could catch your cold when rubbing their eyes or nose with fingers that have picked up the virus from hand-to-hand contact, says Dr. Robert E. Rakel of Baylor College of Medicine. You could have left the virus behind by coughing or sneezing into your hands, then touching objects at home, work or school.

Frequent hand washing can lessen the chances of transmission, as will using disposable tissues.

DALLAS (AP) - If your excuse for not exercising was that joining a gym class is too expensive or too much trouble, you've lost it.

Routine tasks can be turned into

beneficial physical activity, says the American Heart Association.

"Physical activity doesn't have to be strenuous, formal, or time-consuming to be good for you," said Dr. Jan Breslow, AHA president and a professor at Rockefeller University in New York. "Any physical activity burns calories, so even routine activities such as grocery shopping, planting a garden or cleaning the house can be beneficial."

"Physical inactivity is now clearly shown to be a major risk factor for heart attack, but only 22 percent of American adults get enough exercise to achieve cardiovascular conditioning."

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WHO RECEIVE IT.—DR. CARL MENNINGER

Names in the News

NEW YORK (AP) - Val Kilmer has already been there, done that as the silver-screen version of moody rocker Jim Morrison. Now movie producers may bring back other musical giants from the days of Flower Power.

Cuba Gooding Jr. of "Jerry Maguire" fame is negotiating to star in "Blaze of Glory," the story of soul singer Otis Redding. Entertainment Weekly reported in its June 27 issue.

Kilmer played Morrison in "The Doors" in 1991. The magazine said the story of Jimi Hendrix, the psychedelic guitarist whose "Star Spangled Banner" made, for a

memorable Woodstock, is now the subject of a film being developed by the makers of "Dead Presidents."

The magazine also said Paramount and TriStar are getting ready to take a piece of the action on the Janis Joplin story. Paramount may snag Melissa Etheridge to play the "Queen of Rock." TriStar is looking at a lip-synching Lili Taylor.

Why all the flashbacks? "Hollywood is absolutely ravenous for stories from real life," producer Michael Cieply said. "When you talk about music stars of the '60s, you're talking about some amazing stories."

'Aliens' of 1947 identified by Air Force as dummies used in parachute tests

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Air Force has offered what it hopes is the final word on claims by UFO buffs that alien bodies were recovered at a crash site in New Mexico in 1947: The "bodies" were not aliens but dummies used in parachute tests.

The explanation - on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the incident - is offered in enormous detail in a 231-page report the Air Force released today. It is meant to close the book on longstanding rumors that the Air Force recovered a flying saucer and extraterrestrial bodies near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947, and then covered it up.

Skeptics immediately pointed out a discrepancy. The parachute tests occurred years after the Roswell incident. The Air Force theorized that those who saw the dummies were confused over the dates.

"I have no other explanation" for how recollections of "bodies" could be associated with the debris recovered at Roswell a decade earlier, said Air Force Col. John Haynes, who presented the report at a Pentagon news conference.

"We're not going to revisit it," he said. Deon Crosby, director of the

International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, said the report raises more questions than it answers. She said pictures of the Air Force dummies look like mannequins, and if that's what they were "what does it say about the people in the military who can't tell the difference between mannequins and bodies?"

The title of the report tells it all: "The Roswell Report, Case Closed."

The Air Force in 1994 issued a report on the Roswell incident that said the "spacecraft" that supposedly crashed in the New Mexico desert was an Air Force balloon used in a top-secret program, Project Mogul, intended to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests.

The Air Force called that report its final response to the Roswell rumors. But later the Air Force came upon evidence it believed would explain the additional rumors that space aliens were recovered at the crash site and were covered up. So today's report was put together to provide what Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall called a "complete and open explanation."

The possibility of a government conspiracy to cover up an actual UFO sighting was ridiculed today by retired Air Force Col. Richard

Weaver, who wrote the 1994 report.

"I don't think the government is capable of putting together a decent conspiracy," Weaver said on NBC's "Today" show. "We have a hard time keeping a secret, let alone putting together a decent conspiracy."

Asked if he thought the new report will put the matter to rest, Weaver said, "No, I doubt it. This has become a religion to many people. It's almost a cult. Certainly an unbelievable financial opportunity for many folks. So I think this is going to endure."

Although the Air Force's explanation of a mix-up of parachute dummies for space aliens seems reasonable, there is one aspect that troubles some UFO researchers: The tests with the dummies came about a decade after the 1947 Roswell incident.

Did those who claimed to have seen the "aliens" mix up their dates that badly?

"I think this is a real stretch," said Karl Pflock, a UFO researcher in New Mexico who said he does not believe the Roswell incident involved alien spacecraft.

In its report today, the Air Force offered little elaboration on the theory of the mix-ups in dates other than

speculation that events in the 1940s and 1950s "have been consolidated" in the minds of some who claim to have been witnesses.

"It appears that UFO proponents have failed to establish the accurate dates for these 'alien' observations - in some instances by more than a decade - and then erroneously linked them" to the actual recovery of Project Mogul debris, the report said.

The life-size dummies were used in high-altitude parachute drops from 1954 to 1959 as part of Air Force projects code-named High Dive and Excelsior. The object was to devise a way to return a pilot or astronaut to earth by parachute if forced to escape at extremely high altitudes.

The dummies were transported to altitudes up to 98,000 feet by balloons and then released. Balloons dropped 67 dummies throughout New Mexico in the 1954-59 period. The majority of them landed outside the confines of military bases in eastern New Mexico, near Roswell, according to the Air Force report.

The dummies had a skeleton of aluminum or steel, skin of latex or plastic, a cast aluminum skull, and an instrument cavity in the torso and head.

The Air Force said the existence of such dummies was not widely known outside of scientific circles.

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May	44.25
June	44.00

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CATTLE FEEDER (CME) 50,000 lbs., cents per lb.	
Aug	78.45
Sept	78.15
Oct	77.85
Nov	77.55
Dec	77.25
Jan	76.95
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Central Texas floods cause extensive damage to crops

Cotton fields in some areas of state hurt by high winds, high waters

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) - Record-breaking rains flooded and damaged many crops in Central Texas this weekend, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reported.

In the midst of warm and cold fronts, isolated thunderstorms deposited as much as 30 inches of rain in some counties.

Extension economist Jose Pena of Uvalde said that flooding in Bandera, Kerr and Kendall counties caused problems in the surrounding area as well.

"The heavy rains caused downstream flooding around Uvalde, Medina and Bexar counties," Pena said.

"The floods caused fence line destruction and left some livestock isolated from herds.

In addition to these problems, Pena said various crops will suffer from this weather. Producers expect losses in onion and cantaloupe crops due to the recent floods.

"We were ready to harvest about 600 acres of onions when the floods hit," Pena said. "Now the onions are sitting in waterlogged soil and we don't expect them to dry out in time."

Pena added that field crops such as corn, sorghum and cotton do not appear to be damaged by the floods. In fact, he believes cotton will benefit from the moisture.

In other regions of the state, however, cotton fields have suffered from adverse weather conditions.

Extension entomologist Emory Boring of Vernon said that cotton in the Rolling Plains was mostly planted between May 26 and June 20. He said sand blown by high winds was responsible for damage done to the cotton crop there.

"We were still planting when the floods hit and some cotton was very susceptible to the high winds," Boring said.

He said some buds were damaged; however, the rest of the plant should repair itself. Harvest may be delayed for up to 10 days. The damage has left some producers wondering if they should replant their cotton crops.

"Although the damage should be minimal, producers will determine by the end of the week whether they will replant," Boring said.

Besides damage done to crops and livestock, at least three human deaths have been reported due to the flooding. A water shortage in the city

of Llano is adding to the devastation.

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors:

PANHANDLE: soil moisture adequate. Ranges excellent. Cattle good to excellent. Cotton very poor to good; some stands lost to heavy rain, hail, cool soil temperature. Wheat fair to good with hail damage reported. Wet fields delaying sorghum planting.

SOUTH PLAINS: soil moisture adequate to surplus. Pastures, ranges in good condition. Many cotton fields damaged due to weather; destroyed fields will be planted to alternative crops. Peanut planting is nearing completion. Wheat harvesting continues.

ROLLING PLAINS: soil moisture adequate. Pastures, ranges in excellent condition. Cattle are gaining well. Cotton has been affected by weather; many producers are

replanting. Wheat harvest delayed by high moisture. Light casebearer damage to pecans.

NORTH TEXAS: soil moisture adequate to surplus. Pastures, ranges poor to excellent; weeds very persistent. Livestock good. Corn good to excellent with crop tasseling. Cotton being sprayed for weeds, thrips. Mildew, insects, disease persist on the sweet potato crop.

EAST TEXAS: soil moisture adequate. Pastures good; abundant rainfall, warm temperatures allowing strong grass growth. Hay cutting under way with good yields being reported. Pecans good. Harvesting of peach crop under way; good yields reported.

FAR WEST TEXAS: soil moisture short to adequate. Pastures, ranges poor to excellent. Cattle good. Cotton fair to excellent; high winds forcing farmers to replant. Wheat harvesting under way with poor yields. Pecans fair; Casebearer damage persists.

Peanut crop excellent.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture adequate to surplus.

Pastures good. Cattle good, but internal parasites persist in sheep, goats. Cotton planting nearing completion; flooded fields being replanted. Harvesting of wheat under way. Haying of forage sorghum under way.

CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture surplus. Pastures, ranges good. Wheat harvest delayed by rains; good yields reported. Oat harvest under way. Peanuts being planted. Insect problems continue on cotton. Midge damage to early sorghum fields.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS: soil moisture adequate to surplus. Drier conditions; some heavy rains reported. More hay cut. Oat and wheat harvest is complete. Trying to control insects on vegetables. Spraying pecans and peaches due to brown rot.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: soil moisture surplus. Pastures excellent; extensive rainfall reported. Livestock

fair; weather-related losses appear minimal. Baled hay damaged by wet weather. Corn, sorghum, cotton, peanut fields water-logged but do not appear damaged.

COASTAL BEND: soil moisture adequate. Pastures excellent; heavy rain hampers field and hay operations. Insect problems in cotton and corn crops. Sorghum in full bloom; insecticide spraying under way. Early variety peaches have been picked.

SOUTH TEXAS: soil moisture short to adequate. Pastures, ranges good. Livestock prices above average. Corn harvesting under way. Cotton good; irrigation, insecticide spraying under way. Sorghum good, but ergot persists in some fields; irrigation under way.

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Jacques Cousteau, ill for many months, dies at age of 87

By MARILYN AUGUST
 Associated Press Writer
 PARIS (AP) - Jacques Cousteau, the explorer, filmmaker and environmentalist who opened the mysterious world beneath the seas to millions of people, died this morning. He was 87.

"Jacques-Yves Cousteau has rejoined the World of Silence," the Cousteau Foundation said, referring to the title of one of his most noted documentaries.

Cousteau had reportedly been ill for months. The foundation did not divulge the cause of death. He died in Paris.

Cousteau, whose name is synonymous worldwide with marine exploration, was also one of the most beloved personalities in France.

"He was certainly the best ambassador that France has ever had ... a lot more than politicians or industrialists," Cousteau's son, Jean-Michel Cousteau, told The Associated Press.

Cousteau's 60-year odyssey with the Earth's seas - much of it on his boat the Calypso - was more than a great adventure. He helped invent the aqualung, start the first staffed undersea colonies and developed a one-man, jet-propelled submarine.

But the bespectacled, wiry Cousteau, often wearing his trademark red wool cap, became a household name primarily through his hugely popular television series, "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau," and many documentaries.

After he led a 1972 voyage to Antarctica, a worldwide television audience saw for the first time the extraordinary beauty of sculptured ice formations under the sea.

Cousteau liked to call himself an "oceanographic technician." But he was also a romantic who once said that for him, water was the ultimate symbol of love.

"The reason why I love the sea, I cannot explain," a chuckling Cousteau said in a recent interview with AP. "It's physical. ... When you dive, you begin to feel that you're an angel. It's a liberation of your weight."

He won three Academy Awards for best documentary: "The Silent World" (1957), "Le Poisson Rouge" (1959) and "World Without Sun" (1965). "The Silent World," also won him the Grand Prize at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival.

Time magazine put him on its cover in 1960, and he received the National Geographic Society's Gold Medal the following year in a ceremony attended by President John F. Kennedy.

He dreamed of a time when the world's energy crisis would be solved by channeling the sea's tides and temperatures, when essential raw materials would be taken from the ocean floor, and when man could be fed by plantations hundreds of feet beneath the surface.

But he was also a realist. In the last 15 years, he became an eloquent advocate of environmental protection and maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born June 11, 1910, in Saint-Andre-de-Cubzac, a small town near Bordeaux.

He was a sickly child. Nonetheless, he learned to swim and spent hours at the beach. Formal schooling bored Cousteau; he was expelled from high school for breaking 17 of

the school's windows.

His first dive was in Lake Harvey, Vt., in the summer of 1920. He was spending the season away from New York City, where he and his parents lived briefly.

In 1930, Cousteau passed the highly competitive examinations to enter France's Naval Academy. He served in the navy and entered naval aviation school.

A near-fatal car crash at age 26 denied him his wings, and he was transferred to sea duty, where he swam rigorously to strengthen badly weakened arms.

The therapy had unintended consequences, as Cousteau noted in his 1953 book, "The Silent World," which has sold 5 million copies in more than 20 languages.

"Sometimes we are lucky enough to know that our lives have been changed, to discard the old, embrace the new, and run headlong down an immutable course," he wrote. "It happened to me ... on that summer's day, when my eyes were opened to the sea."

During World War II, Cousteau spied for the French Resistance. He was decorated with the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor.

He also made his first underwater films during the war years, and, with engineer Emile Gagnan, perfected the aqualung, an underwater breathing apparatus that supplies air to divers.

In 1950, Cousteau bought the 400-ton former mine-sweeper Calypso. He converted it into a floating laboratory outfitted with the most modern equipment, including underwater television gear.

In 1952-53, Cousteau took the Calypso to the Red Sea and shot the first color footage ever taken at a depth of 150 feet.

One of his most renowned exploits was unearthing the hull of an ancient Greek wine freighter, buried deep in fossil mud 130 feet below the surface off the French coast near Marseille.

The Calypso also conducted the first offshore oil survey by divers.

Cousteau authored countless books, including "The Living Sea" (1963) and "World Without Sun" (1965). A 20-volume encyclopedia, "The Ocean World of Jacques Cousteau," was published in the United States and England.

In 1977, the "Cousteau Odyssey" series premiered on PBS. Seven years later, the "Cousteau Amazon" series premiered on the Turner Broadcasting System. In all, his documentaries have won 40 Emmy nominations.

Cousteau had no plans of slowing down. He was building Calypso II to replace the original, which sank off Singapore last year.

His son Philippe was killed in 1979 in a seaplane crash.

Cousteau's other son, Jean-Michel, is a renowned conservationist in his own right. But a dispute over lending the Cousteau name to a Fijian resort soured their relationship.

Survivors also include his second wife, Francine Triplet, and their children, Diane and Pierre-Yves.

The foundation said a memorial service would be held Monday in Paris' Notre Dame cathedral.

In Florida in January, receiving one of his countless awards, Cousteau perhaps most succinctly articulated his message.

"The future of civilization depends on water," he said. "I beg you all to understand this."



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