

## GOOD MORNING

### WEATHER

Today: Scattered snow showers. Light west wind. High near 40. Low near 20.

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## MAGIC VALLEY

**Falled measure: Judicial elections aren't perfect, legislators say, but they're better than the alternative.**

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**Bellevue boiling: Halley is nearing a deal on a new sewer line, but its neighbor isn't happy.**

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## SPORTS

**Sprell revolve: An arbitrator gave Latrell Sprell back his contract, spared him another \$17.5 million in lost salary and cut five months off his suspension Wednesday.**

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## OUTDOORS

**Yurt trip: At the edge of the snow-clad backcountry, life's cares vanish.**

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## OPINION

**The real test: Now comes the true challenge for Gov. Phil Batt's nuclear-waste agreement, today's editorial says.**

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## COMMUNITY

**Club Calendar: Find out where and when which group meets.**

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We paid an recycled paper. Please recycle it again.

## CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

LT of Twin Falls sold a acre by using The Times-News

733-0931

or in Burley

677-4042

# Explosion destroys new building

By William Brock  
Times-News Staff

**TWIN FALLS** — Two men were killed in a violent explosion Wednesday afternoon that demolished a brand-new building three miles east of town.

Victims' names were not available Wednesday night, but the business — Black's Seal Coating — was owned by Kimberly resident Bill Black. The cause of the 4 p.m. blast also was unknown.

"The explosion was like a bomb going off," said Ben Windsor, who was building a greenhouse and nursery about 400 hundred yards away. Windsor and employees of another nearby business, Colours Auto Body, were among the first on the scene.

"It was a big inferno," said Seth Christensen, who works at Colours Auto Body, as he ran up to the front of the building and there was a gentleman — I don't know who he was — who was throwing dirt on something.

"Then I saw there was a guy on the ground and, although he wasn't on fire, I assume he had been."

The other rescuer asked Christensen to help him drag the victim away from the building, which was burning furiously.

"I can't pull him by myself, so grab ahold of him," the other man told Christensen.

"We got about 15 feet and stopped," Christensen continued, "but the wall where we were pulling started bulging and it was getting pretty hot, so I said,

"We'd better get him out of here. It was hot — really, really hot."

Christensen said, noting that his hair was singed and his skin red-dened by the blaze. Mustering their strength and courage, the two men finally dragged the injured man away from the building.

"I just did what I had to do," Christensen said simply.

Doug Gaskill, who works with Christensen, said the blast apparently blew the victim out a side window. No one could venture inside the building until the fire ran its course, Gaskill said.

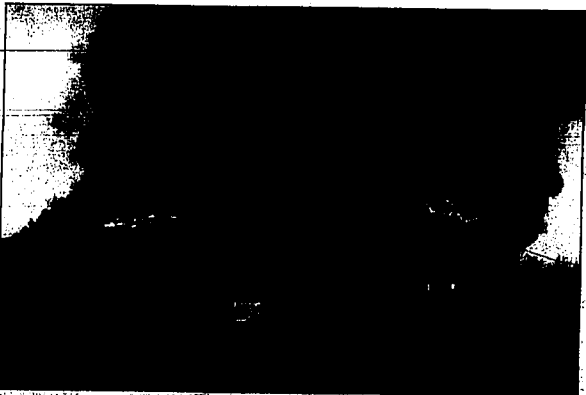
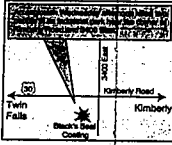
"The building was totally engulfed in flames, not just a little bit, but totally," Gaskill said. "There were still explosions going on after the initial explosion and they were pretty good-sized, enough to make you duck."

The blast occurred in the Kimberly Road Industrial Park, a small, new commercial center at 2275 Kimberly Road.

The building was about 400 yards south of Kimberly Road, not far southwest of Layne Pumps Inc.

Dozens of fire trucks, ambulances and law enforcement vehicles were on the scene by 4:22 p.m. Thick, acrid smoke poured from the building, but Gaskill said the fire "was kind of a hot flash, then it died out pretty quick."

Shortly afterward, firefighters equipped with air tanks and breathing masks began combing the interior, where a second vic-



As the smoke cleared, the violence of the blast was plain to see.

The roof had collapsed and paint was seared off the metal walls. The north wall sagged outward, and its upper panels trembled in the wind.

Windsor said he got to know the guys at Black's Seal Coating because they were putting up their building as he was constructing his greenhouse.

"I knew those guys personally," Windsor said. "We became friends from building in the same area, and we had coffee together."

Times-News staff writer William Brock can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 264.



Above, an unidentified man takes his life to drag a badly injured victim away from a building that exploded at about 4 p.m. Wednesday. The blast and subsequent fire killed two men at Black's Seal Coating, east of Twin Falls at 2275 Kimberly Road. This photograph was taken by amateur photographer Doug Gaskill, who works nearby. Left, Commander Jerry Morton of the Rock Creek Fire District sits through rubble for clues to the cause of the explosion.

# Woman's body found after fire call to Twin Falls house



Twin Falls police detective Dan Levin, left, and Sgt. Don Hall leave a house on Falls Avenue East that was the scene of a possible arson fire Wednesday. One unidentified woman died in the house.

## Police action depends on results of autopsy

By Mark Heinz  
and Kent McCreary  
Times-News writers

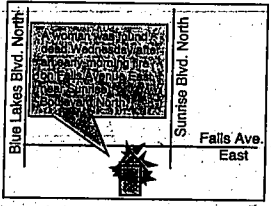
**TWIN FALLS** — The Twin Falls police officers who diligently detoured drivers around several blocks of Falls Avenue East were as tight-lipped as the weather was cold.

"There was a fire," was the standard answer for motorists who stopped to ask what had happened. Emergency crews found one person dead after responding to a 4:30 a.m. fire call at a home in the 1900 block of Falls Avenue East, Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Leeb said.

Police and detectives Wednesday told neighbors they were investigating an arson at the house.

But Leeb said the case won't officially be treated as an arson, or as a homicide, unless an autopsy and investigation at the house reveal clues of foul play.

The victim was found in bed, Leeb said. The victim's name was withheld Wednesday, as author-



Police searched for someone to positively identify the body.

Leeb confirmed the victim was a woman, but declined to release her age, and would not say whether she was thought to be an occupant of the house.

According to police reports, soot was found in the woman's nose. The ceiling of the bedroom where she was found had collapsed, and the house

Please see FIRE, Page A2

# High court: Sex harassment laws apply to same-sex incidents

Night-Blender News Service

**WASHINGTON** — Sexual harassment on the job may be illegal even when men torment men and women abuse women, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously Wednesday.

Until now it had been unclear whether federal civil-rights laws, which have barred on-the-job sexual harassment between men and women since 1966, also applies to workers of the same gender.

But the justices, acting in a case of crucial sexual behavior in an alternate crew on an offshore oil rig, made it possible for alleged victims in a growing number of same-sex harassment suits to win remedies in federal courts throughout the United States.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars "discrimination" because of "sex" and "we see no justification in the statutory language or our precedents for a categorical rule excluding same-sex harassment claims," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for all nine justices.

male sexual harassment in mind when it wrote the act, Scalia observed, but laws "often go beyond the principal evil to cover reasonably comparable evils."

The issue of same-sex harassment came to the court in an appeal by Joseph O'Leary, who said he was repeatedly subjected to sexual taunts and assaults and threatened with rape by three male co-workers, all heterosexuals, in 1991. At the time, he was a roustabout on an eight-man crew on a Chevron oil-drilling platform off the Louisiana coast.

He said his complaints to supervisors were ignored, so he quit the job and filed suit.

"I felt that if I didn't leave my job, that I would be raped or forced to have sex," explained O'Leary, who lives near Baton Rouge, La.

The defendants in the suit — his former employer, Sundowner Offshore Services Inc., and the three co-workers — denied harassment and portrayed the incidents as mere hazing or horseplay.

Please see HARASSMENT, Page A2

# 'Breakfast' may not be only film Willis shoots in Idaho

By Gregory Hahn  
Times-News writer

**BURLEY** — The State Travel Council will hear today the 10 ways Idaho hopes to capitalize on the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Wednesday, the eight-member advisory board heard how the state might benefit from one of its own residents — Halley actor Bruce Willis, who is shooting "Breakfast of Champions" in Twin Falls.

"Bruce would like to do perhaps a film a year at this budget in Idaho," said Peg Owens, director of the Idaho Film Bureau.

The governor-appointed council heard Owens' report at the first meeting of its two-day meeting at the Burley Inn. The board's members are chosen from around the state, and oversee tourism activities in the Department of Commerce.

Owens said Willis' three school-aged children and his desire to spend more time at home keep him looking for local filmmaking opportunities.

Entertainment Group, said he did not know of any specific conversations he had with Owens, but the sentiment is not new.

Willis wants to bring money into Idaho, as well, McCreary said.

"When's the last time somebody jumped \$2 million into Twin Falls?" she said.

The Commerce Department's Carl Wilgus said the state's "2002 Winter Games Strategy" would be outlined this morning at 8:30. He said the plan consists of 10 elements, such as developing training sites.

Wilgus went to the Nagano, Japan, games to learn how the state might benefit and enlisted the help of a George

Please see WILLIS, Page A2





# NAYON



Bobby Jindal asked in Washington, D.C., from Louisiana, where he wrote a report on how to fix the inept health care program in that state.

## At 26, wonderkid takes on Medicare overhaul

### Panel begins work on saving health care system

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bobby Jindal is still years from retirement age — 39 years in fact.

But the 26-year-old kid who now has the job of helping to save Medicare for his parents' generation and his own.

He has some experience. When Louisiana's state health care program was hemorrhaging money, he wrote a 30-page paper on how to fix it. That caught the eye of the governor, who put him in charge of the cleanup.

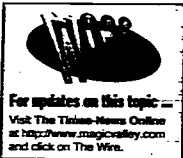
Now Jindal is in charge of the staff for a new federal commission that begins work Friday to keep the nation's health care program for the elderly from being overwhelmed by baby boomers. "I think my father's part of that generation that has always wondered about the social security and Medicare, about whether it's really going to be there for them," Jindal said in an interview Monday.

The commission, made up of lawmakers and private-sector experts, must report to Congress next President Clinton by next March, and there is consensus Congress should act swiftly on its recommendations.

"His responsibility will be enormous," said Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., who recruited Jindal.

Many are surprised by his youth. People in Louisiana were, too. But Margaret A. Dixon, president of the American Association of Retired Persons, said, "When more than one generation can be involved, you think it's a very positive thing."

Said Jindal of Medicare's benefits: "If they're only viewed as programs for the elderly, I think they're even more vulnerable." The ambitious young man, whose parents immigrated to the



*'His responsibility will be enormous.'*

— Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif

United States from India, was born and raised in Baton Rouge, La., and planned to become a doctor after summer internship on Capitol Hill and a Rhodes scholarship, he ended up in Washington as a consultant helping companies navigate a health-care marketplace transformed by managed care.

He was about to head to Japan when Foster asked him to come home. Jindal had read about Louisiana's problems with its bloated health program for the poor. In his spare time, he had written an outline of possible solutions.

The paper made its way to Foster, who was impressed enough to think of offering Jindal — then 24 — a high-level job at Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals. "If you want to work for the head job, I'll think about it," Jindal said he was surprised Foster advised.

Even more surprised were state

lawmakers when Foster gave it to him. "I couldn't believe my eyes. I said they're going to eat him alive," said Louisiana Sen. John Hancock, who heads the chamber's finance committee. But, said Hancock, "He just did a heck of a good job."

In two years, Jindal reduced the state's net Medicaid per beneficiary by \$25 and put the program into surplus. He did it largely by going after health-care providers who were either cheating Medicaid outright or getting paid more than they deserved.

Urged on by Foster, Jindal sensationalized the crackdown, even going with a TV reporter to confront clinic operators paying parents to send healthy children in for appointments.

"The public began to think of him as somebody willing to take anything on. One mother even called to complain that her son had stopped visiting her."

"I got on the phone and called him up," recalled Jindal, who got married in October.

Some advocates for the poor, however, criticized him for focusing too firmly on the bottom line.

In 1996 he eliminated a program that helped people impoverished by the expense of catastrophic illness, thus creating a Medicaid budget surplus.

But Jindal also has received his mistakes, critics say. The catastrophic program, for example, was mostly restored.

"To his credit, I think he was surprised by the effects of some of those cutbacks and I think he did a good job of reinventing some," said Marcus Carson, former director of the Louisiana Healthcare Advocates, an organization that advocates on behalf of people served by the state's health programs.

It also allows citizens to petition for designation of such areas, and would top an existing roads and trails funds to finance the Forest Service projects — potentially millions of dollars a year.

Bachus says the effort is necessary to clear forests of dead and dying timber that serve as fuel for catastrophic fires. The Forest Service has acknowledged some 10 million acres of the 152 million-acre forest system needs something done to reduce fire risks.

another for an unrelated 1977 smolder for a continued 1977 smolder robbery in Chattanooga.

He faces conviction in Missouri for a murder committed there. Franklin's first known arrest was the 1977 robbery from which he was freed in Chattanooga. From then until September 1980, he is believed to have killed 17 people, including three journalists, a couple, seven black males and three female hitchhikers.

## Feds: Bridge safety records on file, but don't count on their accuracy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Highway Administration imposes bridge safety requirements on states, hasn't inspected many of its own bridges and doesn't even have a comprehensive "annual review journal."

The Transportation Department's inspector general reported that federal agencies had failed to support safety inspections for nearly half of the 11,000 federally owned bridges on the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, as required.

And even when bridge inspectors were conducted, there were glaring problems, the report said. A recent review of Forest Service inspections of six bridges in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia showed the reports were missing essential information such as average daily traffic, the width of the road that approaches the bridge and whether the bridge spans were damaged by ground signs.

"Because of the omissions, we have no assurance that the information being gathered performed," the inspector general said.

The inspector general also said a quarter of the federal bridges owned by FHWA had been inspected within the two-year period required by law.

For states that own bridges, FHWA does not have any assurance that federally owned bridges are properly inspected, reported or inspected. "Consequently, the safety of these federally owned bridges cannot be assured," FHWA officials declined comment, citing their written response to the report. In that response, the agency said it



An automobile drives across a bridge on the George Washington Parkway near Beltsville, Md., Wednesday. The government hasn't conducted required two-year inspections on many of its own bridges.

would work with federal agencies to improve compliance but insisted that inspection had overstepped.

The FHWA said the inspectors general's report amounts to an "understatement of the FHWA's accomplishments in working with the federal agencies — and is an overstatement of the significance of the OIG's finding." It referred to the Office of the Inspector General.

The Forest Service, which the report cited for failing to forward inspection records for more than half of its 6,000 bridges, said that while the records had not been sent, all of their bridges are routinely inspected and safe.

Fourteen federal agencies own and maintain 9,366 bridges — those that carry motorists through national parks, forests and other federal lands. The spans are supposed to be inspected every two years and their conditions reported to the FHWA.

But the inspector general reported that the FHWA did not have any inspection records for 4,772 of the bridges. And of those on record, 1,250 hadn't been inspected within the required period, it said.

One problem was that while federal agencies are required to comply with bridge inspection rules, the FHWA doesn't have any legal authority to make sure they do the job, the report said. The FHWA has responsibility for enforcing safety standards on bridges and informing Congress, which allocates bridge repair money, where needed, etc.

The failure of federal agencies to provide complete and accurate inspection records means that the government may not be spending enough money to maintain the bridges.

## Tough drunk driving laws would penalize states that don't comply

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate strongly endorsed national standards for determining drunken driving on Wednesday, overruling opposition from lawmakers who complained it could save more than 500 lives a year.

"I hope that the happy hour is over for drunk drivers," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., one of the chief sponsors of the measure. He pushed together support for the bill, which

Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, the other chief sponsor, said. "This problem is much more than a state problem; it's a national tragedy."

Anti-drunk driving groups estimate that in 1990, more than 11,000 of the 40,000 alcohol-related deaths in the nation's highways resulted from alcohol-related accidents.

By a 62-32 margin, the Senate passed the bill, which would raise the blood-alcohol content as the threshold for drunken driving. Currently, 25 states — Idaho

among them — have that standard while 35 states use a more lenient 10 percent. States that do not accept the tougher standard would lose 5 percent of their federal highway money in fiscal 2002 and 10 percent after that.

Support for the new standard crossed party lines, with 26

of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. "We now take our fight to the halls of the House of Representatives."

In the House, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said she will introduce a similar amendment.

The national standard was generally opposed by the alcohol and restaurant industry, which contended that 0.8 percent was too low.

In the Senate, the main opposition was from lawmakers who argued that states should have the right to set their own standards and be guided toward tougher standards by an encouragement rather than punishment.

— Judith Lee Stone, auto safety advocate

*"The first battle for a national uniform 0.8 law has been won."*

Republicans — including stalwart conservatives such as Sen. Jesse Helms — joining 36 Democrats.

President Clinton, who had pressed for passage, thanked the Senate for acting and urged the House to follow suit. "It will save hundreds of lives each year," he said in a radio address.

The drunken driving measure was presented as an amendment to a \$17.2 billion, six-year highway

## Consumer agency sues to force fire sprinklers recall

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The Consumer Product Safety Commission sues on Tuesday to try to force the recall of up to 20 million fire sprinkler heads installed in hospitals, schools, hotels, and homes across the country.

The federal agency said Omega Health Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, of 1987, made "so defective and are likely to fail in a fire."

Omega has failed in an honest recall since the past two years. In a letter to the agency, Omega said it was not a hospital, the agency said in asking an administrative judge in Washington to order a recall.

No injuries occurred in any of the fires.

General Sprinkler said its Omega Health has worked successfully for 15 years. "We intend to defend our product," it said in a statement.

It was only the second time in 10 years that the commission has sought such a court order. General, the nation's No. 2 manufacturer of fire sprinklers, makes several hundred models. The Omega became a top seller because it offered a unit that generally in 1/4 seconds compared with 90 seconds for other brands.

## Logging bill draws warning from activists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmentalists warn the biggest fight over forests in Congress this year will be over a bill, approved by a House panel on Wednesday, that expedites logging and reforestation projects in the name of reducing fire risks.

On a voice vote, the House Agriculture Committee voted the measure sponsored by its chairman, Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore. It sent the measure to the House floor, where its fast-track passage is expected.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has expressed reservations about the bill.

Conservationists claim it would accelerate logging under the guise of improving forest health.

"This is where the fight is going to be this year," said Michael Francis, director of national forest programs at The Wilderness Society.

The bill is the first major legislation to clear the full House Agriculture Committee this year, and it reflects one of Smith's top priorities before he retires at the end of 1996.

It expands the secretary of agriculture to designate special areas for forest-health projects ranging from cutting overstocked stands

of trees to intentionally setting small fires to help clear out undergrowth.

It also allows citizens to petition for designation of such areas, and would top an existing roads and trails funds to finance the Forest Service projects — potentially millions of dollars a year.

Bachus says the effort is necessary to clear forests of dead and dying timber that serve as fuel for catastrophic fires. The Forest Service has acknowledged some 10 million acres of the 152 million-acre forest system needs something done to reduce fire risks.

## Killer admits to racially motivated murder

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — A white serial killer who traveled the country targeting blacks, Jews and interracial couples ended going today to the 1978 murder of a black man in Chattanooga.

Joseph Paul Franklin, 47, was charged with killing seven people and is accused in 210 other murders. He was acquitted of shooting civil rights leader

Vernon Jordan, but says the jury made a mistake. He admits shooting *Jet* magazine publisher Larry Flynt in 1978, but was never charged with the murder.

He admitted today that he shot William Tamm outside a Chattanooga restaurant because Tamm was with a white woman. Tamm was sentenced to two concurrent 10-year terms — one for the murder, 3

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# Netanyahu pick defeated

Knight-Ridder News Service

**JERUSALEM** — Ezer Weizman, one of Israel's fiercest politicians and a longtime populist politician, easily won reelection by parliament Wednesday to a second five-year term as the country's president, defeating a candidate hand-picked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The presidential post is almost entirely ceremonial, but Weizman's victory assured a strong and public political counterbalance to Netanyahu, especially on the issue of stalled

peace talks with the Palestinians. In the Knesset, Israel's parliament, Weizman received 63 votes to elect Shimon Peres, 49, with seven members returning empty ballots and one absentee.

The empty ballots, according to analyst Susan Harris-Robles, suggested "they were a lot of people who lied" to Netanyahu. Amor, a longtime Likud politician, had expected to win close to 60 votes.

Ehud Barak, the leader of the opposition Labor Party, characterized Weizman's reelection as a "failure for Netanyahu, who tried to intervene in an unpre-

cedented manner." "Netanyahu was shipped in the face again," Robles said. "But now what? Not much will change. Weizman has been a very controversial president, he has a big mouth. He managed to get Netanyahu angry, you like." He suggested the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israel's president is allowed only the power of pardon, and even that is diminished because a pardon also requires the signature of the justice minister. But that hasn't stopped Weizman from using the presidency's bully pulpit.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### China to give nod to smaller government

**BEIJING** — Although important decisions have already been settled secretly, China's legislature has much to do in the two weeks ahead. Elect new top leaders to five-year terms and pare down a bloated bureaucracy.

When the legislature convenes its annual 15-day session Thursday, there will be small-group debates over pressing problems such as economic reforms and government corruption. Votes on the president and other top positions will be taken in the Great Hall of the People under a ceiling decorated with a huge glowing red star.

But the ruling communist Party already has made the key decisions in private — policies that the 2,579 delegates to the congress, 70 percent of them party members — are certain to approve.

### Yeltsin rivals swiftly approve '98 budget

**MOSCOW** — President Boris Yeltsin's hard-line rivals in parliament spewed contempt for the government Wednesday, then delivered what the president wanted: swift approval of a budget intended to cut spending.

The budget passed 422 to 129; about 40 percent of the State Duma's 139 Communists were among those who voted for it.

After months of wrangling between Yeltsin's Cabinet and the opposition-dominated Duma, or lower house of parliament, many had expected the vote to be hard-fought — especially after an angry outburst by the prime minister Wednesday.

But rank-and-file Communists crossed party lines, delivering an unexpectedly quick yes vote — presumably in hopes of freeing top spending, which remained frozen at 1997 levels until the new budget passed.

### Indonesian students demand ouster of leader

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** — Thousands of banner-waving university students demanded President Suharto's ouster Wednesday as the largest display of anger yet over the economic crisis that has Indonesia in an upheaval.

The protests came as the United States and other foreign leaders stepped up the pressure on Suharto to carry out reforms that they consider crucial to rescuing the economy — reforms that would undercut much of Suharto's power and wealth.

"Hang Suharto!" shouted protesters in the Java island city of Yogyakarta, circling their campus on scooters under the scrutiny of hundreds of police.

Students also rallied in several other cities on Java as well as on Sulawesi, another of Indonesia's larger islands.

### Nicaraguan opposition demands resignation

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua** — A lawmaker demanded Wednesday that Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega resign from Congress over accusations by his stepdaughter that he sexually molested her.

"If he doesn't resign, it would be an admission of guilt, because he would be hiding behind the shield of immunity" he enjoys as a congressman, said Elisao Nunez, leader of the Liberal Party's congressional delegation.

Elisao Nunez, 30, accused her stepfather on Tuesday of molesting her beginning when she was 11 and continuing for several years — including while he was president of Nicaragua. She said later it was "a typical case of domestic violence," but that she had forgiven him and didn't plan to file charges.

The accusations have caused a scandal in Nicaragua, especially because Ortega is seen as the "cleanest" of the Sandinista leaders.

### New Zealand city faces light without power

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand** — Efforts to restore power to New Zealand's largest city failed again Wednesday, forcing energy officials to predict that downtown Auckland may suffer through a blackout for 10 more weeks.

Merchants estimate they are losing \$60 million a week as a result of the failure of four power cables supplying electricity to Auckland from a hydroelectric plant south of the city.

Two cables repaired by city utility Mercury Energy failed when tested Wednesday, the 12th day of a power outage. It will take 10 weeks to run a new cable into the downtown area.

Downtown Auckland has been nearly a ghost town since Feb. 20, when the last of the four underground cables stressed by a heat wave went down. The first cable failed Jan. 22.

### Former executives face charges of scandal

**TOKYO** — Three former top executives of collapsed brokerage Yamalchi Securities Co., including the firm's ex-chairman and president, were arrested Wednesday on suspicion they helped cover up \$2 billion in corporate losses.

Anso Miki, 62, former chairman Toshiro Yoshida, 66, and Ryuji Shirai, a former vice president, were detained on the order of Tokyo prosecutors.

The men are suspected of hiding the losses, starting in the early 1990s, through an illegal practice known as "tobacco," in which losses were shared from one client to another to keep them from showing up on financial statements, prosecutors said.

### 100 die, 1,200 missing in Pakistan floods

**TURBAT, Pakistan** — Flash floods swept away hundreds of mud-and-straw huts in a remote corner of southwestern Pakistan, killing at least 100 people, including dozens of schoolchildren crushed by rising waters.

Another 1,200 people were missing Wednesday and feared dead.

The children were in a single-room religious school that was submerged by high water Tuesday. Only four of the 89 pupils survived, said Ghulam Mohammed Afridi, deputy commissioner of Turbat district in southwestern Baluchistan province.

In the same village, the hard-hit community of Marriabad, another man watched as the flood washed away 24 members of his family.

He clung to a tree, and survived.

## Albanians vow Serb overthrow

**LIKOSHAN, Yugoslavia (AP)** — The 20-year-old teacher says he has never fired a shot.

But after a wave of killings and unrest in the Kosovo region, he pronounced himself one of the growing number of ethnic Albanians who say they are willing to fight for freedom from Serbia.

"We have all lost hope that there can be a peaceful solution," Ljman Adem said at the funeral for 24 Kosovo Albanians gunned down in Serbia Sunday.

"It's better for me to take up arms than sit and wait to be killed by the Serbs."

Since Serbia scrapped the province of Kosovo in its annexation in 1995, a strong police and army presence have kept the lid on an armed revolt by the province's 1.9 million Albanians. There have been thousands of arrests and jail terms for crimes as minor as illegal timber cutting.

But despite 13,000 heavily equipped police and 5,300 soldiers, simple crimes are appearing in the Serbs' tight control of the province, which is slightly smaller than Connecticut.

Increasingly desperate, poor and more ethnic Albanians are taking up arms. Serb police estimates show that 2,000 such small arms in the Kosovo Liberation Army, a militant group that emerged in late 1995 and has claimed attacks that have taken 40 lives.

The growing defiance was evident at Tuesday's funeral, when 30,000 people crushed Serb roadblocks to attend, shaking victory symbols.

The Serbs already have lost control of at least one region — 33 towns and villages in the Drenas area west of Kosovo's capital, Pristina — or about 10 percent of the province's territory.

## Yeltsin pursues nuclear parity

**MOSCOW (AP)** — President Boris Yeltsin appointed a new minister for atomic energy Wednesday and ordered him to ensure that Russia maintain parity with the West in nuclear weapons.

Nuclear researcher Yevgeny Adamov, 58, replaces Viktor Mikhailov, the Soviet Union's top nuclear weapons designer who resigned recently to return to scholarship. Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Yeltsin, Adamov said the president told him Russia must keep its remaining nuclear arsenal in top shape.

## Sophisticated ... & appetizing



Security forces attend to the scene of Tuesday night's double murder at the Railway Bar in Poyntzpass, Northern Ireland. Two fleeing friends were gunned down during the incident.

## Unidentified gunmen strike into heart of tolerant N. Ireland village

**POYNTZPASS, Northern Ireland (AP)** — Against the odds, Protestants and Catholics in this quiet town in Northern Ireland's border counties had learned to bury their differences peacefully.

Now in a less almost impenetrable to the people of Poyntzpass, they must bury two of their own.

Dauid Ervine, a 25-year-old Catholic, and Philip Allen, a 34-year-old Protestant, died together in a best friends Tuesday night when sectarian gunmen burst into a village pub, ordered patrons to lie on the floor and opened firing.

"All Dauid had for was his car and a few drinks with his best mate Philip," said his sister, Eva Collins. "Dauid wouldn't go anywhere without Philip. That was the way they were."

The bloodshed — all too common in more polarized parts of the country — stained a more scene of innocence in Northern Ireland.

"These two men, through their friendship, showed that background, history and religion need not stop the two communities from living in harmony."

— Prime Minister Tony Blair



For updates on this topic ... Visit The Times-News Online at <http://www.msnbc.com> and click on The Wire.

should prevail — those of the north's pro-British Protestant majority or those of its Catholic minority.

The residents of Poyntzpass also mingled in the village's three Catholic-owned pubs, a point evidently lost on the killers, who police say were gunning for Catholics.

No group claimed responsibility for the shootings in the Railway Bar, which left another three people wounded. But politicians blamed a renegade pro-British gang, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, as the most likely culprit. Police arrested three men from the group's Protestant power base of Portadown on suspicion of involvement.

David Ervine, who represents another pro-British gang, the Ulster Volunteer Force, decried the Loyalist Volunteers as "fundamentalists so filled with hate that they can't imagine a world where a Protestant and a Catholic would sit down for a drink together."

Trainer had gone to the Catholic school next door to his home in Poyntzpass, 25 miles south of Belfast. Allen had attended the Protestant state school a few hundred yards away. But somehow, they had managed to become buddies.



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## EDITORIAL

### Now comes the real test for Batt's waste contract

That sound you heard from the Department of Energy last week was the other shoe dropping.

The Energy Department is saying it will have trouble paying for the cleanup commitments it made to Idaho Gov. Phil Batt in 1995.

Surprise, surprise. You knew that the job of cleaning up the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory - a task with a price tag estimated at \$16.3 billion - would inevitably run crosswise of a cost-cutting federal government. The only surprise is that it has taken so long.

The timing isn't good for Idaho. After years of nibbling at the crusts, the Energy Department is supposed to take some of its bigger and costlier bites out of INEEL cleanup in the next few years.

But Idaho's position today would be even worse without Batt's historic cleanup agreement. Because of the agreement, the Energy Department must decide in the next few weeks whether it will dig up all the plutonium-contaminated garbage now sitting in pits and trenches above the Snake River Plain. That decision should interest any Magic Valley resident who drinks water.

Digging up the waste could be a \$1 billion job. And INEEL officials have another multibillion-dollar decision on their hands, as they consider how to

process the high-level nuclear waste that sits in powdered and liquid forms, in tanks at the site.

It's essential for those projects to go forward. It's unacceptable for them to be delayed.

The Batt agreement appears to be nudging a historically tardy Energy Department toward closure. For instance, the agreement requires the Energy Department to begin negotiations with the state in 1999 on the high-level waste issue.

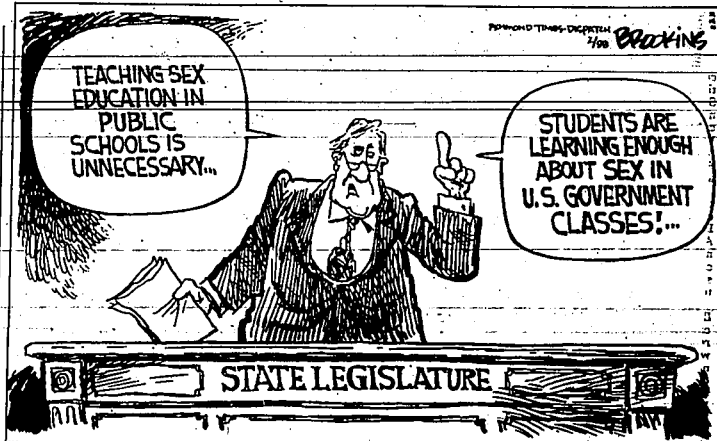
The movement we have seen thus far might not have occurred without Batt's agreement. In the costly and complex world of nuclear waste cleanup, money

is tight and things are tough all over. Several sites, not just INEEL, face a looming shortfall in cleanup budgets. Even the state of Washington is threatening to sue the Energy Department to keep it on track to clean up the 149 single-shell and tanks-of-high-level waste at its Hanford nuclear site.

The real test for Batt's agreement was not Proposition Three, the failed 1996 attempt to overturn Batt's agreement at the polls. The real test comes now, when Energy Department promises collide with budget realities.

We still think, as we did in 1996, that Idaho is better off with this agreement than without it. But Idaho's political leaders need to push the feds to meet their commitments.

*It's essential for cleanup projects at INEEL to go forward. It's unacceptable for them to be delayed.*



### Weak school curriculum imperils students

**D**on't know much geometry. Don't know much trigonometry. Don't know much from the sciences book. Or something like that. But I do know that the United States isn't going to be first in the world in mathematics and science by the year 2000, our goal. According to a major international study released last week, our 12th-graders are closer to last place. A cross-section of U.S. public and private school students did poorly on basic math and science knowledge, according to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. In advanced math and physics, our very best students ranked in the cellar.

Students completing school in 21 countries - mostly in Europe - took the math and science literacy test, while 16 participated in the advanced testing. Asian countries, top scorers in the fourth and eighth grade, didn't participate.

"TIMSS makes it clear we don't ask enough of our kids," said Sandra Feldman, president of the American Federation of Teachers. "We're near the top in fourth grade, in the middle by eighth-grade and at the bottom in 12th grade."

The usual excuses don't wash, said Paul D. Fargione Jr., U.S. commissioner of Education Statistics. TIMSS doesn't compare our average students to their elite. The United States no longer has a significantly higher percentage of young people completing secondary school. The general knowledge sample was given to a range of students, including 10th-graders completing vocational school in some European countries. Students taking the advanced math and physics tests represented the top 14 percent of American students enrolled in pre-calculus, calculus or advanced placement calculus and in physics. The international sample was less selective in math, representing 19 percent of students, and sim-

**JOANNE JACOBS**  
lar in physics. Diversity isn't to blame. "Most countries have students from diverse language and cultural groups," Fargione said. "It's not low-achievers pulling our average down." The entire distribution of U.S. scores both starts and ends lower than in most other nations. Fargione observed, "This means the average level of general knowledge in mathematics among students in a majority of these countries matched that of the top quarter of U.S. students."

*We're near the top in fourth grade, in the middle by eighth grade and at the bottom in 12th grade.*

- Sandra Feldman, president of the American Federation of Teachers

TIMSS looked at various factors believed to affect achievement. Few proved relevant in explaining the 12th grade results.

U.S. students reported studying for 1.7 hours a day, compared to the international average of 2.6 hours, but study time didn't correlate strongly with scores.

Our students watched about as much television (about 1.7 hours a day) as the average.

U.S. 12th-graders were more likely than foreign students to say they really liked mathematics and various sciences, more likely to use computers and similar in calculator use. Advanced U.S. students were more likely to say they've often asked to explain their reasoning and apply lessons to look-world problems. It wasn't relevant. Money didn't matter. The U.S. spends more per student in elementary and sec-

ondary education than two-thirds of the other countries, the report noted. U.S. performance resembled, on average, the economically less-affluent countries (those with lower GNP per capita and lower per capita expenditures on elementary-secondary education) participating in the general knowledge assessments, and two of the less affluent countries (Hungary and Slovenia) also outperformed the United States.

Instruction time made a difference, but only for advanced math.

The real answer comes from the fourth-grade and eighth-grade studies, concluded William Schmidt, national research director of TIMSS. Our fourth-graders compare well to students elsewhere, especially in science, but achievement scores slip by eighth grade, due to a repetitive, un-focused, unchallenging middle-school curriculum. "Our students take a much 11-weeker foundation into high school," Schmidt says.

TIMSS isn't about bragging rights. It's about our economic and social health.

"If we're to continue to be global competitors in the new knowledge economy, we'll need a steady and competent pool of employees," said U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley, who touted the president's proposed eighth grade math standards that should help focus curriculum. Requiring kids to meet grade-level standards to be promoted should make it possible for teachers to spend less time on review, more time teaching new concepts.

At least, the old complacency is gone. We don't know much, but we know it won't be a wonderful world for math and science dummies.

Joanne Jacobs is a member of the San Jose Mercury News editorial board. Readers may write to her at 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, Calif. 95193, or by e-mail to [jacobs@mercury.com](mailto:jacobs@mercury.com).

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## LETTERS

### Railroad crossing is not safe

Within the past six months, there have been two multiple vehicle collisions at the Eastern Idaho Railroad crossing on Highway 93, just north of the interstate. After the second accident, the spokesman for the Eastern Idaho Railroad stated from his office that the railroad does not consider the crossing to be a problem. He goes on to opine from his office in Kansas that the crossing has good visibility and that both collisions were the fault of the drivers.

I have no knowledge concerning the most recent accident involving Mr. Harstone and a quite familiar with the facts surrounding the accident involving William Couch. The railroad spokesman neglects to tell your readers that not only could Mr. Couch not see the flashing lights, but neither could the driver and occupant of the vehicle immediately following Mr. Couch. Furthermore, the railroad spokesperson neglects to mention the Jerome County prosecutor dismissed the ticket against Mr. Couch. Perhaps the railroad spokesperson is not aware of all of the people who live in this area who are willing to testify concerning the dangerous nature of that railroad crossing, but it was not difficult to compile a list of people who have complaints with that crossing in the past within days after Mr. Couch's accident.

It is not the ignorance of the Eastern Idaho Railroad which is so appalling, but its arrogance. The crossing in question is extremely dangerous and is a disaster waiting to happen. Rather than pay to upgrade the safety devices, the Eastern Idaho Railroad has chosen to discount the problem. Apparently, the railroad has no objection to greater safety devices being placed at the intersection as long as it does not have to foot the bill.

Unless improvements to the safety devices are made at that intersection, there will be a very serious accident

someday. At that time, most likely the railroad will be sued for negligence. In my mind, the main issue of the lawsuit will not be whether the railroad is at fault but whether it will have punitive damages levied against it. The railroad is certainly on notice concerning the problems with the safety measures at that crossing. If it continues to deny liability and ignore the problem, somebody is going to be killed or seriously injured. Unfortunately, it will probably be someone with loved ones in Idaho, not with hired spokesmen.

BRIAN D. HARPER  
Twin Falls

### We see what we want to see

In response to Ralph W. Maughan's letter to the editor dated Feb. 11 titled "Maughan doesn't deserve low blow" (in reference to Dennis Maughan, Twin Falls County commissioner). Mr. Mary Yost of Wendell for suggesting that Dennis Maughan was paid a bribe by the Republican Party to switch to the Democratic Party, Ralph Maughan indicated further in his letter that he never been a Democrat, he would have changed party affiliation five years ago after learning of the lying, cheating, subterfuge and cover-up going on within the Democratic administration in Washington.

While I might not believe that Dennis Maughan accepted any sort of bribe from the Republican Party, I find it interesting that Ralph Maughan did not change party affiliations 20 years ago after learning of the lying, cheating, subterfuge and cover-up which were characterized by then-Republican president Nixon and several or more of his cabinet.

I guess sometimes we just see what we choose to see.  
DENNIS McDERMOTT  
Twin Falls

### Politics don't grow with agriculture

When we visited the Agri Action show at the College of Southern Idaho Expo Center Feb. 21, we were offended and disgusted to find the people in Booth No. 3 advocating the impeachment of President Clinton. The brochure offered at the booth was prepared by the "National Impeach Clinton ACTION Committee - an affiliate of the John Birch Society." This purely political campaign has absolutely nothing to do with agriculture and in our opinion should not have been allowed at the show.

CARL BLICKENSTAFF  
VERN YOST  
Twin Falls

### Bad business to charge for demos

I was just wondering why when businesses put on a "show" to get people to come in to see their products, they charge us money to get in the door. Seems to me they are asking us to pay

to see what they are selling.

IRENE SURFACE  
Twin Falls

### All humans are God's creation

Normally, I just read the letters to the editor, but there was a letter in there Feb. 27 that really upset me to the point of writing my letter to the editor.

Janie Lee, whoever you are, yes, we are entitled to our own opinion, so here it is.

It's really sad that you have such a low opinion for our fellow human beings. If you have had a problem with someone at one time or another, what gives you the right to judge everyone for someone else's mistake - Bruce Willis, Californians or anyone else for that matter? We are all human beings on the face of this earth; race, color, religious should be irrelevant as how we look at our fellow human beings. I think, but correct me if I'm wrong, who

call your comments "prejudice."

I was born and raised in this area, and I was taught to look at the good in all people no matter what their color, race or religion was. I remember right, God created all of us, and if God does not judge, what gives us the right to?

We have the right to live anywhere we chose on God's green earth. I would hurt my heart if I knew I was living in another state or town and my neighbor felt the way you do. Especially if that person didn't even know me. It saddens me to know that there are people like you who have such a prejudiced heart.

Better look in the mirror and ask yourself how you would feel if someone said those things about you.  
DARLENE POWELL  
Twin Falls



Doonesbury

By Gary Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley

# An imposed 'settlement' settles nothing

# LETTERS

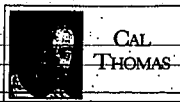
The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has shown no concern about what it regards as a credible report of a peace settlement imposed by the United States. It dispatched its primary minister, director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, to Washington the other day to talk to a few journalists, Jewish-American community leaders and members of Congress.

"The Clinton administration is threatening to impose a so-called peace settlement on Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA)," Bar-Ilan told me. "If Israel doesn't make concessions (America) thinks it should make, (it will tell Israel) to go to the left."

The plan, according to Bar-Ilan, would force Israel into large withdrawals from its currently occupied, which he says would severely threaten the nation's security. Israel's concerns about the ultimate objectives of the PA and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have been heightened in recent weeks because of street demonstrations by Palestinians calling for genocide against Israelis.

Bar-Ilan says these demonstrations were organized by Fatah, a terrorist group closely associated with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

There are more reasons to be concerned about such an



Cal Thomas

imposed settlement and the negative impact it would have on Israel and on peace. Senior Israeli security sources say the PA was behind the attempted smuggling of dozens of weapons into the country, but that it was foiled by the Israeli army near the northern part of the Dead Sea. It is said to be the largest case of weapons smuggling onto Israeli territory in many years.

The PA is said to be not to be a member of a terrorist organization. But the security source said, "Only the Palestinian Authority has the ability, the infrastructure and the money to carry out an operation of this magnitude, and all signs point to their working behind the smuggling."

The weapons seized from two boats included 60 Kalashnikov rifles, one M-16, seven hunting rifles, 39 pistols and a large amount of ammunition. For what purpose would such weapons be used? Security sources say the boats were marked for a possible armed conflict with Israel should peace negotiations remain frozen.

And why shouldn't talks

remain frozen if the world has gone forth from the State Department that the PA doesn't have to seriously negotiate with Israel, but can hold out and have U.S. respect envoy Dennis Ross, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and others in the State Department impose a settlement that will distinctly benefit the PA?

Then there is the question of Palestinian terrorists who have killed nine Americans (as well as a few Israelis) since the Oslo accords were signed in 1993. Those accords require Arafat to hand over the suspects in Israel (for dead-endings) and to the United States (for dead-endings). So far, Arafat has not released a single one, and more are now being sent to members of the Palestinian police force. An imposed settlement would likely ensure they would never be brought to justice.

President Clinton and Secretary Albright recently told the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations that "United States policy in regard to terrorists that kill Americans is that you can run, but you can't hide." Apparently those Palestinian terrorists who have killed Americans don't have to run because the State Department is treating them differently from the Pakistani man who killed employees of the CIA. He was hunted down in Pakistan and brought back to

America for trial. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., chairman of the subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, is scheduled to hold a hearing on the disparity between administration words and deeds on March 11.

Ninety-eight percent of Palestinians now live under Palestinian rule with all of the trappings, if not yet all of the authority, of independence. They have their own police, their own army and a form of government that may not be all they want but is better than what they've had. All Israel wants is a demonstration that its concessions will be matched by promise keeping and good will from the other side. Instead, Israel sees outrageous demonstrations in the streets, the burning of Israeli and American flags, and Palestinians call for Saddam Hussein to bomb Israel. Are these the words and deeds of people who seek a harmonious relationship with their neighbors?

Imposing a settlement on Israel is the stuff of dictatorship. It is how a free nation is supposed to behave. The United States should support democracy, not undermine it. It should be encouraging the parties to negotiate a bottom-up settlement and not try to impose one from the top-down.

Cal Thomas is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

**Father-to-be deserves voice**

Response to Bruce Steven's letter titled "Men should stay out of abortion?"

I'm pleased to write this letter for fear of answering fully with folly, but you asked for response from women of child-bearing ages that's me.

My question to you is: "Why do you want only women's response on the issue of abortion?" If you are as anti-life on the issue as you sound, then you're shooting yourself in the foot. It is often the men who favor abortion so that they can easily cover over their mistakes. They'd rather Mom and Dad or "little wife" never find out.

Nonetheless, I think men ought to be heard on the issue. The father is an involved party or - have you figured out a way that women can reproduce alone - in light of your folly, I think we ought to ask for letters from the unborn. They are definitely involved! More involved than the mother. However, the unborn can't speak up and that is why so many people fervently try to defend them. Isn't that our moral obligation to protect the innocent? How much more innocent can you get?

On the other hand, we could all be selfish and demand "our rights" and not consider others at all! A woman does have a choice (believe it or not, most often) of whether she wants to have six or got. But once a third person (or do you really think it's a fish?) is involved, she should then consider others too! Life isn't always easy choices, but that's how character is built. Just look around at the lack of character in America today. Everyone demands to have "their rights" and they selfishly consider only themselves. Oh, for a land where people consider others again - perhaps a land of tough times, rough choices, but also a land where there is once again character.

There you go, Mr. Steven. I may sound like folly to you, but you asked for it.

P.S. To the woman (and mate) who are struggling with this issue personally: I apologize for sounding frivolous. I know your situation is not frivolous. Please consider the baby too! Adoption is a healthy choice.

P.S.S. To those who have already aborted: I'm sorry for

what you are going through. Please know that there is 110 percent healing and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

WENDY BOUMA  
Fairfield

**Californians are welcome**

I find it tasteless that you would run a letter criticizing people, especially someone who is trying to help boost Idaho economy, based off of pure biased fear of change.

I understand that letter titled "Don't let the Californians stay" was in the Opinion section of the newspaper, but I feel that opinions printed in a professional news sheet should be at least newsworthy, not shaming innocent people who wish to share in the beauties of the state.

I wish to offer an apology to Mr. Willis and all "out-of-staters" for the insulting comments written against them and welcome you to settle in and help this great land grow. I encourage you to remember that the founders of our great country were criticized because they had dreams of "big city ideas."

By bringing them on and help us make this city as large as Los Angeles. I'm confident that we can do it right.

As to the outspoken writer of the letter in the Feb. 27 paper, we're from Earth, what about you?

THEODORE M. ANDERSON  
Jackpot, Nev.

**Republicans aren't angels**

I would like to write about the angel Republicans in Washington.

One senator said they were going to get Clinton one way or another, and if they couldn't find something they would invent something. That is what they are doing. That was on TV. Clinton won big two times, and if a chance might win three times.

He has faults. Who would anyone like to be in his shoes? Could they do any better with the world on their shoulders? A lot of people don't give him any credit. Most people, no matter how bad they are, there is something good about them.

Craig and Chenoweth, not a good word for Clinton, and that goes for them, too.

CLEO M. PETERSON  
Jerome

# Free speech is still alive, at the right price

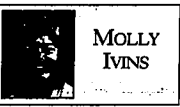
Someone you win, someone you lose, and some are too weird to call.

The First Amendment got a nice little boost from the Amarillo injury in the Oprah Winfrey/veggie libel case. True, the test of the constitutionality of the libel label was dodged when Judge Mary Lou Robinson threw out the count and let the case proceed as a basic business defamation case. Still, the jury got the point. Juror Pat Gowdy said: "We felt that a lot of rights have been eroded in this country. Our freedoms are being taken away. The only one we have left to regain what we've lost." Now, that's a man who gets it.

The cartoonist stoutly claimed that at least their case proved that American beef is safe. I think even that boomeranged.

Lots of people never watch Winfrey and had never heard of cow cannibalism before this trial. That's the practice of feeding ground-up dead sheep and "downer cows" (if that means dead, too) to other cows as part of their feed. Experts now agree that this practice causes a cousin of "mad cow" disease among humans in England. The FDA outlawed the practice in this country last summer, but some industry critics believe the new rules are full of loopholes. If they speak up, will they be sued, too?

Howard Lyman of the Humane Society of the United States, who was sued along with Winfrey, said after the trial that veggie libel laws, now in effect in 13 states, unquestionably chill discussion about the practices and products of food producers and distributors - "practices and products that may cause harm to American consumers." In fact, the veggie libel statutes are just a specialized version of the



Molly Ivins

SLAPP suits used by corporations to silence their critics.

The AFL stands for "strategic lawsuits against public participation," a legal tactic increasingly common since the early '70s that consists of suing people for speaking up - for using their First Amendment rights. It's not so much that environmental activists and food safety activists and watchdog groups of all sorts ever lose these cases - it's just that it costs them so much in legal fees to get sued that they are effectively silenced ever after.

Winfrey, bless her, is rich enough to fight this nonsense all the way to the Supreme Court. But, for example, a small concerned working-class mom who lives near a factory that emits high levels of lead and who are sending out telephoned letters of concern to their neighbors - these are not people who can afford hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills. The goal of SLAPP suits is to entrap the defendants in prolonged and expensive legal proceedings almost certain to exhaust them, both financially and psychologically.

Two thirds of these cases are dismissed before trial, and of the few decided in favor of the plaintiffs, most are reversed or dismissed on appeal, according to a study done by University of Denver professors. The even better news is that activists have lately started to SLAPP back, filing countersuits against the cor-

porations trying to silence them.

The news is not so good on the campaign-finance reform front. The McCain-Feingold bill got up to 24 votes in the Senate, a majority, but not enough to shut off the Republican filibuster. As The New York Times said, "The bill's political funding provisions opened space all during the debate, and after they killed the bill, the senators and lobbyists all charged away to their own round of fund-raising. Trent Lott, the majority leader who killed the bill, trotted off to a \$1,000-a-head fund-raiser for Russell Feingold's opponent in this year's election.

Both Feingold and his opponent have agreed to limit their spending to \$1 per voter, to raise no more than 10 percent of their money from political action committees, and to take in at least 75 percent of their individual donations from Wisconsin residents. Can you imagine Phil Gramm doing that?"

At the risk of being called before one of Ken Starr's grand juries, I would like to point out that I, too, have severely criticized the special prosecutor's conduct. In fact, I have publicly referred to him as "bonkers" called his treatment of Susan McDougal cruel and unprejudiced, and still can't believe he calls in Monica Lewinsky's mama and spent two days torturing her for details of her daughter's sex life before she even met President Clinton, etc. etc. In fact, I'm starting to agree with poor Dr. Bernard Lewinsky that McCarthyism, the Inquisition and possibly even Nazi Germany are not so extreme as comparisons.

And I reached all these conclusions by my little old self. Not a single conversation with anyone in the White House have I had.

Never met Sidney Blumenthal, never heard from Paul Begala, got no talking points and no faxes, live in Texas, and never heard a single rumor about the prosecutor or anyone who works for him.

I come to hold my current opinion that Starr is out of control and off on a witch hunt with no legal basis but by reading about his actions that are on the public record - dummy - does that make me part of a conspiracy to obstruct justice?

Molly Ivins is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

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FAMILY LIFE

# Unexpected bills stretch budget to limit

**DEAR ABBY:** My life is so messed up. I don't know what to do. A little more than a year ago, my husband decided he didn't trust me with his money, so he opened his own account. I told him he could pay the bills and keep track of the checking account, but he refused, saying he wanted his own.



**DEAR ABBY**  
Abigail VanBuren

Abby, I have a good job. It's not the greatest, but it allows me to pay my bills. When I needed a new car, I got a second job to pay for it. I also needed money to smooth over the bad relationship between our daughter and her father. I gave her things I really couldn't afford, but felt I owed her something.

Our daughter needed a car to get to work, but her father wouldn't agree to help her finance one. She asked me to co-sign on a loan, and I made the biggest mistake of my life when I agreed. A few weeks after she got the car, she lost her job. I didn't realize that the car payment was being automatically withdrawn from my account, but I don't always check my bank statement. I was horrified when I saw there was a big shortage — she had not deposited enough money to cover the payment. She told me she had, but that was a lie. She also lied to me about money several times after that.

I asked my husband for help with the account, but he refused and asked our daughter to move out. That meant she had to pay rent and utilities, so there was no way she could make up the back payments.

Abby, I am so far behind on my

bills I don't know what to do. I tried to get a loan to consolidate my bills, but I don't have sufficient collateral. I have canceled all my credit cards, but how do I live with so much debt taking every cent, leaving me no money to buy groceries or anything else. I'm desperate. Sign me.

—MAXED OUT AND CONFUSED

**DEAR MAXED OUT:** Get the to a credit counselor posthaste. The counselor can act as a buffer between you and your creditors to arrange more manageable payments than your current agreements specify. The counselor can also reach you to use credit wisely. Look in your telephone directory under the heading "credit counselors."

Damaged credit isn't the end of the world. If you regard this as a lesson in life, you'll get through it with your sanity intact. Just be patient and diligent about getting to a budget.

P.S. Insist that your daughter attend credit counseling with you.

**DEAR ABBY:** A year ago, my husband and I moved his 76-year-old mother into a very lovely retirement home because all her friends had abandoned her. He

was seeing far too many doctors, and her daughters had given up on her because of her negative "poor me" attitude.

My husband and I see her at least once a week and her daughters call her every Sunday. This place where she now lives is expensive, but well worth it. She has met many new, wonderful people. So what's the problem? Her downturn, negative attitude has resurfaced, and we're beginning to understand why people walked away from her before.

She calls me daily to give me detailed information about all her bodily functions. I dread her calls. I work hard to be an "up" person and have tried to be a supportive daughter-in-law because I know she's in pain. She is bringing my husband and me down with her. I have talked to her about the rewards of a positive attitude — but the odd thing is she seems to think she has one. Please help, Abby. What can we do?

—AT MY WIT'S END

**DEAR WIT'S END:** When people are sick and in pain, lose the friendships that have formed their "support system," and then are taken from familiar surroundings, it's not unusual for their focus to narrow and their aches and pains to magnify. As much as you'd like to, you may not be able to resolve this alone.

Waste no time in telling your mother-in-law's doctor about her mental state.

She may need counseling, more stimulation or even medication to put her in a more positive frame of mind.

**DEAR ABBY:** Here's a funny piece a friend gave me. I hope you like it.

—RICHARD J. KOVAR JR., BEREA, OHIO

**DEAR RICHARD:** It is very funny, and I have printed it several times. I liked it so much I included it in my booklet titled "Kopiers." A number of readers request it each year, so here it is again — enjoy!

**OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE**

*Old folks are worth a fortune: With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stores in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs.*

*I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years and might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.*

*As soon as I awake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here, he takes a lot of my time and attention.*

*When he leaves, Arthur Rits shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After each a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed — with Ben Gay. What a life!*

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I am — in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement — I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

# Mourning loss of spouse isn't a short-term affair

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Will death do us part. Few newlyweds give much thought to this solemn vow they exchange at the altar. Yet as America grays, more people are confronting its meaning at funerals, which conclude a lifetime of marriage.

For at least a few hours surviving spouses can cry openly and seek solace in the company of friends and relatives. But what happens when the funeral is over and everyone has gone home?

Mourning a spouse's death may last as long as two years and often longer, and it frequently involves a series of stages. Nevertheless, grief seems to have a life of its own, and the order of the stages may vary.

Mourning usually begins with a feeling of numbness and a need to maintain as many routines as possible. This is followed by an intense yearning for the lost partner. As the permanence of the death takes hold, despair, depression, and disorganization mark the days.

Throughout these first three stages, survivors often feel a variety of intense and confusing emotions. Those who spent countless hours caring for ailing partners may feel lost without their role as caretaker. Anger at a spouse for dying or the medical system for not saving their partner's life is common.

Anxiety and restlessness can make it difficult to focus on work or projects previously enjoyed around the home. Fleeting, vivid images of the deceased are some-

times terrifying. All of these feelings, along with intense sadness, poor appetite, weight loss, forgetfulness and insomnia, are normal after a loved one dies.

Despite all of this emotional turmoil, most survivors eventually enter the fourth stage and begin to build a new life. In fact, researchers have not confirmed the popular perception that many people die within a year of their spouse's death.

To be sure, the loneliness often precipitated by the loss of a spouse is associated with declining emotional and physical health. Yet having a friend who is a confidant reduces this loneliness and makes it easier to handle stressful events.

Affiliation with a religious community may provide important support, comfort and meaning. Older adults can increase their chances of meeting friends who share similar interests by going to hobby groups or exercise classes or doing volunteer work.

Sometimes, however, mourning can turn into a kind of depression that requires medical intervention. Feeling worthless, refusing to eat, drink or bathe, not sleeping, lacking interest in any activities, and constantly thinking about joining the deceased spouse are all signals that a person needs professional help.

Recognizing these symptoms in the elderly is especially important since not eating or drinking can quickly lead to dehydration and physical complications.

# WEDDING

## STEWART-SOUTHERN

**BURLLEY** — Rodney and Janie Stewart of Rupert announce the wedding of their daughter, Gayla Sue Stewart to Nathan D. Southern, son of Gene and Erna Wright of Burley. The wedding was held on Jan. 29.

Stewart graduated from Minico High School. She is employed at Huggins in Twin Falls.

Southern graduated from Burley High School. He is employed by the Idaho State Police in Twin Falls.

A reception in their honor is planned from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gayla and Nathan Southern  
Saturday at the Burley West  
Scales Center, 2050 Normal Ave.

# Long-term care insurance plans preserve assets

The Hartford Courant

Eleanor W. Underwood wanted to prepare for the unthinkable — the possibility of spending years in a nursing home.

Her widowed mother had to enter one, and she knew her husband's family had a history of heart problems. So two years ago, Eleanor, then 64, and her husband Burton, 70, bought long-term care insurance.

"You never think it's going to happen to you, but you never

know," Eleanor Underwood says. "You hope you're going to go to bed, go to sleep and never wake up, but that isn't always the way."

The policies, which cost the Wallingford, Conn., couple about \$5,000 a year, will pay for long-term nursing home care and home health care, such as visiting nurses or home health aides. Policies can be bought to pay only for nursing home, or only for home care.

The main purpose of the insurance is to preserve your assets,

either for yourself, your spouse, or your heirs.

More and more Americans are buying long-term care insurance, but consumer advocates and even industry officials caution that it is not for everyone. Prospective buyers need to do their homework and make their own decisions, they say.

Rates for the policies, which are sold through agents and the workplace, can range from less than \$1,000 a year per person to nearly \$9,000 a year, depending on the

policyholder's age and amount of coverage. The average cost of a nursing home stay, though, is more than \$40,000 a year nationally.

Consumers are realizing that Medicare won't cover that cost. The federal program pays for nursing home or home care only after a hospital stay and only for 100 days, and it requires patients to share the cost of the last 80 days.

Medicaid, the state-federal program, requires consumers to spend most of their assets before it starts paying for nursing home care.

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SPORTS

2002 Winter Games security putting concealed-weapons law on front burner

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Now that the countdown for the 2002 Winter Games has begun, public safety officials are grappling with what may be their biggest challenge...

It's overseeing security preparations for the Winter Games four years in the future...

Leavitt agreed, calling the issue "one of those that will have to be solved" before the 2002 Games.

Boxing promoter Don King robbed in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Don King, despite his conspicuous presence, is certain that armed bandits had no idea who he was when they robbed him of his gold watch.

King said it all happened within a couple of minutes near their hotel.

Tennis elects Connors to international tennis shine

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) - After spending years of leading other tennis greats, Jimmy Connors will join them in the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Pro tennis
1974-78 he reached the U.S. Open final in five consecutive years.

Richard Fromberg of Australia 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-0).

Rutgers downs West Virginia

NEW YORK (AP) - Eric Clark had 19 points and nine rebounds to lead Rutgers to a 72-65 upset of No. 23 West Virginia on Wednesday in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

Geoff Billet added 17 points and seven assists for the Scarlet Knights, who had lost three of four Big East regular season games.

No. 6 Texas Tech clobbers Colorado, 80-49

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - "Angie" Johnson hit 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds Wednesday as No. 6 Texas Tech beat Colorado 80-49 in the second round of the Big 12 women's basketball tournament.

Women's college basketball
with 12 points and La Sheba Graham had 10.

Okahoma St. 83, No. 25 Nebraska 69
KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Jennifer Crow scored 25 points as Oklahoma State upset No. 25 Nebraska 83-69 Wednesday in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 conference tournament.

CSI

While North Idaho (22-6) improved its marksmanship in the second half, the Rebels felt the opposite effect, falling to 39 percent overall after making half their attempts in the first period.

Friday's semifinals against North Idaho. Kell्यान Duckworth led all scorers with 23 points for Utah Valley (23-9), which made 33 of its 49 free-throw attempts.

BASKETBALL

IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore

Table with columns for various basketball games and scores.

Table with columns for various basketball games and scores.

Table with columns for various basketball games and scores.

ON THE AIR TELEVISION

Table listing television broadcasts for various sports events.

RADIO

Table listing radio broadcasts for various sports events.

TRANSACTIONS

Table listing sports transactions, trades, and signings.

NHL

Table listing NHL game results and statistics.

NFL

Table listing NFL game results and statistics.

NBA

Table listing NBA game results and statistics.

MLB

Table listing MLB game results and statistics.

HOCKEY

Table listing hockey game results and statistics.



"Everyone's waving at me, please back, Floyd!"

# 2 local teams stay in hunt for A-4 title

# Florida game carries with it an Asian flavor

By Mike Muller and Matt Pemberton  
Times News writers

6:30 p.m. at Valluvas with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

## Who's the big school? Hideo Yoshiho basketball championships

**CALDWELL**—The first day of the boys' Class A state basketball tournament started out well for the Cardinals.

Both Ketchum Community School and Hagerman won in the 1:45 p.m. openers. Ketchum topped Henry at Caldwell High school to win the Cardinals' first-ever game in a state basketball tournament. Hagerman ousted Council at Valluvas.

The two teams advance to play in today's 8:30 p.m. quarterfinal games.

However, Lady Luck had no more smiles for District 4 after the opening games. Carey, Murrough and Camas County all scored first-round victories.

Today, Carey plays Council at 1:45 p.m. at Valluvas. Murrough and Camas County face off at 3:15 p.m. at Caldwell.

Murrough played a strong game, probably good enough to secure at least anyone in the tournament. Unfortunately the Red Devils drew Wilder, which is a solid candidate to be playing in the final Saturday.

"I look for Hagerman and Wilder to play in the state championship, and that's going to be a great game," said Murrough coach Gerald Hayes.

### Ketchum 49, Deary 37

The Cardinals bounced back from a 2-70 halftime deficit to make their first appearance at state a success.

"We really wanted this one," said junior center Graham Snyder, who led Ketchum with 20 points. "We got a couple real leaders, especially all the seniors, that really, really help us."

Attacking Deary's top player, Galen Brown, proved to be a big help for the Cardinals as well. Brown finished with 17 points, but he had his fourth foul with 3:33 left in the third quarter and the Mustangs up 35-25.

"We heard that he, by himself, could dominate a game," said Ketchum coach Mike Wallie. "He might be the finest half-court player we've played in."

With Brown on the bench, Ketchum went on a 10-0 run that took the lead 37-35 with 1:10 left. The Cardinals then returned a minute into the fourth quarter. He scored two quick baskets to trim the lead to 39-37 with 1:30 left.

But the Cardinals rebounded hard for the rest of the game.

"I think we won with our defense," Wallie said. "When they tried to walk us down, we took it away. When they make shots, we had a hand in their faces."

Ketchum senior Mike Lewis scored the final two of the 10 points by ending the game with a layup at the other end of the court for a 44-37 lead with 2:30 left.

### Hagerman 53, Council 36

At risk the Lumberjacks scored three quarters to secure as many points as the Pirates scored in the first.

Hagerman's full-court press forced Council to play the Pirates type of game. The Cardinals were unable to break the press most of the time, but had to force shots over Pirates point guard Tom Lindgren and forward Scottie Cook. Council's offense couldn't score. In fact, Hagerman's defense held the Lumberjacks to just five points in the first quarter.

On the offensive end, Lindgren led the first quarter Pirates attack with 10 points, two assists, two steals and one rebound. Council's offense couldn't score. In fact, Hagerman's defense held the Lumberjacks to just five points in the first quarter.

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### Mackay 66, Carey 58

The Miners dug themselves out of the hole early but put them in for a fourth-quarter victory on Saturday. Mackay had age and size on its side, but for three quarters, that didn't matter to the Panthers.

In the first quarter, five Panthers scored on four Carey turnovers. The advantage of the buzzer. By the end of the half, Carey had extended their lead to seven. Panther Greg Edwards led the charge with 12 points in the half. Edwards finished with 16.

In the third quarter, Carey seemed to struggle. The Miners quickly took advantage and cut the lead to three.

"We came out pretty lethargic in the second half," said Panther coach, Les Cook.

Miner Graham Williams tied the score at 42 with an old-fashioned three-point play. But the Panthers went on to win.

With 45 seconds on the clock Danny Simpson broke free and took the ball to the hole to give his team a one-point lead going into the fourth.

Then Mackay's height and age seemed to overpower Carey. The Miners put on the full-court pressure and managed to win the game with a little more than five minutes left to play.

The Panthers regained the lead late, but could not hold it.

"We missed key baskets and key rebounds," said Cook. "We turned the ball over a lot."

Carey turned the ball over 23 times throughout the game and five times in the fourth. The Miners took advantage of the Panthers' inordinate foul and scored the lead out to its familiarity.

"The extremely good of our team effort," Cook said. "We have been in the situation all year where we have been underdog. We just have to make good on our underdog status."

Carey faces Council today at 1:45 p.m. at Valluvas High School.

### Wilder 72, Murrough 58

The Red Devils tried a triple and two defense with Lance Curmison and Chance Pedina playing the full-court press.

As the game unfolded on Wilder's two stars, Spencer Lynn and Jasper Pederson.

Instead, J.P. Ledwith fired in 17 points in the first half to help build a 40-22 Williams lead. Rafael Puga added 17 points, mostly on lightning, quick dunks in the basket.

"We had to be smart on top," said (Ledwith) burrowing up tonight," said Murrough coach Gerald Hayes.

## Who's the big school? Hideo Yoshiho basketball championships

Although it was an American baseball game for from Asian shores, pitchers from Japan and Korea were the focal point Wednesday at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

And when it was over, most of them was a winner — because of his bat.

Chan Ho Park of the Dodgers homered off fellow Korean Jae-Woong Seo of the New York Mets for a 4-3 lead in the fifth inning of a 7-6 Los Angeles victory.

"I had mixed feelings about it," said Seo, a 20-year-old right-hander who said he never thought about playing in the majors until Park scored the first Korean to do so. "I was glad for him, but not too happy it happened."

Seo also gave up a solo homer to Mike Piazza, but struck out five in two innings.

"I am impressed with him," Park said of Seo.

He just needs experience here (on the field) and speaking English."

Park said it was the first home run he could remember hitting since high school.

The confrontation between the Dodgers' Hideo Nomo and Masato Yoshii of the Mets was a less dramatic. Yoshii went out down swinging, but his concern was with his duties on the mound.

"Unlike Mr. Nomo, I am just a rookie here trying to be No. 5 in the rotation," Yoshii said. "Before I got on the mound I had a certain theme and I was able to control it."

Nomo was impressed by his countryman.

"It looks like Yoshii is coming along," he said. "He's right now we're not in a position of having fun."

The Dodgers hit four home runs, then hung on to win.

Juan Castro and Tim Lincecum also connected to offset five RBIs by New York's Bernard Gilkey. He had a three-run homer in the ninth.

## Exhibition baseball

In other games Wednesday, **Pirates 14, Pirates 2**

Ronnie Dee Relaford had a big day for Philadelphia, but three Pittsburgh Pirates errors helped the Phillies score seven first-inning runs.

Relaford had three hits, scored three runs and drove in two at Bradenton, Fla.

The Pirates, 1-6 this spring while being outscored 57-29, made six errors — including two each by left- and right-fielders Tony Womack and shortstop Lou Collier.

## Rangers 8, Blue Jays 5

At Port Charlotte, Fla., an RBI single by Mike Simms broke a 4-4 tie, and Rob Sasser's two-run double highlighted a four-run eighth inning.

Reliever Billy Koch also allowed a sacrifice fly by Scott Sheldon. There also was a matter of ball charged to Julio Mosquera, a left batsman and an error by right-fielder Ryan Freel. Sasser drove in three runs.

## Devil Rays (ss) 10, Reds (ss) 12

Fred McGriff's two-run double after a game-tying single by Wade Boggs paced a four-run sixth inning by Tampa Bay in the split-squad game at Sarasota, Fla.

"The downfall of the Cincinnati bullpen was in stark contrast to the effort of starter Dave Burba. He allowed one hit in five scoreless innings, leaving us with a 2-0 lead. In eight innings this spring, Burba has allowed three hits and two runs, with no walks and five strikeouts.

## Yankees (ss) 9, Reds (ss) 8

Ivan Cruz's one-out double scored Scott Pose in the ninth inning at Tampa, Fla., completing a seven-run comeback by a New York split squad.

The Yankees trailed 7-0 in the sixth, then got a solo homer from Derek Jeter. They added five runs in the seventh and fifth in the eighth.

## 76ers down Bucks, 87-80

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Smith had his best game since February at the 76ers and Derrick Coleman had 19 points and 10 rebounds Wednesday night as Philadelphia defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 87-80.

Smith scored 15 points on 6-of-9 shooting with four rebounds in 26 minutes. Theo Ratliff added 13 points and seven rebounds for Philadelphia, which returned home after a four-game road trip.

Smith hadn't scored more than 14 points since being traded to Philadelphia two weeks ago. He had a 2-of-10 shooting night against Indiana and was 1-of-12 against Denver.

Glenn Robinson had 21 points and eight rebounds. Tyrone Hill grabbed 18 rebounds, Ray Allen scored 17 points and Armon Gilliam added 14 points, including the fourth quarter, as the Bucks lost their third in a row.

## Homets 112, Twolves 102

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte extended its best winning streak to six games as Anthony Mason scored nine of his 21 points in a fourth-quarter run that pushed the Hornets past Minnesota.

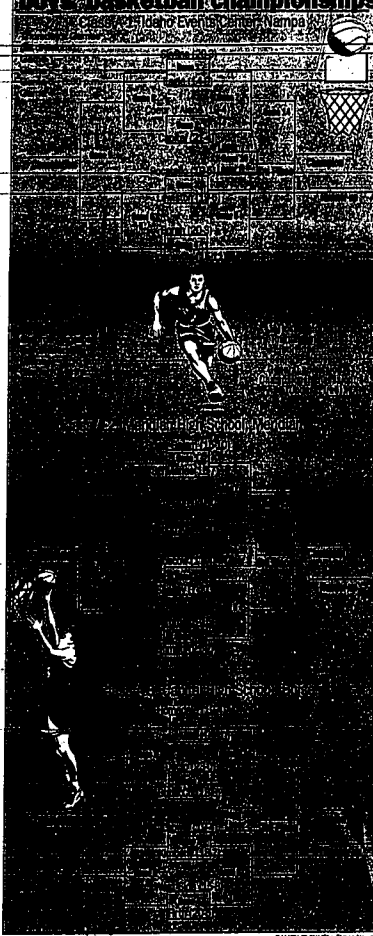
Mason added seven rebounds and three assists as Charlotte improved its all-time home record against the Timberwolves to 10-0.

Charlotte's Glen Rice scored 22 two-points after having his franchise-record run of 15 double-figure scoring games snapped.

Kevin Garnett had 19 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Timberwolves.

## Cavs 122, Raptors 88

CLEVELAND — Wesley Person tied a career high with 33 points and seven assists as the Cavaliers reached a season-high point total in routing the Toronto Raptors 122-88 Wednesday night.



DAMIAN DOWDY/Times News

## A3

It has been six years since a Bulldog season made the trip to the state capital.

## A2

Score Flew will lead the offensive game. The senior is averaging a little more than 20 points a game, while junior Rich Arrossa comes into the tournament averaging 17 points per game.

## Continued from B1

around. We were very competitive in many games, but didn't get some of the wins we should have," said Clark.

## A2

Clark added that he was "impressed" with his countryman.

## Continued from B1

Clark added that he was "impressed" with his countryman.

## Continued from B1

Clark added that he was "impressed" with his countryman.



## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Buhl man faces assault charge after argument

TWIN FALLS - A Buhl man has been charged with aggravated assault on suspicion of threatening to shoot his neighbor. Niall Irish, 39, was arrested at about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday after the neighbor said Irish had taken a gun from his back pocket, pointed it at her and told her he was going to shoot her, a Buhl police report said. The two have had problems for years, Buhl police said in the report.

Irish surrendered peacefully to police at his home and told them he had pointed the gun at the woman, the report said. Buhl police the gun was on his television set, and officers found a realistic-looking cap gun there.

The victim told police, however, the toy gun wasn't the shape of the gun Irish pointed at her, the report said. Buhl police sought a warrant Wednesday to search the house for another gun, the report said.

### Kimberly closes school while boys at state tourney

KIMBERLY - Kimberly School District will close school Friday for state basketball.

The district announced it encourages families to attend the state games at Capital High School in Boise to support the Kimberly High School boys' basketball team.

The outcome of Kimberly's state game today will determine what time the team plays Friday. If it loses today it will play at 3:15 p.m., and if it wins it will play at 8 p.m. Friday had been scheduled as a half day, but the district decided to take a full day off to attend the tournament.

### New attorney reviews case; Jerome rape trial delayed

JEROME - The trial of a Jerome businessman facing a rape charge has been delayed until April 22, so his new attorney can review transcripts from previous hearings.

A trial for Kent Frances Edwards, 51, was set to begin Feb. 10, but Edwards recently switched attorneys, Jerome County Prosecutor John Lotzspeich said.

The rape charge stems from the allegations of a 16-year-old girl who told detectives she and Edwards had sex in August 1997 at Edwards' home on the Hobby Street Ranch southeast of Jerome.

Meanwhile, District Court Judge Barry Wood will consider a motion for a change of venue filed Monday by Edwards' attorney, Lotzspeich said.

### Some seats may remain for Navy Band performance

TWIN FALLS - All tickets for the United States Navy Band Sea Chanters concert next given out to patrons from all over the Magic Valley.

A full house is expected to attend the three performances at 7:30 p.m. March 14 at the John Roper Auditorium.

More tickets are being sold after the supply was gone. It is still possible to hear the concert, however. Ten minutes before the concert, empty seats will be given to all those without tickets.

### Sun Valley councilman will serve on highway panel

SUN VALLEY - Councilman Kevin Laird was appointed Wednesday to the transportation subcommittee studying state Highway 75 options for the city.

Sun Valley and Ketchum councils each have members on the committee, which meets for the first time on noon March 19 in Ketchum City Hall.

Wednesday, Councilman Jim Dowd was appointed by the Sun Valley council to serve as an ex-officio member for the Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber of Commerce. The chamber meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:15 a.m. in its offices on Ketchum's Main Street. Dowd will attend his first meeting March 20.

### Landfill tops agenda when Elmore commissioners meet

MOUNTAIN HOME - Elmore County commissioners will hold a special meeting today to talk about landfill and legal issues.

The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse, 150 S. Fourth E. in Mountain Home, and it's open to the public.

Commissioners will appoint a member to the siting license board. In landfill business, they'll approve a survey engineer for Glenn Ferry. They'll discuss maintenance and operation at Glenn Ferry, and discuss bids for hauling waste from transfer sites to county landfills.

The meeting concludes with an executive session on legal issues regarding Nedderstedt.

Compiled from staff reports

# Judicial measure dies in House

## Bill would have made judgeships an appointed position, not subject to public vote

By Liz Wright  
Times-News writer

BOISE - Judicial elections aren't perfect, House conservatives said Wednesday, but they're better than the alternative.

Legislators Wednesday struck down a proposal to eliminate contested elections for new judges. The House defeat, at 6:30 a.m., the proposed constitutional amendment required a two-thirds majority to pass.

The sponsor, Rep. Celis Gould, R-Boise, said his idea would pit professionalists into the selection of judges, and eliminate the potential for an electoral circus.



Celis Gould

Under her proposal, the governor would appoint a first-term judge from a small group of candidates picked by the Idaho Judicial Council, comprised of

lawyers, judges and citizens. Voters would decide whether to re-elect the incumbent during subsequent elections.

The potential for cronies is tremendous under the current system because judicial candidates must run for office and raise campaign funds, she said.

Currently, voters elect judges the same way they pick legislators and other elected officials. Gould said roughly two-thirds of the states have laws similar to her proposal.

Supporters said voters aren't always sure how to vote, when presented only with a judicial candidate's legal qualifications. But some legislators said they prefer to lay on to the threat of choice they still have - even though judicial

elections are rare, and candidates are prohibited by ethical rules from discussing issues.

"Today becoming a judge is virtually a lifetime appointment," said Rep. Mark Stubbs, R-Twin Falls. "This bill takes away the only democratic option we have in selecting judges."

One after the other, conservative legislators opposed the measure, saying Idaho could follow the U.S. Supreme Court in making a series of liberal decisions. "Too much power" would be given to the Idaho Judicial Council, which is philosophically compatible with the Idaho State Bar, said Rep. Cameron

Please see JUDGES, Page C3

## TUBE PLAY



Ben Kermery and his faithful companion, Ruggier the dog, make the most of a beautiful, sunny day in Bellevue by taking the time to snow play.

# Hailey nears sewer-line deal

## Bellevue mayor wants neighbor city to rethink project

By Kristina Kennedy  
Times-News correspondent

HAILEY - Hailey is pinning down a sewer-line deal, but Bellevue still doesn't like the idea.

Hailey officials say they're nearing a deal with Flying Hat Ranch owner Spencer Eccles for sewer-line easements across the southern portion of his land, a deviation of one mile to the south from the original route.

But the one-mile difference has outraged Bellevue officials, who say sewer effluent discharged one mile closer to Bellevue will pollute their portion of the Big Wood River.

Bellevue Mayor Monte Brothwell said Wednesday he wants Hailey to rethink its current plan and reroute the sewer line 2.5 miles north and against gravity back up to Hailey. Brothwell suggests Hailey could then discharge the effluent at Hailey's Riverside plant, where it would have more time to dissolve before reaching Bellevue.

Hailey officials say Brothwell's plan is financially unsound, and unnecessary because it won't make a difference in water purity.

"It's all the same river," Hailey City Administrator Darlyle James said, adding no substantial tributaries flow into the Big Wood between Hailey and Bellevue.

Hailey Mayor Brad Siemer and a team of engineers go further in their claims. They say pollutants in the water will be

unchanged scientifically by moving the route from where Hailey originally planned - across the center of Eccles' land - to the site now under discussion. Siemer said efforts to present this data to Bellevue in several meetings have not been successful.

James, too, says Bellevue's concerns are based on misperceptions about the quality of the discharge, or effluent.

*The one-mile difference has outraged Bellevue officials, who say sewer effluent discharged one mile closer to Bellevue will pollute their portion of the Big Wood River.*

James said it is highly treated sewage which will exceed Environmental Protection Agency standards and be near drinking-water quality. Siemer says Bellevue's portion of river won't be jeopardized.

Brothwell says otherwise.

"I disagree," he said. "There's two tributaries, runoff from farmland, and the dilution factor is a lot more. When the plant's running fine, that's OK, but in the summer, there's more, they can't deny that."

Brothwell said he's frustrated and feels powerless. He said if Hailey voters had known last spring that sewer lines would discharge so close to Bellevue, their sewer bond issue vote would have been different.

"They're going to stomp all over the people of Bellevue to please one

landowner," Brothwell said.

Currently, Hailey is negotiating with Eccles to lay line on the southern edge of his property. Laying pipe nearer Eccles' southern border will be less intrusive for the landowner than across the center of his land.

James said the city isn't ignoring Bellevue's concerns but feels they are inflated ones.

Brothwell said Hailey is trying to find the cheapest way to the river, and laying sewer pipe near Bellevue is the solution.

"They didn't plan for the cost of easements," Brothwell said. "Now they're pinched, and trying to find the cheapest way to get down there."

Hailey officials don't deny their cost concern.

In fact, city officials gnawed for two years after two sewer bond issues failed at a crisis time when the EPA essentially froze Hailey's system. The most cost-effective plan was determined to be the current one: a \$6.5 treatment plant in Woodside, \$4.5 of which is financed through a bond issue. The vote passed overwhelmingly last spring.

But Brothwell said it was poor planning, and Hailey officials should have jumped on board with Bellevue's 1993 sewer project, when the town built a \$3-million lagoon system. The ponds sit on the land south of Bellevue for free. The

Please see SEWER, Page C3

# Daytime curfew sparks ire in Filer

By Nicole Gilbert  
Times-News correspondent

FILER - Filer City Hall was packed this week with Magic Valley parents standing in opposition to a proposed ordinance on status offenses.

"This is a terrible document," said Bill Baker, a homespun presenter. In fact, most parents present Tuesday night practice homeschooling. Their key opposition to the ordinance - which didn't come to a vote in Filer this week - is the adoption of a daytime curfew which would allow officers to stop people under the age of 18 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Several parents said their children keep nontraditional school hours and often go into town to run errands without a parent present. They were concerned their children would lose the freedom to move freely through the city.

"It's a harassment of grievous proportions," said Doug Farris, who teaches math at the CSI Academic Development Center. "This (ordinance) preempts due process... It is an assumption of guilt."

Homeschool parents to Genesis agreed. She does not believe children should have to feel suspect and on the defensive.

"I feel it is putting a stranglehold on kids," Filer police officer Randy

Please see FILER, Page C3

# Gooding pool committee dives into fund-raising

By Sharon Metcalf  
Times-News correspondent

GOODING - Gooding is diving into fund-raising for a pool at the park. City residents will be seeing more reminders of the East Park pool project, including letters to be mailed out soon seeking donations.

Several donations already have been made, including an anonymous gift of \$15,000. SPLASH committee Co-chair, Mani Seifert said, and organizers

hope to reach their goal of \$160,000 in record time.

Custom Pools of Boise drew plans for the 75-foot-by-45-foot, six-lane pool, with a 30-foot-by-20-foot children's wading pool off to the side.

Outbuildings will be constructed from bricks saved when the old Frasn School was demolished, and the entire pool area will be fenced. A bermed area will be constructed for lounging on the grass. The recreation district will maintain and operate the pool, and the city of

Gooding will continue to maintain the surrounding park area. Parking will be enlarged to accommodate 50 cars.

The Greater Gooding Open held last weekend benefited the pool fund, as will a Jaycee's volleyball tournament Saturday and other events planned in coming months.

East Park had a swimming pool, which the city removed rather than do significant repairs.

Gooding hopes for something more lasting this time.

"Custom's oldest pool was built 34 years ago, and it's still together," Seifert said.

Donations can be made through Vern Ennes or Nancy Yare at First Security Bank in Gooding. Questions regarding the project can be addressed to Kent Seifert at 934-4023, or Todd Bunn at 934-5663.

Times-News correspondent Sharon Metcalf can be reached in Gooding at 934-5292.



# Rupert eyes church building for police

The deal is not final, acting police chief says

By Pamphile Cassidy  
Times-News writer

**RUPERT** — A new location for Rupert City Police continues to nag the City Council, which has passed \$300 in an option agreement with the Spanish Assembly of God Church.

The church owns a centrally located building on F Street used by the church and the Mini-Cassia chapter of the American Red Cross. "It's not a cut-and-dried deal," said Acting Police Chief Lew Jones, who doubles as chapter chairman of the Red Cross. "But it's a likely spot for the police department."

If the city determines the building is structurally sound and it is able to buy it, it will tear the church section down for parking space, said City Administrator Ryan Montgomery, and use the rest of the structure for a police station.

"Just a hole in the wall is what we're not going to," Montgomery said. "We'd like to create a facility where people and kids will want to stop in, a friendly atmosphere."

Rupert police have been sharing a building with the Minidoka County Sheriff's Department.



Steve Ward of Altos returns a 'bag of babies' to the Rupert Red Cross office. The Minidoka newspaper was used by his wife, instructor Tanya Ward, to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The Red Cross uses the building, which the city is eyeing for the city's police.

Both agencies are eager for more space. "If we move out, that'll give the county about 1,800 more square feet," Montgomery said. "We're hoping they'll want to help us move out of there."

If the deal goes through, the city will have more than twice the room they have now and the location will be convenient to both city and county entities.

Times-News staff writer Pamphile Cassidy can be reached in Burley at 677-4192.

# Minidoka's student test scores don't move

By Jennifer Sandmann  
Times-News writer

**RUPERT** — Students who have attended the Minidoka district's schools for the past three years haven't shown a consistent pattern of bettering their standardized test scores, the Minidoka County School District found.

Director of Special Services Wayne Bagwell told the School Board Wednesday that the district already knew it needed to raise test scores, but it wanted to analyze the scores of students who have been in the district for three years.

"We're not seeing the pattern of growth that we were hoping we could find," Bagwell said.

Superintendent Nick Hallett told the School Board the three-year analysis gives the district a better idea about how it's doing. The findings are troubling.

"It's a dangerous signal to us, because these are the kids who have been with us for an extended period of time," he said.

Board Chairwoman Norma Claridge asked why scores weren't improving. Hallett said a number of factors contribute to the trend. He does not think it can be blamed on teachers. Students are not placed at appropriate grade levels and advanced at the appropriate pace, he said. He

also is convinced that what students are being taught does not match what is being tested.

Claridge said she wondered whether the district's decision several years ago to demphasize phonics for whole language contributed to poor scores.

The district's year changed its reading program to reemphasize phonics.

Teachers remind him constantly, Hallett said, that improving test scores can't be the district's only goal.

Consultants often stop by his office to tell him they can help boost scores. Hallett isn't interested.

"The goal is to make sure students are learning. ... Two-school-improvement projects in the east and west sides of the district are working to address these issues, Hallett said.

"It's like trying to pour cold molasses right now," Hallett said. "It'll come."

This year, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders were the only students to score at or slightly above the national average on the standardized tests. Last year, all grades scored below the national average.

Times-News staff writer Jennifer Sandmann can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 241.

# Piercing bill would require parent consent

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Underage teens who want their nose pierced or a tattoo now must have their parents in town when they show up for the procedure, according to a measure passed Wednesday by the Utah Legislature.

House Bill 390 initially required parental consent only for body piercing for teenagers under age 18. It was amended in the Utah Senate to include tattooing and the House brought it on the amendments.

Sponsoring Rep. David Ure, R-Kamas, said written consent would not be sufficient.

Vera C. O'Leary Junior High School math teacher Phil Garish agreed. "We've got an external law trying to govern an internal problem," he said, saying how difficult school is for teachers and students alike when dealing with "incredible students" — in other words, those who are most likely to be truant.

The status-offense ordinance, which includes the daytime curfew, was adopted by Twin Falls County recently. However, the ordinance must be adopted by each city in the county in order for it to be effective within that city.

Despite opposition, county commissioners have said they have no plans to rescind the ordinance at this time.

In Filer, the ordinance had its second reading by title only and will come to a vote next month.

Times-News correspondent Nicole Gilbert can be reached through Assistant City Editor Virginia S. Garber at 733-0931, Ext. 204.

# Rupert makes arrests

By Pamphile Cassidy  
Times-News writer

**RUPERT** — Juveniles and one adult have been arrested in a pair of recent Minidoka County burglaries.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested at the Rupert Alternative School and charged with possession of stolen property, a Rupert police report said. Items recovered included \$2,610 worth of jewelry belonging to Beverly June Potter of Rupert.

One of the burglaries occurred Friday night at the Eugene and June Potter residence. A window was broken in a rear door.

The burglar may have been cut by the broken glass. Police found blood spots at the scene. Investigators followed footprints in the frozen grass and tracked them east through a field.

An estimated \$18,350 in jewelry as well as a VCR were stolen.

The other burglary on the Mike Stuber residence at 125 W. 600 S. occurred Feb. 25.

An arrest was made the following day. Minidoka County Sheriff Paul Finley said, but an arrest report was not yet available.

An estimated \$25,500 in television sets, video games, jewelry, guns, cameras, watches, knives and a \$2 bill collection were stolen.

The burglars hid out in a dining and living room area in the house through a bedroom and dining room windows, the police report said.

The Minidoka County Sheriff's Department will be filing charges against one adult and several juveniles in both cases, Finley said, but the reports have not yet been made available.

Times-News staff writer Pamphile Cassidy can be reached in Burley at 677-4192.

# Burley baseball boosters seek assistance from city

By Kurt Friedmann  
Times-News writer

**BURLEY** — The cost to run a program that has 1,000 local children play baseball during the summer months is getting too high.

The Burley Amateur Baseball Association is struggling to stay afloat, board member Paul Aston said.

Earlier this week Aston asked the Burley City Council to lift the \$2,300 fee the city charges his group to use city-maintained baseball fields.

"We are just looking for some help," Aston said. "Our organization is run completely by volunteers who put in a lot of time, but we still have tremendous overhead."

Council members questioned the accounting and money management Aston and his fellow board members use in paying for uniforms, equipment and umpire's wages.

"I sponsored a team, and I was told the money I paid would buy uniforms," Councilman Brent Kerbs said. "I'm just wondering where all this money is going."

"The association and the city decided to exchange figures and look at where the money is being spent and then make a decision," Kerbs said.

"That's not a fantastic job," Kerbs said.

The money the association pays to use the fields has forced its own fees to rise dramatically, Aston said.

Parents who register their children for the fields are forced to wear leagues pay about \$21 a head, and those in the Babe Ruth League pay \$58 each.

"There's more that's come over all the years, Aston said.

"There might be some place to tighten our belts or manage bet-

ter, but we do the best we can," he said. "If we didn't pay the city for the fields, we'd have a lot of bare fields and batting helmets."

Councilman Dave Ringle said the city finds any recreation for children other than flag football and should have a goal.

"If that's the answer is to think these people for providing this service and not to ask them to pay the \$2,300," he said. "It's a question of the quality of life we want here."

But it may be a question of simple economics.

Burley Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Peterson said the fee offsets an additional \$10,000 spent on upkeep of the baseball diamonds. "That doesn't include watering, mowing and trimming," he said.

"That's for chalking, sanding, fertilizing, new bases, replacing to sawboards and prepping fields before summer games, that's we do just those fields."

It's not a cheap process, he said, but the city does not want to make it tough for children to play baseball.

"These fees just help defray some of the cost," Peterson said. "We'll just have to sit down and figure out a solution."

Rupert and Heyburn subsidize recreation in their area, Rupert City Administrator Bryan Montgomery said. Rupert helps with the cost because it's part of the city's responsibility, he said.

"We can't charge because most people can't afford it," he said.

"If we had to recover all of the money we spend the cost would exclude some kids."

Montgomery said the solution could be in a recreation district.

"We are using general fund money for recreation," he said. "That's money that could be used on roads and sidewalks if a recreation district took up the slack."

# Filer

Continued from C1

Frazier said. Baker asked the council whether his daughter would be required to carry a passport to prove her innocence. "I agree there's something we need to do ... but this is not it."

Council members and police officers responded to concerns by saying the ordinance would not affect "good kids."

Parents are always on the street we're concerned about," Police Chief Cliff Johnson said.

City Attorney Fritz Wootrich said he believes that officers know who they are looking for and will not create problems for householders.

"I don't think it's a threat to those who are running (home school) correctly," council member Bob Parent said.

Parents at the meeting, however, were not reassured. "I feel this ordinance will not have the outcome you desire," Kathleen Haddock said.

# Sewer

Continued from C1

household users the effluent to irrigate their growing season.

But Bailey studied the lagoons system and deemed it financially unworkable, primarily because there's a dearth of available land in the midvalley. And Brodhead admitted the lagoon system has its own environmental perils.

Siemer said he's confident an

amiable deal is near and the city won't have to exercise eminent domain, James said the city also is studying alternate routes for the line which won't throw the project off schedule or off budget.

Times-News correspondent Kristina Kennedy can be reached in Burley at 788-5457.

# Judges

Continued from C1

Wheeler, R-Rupert. "This legislation is a bad, bad idea for a whole lot of reasons," said Rep. Bill Sali, R-Meridian.

Could argued the public would be better able to scrutinize judges because of election elections" and periodic performance reviews. For instance, Gooding County voters in 1994 threw out a magistrate judge.

Magistrates are appointed and retained by voters under a system similar to the one in Gould's proposal. The proposal would have applied that law to district, appellate and state supreme courts.

Gould later said she might try again next year, and likes the idea of performance reviews regardless.

Debate over the measure was spirited, but not without light moments.

Smith, an attorney, spoke of lawyers being a clubby group, drawing a tongue-in-cheek response from Gould.

"Ames," Representative Smith said. "I've been wanting to say that for a long time and I haven't had the courage."

Times-News writer Lin Wright can be reached in Boise at 345-5296.

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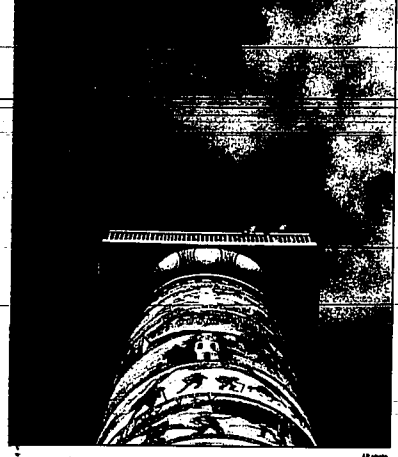
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ONE-FINE-DAY

# Budget panel turns against ed board



Steve Hyson, 28, points toward the horizon with his friend Josh Mettix, 26, as the two spent a few minutes at the Astoria Column in Astoria, Ore., last month. It's great, said Mettix of the Column, "especially on a nice day."

BOISE (AP) — Legislative budget writers joined the political struggle between State Schools Superintendent Anne Fox and the Board of Education Wednesday, siding with Fox in a move critics claim limits the board's ability to raise its policies as being carried out.

In a series of votes, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee rejected Gov. Phil Batt's recommendation for a board employee to monitor institution compliance with policies.

The panel followed that up with what Sen. John Hansen, R-Idaho Falls, who previously chaired the Education Committee, said was a repudiation of the board's 70 Percent Committee initiative to focus on vocational programs for the vast majority of students who do not go to college.

While it approved \$1.4 million more for vocational education programs that the governor recommended, it refused to adopt a declaration supporting the board's goals. Coupled with a letter to the board that no money for the colleges and universities can be diverted to the enhanced vocational education effort, Hansen declared the Legislature had turned its back on the training initiative.

"We don't support the goals of the 70 Percent Committee," he said. "It's a simple policy statement."

The initiative has been a target of officials who fear it will only

divert cash away from the individual vocational-education program at the two junior colleges, Eastern Idaho Technical College, Lewis-Clark State College and Boise State and Idaho State universities.

And then a narrow majority rejected the proposal of House Speaker Michael Simpson and Senate President Pro Tem Jerry Twigg for a full-time capital tour operation with expert tour guide, historic souvenir stand and interpretive brochures.

Twigg said later that the \$73,000 proposal could be reconsidered.

Lost in the shuffle was a proposal to give the Human Rights Commission an extra \$33,000 to expand its outreach and education programs in an effort to overcome latent intolerance that some employees have suggested is making it difficult, if not impossible, to recruit qualified professionals.

That attempt was not even made as the commission's modest budget was rammed through in a matter of minutes with no discussion.

The decisions were cloaked with concern about the earlier committee decisions for spending in excess of the target general tax budget of \$1.56 billion.

"We've got to start finding a way to hold this spending down a



Ron Black Dean Cameron

little bit," Republican Sen. Stan Hawkins of Ucon told his colleagues.

Coincidentally, GOP Rep. Ron Black of Twin Falls, who is challenging Fox for the party's nomination for state superintendent in May, led the fight to deny the Board of Education a compliance officer. He claimed there was concern that the educational institutions are being micromanaged by the board and more staff would overly aggravate that problem.

Black, who otherwise has shown Fox no quarter from a budgeting standpoint, relied on Feb. 10 legal advisory from the attorney general's office that he says shows the state superintendent is the executive officer of the board, not its secretary.

Others contend the opinion merely restates that the board sets educational policy and in terms of public schools the superintendent carries it out.

And Black told the committee that while Batt recommended the addition of the compliance officer, he had spoken a day earlier

with the governor, who endorsed his approach.

"He said he appreciated what I was trying to do, that it was an awful mess that needed to be cleaned up," Black quoted the governor as saying.

But Batt said Wednesday that he never discussed the board meeting with Black and that their meeting focused on the disputed attorney general's letter.

"I said it was proper to clarify the roles between the two, that it is confusing," Batt said. "I had no opinion on whether it's right or wrong. Basically, I thanked him for giving me the opinion and I said I'd look at it."

Lawmakers on both sides of the issue seemed to agree that the focal point is the power struggle between Fox and the board.

"It seems to be heightened this year," Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said. "It seems people are being jerked around, that the universities are being jerked around."

But Democratic Sen. Marguerite McLaughlin of Orofino, who sided with Batt's proposal, said she thought the war should be debated in another forum.

It was later in the day in the Senate Education Committee when Chairman Gary Schneider, R-Moscow, lambasted Fox and her department for trying to achieve through budget bills what his committee and its House counterpart have rejected.

## WEST IN BRIEF

**Insulator fails; parts of Salt Lake City go dark**  
SALT LAKE CITY — Portions of downtown Salt Lake City went dark after an insulator failed at a switching station.  
Temple Square, City Hall, the Salt Lake County Jail, two blocks of Main Street, several historic apartment buildings, half of the Crossroads Mall, The Salt Lake Tribune and at least six traffic lights went without power for at least 30 minutes Tuesday night.  
Crews isolated the broken insulator at the Marston Court station and restore power to most of downtown by 8:45 p.m.  
The outage may have been weather-related, said Utah Power spokesman Dave Eskelsen. "If the insulators get wet or dirty, you can see some cracking or breaking and they start to arc."

**Wilder school building bond issue falls short**  
WILDER — School district officials say they will try again to pass a \$4.15 million bond issue after it failed by three votes, despite support by Gov. Phil Batt.  
Despite the narrow margin of defeat Tuesday, Superintendent Bedford Boston is not discouraged.  
"We'll be back in six months to try again," he said. "We're going to have to take a look at the voter lists and get those three people who didn't vote to come out."  
The bond issue would fund construction of a new middle school high school.  
For the bond to achieve a two-thirds majority, it needed 335 votes. It attracted 332.

**Searchers recover rancher's body from river**  
BOISE — The body of Jordan Valley, Ore. rancher Jim Anderson has been recovered from the Owyhee River.  
Searchers found him at Five Bar, about 30 miles south of Jordan Valley, the Malheur County Sheriff's Department said. He was reported missing Friday afternoon. He had been working his cattle.  
Anderson's horse and a dog were found alive near his body.  
Dive teams recovered his slinker during the weekend, but bad weather hampered the search. The sheriff's office said it does not know how he died.

**Developers have until April 3 to apply for funds**  
BOISE — Affordable housing developers have until April 3 to submit applications for approximately \$520,000 in 1998 federal low-income housing tax credit and approximately \$1.3 million in HOME Program resources.  
Eligible applicants for tax credit include for-profit and nonprofit rental housing developers willing to designate a percentage of the housing development units for low-income residents.  
Rental housing owners receive tax credit annually over a 10-year period.  
HOME funds are distributed in a competitive process to local government, housing authorities, nonprofit and for-profit developers.  
To receive HOME funds, developers must secure nonfederal, permanent matching funds.  
Those can include cash or land donations, in-kind services or tax waivers.

**Grand jury indicts man on alleged worm scam**  
FARMINGTON, N.M. — A grand jury has indicted a Farmington man on fraud, embezzlement and racketeering charges after he was accused of selling "California Red Superworms" he claimed ate nuclear waste.  
The grand jury handed down 14 indictments this week against Thomas Shanley Huntington, 51. He was indicted on 12 counts of fraud, plus counts of embezzlement and racketeering, according to court records.  
Huntington is accused of fleeing more than \$15,000 from at least a dozen people.  
He told them he had a contract to sell the worms to the yet-to-be-opened federal nuclear waste dump, the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in Carlsbad.  
Officials told investigators they had no contract with Huntington.

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## Speaker puts farm worker bill on hold

BOISE (AP) — House Speaker Michael Simpson said timing, not politics, was behind his decision to order a bill held in committee that sought to extend Idaho's \$5.15-per-hour minimum wage to farm workers.  
House rules require bills generated by the House to be considered by the Legislature to be out of committee by the session's 50th day. And with State Affairs

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Palmetto (R) 9:30  
Senseless (R) 7:15-9:30  
Amistad (R) 7:30  
Flubber (PG) 7:15

## Famous what? Bill compromises between interests

BOISE (AP) — Devoted sports-country fan-landers can relax. The bill that would change Idaho's mountain country will not be amended to revise the "Famous Potatoes" slogan on Idaho license plates to say "Famous Skiing."  
A bill that would have created a special car license plate with the logo "Famous Skiing" has been replaced by another that will give skiers the option of using "Famous Potatoes" or omitting the words "famous" and "potatoes" entirely.  
On Tuesday, the Senate Transportation Committee approved a compromise bill. The ski plate, which will cost

\$35 for the initial issue and \$25 for each annual update, will raise money for the Division of Tourism to promote its 2002 Winter Olympics Strategy Program. The Olympics are in Salt Lake City and Idaho tourism officials are hoping to draw winter sports enthusiasts to Idaho.

## Kuralt 'companion' seeks Montana retreat

VIRGINIA CITY, Mont. (AP) — A woman laying claim to Charles Kuralt's Montana fishing retreat says she led a double life with her husband for nearly 22 years.  
Patricia Shannon testified Tuesday at the start of a hearing in her dispute with Kuralt's estate that she first met the TV journalist when he interviewed her in 1968.  
A romantic relationship developed, she said, but she left him in 1989 when she realized he would never divorce his wife, Suzanne Baird Kuralt.

They didn't even know about us to my knowledge."  
Attorneys for Mrs. Kuralt have not yet presented their case in Judge District Court. After court Wednesday, the hearing will recess for about two months to give lawyers for Kuralt's estate more time to prepare their case.

"I know that he (Charles Kuralt) meant for us to have it," Patricia Shannon, vying for a part of Kuralt's estate.  
Kuralt's estate is contesting the documents, claiming a May 4, 1994, will left everything to Kuralt and their two children.  
The Montana property was our family property. Ms. Shannon said. "I don't know what she meant for us to have it. He never wanted to mix families.

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COMICS

**Peasants** By Charles M. Schulz

**For Better or For Worse**

**By Lynn Johnston**

**IT WAS PRICED SHE CHOSE THE CHEAPEST ONE: IT COST TEN DOLLARS.**

**BUT WHEN HE PUT IT ON HER FINGER - IT WAS PRICELESS.**

**B.C.** By Scott Adams

**AND THIS WILL BE DIFFERENT - HOW? NOW THERE'S A NAME FOR IT.**

**Bonnie** By Dean Young & Stan Drake

**THE GUEST JUST ASENT ENOUGH.**

**By Johnny Hart**

**WHAT'S THIS?**

**A THREE STOOGE'S POSTER...**

**Pickles** By Stan Crane

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?**

**WELL, WELL, TAKE IT OUTSIDE OF TOWN AND DESTROYATE IT.**

**WUP**

**SHOULD GIVE THEM!**

**Garfield** By Jim Davis

**HEARD IT?**

**Dennis the Menace** By Hank Ketchum

**The Family Circus** By Bil Keane

**Hi and Lois** By Chance Browne

**Gilligan's song reaps cash**

**WHAT'S WHAT? L.M. Boyd**

**"The Brady Bunch" and "Gilligan's Island" go back a ways, but they and their theme songs endure. So do the royalties. Sherwood Schwartz wrote the music for both, and he's quoted as saying he still gets about \$60,000 a year for same.**

**It was the English who invented the military goosestep. Why the incidence of left-handedness among artists is higher than average is not known. Highest point above sea level in the Maldives is only 8 feet, so that the Indian Ocean island nation is a whole lot more important than global warming.**

**"I figured I didn't want any more of that education stuff," writes a dropout, "the day I was told a grievance is an even-toed ungulate."**

**If it's a black and white horse, it's a "pinto." If it's a horse with white patches on some base color other than black, it's a "skewball." But that word was too fancy for wan-**

**The Wizard of Id** By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

**WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU PREAM IN...?**

**NEVER MIND...**

**HOROSCOPE** Sydney Ommar

**IF MARCH IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You are a natural writer, possess traditional nose for news.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep plans flexible, surprise dinner invitation leaves you happy, stunned. Relationship that went off track could be back - with a roar. Libra is in picture.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** New approach in financial affairs promises to pay off. Speculative venture leads to spice, could be profitable. Love relationship is up in the air. Leo involved.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Cycle ahead, designate where action will be followed through. Counselor, teacher or lawyer plays dominant role. Does have your best interests at heart. Capricorn involved.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** What was lost will be recovered in surprising, unexpected manner. Spontaneous versatility, exploration. You'll be at right place at critical moment - effortless.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Break from front one who would impose restrictions, false traditions. Lunar position highlights good fortune in finance, romance - turn on fabulous Los chance. Scorpio involved.

**VIRGO (Sept. 23-Sept. 22):** Be analytical, insist on accurate information, overcautions. Filtration could prove dangerous. Ideas be selective, don't give up something of value for nothing. Sagittarius pays role.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Music plays it is your tune, so dance to it. Party atmosphere, positive feelings, joyous overcast. Family relationships require scrutiny - someone is not telling.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Individual who seems to agree with everything has something in common. Forewarned is being forearmed - you might be dealing with slick operator. Pisces involved.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't get mixed up in someone's scheme. Stock or real estate offer could be legitimate, but it will pay to wait and see. Red alert on income, conventional, exciting.

**PICES (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Focus on language, design, planning. Including artistic arts and sciences, including astrology, positive insight into mysteries of life. Knowledge of karma could provide answers.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Shake off emotional lethargy, emerge from shell, wear bright colors, and speak up. Clear ideas will prove instrumental. Acting, ultimately profitable. Dress for success.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Attention revolves around home, property, and domestic life. Going to partnership, marriage. Dining out would be close profitable deal. Seafood would be ideal.

**Hagar the Horrible** By Chris Browne

**TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE IS A TOUGH JOB?**

**Beetle Bailey** By Mort Walker

**HE'S GONE!**

**HOW DOES HE DO THAT?**

**Frank and Ernest** By Both Thaves

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

**The Born Loser** By Art Sansom & Chip

**WHAT'S WRONG, DOC? YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS 70 OVER 140!**

**OR IS THAT 140 OVER 70? I'D RATHER I NEVER COULD KEEP THAT STRAIGHT!**

**Down**

1. Bird's whip

2. "Bird's" and

3. Operatic highlight

4. Writers' group

5. Being slender

6. Purse

7. Pontiff's

8. Eve's Central

9. Sky Harbor or

10. Turning on a

11. Evaluate

12. Pleasure trip

13. Think alike

14. Orchestra section

15. Holon

16. Walk-behind skill

17. City in the Philippines

18. Wives' group

19. Flap of

20. Sorrowful drop

21. Method

22. Eisenhower's nickname

23. "Bird's" bird's

24. Spanish poet

25. Fluffy

26. Springs, NY

27. Parion

28. Rustic hotels

29. Potential plant

30. Good life

31. Writer

32. Geeks

33. West of

**Frank and Ernest** By Both Thaves

**Frank and Ernest** By Both Thaves

## Gleaning the Web for information

### Data services expand their scope to materials available on the Internet

By Margot Williams  
The Washington Post

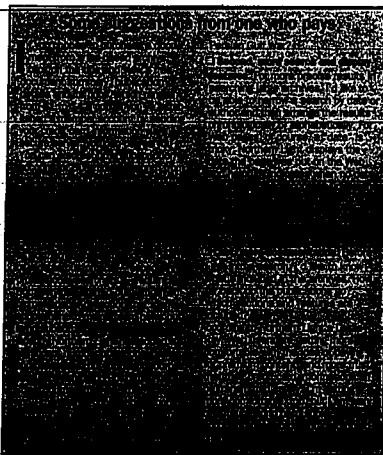
Everything old is new again on the Web. For two decades, the output of newspapers, magazines, wire services, journals and other published works has been building into a critical mass of electronic information in fee-based commercial services such as Lexis-Nexis, Dialog and Dow Jones News Retrieval.

These reliable and ample archives, with their proprietary software, sometimes difficult search command language and dial-up-to-mainframe access were, and still largely are, the domain of professional researchers at libraries, law firms and companies.

New, commercial databases, and their fees, are moving to the Web in search of a wider consumer market. Dow Jones, Dialog and Lexis-Nexis have made the move. They are being joined by some upstart rivals.

But can they compete in the fast-moving Web environment, where users already are hooked on the speed and power of popular search engines, even though the information retrieved may be overwhelming or irrelevant?

Search engines such as AltaVista, HotBot, Excite and InfoSeek roam through archives of available Web content. If you find what you need in a



search engine's index by successfully navigating its retrieval specifications, you'll be pointed back to the original document on its home site. Maybe it's still there, maybe it's not.

And if the document you're looking for isn't on the open Web, a search engine won't find it.

But because I'm trying to save money when I go online, I'd check

first to see if what I'm looking for is free on the Web. Then I go to my commercial vendors. There's still a price — in lost time.

In the wide-open Web market, new players are challenging the longtime database vendors by making their own deals with content providers and providing access through familiar Web search technology to a similar (and growing) range of information.

The Electric Library (<http://www.electricle.com>) offers school and home users access to a collection of newspapers, magazines, reference books, broadcast transcripts and other materials. For \$9.95 a month or \$59.95 a year (after a 30-day free trial), a subscriber gets a password and unlimited access to the information available.

But the most promising blend of Web and archive content comes from Northern Light, a Massachusetts company that offers both a world-class Web search engine and a large collection of "premium content," or fee-based archives. It's one step short of shopping, may or may not.

When you start a search in Northern Light (<http://www.northernlight.com>), you can crawl through either the Web index (currently 65 million pages large), its special collection of more than 2,900 publications, or both. When you retrieve your

Please see WEB, Page C8

## US West hikes some pay phone calls to 35 cents

The Associated Press

BOISE — US West is raising the price of a local pay phone call to 35 cents from 25 cents as maintenance and coin collections are done on the phones.

The company announced Monday, citing rising costs associated with placing pay phones at private businesses.

"The pay phone industry is an expensive industry to be in," US West spokesman Clint Berry said. "US West owns 2,000 pay phones in northern Idaho."

Independent pay phone companies are offering businesses incentives or higher percentages of the profits, to get their phones installed, Berry said.

But some groups say those who use pay phones are being used.

"We're concerned the con-

sumer is getting micked and shined or cheated," said James Briesemester, a senior policy analyst with Consumers Union in Austin, Texas.

"It's a domino effect," he said. "The pay phone operators are looking over their shoulders, waiting for someone to raise their rates so they can too," he said.

Pay phones were deregulated under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. But rates could not increase until last October when a federal court ruled against Consumers Union, which had challenged the deregulation of pay phones.

"The Federal Communications Commission said there were enough pay phone companies, that there was plenty of competition," Briesemester said. "But there's no competition from the consumers end."

## Profit down on Albertson's acquisition

The Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Buttery Food and Drug Stores Co. reported profit of \$1.1 million for the year ending Jan. 31, down from \$3.9 million in the year ending Jan. 31, 1997.

Buttery said the 1998 figure amounted to 40 cents per share, down from 41 cents per share a year earlier.

Buttery said the net income was depressed by a one-time \$1.27 million interest expense

related to a tax settlement and by a one-time tax credit it got in the previous year.

Without those adjustments, Buttery said, net income would have increased 44 percent to \$4.28 million.

The earnings figures came on a sales of \$261.27 million, up 5.4 percent from a year earlier.

Buttery, which operates 43 stores in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming, recently announced a merger sponsored by Albertson's Inc. of Boise.

### NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
IBM	125.00	124.00	124.50	124.50	+0.50
Microsoft	45.00	44.00	44.50	44.50	+0.50
Apple	35.00	34.00	34.50	34.50	+0.50
Oracle	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50	+0.50
Amazon	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50	+0.50
AltaVista	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50	+0.50
HotBot	8.00	7.00	7.50	7.50	+0.50
Excite	6.00	5.00	5.50	5.50	+0.50
InfoSeek	4.00	3.00	3.50	3.50	+0.50
Yahoo	2.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	+0.50
Search.nl	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75	+0.25
WebCrawler	0.50	0.25	0.375	0.375	+0.125
Lycos	0.25	0.125	0.1875	0.1875	+0.0625
MSN	0.125	0.0625	0.09375	0.09375	+0.03125
MSN	0.0625	0.03125	0.046875	0.046875	+0.015625
MSN	0.03125	0.015625	0.0234375	0.0234375	+0.0078125
MSN	0.015625	0.0078125	0.01171875	0.01171875	+0.00390625
MSN	0.0078125	0.00390625	0.005859375	0.005859375	+0.001953125
MSN	0.00390625	0.001953125	0.0029296875	0.0029296875	+0.0009765625
MSN	0.001953125	0.0009765625	0.00144609375	0.00144609375	+0.00048828125
MSN	0.0009765625	0.00048828125	0.00072450000	0.00072450000	+0.00024140625
MSN	0.00048828125	0.00024140625	0.00035531250	0.00035531250	+0.00011718750
MSN	0.00024140625	0.00011718750	0.00017765625	0.00017765625	+0.00005859375
MSN	0.00011718750	0.00005859375	0.000088390625	0.000088390625	+0.000029140625
MSN	0.00005859375	0.000029140625	0.0000441953125	0.0000441953125	+0.0000145703125
MSN	0.000029140625	0.0000145703125	0.0000221328125	0.0000221328125	+0.00000728515625
MSN	0.0000145703125	0.00000728515625	0.0000110937500	0.0000110937500	+0.000003642578125
MSN	0.00000728515625	0.000003642578125	0.0000055578125	0.0000055578125	+0.000001818828125
MSN	0.000003642578125	0.000001818828125	0.000002761953125	0.000002761953125	+0.000000914062500
MSN	0.000001818828125	0.000000914062500	0.000001396453125	0.000001396453125	+0.000000457031250
MSN	0.000000914062500	0.000000457031250	0.000000871015625	0.000000871015625	+0.000000285156250
MSN	0.000000457031250	0.0000002285156250	0.000000547187500	0.000000547187500	+0.000000179687500
MSN	0.0000002285156250	0.0000001142812500	0.000000354687500	0.000000354687500	+0.000000114281250
MSN	0.0000001142812500	0.0000000571406250	0.0000002285156250	0.0000002285156250	+0.0000000728515625
MSN	0.0000000571406250	0.0000000285703125	0.0000001428125000	0.0000001428125000	+0.0000000457031250
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MSN	0.000000007142578125	0.0000000035712890625	0.000000021775390625	0.000000021775390625	+0.000000007142578125
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MSN	0.000000000111602783203125	0.0000000000558013916015625	0.000000000340240478515625	0.000000000340240478515625	+0.000000000111602783203125
MSN	0.0000000000558013916015625	0.00000000002790069580078125	0.0000000001701202392578125	0.0000000001701202392578125	+0.0000000000558013916015625
MSN	0.00000000002790069580078125	0.000000000013950347900390625	0.00000000008506011962890625	0.00000000008506011962890625	+0.00000000002790069580078125
MSN	0.000000000013950347900390625	0.0000000000069751739501953125	0.00000000004253005981453125	0.00000000004253005981453125	+0.000000000013950347900390625
MSN	0.0000000000069751739501953125	0.00000000000348758697509765625	0.000000000021265029907265625	0.000000000021265029907265625	+0.0000000000069751739501953125
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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, and oil.

Table of closing futures prices for various metals including gold, silver, and platinum.

POTATOES/ONIONS

Table of closing futures prices for potatoes and onions.

BEANS

Table of closing futures prices for various types of beans.

GRAINS

Table of closing futures prices for various grains including soybeans, corn, and wheat.

SUGAR

Table of closing futures prices for sugar.

LIVESTOCK

Table of closing futures prices for various livestock including cattle and hogs.

Commodity market news and analysis, including reports on soybean and corn futures.

Market news for metals, including gold and silver prices and market activity.

Market news for potatoes and onions, including price reports and market conditions.

Market news for beans, including price reports and market trends.

Market news for grains, including price reports and market analysis.

Market news for sugar, including price reports and market conditions.

Market news for livestock, including price reports and market trends.

Market news for various commodities, including oil and other futures.

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Stocks slow down from record pace

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks suffered some profit-taking Wednesday, halting a record-setting streak, as investors grappled with renewed worries about corporate earnings, a concern sure to be heightened by a late warning from Intel.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 45.59 to 8,539.24, ending a five-session string of record highs that had added 215 points to the blue-chip barometer.

Most broad-market indicators also posted modest losses, although the technology-heavy Nasdaq index managed a small gain as Dell Computer surged 6 percent after two sessions of profit-taking in that high-flying issue.

The Dow was tagged lower by a big loss from Disney, which slipped 3 1/8 to 106 7/8 after two Wall Street firms lowered their price targets for the video conglomerate's earnings for the current quarter.

But the most unsettling development of the day came after the closing bell from Intel — the type of high-profile announcement that frequently sends the technology sector and the entire market into convulsions.

The indications in after-hours trading were not encouraging. Intel, which had risen 1 1/8 to 85 7/16 before the close, tumbled to about 77. Dell, which had soared 7 1/16 to 139 1/16, gave back that entire gain.

NEW YORK (AP) — Rail congestion was continued to worsen for the nation's largest railroad as a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas with federal regulators by Union Pacific Railroad.

The assessment by the Omaha-based railroad of its traffic log-jams found that its average train speed slowed to 13.5 mph last week, the slowest since early January and below the 18.6 mph average a year earlier.

In the report, other signs of worsening traffic problems included an increasing number of cars on the railroad and more side street tracks now blocked by trains.

Union Pacific officials said they expect improvements soon. The railroad has struggled with traffic congestion since last June, particularly in the Gulf Coast region. The service crisis has cost Texas companies an estimated \$1.1 billion and caused federal regulators to declare a transportation emergency.

Budget to acquire Ryder truck rentals DENVER — Budget Group Inc., which operates the world's third largest car and truck rental system, said Wednesday it is buying truck rental rival Ryder Truck Rental Inc. for about \$265 million.

Ryder, known for its distinctive yellow fleet of trucks, is the second largest truck rental company in the United States. Budget already has its own truck rental operations and recently acquired Cruise America, which rents and sells recreational vehicles.

Under the agreement, Ryder TRS will continue to operate from its Denver headquarters as a wholly owned subsidiary of Budget Group. Daytona Beach, Fla.-based Budget said it hopes to save money on purchasing and maintaining its vehicles by having all three operations under one roof.

Web results, they're ranked by relevancy, with an indication of whether the document is from the Web or the "premium" collection.

On the left side of your main results page, you'll see Northern Light's innovative "Custom Search Folders." These folders dynamically organize your search results by subject, type, source and language. If you click on a folder, you'll find a new results page with just the articles or Web pages relating to a category built "on the fly" from the contents of the documents.

This is significantly different from Inference Find (http://www.inference.com/), which groups results by Web site, or metasearch engines such as Dogpile (http://www.dogpile.com), which group information by the individual search engine through which it was found.

For example, a Northern Light search on the term "newsworld diversity" retrieved 144 items, organized into folders such as "Newspaper Industry," grouped by individuals. Web sites or publication names. With one search, I found the Web sites of organizations concerned with this issue, articles from professional journals such as Editor & Publisher, Personnel Journal and the National Association of Black Journalists Journal, and a recent news story from a Detroit newspaper.

Margot Williams' e-mail address is williams@earthlink.net

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table of mutual fund data, including fund names, share prices, and performance metrics.

Silver screen:  
 Film of Everest's  
 tragic expedition  
 ready for viewing  
 Page D4

# OUTDOORS

INSIDE

Bicycles .....D3  
 Dog sleds .....D4

Outdoors Editor: William Brock - 733-0931, Ext. 264

The Times-News

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Section D

## Field's dog had him trained just so

When I finally spotted Field, he was down in a ditch alongside the road. He was moving slightly, but I couldn't tell what he was up to.

"We'd been hunting but, almost inevitably, we got separated. I sigged north when he sigged south.

It wasn't a big deal because the field had pheasants and the dogs were birds. The pace was a little too fast, so birds came bursting out of the grain.

That's when Field's dog, Shander, went berserk. She came skipping past me and my dog, scolding to her own nose was bent back around her shoulder.

She wasn't hunting. Nope, of Shander was fixated and she was set to scoop up every bird within a mile.

I decided my dog, Six, then started barking and rooting at Shander. Field, wherever he was, started barking and rooting, too.

### DOG-EARED TALES BY Christopher

Shander cranked her way around to the south half of the field. I shuffled Six farther to the north. There wasn't much hope in finding anything but rocks after Shander's shenanigans.

Still, we did all right. Six peered two meters and I got off a couple of shots. Having extracted something from nothing, I was pretty content as Six and I ambled back toward the truck.

Since I figured it, Shander must've plowed through the field so fast that some birds never even saw her. I got lucky and picked off a couple of stragglers left behind in her wake.

I returned Six when we got back to the truck, then I scanned around for Field. That's when I noticed him across the road, spanning in the ditch.

"Since he wasn't moving much, I scolded over to see what was up.

"Shander's there," he said, pointing to a culvert under the road. "She's holed up with the shot's contents."

Well, it turned out that Field given her hell for running big. He tamed her loose after the license, but it didn't seem to help. She just took off again.

She kept scooping up birds, so Field laid down his shooting iron and fix out after her.

She obviously didn't want another license, so she hid. First she covered behind rock pile, then she hid in the ditch. Field flushed her both times before she found safe haven in the culvert.

Now as Field could tell, she'd stopped about halfway through.

Of Shander was hunkered down. She wasn't going to move and she definitely wasn't going to catch hell again.

So Field picked up some rocks and started chucking them into the culvert. Not trying to hit her, mind you, but trying to make enough noise to scare her out.

It didn't work.

Then Field tried ignoring her for a while. He figured she'd get bored, or hungry, and come out on her own - but she didn't.

Then Field got nervous. Maybe she was really stuck in there.

There were cars and trucks rumbling over the culvert, but they weren't flushing her, either. The situation was fixing to become a definite sort of a problem.

That's when Field stopped over to the south side of the road for a better look.

Sure enough, he could still see Shander scrouched down about halfway through the culvert. He could see light over her, so he knew she had room to move.

He was out of ideas, so he just sat there, thinking. I did some thinking, too.

"Have you called her?" I asked. "You know, like you do at home when you're getting ready to feed her."

"Nope," Field replied.

"Why don't you give it a try?" I suggested.

So he bent down and chirped into the culvert. "Hey, Shander, c'mon, let's go. C'mon, Shander."

There was a slight shifting noise, then a sort of ruckus being scuffled to the side. Pretty soon, Shander's head popped into the sunlight.

"What do you think I should do to please her?" Field asked me.

"Field, she just came to you," I reminded him. "That's amazing pretty well in my book. You're enough of a dog trainer to know you shouldn't kick her butt for doing what was asked."

"Yeah, that's right," he said. "I'm a dog trainer and she was doing what she was told."

He began walking back to the truck, mumbling. "Yeah, I'm a dog trainer, all right."

In addition to his status as a dog trainer, Bill Schneider teaches English at the College of Southern Idaho.

# BEYOND CITY LIMITS



Don Frownt, a federal highway engineer, creates a small hut in the Boulder Mountains a few steps ahead of his wife, Allen. Behind them are the Smoky Mountains.

Story and photos by William Brock

## Backcountry huts offer sure-fire respite from life's cares

Most folks don't know it, but an overnight ski trip to a backcountry yurt would do them a world of good.

Out there, falling snow is more important than falling stock markets. Icy streams chatter merrily and life's cares are reduced to simple, measurable concepts - the angle of the sun, the intensity of the wind, and what's for dinner.

Mountains, forests and meadows are covered in snow and the world has a crisp, new-born look to it.

Some friends and I were out there over the weekend, helping me "celebrate" yet another birthday. We rumped in the snow, soaked in a hot tub, and strengthened the bonds of our friendship.

There were no phones, faxes or papers, so our experience wasn't much different than it would've been in Jim Bridger's day.

As weekend adventures go, it wasn't hard to pull off. We drove to the trailhead on Highway 75, about five miles north of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area headquarters, then shouldered our rucksacks for a short jaunt to the yurt.

We were aiming for the Boulder Yurt, on the banks of Boulder Creek, at the foot of Boulder Peak. It was an easy approach, because the hut is less than two miles from the road and no more than 300 vertical feet higher.

Our group included rookie snowshoers and wobbly cross-country skiers, but the trails were well within their abilities. After



leaving our vehicles, we headed north over scrubby flats, then wound among trees on the banks of Boulder Creek. An hour and 10 minutes of easy skiing brought us to the hut. Truth be told, the Boulder Yurt consists of a pair of yurts joined by a common mud room. In case you're wondering, a yurt is sort of a Mongolian tepee.

We arrived only a few minutes after the departure of the

Please see HUT, Page D2



Above, the final link in a cost-efficient bucket brigade, Allen Boseman of Twin Falls tips a pail of ice-cold creek water into a hot tub behind the Boulder Yurt. Left, Don Frownt tips it up behind the Boulder Yurt.



Dennis Boscher, left, and Bill Frederick, who have been trekking to the ridge for 10 years, take a rest before taking another run at Bridger Bowl, Feb. 19, near Boseman, Mont. The view and relative altitude show skiers as well as the snow and terrain.

## Ridge hippies enjoy ski season more than most

Boseman Daily Chronicle

BOZEMAN — After her 500 foot climb, Ellen Gemperlien arrives at the top of Bridger Bowl's Ridge fluffed but composed. She's done this before.

Gemperlien swings her telemark skis off her back and digs around her backpack for a jacket as her companions join her.

"She was here yesterday. And the day before. Gemperlien is here five days a week, all winter long. She's been doing it for years and plans to do it for years to come.

"Today, the sky is a harsh gray, and snow is falling haphazardly. It feels like a thick front is about to blow over the ridge, an exposed knife blade that slices into the black

clouds. Gemperlien and her friends quickly prepare for a treacherous march.

Soon, they are off, but not before another group of skiers and snowboarders commit. Another bunch is not far behind.

They are part of a conventional grouping perhaps too small for anthropologists to track, but certainly noticeable in Boseman.

They work as waiters, barenders, lift attendants or noc at all. They drive Volvos, Subarus and Volkswagens. They're more likely to rest than own, and they often have more skis than kitchen appliances.

In Boseman, they're called Ridge hippies. Elsewhere, they are simply ski bums.

Please see HIPPIES, Page D2

# OUTDOORS

## Idaho man seeks adventurous hunt

LEWISTON (AP) — It was almost anticlimactic as a hunting trip, except the ending was the stuff of wild sheep hunters' dreams.

The logistics of trying to navigate the turmoil of Tajikistan to reach the mountainous home of the Afghan Pamirs were provided the real excitement, said Paul L.C. Snider of Lewiston, who hunted there with a party of Americans in November. Snider said, there had been an attack on the presidential palace. While they were eating in a restaurant, in Dushanbe, on their return trip, two Red Cross workers were kidnapped for ransom and one was killed. Even the commercial flight was more of an adventure than he'd anticipated.

Passengers weren't restricted to their seats even on takeoffs or landings. Instead they lingered; the aisles smoking, their baggage strewn around the cabin.

And money, as long as it's American in either \$50 or \$100 bills and only in new bills, could buy anything.

The weather delays left the party with only two days to hunt.

and he said don't come," and the State Department also advised travelers to avoid Tajikistan because of the unrest.

Just before his party arrived, Snider said, there had been an attack on the presidential palace. While they were eating in a restaurant, in Dushanbe, on their return trip, two Red Cross workers were kidnapped for ransom and one was killed.

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The weather delays left the party with only two days to hunt.

After spending seven days and eight nights in the capital, the hunting camp at the country's eastern edge fell more in line with his hopes, Snider said.

"Once I got to hunting camp, it got better. The people were poor shepherd people, but they were the nicest people you could imagine."

He didn't know any English but we were welcome to whatever they had."

Hundreds of Marco Polo sheep occupied the surrounding terrain, the rams carrying the wide curling horns that define the species as the biggest of the wild mountain sheep.

"In two days I saw probably 500 sheep. I've never seen anything like that and I don't think I ever spent two more enjoyable days in my life. I saw so many rams I didn't even want to shoot one."

But he did — an old ram with horns 52 inches long around the curve.

The hunting territory in the Pamirs along the Afghanistan border rose to 14,000 to 15,000 feet.

"The hunting itself it not really strenuous," he said. Most of the time was spent crossing the desert-like terrain by four-wheel drive.

But the thin air of high elevation and the sickness he had picked up in Dushanbe exacted a brutal toll on the body. The camp itself was at 13,500 feet.

The Pamirs draw sheep hunters from around the world, and particularly from the United States. The mountains hold herds of Marco Polo sheep healthy enough for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to authorize \$3 import permits a year for American hunters.

Snider had booked his hunt through Montana's Jack Archeson Jr., one of the best-known international outfitters, for a hunt with the Hunting Consortium, which had rounded up 18 of those import permits for his hunters.

## North Country animals benefit from mild winter

Knight-Ridder News Service

DULUTH, Minn. — White-tailed deer haven't migrated to their traditional wintering grounds. Ruffed grouse are out and about, feeding on buds. Owls are feasting on a smorgasbord of mice, voles and shrews. Bald eagles are on the move, finding they have a choice of open-water feeding sites.

In short, nearly all of the North Country's critters are enjoying this ultra-mild winter.

After two severe winters that saw white-tailed deer by the thousands and owls dropping dead from starvation, this is just the kind of winter the wild things needed.

And this winter is mild beyond almost all comparisons. The Winter Severity Index, kept by the Department of Natural Resources in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, is hovering at cellar levels.

"We've been using this WSI technology since 1988-89, and this is very clearly the mildest winter we've had," said Mark Lenarz, forest wildlife populations and research group leader at Grand Rapids.

Perhaps the only animal suffering is the timber wolf.

"Wolves certainly came out of the last two winters in really large numbers," said the Minnesota DNR's Bill Berg, a wildlife researcher in Grand Rapids. "They most likely had larger litters. Now, with the more scarce food, they're probably having higher pup mortality. Things all come out in the wash."

But almost all other forms of wildlife are benefiting from the mild temperatures. Here's a look at how they're faring:

### White-tailed deer

The mild winter will help deer rebound from losses the past two winters.

"Certainly, it's especially welcome," the DNR's Lenarz said. "I'm expecting to see better survival this winter, and, probably more important, better reproduction."

### Hunters want restrictions to help deer numbers

POCATELLO (AP) — Most hunters who responded to a state Fish and Game Department's survey favor its biological proposal to tighten restrictions to help southeastern Idaho's mule deer numbers.

But only about 250 of the region's 10,000 hunters responded to this year's survey, one in 40. About 43 percent favored the proposal.

More than 30 percent said the survey aimed at increasing the proportion of adult bucks in the region's depressed deer population does not go far enough.

But regional wildlife biologist Brad Compton said one of the biggest surprises he saw was that 21 percent thought the proposal is too restrictive.

### Ruffed grouse

Grouse, which are nearing the peak of their 10-year cycle in population fluctuation, are doing well, Berg said.

Although they didn't get snow deep enough for roosting until late December, the mild temperatures make it easy for them to be out and about. Now they have both roosting snow and warm weather.

Anyone who has been out in the woods lately has likely seen lots of grouse tracks in the snow. Rather than nesting for long periods of the day, the birds apparently have been out feeding for longer periods.

### Black bears

They're sleeping in a state of near-hibernation. They probably don't know whether it's cold or warm. Despite the warmer than usual weather, they remain dened up and snoozing. It wouldn't pay them to wake up and move about. There's nothing for them to eat. Sows had their cubs in January.

### Songbirds

"It's a good winter for birds, but a bad winter for those who want to watch them," said Duluth ornithologist Laura Erickson. Because it's mild, birds have an easier time finding food, and they're not being stressed by the cold temperatures that require them to take on more calories. So, they're winning two ways.

## Hut



To learn more about winter recreation opportunities in Idaho, visit The Times-News Online's NewsLink page. Go to <http://www.magicvalley.com>

Continued from D1  
previous night's tenants. The woodstoves were still warm and the wooden floors swept bare. Our first order of business was to fill, then heat, the yurt's cavernous hot tub. Armed with an odd collection of pails, we formed a bucket brigade from the creek to the crucible. After pouring water in it for at least 20 minutes — but not making much headway — someone finally had the bright idea of closing the drain valve at the bottom.

The cavernous tub eventually filled and a fire was duly lit in the firebox. At that point, the day was over.

Some of my more-adventurous friends and I climbed a steepish slope behind the hut, then skied or snowboarded back down. It was a quick round-trip and plen-



Mirk Bachman, founder of Sawtooth Mountain Guides in Stanley, center, relaxes inside his Williams Peak yurt in this scene from 1994. At left is Ed Cannady, a backpacker ranger in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

ty of fun, so we kept at it with childlike tenacity.

Others in our group opted for easier, exploratory jaunts up Boulder Creek. Everyone had

time, and enough space, to temporarily lose themselves in nature.

Later, we reconvened for an evening feast. Later still, we

trooped off to the hot tub. There, fortified by a medley of restorative beverages, we howled at the moon and savored another of life's simple pleasures.

## Hippies

Continued from D1

"I know a lot of people who have been called Ridge hippies," Gempertien said. "I think I've been certainly called one. I've definitely been described as a ski bum."

Gempertien, a 27 year old Pennsylvania native, works nights and weekends for REACT, an agency for the mentally handicapped. In the summer, she's worked at summer camps in Idaho, toiling extra hours to afford the ski season.

She has no illusions about where her life is focused. "When people ask me why I do in the winter, I have to say I do it," she said.

The hike to The Ridge isn't much fun.

The climb is virtually straight up, with many chibucks and few places to stop and catch your breath.

There's no lift. A rope tow exists but the ski patrol only. Anyone who wants to access acres of steep, ungroomed skiing from the Ridge must strap their skis to their back, pound their ski boots into ice-foot holds and walk up the mountain.

The air up there is thin, and if you're not a strong climber, the hike begins to seem the longest. Many Ridge hikers shuck off layers of clothing before they start, because even on the coldest days, sweat begins to stream down faces.

And Ridge skiers and snowboarders must pay for the privilege. Along with a lift ticket or more commonly, a season pass, skiers hiking the Ridge must have an avalanche beacon, which cost \$250 new, and a shovel. For safety's sake, they're also

required to hike and ski with a partner.

But while those rules might weed out the less committed, they certainly don't stop the dedicated. On a day with fresh powder, a line of hikers snakes up the trail, as dense as the gold seekers climbing Alaska's Skogway Pass. The skiers and snowboarders say it's worth it.

"It's the best skiing on the mountain," said Phil Sgammia, a Bridger rental shop employee from Buffalo, N.Y. "And it's a good workout."

Because of the way Bridger Bowl is shaped, much of the mountain's most challenging skiing is on The Ridge, where steep narrow chutes often don't allow room to turn. It's not all treacherous, however, and while some slopes are relatively gentle, they're only reached by taking a narrow, hair raising traverse.

The skiers also talk about the

relative quiet of The Ridge, the isolation from the rest of the Bridger Bowl's skiers, the tranquility that comes from being on top of a mountain.

But mostly they talk about the snow. Even when the lower, left accessed slopes are hard and crusty, they climb.

"You know it's only going to be better up there," said Jeff Brownson, another rental shop worker.

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OUTDOORS

# Obstacles are no barrier for sport of Observe Bicycle Trials

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — When people see these grown men practicing their sports, they might think these guys are daredevils or just up to no good.

All of them are on bicycles and may be jumping up on a picnic table or leaping from rock to rock in a park. Or maybe there's an abandoned car, in which case they're likely balancing on their bicycles' rear wheels while pedaling around on the car roof.

What suburban Seattleites Jim Regoire, Ron Bishop and Dan Tatarak are doing is practicing for a sport called Observe Bicycle Trials. The name doesn't begin to describe what it is.

The idea, says Bishop, is to ride a bicycle over different obstacles without letting your feet or hands touch the ground. Each time a foot or hand touches the ground, a point is given to the rider, and after five points, the rider is out of the contest.

The sport is an offshoot of motorcycle racing. Former MotoGP of the Observe trial riders got their start in mountain-bike racing and then moved into this type of riding. It called Observe Bicycle Trials because judges stand next to the obstacles, watching the riders and taking notes.

"I was in mountain-bike racing, but it took a lot of time away from my family," said Tatarak, 36. "You can set up a trial in your

own back yard to practice, and you can take your kids with you when you're young."

Most of the competitions are held in conjunction with bike races. A small cleared area is set aside at the start of the race, and everything, from two-by-fours to logs is put in the middle of the clearing. A course is laid out, and the challenge for the rider is to go through the course without falling off the bike.

The contestant might start by going over logs, then jumping atop a plywood box, riding over a plank to another box, jumping a few feet to another box, maybe ending by jumping off the box and riding over some more logs. To make it a little more diffi-

cult, the riders are balancing on their bikes' rear wheels.

"It's a style of trick riding," said Bishop, 40, a fitness instructor. "I've been doing it for about three years now. It takes a fair amount of practice, but most of us just flat out enjoy doing it."

"The men enjoy it so much that they put out shows for children. Last week they hauled plywood boxes and planks to entertain a group of Boy Scouts at a Woodville, Wash., school. Children — and adults — are always amazed at what can be done on a bicycle, the men say.

Of course, these aren't ordinary bicycles. They are specially built bikes "with very, very good brakes," Tatarak said. And they

can cost up to \$1,700.

The bikes have to be strong. When dropping down 6 feet to the ground from a platform, both rider and bike take a lot of pounding.

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OUTDOORS



Climbers approach the summit of Mount Everest during the May 1996 expedition that followed the deadliest storm in the history of Everest expeditions May 10, 1996, which killed eight people. The expedition was filmed by David Breashears using IMAX film technology.

## Filmmakers' work puts viewers on top of Mt. Everest

**BOSTON (AP)** — David Breashears has climbed to the top of the world to film a movie, but he put his camera down when a storm moved in and ripped through the climbers struggling toward the top of Mount Everest.

Eight people died in the May 1996 storm, the single deadliest in the history of Everest expeditions.

Breashears and his crew helped rescue Dr. Beck Weathers of Dallas, who had twice been left for dead as the tragedy unraveled. Weathers suffered severe frostbite, losing his right hand and most of his left hand.

Breashears was able to continue working on "Everest," a large-screen IMAX film that was to open Thursday in Boston and on Thursday in New York.

"These guys basically created for themselves a legacy of doing the right thing at the right time," Weathers said last week. "They unselfishly put everything they had on the mountain at that time, including that film and the millions with it, aside."

The disaster spurred the best-selling book "Into Thin Air," an alternate account "The Climb," and ongoing controversy about professional guides who sell trips to the 29,028-foot peak straddling Nepal and Tibet at prices as high as \$65,000 per person.

Breashears' crew stayed on the mountain after the disaster, setting out for the top on May 23



Filmmaker David Breashears stands in front of a scenic view of Mount Everest in the Boston Museum of Science. The film debuted March 4 in Boston.

— and passing the frozen bodies of friends who had died 13 days earlier.

At the summit, Jamling Norgyi — the son of Tenzing Norgyi, the Sherpa who in 1953 made the first successful ascent with Sir Edmund Hillary — tied a Buddhist prayer flag to a stake and placed photos of his parents and the Dalai Lama in a mound of snow.

"As a filmmaker you want to communicate with people. Here's a place you love, where you've spent much of your adult life. How can you make people feel what it's like to have been there?"

The film, displayed on 80-foot-high wraparound screens, certainly puts the viewer there, with magnificent panoramic shots of the jagged ice-capped Himalayas.

But it also creates something of an illusion, with all the clear blue skies and seemingly endless views. It is not a benign place: 154 people have died trying to reach the summit.

Despite the dangers, Breashears acknowledges its strong allure.

"We left Everest not in any way feeling triumphant or any joy in '96," he said. "We didn't know whether to laugh with delight or cry. I didn't want that to be my last experience on Everest. I wanted to go back and have some kind of a resolution."

He returned last year for his fourth successful ascent. At the summit, he promised never to return. Now he's not so sure: "Who knows when I wouldn't feel the tug of that mountain again?"

## Idaho youth get hooked on dog-sled competition

*"I thought it was going to be easy"*

**ASHTON (AP)** — While most kids spent their Friday morning sitting at school desks, K. Nelson and J.D. Hill prepared themselves for a trip into the hills east of Ashton as racers in the American Dog Derby dog-sled race.

A sport riddled by the romance of stories about noble huskies in the wilds of Alaska has attracted a few young people to forgo Nintendo for long hours speeding through snowy fields at the tail end of a dog pack.

Of the 47 people registered for the race, 11 entered the junior class. The youngest was 10 years old. That doesn't account for the kids competing in the adult categories, including Nelson.

"Kids really like to work with the dogs. They like the competition, and just getting out in the woods," said Patsy Garz, organizer of the junior race.

A book about training first put the idea in Nelson's head. The family's Doberman pinscher had died, so he broached the idea of sled dogs to his dad. Last April, the first four Siberian huskies moved into their house, four miles south of Rauberg.

Hill, though younger, began before his friend. The grandfatherly neighbor owned sled dogs, and when Hill showed an interest, the older man gave him some tips on mushing. He started running them in the field behind

his St. Anthony house three years ago. This, however, is his first year competing.

Nelson has suffered his setbacks. The first group of dogs broke out of the yard and killed several of the neighbor's chickens. The neighbor shot and killed two of the furry intruders.

Plus, he and his dad have spent hours designing and redesigning their homemade sled, relying

on the neighbor's chicken coop for inspiration. "Kids really like to work with the dogs. They like the competition, too, and just getting out in the woods."

— Patsy Garz, junior race organizer.

largely on instructions from a book.

"I thought it was going to be easy," said Nelson.

But he stuck with it. He helped build a wheeled cart for running the dogs during the summer. They carried down the borrow pit alongside a road near his house. He learned to cook mush for dog food — a mixture of barley, corn and wheat that some say gave the sport its name. His pack of dogs grew to 10.

This winter, when the snow fell, he and his father headed into the hills east of Rauberg for hours of mushing, armed with a flashlight to warn approaching snowmobilers.

"There's nothing in the world more peaceful than heading out in the straight under the moon," said Grant Nelson.

There was no peace on this Friday.

Two hawks killed the Ash (On Street). Packs of curious dogs let out early from school jostled down Main Street, between racers in dirty brown overalls.

The big 10-dog teams left first, charging east at two-minute intervals for the start of a 60-mile loop. Then came the six-dog teams that would race 40 miles each day. The winner of each race has the shortest combined

times from both days: Next came Hill's race, the 20-mile-a-day Portland.

The six dogs for Nelson's team and Hill's three paced anxiously beside the pickup, quickly tying their claims in knots.

"These dogs are strong. He pulls, he's a good driver," said Nelson, pointing to a chunky, chocolate and white-colored dog named Joker. Joker's brown right eye and icy blue left eye make him look slightly crazy.

With five minutes to go, Nelson, his dad, Hill and his dad, and a small brigade of volunteers haul the dogs to the lines running ahead of the sled, each one is clipped into a neck line, a short-rope connected to the gang line. The gang line is the main pulling line, running from the sled all the way to the finish line.

Minutes later, Hill will repeat those preparations for himself.

Volunteers slowly lead Nelson's dogs to the starting line, straining to keep the dogs from breaking loose. When the dogs return more than two hours later, they won't be quite so anxious, loping calmly across the finish line.

## Low tag sales to nonresidents worry officials

**IDAHO FALLS (AP)** — The cash-strapped Idaho Department of Fish and Game could face new financial woes as a result of lagging deer and elk tag sales to nonresidents.

By March 3 last year, Fish and Game had sold 7,706 elk and 6,536 deer tags. This year, 6,536 tags have been sold. Deer tag sales are also down, with 1,112 fewer tags sold this year than last year.

Biologists believe nonresidents are not buying the tags because of pending regulation changes and negative reports about the health of Idaho's herds. If sales

do not pick up, big game management could be in trouble, said Steve Huffaker, head of the department's wildlife division.

"If we don't sell the tags at the level we budgeted, then we will not have the money to collect the biological information to appropriately manage big game," Huffaker said. "More than 65 percent of our income comes from the sale of nonresident deer

and elk tags. Losing that money could really hurt."

The slow sale of elk and deer tags is the latest in a long line of financial losses for the department. In the early 1990s, nonresident deer hunters stayed away from Idaho and the department lost \$1 million in the hole. To overcome the problem, officials for the past two years have cut programs, capital outlays and staff.

**Electric Shaver Troubles?**

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## Gun club sets practice shoot

**The Three-News**

**JEROME** — The Jerome County Rod and Gun Club will hold a practice shoot for sporting clays and trap from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at its range, located northeast of Jerome.

Shooters need to bring their own guns and ammo. Cost is \$7 for sporting clays and \$3 for trap. The club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the range. Members and non-members are invited to both events.

For more information, call John L. Weston Sr. at 324-7374.

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CHECKMATE



BOB THOMAS/For The Times-News

Jonathan Marroll, left, of the Boise Valley Chess Club and Melissa Berto from Gooding Middle School compete in a recent chess tournament sponsored by the Gooding Chess Club. Marroll placed first and Berto placed fourth in open class. Awards were given to all players and first-time players were presented with a Coca-Cola T-shirt. For complete tournament results, visit upcoming Community pages.

COMMUNITY EVENTS LETTERS OF THANKS

Breakfast is served

TWIN FALLS—Breakfast will be served from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday at the Twin Falls Senior Center, 616 Eastland. Pancakes, ham, eggs, hashbrowns, fruit, juice, milk and coffee are featured on the menu. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors and \$4 for those under age 60.

Recreation club meets

SHOSHONE—The West Magic Lake Recreation Club will meet at noon Sunday at the West Magic Lake Resort. The public is invited. For more information, call Mary Flew at (208) 487-1202.

Snowmobilers to gather

TWIN FALLS—The Magic Valley Snowmobile Club will hold its annual Poker Run, Chili Feed, Barbecue Dinner and raffle Saturday at Diamond Field, Jacks in the South Hills. Registration for the Poker Run will be from 10 a.m. to noon. Prizes will be awarded.

The chili feed will follow the run from noon to 1 p.m. in the Diamond Field Jack's parking lot. Chili and drinks will be available.

Riders are encouraged to visit and explore on their own that afternoon. A politick barbecue will be held in the evening at the Magic Mountain lodge. The quiet, side dish to share and table service. Members and non-members are invited to attend.

Work commended

To Pat Marcantonia: Thanks a lot for the article concerning the sale of our business. Everyone's comment concerning the article was that it showed the amount of personal care and concern that we put into the running of the business and the value we put on our personal relationships with our customers.

We loved it. Thanks again. KEN AND BIL DAW Haines

Breakfast a success

On Feb. 8, Boy Scout Troop 63 served a pancake breakfast in the St. Edward's Dining Room. We would like to thank the following for helping make this breakfast a success.

Jean Thompson, Father Rob Keller, Lloyd and Evelyn LeClaire, Cher McFarland, James Brothers, Jeff Meier, Hastings Entertainment and the anonymous donor who provided ham, butter and syrup.

A special thanks to the adult volunteers who prepared the breakfast: the boys who served: John McKinley, Cher McFarland, Larry Wilcox, Mike Zala, Marc Garcia, Barbara Delmore, Marie Shurtliff, Kenny Eucher, Gerry and Gaylene Bondella, Kate Schmid, Randy Stone, Neil Harpster and Dr. Peter Dobb.

And thanks to April Krack for helping Troop 63 give acknowledgment to the people in our community who truly deserve our thanks.

DIANA E. NOGLER Twin Falls

Appreciation extended

With deep appreciation, we extend our hand of thanks for your contribution to the senior center. The honors dinner for all of our volunteers was attended by 130-plus. Their enthusiastic response was overwhelming.

We are very proud of the services these volunteers provide to our community. Their dedication is a credit to the city of Twin Falls and to the citizens of this community.

BOB HILMPERIDS Board Chairman Senior Center Twin Falls

Professional help offered

We would like to thank the Jerome County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff Weaver, Detectives Chatterton and Ledbetter, Officer Dumsberger) and all the people involved for their professional and personal help with our recent experience with the judicial system. We can be proud and thankful we have such professionals working for our safety and protection.

We would also like to thank Louise Eshar and John Lohpetch of the prosecutor's office for a fine job. Louise took us by the hand through the process. What a professional and caring honest being!

Please, citizens of Jerome County and all counties in this country, keep your eyes open, and if something is out of place, report it to your police department. We can all get involved and help

CLUB CALENDAR

CHIC

Bliss Valley Rotary Club Meets at 7 a.m. Tuesdays at the Western Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Twin Falls. For more information, call President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579 or President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579.

Royal Rotary Club Meets at noon Thursdays at Melvin's Restaurant, downtown Twin Falls. For more information, call President George Van at 343-9229 or Secretary Robert E. Bailey at 436-5206.

Burley Lions Club Meets at noon Fridays at Elmer's Cafe, 2444 Overland Ave. For more information, call Secretary Larry Gannam at (208) 678-9253 or President Sam Wiedel at 678-7932.

Barley Rotary Club Meets at noon Tuesdays at Barley Inn Convention Center. For more information, call President Dave Westfall at 678-0485 or Secretary Jon Anderson at 678-0533.

Civil Air Patrol Meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Barley National Guard Armory. Reserve age 17 and older is invited to join. For more information, call Pam Schmitt at 678-2929 or James Fletcher at 436-6861.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at M & M's Restaurant, 813 Broadway Ave. S. For more information, call President Chuck Gaska at (208) 543-4624 or Secretary Tamara Fisher at 543-6229.

Meets at noon Thursdays at the Hiller Methodist Church. For more information, call Secretary Shirley Galey at (208) 326-4153. Business phone or home at (208) 326-4153.

Meets at noon Thursdays at the Blue Club for lunch. For more information, call Mark Mohr, president, at 736-4276 or Marvin Chamberlain, secretary at 734-4274.

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays at the Onocleide Restaurant, Twin Falls. For more information, call Tom Swain at (208) 394-1943, or Donna Roberts at 734-2278.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at the Mountain House. For more information, call Brian White, president at 736-8488, or Bob Buckley, membership chairman at 734-6574.

Meets at noon Thursdays at the Mountain House. For more information, call Wayne Bickel, president, or Jackie Cannon, membership chairman, at 736-2043.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at the Blue Club for lunch. For more information, call Roger Backlund, president, at 736-4129 or E. Richard Cook, secretary, at 734-6543.

Meets at 5 p.m. Wednesdays at Chapter 1, (bookstore in Shelley) 1200 W. Main. For more information, call John at (208) 738-4403.

Meets at 6 p.m. Mondays at the Lincoln Inn. For more information, call Pat Bishop at 394-8318.

Meets at 8 p.m. Mondays for meeting place and more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 8 p.m. Mondays at the Rupert Elder Lodge. For more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 8 p.m. Monday at the Rupert Methodist Church. For more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 12:10 p.m. Tuesdays at the Magic Valley Health Services building conference room. For more information, call Darwin Boyle at 734-9448.

MUSICAL

Magic Valley Band Meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at First Methodist Church in the basement, corner of Shoshone and Fourth Street, Twin Falls.

Meets from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays for rehearsal night at 1706 Heyburn Ave. E. in Twin Falls. All women age 15 to 70 are invited to accept six weeks free membership. For more information, call 733-9820, or 733-6238.

Meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Barley Inn, 125 W. 8th St. in Barley. For more information, call Jim Rodgers at 436-6047 or David Spitzer at 436-5148.

Meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at St. Jerome Parish Hall, Twin Falls.

WINE

Meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Western Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Twin Falls. For more information, call President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579 or President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579.

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AL-Anon

Meets from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays at Walker Center Outreach, 263 Second Ave. N. in Twin Falls. The meeting is for young people affected by someone else's drinking. For more information, call Elsa at 734-0664.

Meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Walker Center, 263 Second Ave. N. in Twin Falls. Each meeting is counselor facilitated and cost \$10. For more information, call Susan at 734-0200.

Meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays at the First Baptist Church of Twin Falls, corner of Ninth and Shoshone. For more information, call Mike at 736-9292 or Tom at 734-6714.

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HOBBIES

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Meets at noon Thursdays at the Mountain House. For more information, call Wayne Bickel, president, or Jackie Cannon, membership chairman, at 736-2043.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at the Blue Club for lunch. For more information, call Roger Backlund, president, at 736-4129 or E. Richard Cook, secretary, at 734-6543.

Meets at 5 p.m. Wednesdays at Chapter 1, (bookstore in Shelley) 1200 W. Main. For more information, call John at (208) 738-4403.

Meets at 6 p.m. Mondays at the Lincoln Inn. For more information, call Pat Bishop at 394-8318.

Meets at 8 p.m. Mondays for meeting place and more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 8 p.m. Mondays at the Rupert Elder Lodge. For more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 8 p.m. Monday at the Rupert Methodist Church. For more information, call Greg Roberson at 324-3004.

Meets at 12:10 p.m. Tuesdays at the Magic Valley Health Services building conference room. For more information, call Darwin Boyle at 734-9448.

Meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Barley Inn, 125 W. 8th St. in Barley. For more information, call Jim Rodgers at 436-6047 or David Spitzer at 436-5148.

Meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at St. Jerome Parish Hall, Twin Falls.

WEIGHT LOSS

Meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Western Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Twin Falls. For more information, call President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579 or President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579.

Meets at noon Thursdays at Melvin's Restaurant, downtown Twin Falls. For more information, call President George Van at 343-9229 or Secretary Robert E. Bailey at 436-5206.

Meets at noon Fridays at Elmer's Cafe, 2444 Overland Ave. For more information, call Secretary Larry Gannam at (208) 678-9253 or President Sam Wiedel at 678-7932.

Meets at noon Tuesdays at Barley Inn Convention Center. For more information, call President Dave Westfall at 678-0485 or Secretary Jon Anderson at 678-0533.

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Barley National Guard Armory. Reserve age 17 and older is invited to join. For more information, call Pam Schmitt at 678-2929 or James Fletcher at 436-6861.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at M & M's Restaurant, 813 Broadway Ave. S. For more information, call President Chuck Gaska at (208) 543-4624 or Secretary Tamara Fisher at 543-6229.

Meets at noon Thursdays at the Hiller Methodist Church. For more information, call Secretary Shirley Galey at (208) 326-4153. Business phone or home at (208) 326-4153.

Meets at noon Thursdays at the Blue Club for lunch. For more information, call Mark Mohr, president, at 736-4276 or Marvin Chamberlain, secretary at 734-4274.

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays at the Onocleide Restaurant, Twin Falls. For more information, call Tom Swain at (208) 394-1943, or Donna Roberts at 734-2278.

Meets at noon Wednesdays at the Mountain House. For more information, call Brian White, president at 736-8488, or Bob Buckley, membership chairman at 734-6574.

Support Groups

Meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Western Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Twin Falls. For more information, call President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579 or President Elmer Bacon at 734-2579.

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Meets at noon Tuesdays at Barley Inn Convention Center. For more information, call President Dave Westfall at 678-0485 or Secretary Jon Anderson at 678-0533.

WEST

Television show arranges reunion between imprisoned dog, owner

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — After a year and a half in the isolation of death row, Nadas' the horse-riding dog did not immediately recognize his old master.

But soon, the collie-malamute mix recognized his paw and began frantically licking the tears from Sean Roach's face in an emotional reunion Monday at the Utah animal sanctuary where the dog has been living out his days.

It was a heart-wrenching situation, "sanctuary spokesman Raphael de Puyar said in a telephone interview. "The fact that these two are not together is just wrong."

The reunion was arranged by the tabloid TV show "Hard Copy," which aired a program on the case that unleashed a groundswell of outrage against laws that make it a capital crime for pets to harass livestock.

Debated with calls and letters, authorities in Medford, Ore., last month lifted the dog's death sentence and shipped him off to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.

Nadas went on death row in November 1996 after a neighbor complained that the dog was chasing her horse. Nadas was immediately taken away by an animal control officer.

Monday's meeting at the sanctuary was the first time Roach had been allowed to see or pet Nadas since Halloween, 1996, when he was dumped in a clown suit in an abortive attempt to free his dog.

Roach, a 22-year-old mini-sport facility manager, never forgot seeing the dog he raised as a pup. He spent thousands to keep him well fed while in captivity and appealed the case all the way to state Supreme Court, which declined to hear the arguments.

Finally, Roach was faced with an agonizing decision. Jackson County commissioners said they would lift the death sentence only if Roach agreed to drop plans to sue the county and allow him to be shipped off to the sanctuary without a clown suit. Roach signed the agreement.

The agreement had no written reference to Roach severing all ties with the dog, but the county understood that the sanctuary had



Nadas, left, licks tears off the face of former owner Sean Roach of Medford, Ore., as the two are reunited for the first time in more than 18 months at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary Monday in Kanab, Utah.

a policy of not allowing visits, said assistant county administrator Sue Slack.

"Apparently, they made an exception," she said. "Though the reunion went against the sanctuary's policy, Roach said there were bigger issues at stake."

"He's not just a dog. He's a living being. He has a soul," Roach was quoted as saying on the sanctuary's Internet site.

Roach was traveling Tuesday and could not immediately be reached for comment.

"It was important for him to see him, not just the footage on TV, but to actually see him and pet him and give him a hug," said Sharon Roach, Sean's mother. "Just Sean knowing that he is in a good place, a good home, and knows people there are going to take care of Nadas, I think that means a lot."

Flights gather information from El Nino storms

Ralph/Giddar News Service

SAN JOSE, Calif. — While other researchers have focused on storm to dampen California's coast, a planeload of scientists heads tonight for the ocean off El Niño to unravel the mysteries of El Niño.

Aboard a custom-built Lockheed P-3 Orion, scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have spent the month of February studying the winter storms that have caused nearly \$500 million in damage throughout California.

Their mission — they hope to complete 20 flights by March — will yield reams of data recording everything from temperature to wind speed to humidity, offshore information that could make forecasting storms more precise.

"Even small improvements in weather forecasts can lead to large cost savings," said Martin Ralph, a research meteorologist and chief scientist of the experiment, which also includes personnel from the Navy and several universities.

The \$2 million project began Jan. 18, and NOAA scientists plan to log 152 flight hours by the end of the month. They have information they already have gathered will help answer at least one El Niño-related query: Does California get pounded during El Niño years because of more storms heading for the West Coast or is the same number of storms producing more rain?

"The reality is that it's probably a combination of the two," Ralph said. Data collected from the series of flights may help support that theory, he added.

On board the four-engine turboprop, the atmosphere is relaxed as the nine-member crew prepares for the latest mission. The

plane's interior is sparse but comfortable. The noise from the propellers is deafening, and many in the cockpit are wearing earplugs.

On a protrusion of the sleek satellite image showing a mass of clouds headed for the California coast, Ralph readily offers to share the night's route, which will take the plane from Monterey Airport through the bend and along the southeast edge of the cloud mass heading inland.

Ralph and three pilots hok up

"There's nothing like being right up there."

—Martin Ralph, NOAA meteorologist

in the small cockpit. Behind them, a navigator plots some changes to coincide with the movement of the storm front while the flight director makes final adjustments.

At one workstation, another crew member observes cloud patterns. For most of the year, the weather pilots and technicians on this flight are based at NOAA's Aircraft Operation Center in Tampa, Fla. These same personnel fly planes through hurricanes.

Ralph, the chief scientist on the mission, is based in Boulder, Colo. During daylight, cameras scan the plane's nose, tail and wing transmit pictures to seven workstations aboard the plane. Multifactor radar screens measure rainfall as the plane flies through the storm, making light- to heaviest precipitation on a color-coded scale, blue for light rainfall, red for heavy.

Because the original route was based on a satellite picture taken five hours before takeoff, pilots are accustomed to course changes; several will occur during the 70 12-hour flight. In the back of the plane, a hard-wired printer spews out reams of data for later analysis.

"The purpose of this flight is smooth, with only half an hour of turbulence. On one mission earlier this month, the plane flew into 150-knot winds that blew the ride so

heavy, even veteran fliers became ill. Such times make even the hardiest of scientists rethink their careers."

"You have to either be a fool or a scientist," Ralph said. "Not that you can't be both."

They're asking the best weather-forecasting precision data. While satellite images have improved over the years, they give only an overview of what's happening offshore, Ralph said. These flights help deliver information about the storm up to 12 hours before it hits the coast.

That's why scientists like being right up there," Ralph said. "Direct measurements, if they're possible, are a major advantage the most valuable source of information."

NOAA's two P-3 aircraft can get as low as 200 feet above the water, making it easier to make detailed observations about water temperature and wind speed.

Of particular interest are what Ralph calls low-level jets, rivers of wind that occur near cold fronts during winter storms, which scientists can use to predict whether such rain and wind storms will track. These jets cannot be measured by satellites.

Another bit of information scientists picked up from the flight: low rain falling behind a cold front differs in temperature and intensity from that in front of the storm as it approaches the coast.

At one point, there's a break in the cockpit routine. Flashes of St. Elmo's Fire — not lightning, but a continuous electrical spark that tends to occur during the end of a thunderstorm — are visible from the plane's right window.

During the flight, scientists also will drop a dozen dropsondes — computerized probes about two feet long with wind-vane parachutes — that take detailed measurements of wind speed, temperature, moisture and other atmospheric conditions. They send the data back to the ground station as the plane begins transmitting information almost the minute they are released.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS. DATED this 22nd day of January, 1998.

Defendant: THE STATE OF IDAHO SENDS GREETINGS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The estate of E. LUIS FULLER and ARLINE FULLER, deceased.

DATED this 22nd day of March, 1998. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The estate of ROSE PEARL JORDAN, deceased.

Attorneys for Personal Representative: PO Box 83, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0083. PUBLISHED February 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 1998.





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# THE ACES ON BRIDGE

"Men can't believe the impossible, but men can never believe the improbable." — Oscar Wilde

Two duplicate players were competing for the trophy after the game. Both having played the day's slam, they had much interest in a possible score. "What is the score?" asked the man. "How can it be made?" asked the woman. "It's impossible," said the man. "Fortunately, the successful South was available, and they approached him to get the answer. Both losing declarer took dummy's diamond ace and led a trump. East ducked, and when South led a second trump, East won and led a third trump. The good news was that trump was 3-1; the bad news was that neither man behaved, and South won only 11 tricks.

"How did you make the slam?" they asked. "By playing very carefully," was the reply. "To make the slam, South was dummy's diamond ace and led a trump. When East ducked, South was the danger in a second round spade lead, so he switched hearts. He cashed dummy's diamond king (giving a club) and ruffed a low diamond. He overtook his ace, since with dummy's jack to ruff dummy's best diamond, and then led his best trump to East's ace. East failed to a club, but the dummy took nine necessary tricks. South had an ace in dummy's spade king to cash dummy's two high trumps. On these, South discarded his remaining trump. South discarded his stem with his two high trumps.

Some declarers are more afraid than others at accomplishing what is "impossible."

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