



The Time

Twin Falls, Idaho/96th year, No. 16

Tuesday, January 16, 2001

cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Patchy fog, then partly to mostly sunny. High 28. Cold with fog tonight, low 10. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Knocking out hate: Students from throughout Idaho learned about ways to stop violence Monday. Page B1

Ideas abound: Minidoka County students show off their inventions. Page B1

MONEY

Top honor: Title company gains recognition from the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Page A6

SPORTS

Basket-Brawl: The Knicks and Spurs were among the teams that battled during a full day of NBA games. Page D1

OPINION

This little piggy: Cassia County officials should proceed cautiously on a hog-farm proposal, today's editorial says. Page A8

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY



Can't hear you: Voice recognition software has improved, but still faces obstacles. Page C3

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Activists aim at farm wages

Marchers call for reawakening of King's teachings

By Michael Journe Times-News writer

BOISE - Gathering to celebrate the life of a civil-rights giant, students and activists called Monday for lawmakers to enact more meaningful farm worker minimum wage laws than those likely to be introduced this session.

Two groups of marchers - one made up of Boise State University students, and one of migrant farm workers and their advocates - converged on the

Statehouse steps in the cold evening air Monday, calling for a reawakening of Martin Luther King's teachings.

Using King's birthday to make their point, marchers said the lack of significant farm worker minimum wage protection is latent, if not outright, racism. Most migrant workers are Hispanic.

One marcher, BSU student Leo Morales, was raised working on Idaho farms. Most of his family still do the work.

"We are human beings, and all

we want is the protection of the law," Morales said. "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Advocates have lobbied the Legislature for four years to put all farm workers under the protection of Idaho's minimum wage labor laws. Most workers are paid by a "piece-work" rate - or a certain amount for a certain number of beet rows hoed or bushels of apples picked.

Last summer an interim committee studying the issue recommended the state simply enact laws mirroring the federal Fair

Kempthorne controversy - B2

Labor Standards Act as far as it pertains to agricultural workers. They will present their recommendation to the Legislature this session.

The Republican members of the committee and industry representatives hailed the recommendation as a compromise that gives workers protection, yet does not subject farmers to an overbearing burden of red-tape that would come with minimum wage laws.

They also argued only a very Please see WAGE, Page A2

Smooth sailing so far

Committee OKs Kempton's appointment

By Michael Journe Times-News writer

BOISE - If Monday's Senate committee confirmation vote is any indication, former lawmaker and Albion resident's nomination to the Northwest Power Planning Council should sail through the Senate.

Senate Resources and Environment Committee chairman, Sen. Laird Noh, R-Kimberly, didn't have to wait long Monday for a motion and unanimous decision to accept former Rep. Jim Kempton's appointment to the regional electricity-regulation council.

The vote sends Kempton's confirmation process to the full Senate, which will likely affirm Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's appointment, made just a few weeks before the 2001 legislative session.

Kempton resigned his House seat soon after Oakley rancher Scott Bedke replaced him.

Monday's testimony consisted solely of glowing references to Kempton's work during 10 years in the Legislature.

"We've enjoyed a close working relationship with Rep. Kempton throughout his tenure in the Legislature," said Norm Sanankala of the Idaho Water Users Association. "We wholeheartedly support his nomination to the council."

During a confirmation hearing earlier, Kempton said the council's work is more likely to have more success in charting the Northwest's future handling of power issues than an influence-sharing mechanism between the federal, state, and tribal governments - dubbed "the Three Sovereigns." Divergent interests and quibbling over representation among the "sovereigns" has made it ineffective.

The council's like-minded focus could allow it to make significant progress on complex issues involving power and wildlife, Kempton said.

Senate committee members had few questions for Kempton Friday.

The power council, designed to give the Northwest a voice in natural resource management decisions dominated by large federal agencies and large industrial interests, is made up of two members each from Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana.

Kempton will join Mike Field as one of Idaho's representatives.

"Kempton is expected to pick up his new duties any day now," while awaiting final acceptance by the Senate, which confirms all of the governor's appointments to state agencies and multi-state organizations.

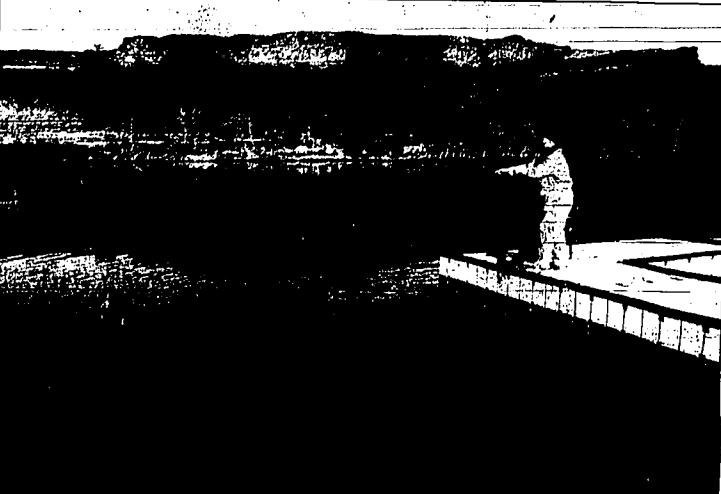
Kempton has said the issues surrounding deregulation of electricity makes the council's regional role very important.

"These issues are very complex and are pertinent to us all," Kempton said Friday. "It is the only thing that could drive me from the Legislature and the Albion Valley."

He replaces retired Potlatch Corp. executive Todd Mattlock, who was appointed to the council in 1995.

Times-News politics and state government reporter Michael Journe can be reached in Boise at (208) 331-2510 or by e-mail at mjournec@magicvalley.com

IN SEARCH OF . . .



Rod Nichols of Lincoln, Neb., fishes the Snake River at Centennial Park in Twin Falls Monday afternoon. Nichols didn't care that it was snowing Monday morning, he was still going fishing.

Senior center looks for new image

Ex-councilman likes idea of building at CSI

By Jennifer Sandmann Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - What better chance for the Twin Falls Senior Citizen Center to change its image than to hook up with a college?

It's one reason former Twin Falls City Council member Art Frantz, chairman of the Prime Time Foundation raising money to replace the senior center, likes the idea of building the new cen-

ter on the College of Southern Idaho campus. The center's plans for a new building include changing its image to a community-cultural center.

But Frantz's plan must be approved by the college's board, which in the face of high demands for campus space enacted a moratorium in 1997 that suspended campus construction not directly tied to the college.

"There are many things I feel the senior citizen center could take advantage of if the building were close to or on the campus," Frantz said.

Moving to campus would give senior citizens a better opportu-

nity to avail themselves of CSI programs, he said. And it would give the college access to a fast-growing segment of the population.

CSI President Jerry Meyerhoeffer said he supports the idea, scheduled for discussion at the college's Jan. 29 board meeting. The board is reluctant to allow more agencies space on campus, and in making such decisions looks for a tie-in with educational opportunities.

But Meyerhoeffer said he sees benefits for all parties involved.

The idea includes combining a new senior center with the Area Agency on Aging building

already on campus. The agency's building needs improvements, and CSI is trying to expand senior citizen programs, Meyerhoeffer said.

Frantz, also chairman of the volunteer board for the Area Agency on Aging, said locating the two organizations in the same building includes potential federal program construction financing for the senior center.

But Dick Boyd, director of the Area Agency on Aging, said the possibility is still in the discussion stages, and his office doesn't have plans for a new building

Please see SENIORS, Page A2

What would Ashcroft do on abortion issue?

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - Under Attorney General Janet Reno, the Justice Department has moved aggressively on several fronts to protect abortion rights.

It has filed briefs urging the Supreme Court to preserve women's access to abortion services. It has vigorously enforced the

Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994. It formed an emergency task force dedicated to preventing violence at clinics. It has even taken the unprecedented step of assigning federal marshals to provide around-the-clock protection to abortion doctors and clinic workers when their lives appear to be at risk.

Please see ASHCROFT, Page A2



John Ashcroft, center, president-elect Bush's nominee for attorney general, responds to a question asked by one of his advisors in preparation for today's confirmation hearing in Washington.

Small plane crashes in Utah; nine die

The Associated Press

TOOELE, Utah - A twin-engine plane returning from a weekend skydiving trip to Nevada spiraled into the Great Salt Lake, killing all nine people aboard.

Searchers found seven bodies washed up on shore early Monday and the two other victims floating in the lake. Duck hunters along shore found parachutes, clothing, the pilot's log book and other debris.

"It smells like fuel, out here. It's kind of an eerie feeling," said Tim

Duck hunters find parachutes, clothing

Bryan, 31, one of the hunters. The 35-year-old Beech 65 plane was headed for Tooele Valley Airport about five miles south of the lake. It crashed about a mile offshore.

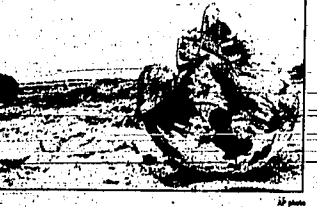
The plane was on a flight from Mesquite, Nev., when it went down in 5 feet of water around 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Airport officials didn't know it was missing until a relative of a passenger called hours later.

Airport officials were not expecting the plane. The pilot had not registered a flight plan, so radar tape recordings had to be checked to determine the time of the crash.

The tapes indicated the plane was banking for a final turn and then spiraled into the lake, Sheriff Frank Schumacher said.

There had been no distress signal, and none of the bodies was wearing a parachute.

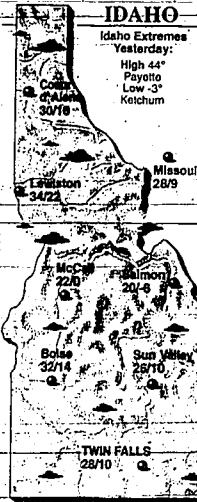
Federal Aviation Administration officials refused to elaborate about what the tapes show.



A skydiving helmet and other debris lines the southern shore of Utah's Great Salt Lake Monday after a small plane crashed.

FORECAST FOR MAGIC VALLEY

AccuWeather.com



ALMANAC: Twin Falls through 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperature: High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record high/low, etc.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TWIN FALLS

Weather forecast table for Twin Falls showing conditions for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise and moonset times for Twin Falls, including moon phase information and UV index data.

CANADIAN CITIES

Weather forecast for major Canadian cities like Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto, etc.

WORLD CITIES

Weather forecast for various world cities including London, Tokyo, Sydney, etc.

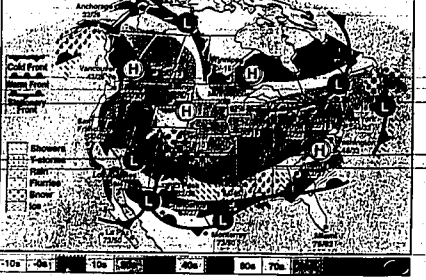
REGIONAL CITIES

Weather forecast for regional cities such as Boise, Salt Lake City, Reno, and others.

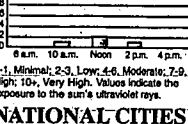
REGIONAL WEATHER

Regional weather descriptions for Southern Idaho, Northern Nevada, and Northern Utah.

NATIONAL WEATHER



UV INDEX TODAY



NATIONAL CITIES

Weather forecast for major national cities including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and others.

Randy Hansen AUTO PLEX advertisement for a car wash service.

TWIRLS



Hispanic Cultural Center dancers perform as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Idaho Human Rights Day celebration Monday inside the Statehouse in Boise.

Spy museum will unravel secrets

Article about the new spy museum in Ashcroft, Idaho, featuring James Bond-themed exhibits.

Seniors

Article discussing the needs and services for the senior population in the Magic Valley.

Reward for inmate information grows

News report on the increasing reward for information leading to the capture of a dangerous inmate.

Wage

Article discussing the minimum wage and the impact of piece-work on workers.

Continued from A1

Continuation of the Seniors article, discussing the center for a new building and agency contracts.

Continued from A1

Continuation of the Ashcroft article, detailing the case of John Ashcroft and the abortion clinic.

Times-News circulation and subscription information, including contact numbers and rates.

Times-News Information Call 734-6326 advertisement with various service icons.

Lottery Update advertisement for Powerball, Wild Card 2, and RollDown.

NATION

First days in Congress prove daunting

Lawmakers face the challenges of settling into posts

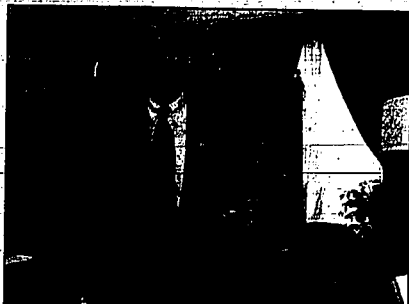
WASHINGTON (AP) — When a staffer for new Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., needed congressional stationery, he was told existing stationery was a requirement — a catch 22 for an office that had been open barely an hour.

Tom Osborne's staffer had a trickier job — trying to figure out where his boss, the famously resilient football coaching legend and newly minted Republican congressman from Nebraska, stood on firearms in time for a visit from a National Rifle Association lobbyist.

From procuring pencils to filling in ideological gaps, newly elected congressmen — and their staffs — face innumerable challenges.

"It is daunting," said Mickey Edwards, a former Oklahoma congressman who helps run a program for new House members at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. "It doesn't matter what you did before, you stand there and look around thinking, 'Oh my God, I'm a member of Congress.'"

There are 33 freshmen this year among the 435 members of the House of Representatives. In interviews with three of them, all confessed to being taken aback by both the job and the city.



Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Nebr., speaks in his Capitol Hill office Friday. From procuring pencils to filling in ideological gaps, newly elected congressmen, and their staffs, face innumerable challenges.

For Osborne, who hadn't been to Washington since 1960-61 — when he played with the Redskins — the city has grown almost beyond recognition. "I know where I am if I keep to the main roads."

Davis, well-known in San Diego as a Board of Education member and then as a California state assemblywoman, said the sheer size of the House was intimidating.

"Seeing all the people on the floor, and no desk — it was like going to school without a desk," she said. "The state capital was so much more manageable — just one building."

Arriving in Washington as a freshman can often be disappointing for those who were stars back home.

Rep. Melissa Hart, a rising Republican state senator in Pennsylvania who won a landslide in a traditionally Democratic suburban Pittsburgh district, hoped that cachet would land her on the powerful Commerce committee.

Instead, the GOP leadership told her influential slots were not going to freshmen, so she settled for the Judiciary, Science and Financial Services committees.

She had been warned. "Several Senate colleagues laughed at my decision," she said in her office, where framed photos from her time in the state senate awaited hanging.

It's not just the stardom. Personal budgets can be tighter, too, including money for expensive Washington housing. The dress code is different, too.

"In San Diego, I was, like, shorts," said Aaron Hunter, Davis' chief of staff. "Here, I have to wear these," he said, thumbing stylish-pleated pants. "It's the uniform."

Another hurdle is Washington's in-your-face culture.

"In Nebraska, people give you your space," said Tucker Omal, a 22-year-old aide to Osborne. "My girlfriend, who's never been out of Nebraska, was shocked when she was here. She said, 'Everybody gets so close!'"

And then there's the bureaucracy.

An hour after opening, Hunter discovered "there wasn't a pencil or paper in the whole office." The Catch 22: "You couldn't get office supplies without a staff ID. You couldn't get a staff ID without letterhead." A congressional staffer finally accepted Davis' old state assembly letterhead.

To negotiate Washington's maze, Edwards advises freshmen to hire at least one Washington person — most important, the scheduler. "Hire someone who knows what is and isn't important," he said.

Motorola to lay off 2,500 workers

CHICAGO (AP) — Hoping to boost sagging profits, wireless giant Motorola Inc. said Monday that it will stop making cellular phones at one of its factories and lay off about 2,500 plant employees.

The jobs being cut in Harvard, Ill., represent nearly 2 percent of Motorola's work force of 130,000. About 2,500 employees will remain at the factory 60 miles northwest of Chicago.

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Review gives vote gain to Bush

MIAMI (AP) — A review of 10,600 previously uncounted ballots in Miami-Dade County showed George W. Bush gaining six more votes than Al Gore, The Palm Beach Post reported Sunday.

The newspaper counted votes that were not registered by ballot machines, or undervotes. The count included ballots ranging from those with barely hanging marks to ones that were just slightly dimpled. Two Post reporters, each paired with an elections staffer, reviewed the ballots.

The review concluded that President-elect Bush would have gained 251 votes and Vice President Gore would have gained 245 votes. No overvotes, or ballots where machines detected more than one presidential vote, were counted.

The review, which ended last week, also showed that 7,600 of more than 10,000 undervotes had no mark at all in the presidential column, or in rare cases included multiple votes that could not be given to one candidate or the other.

At least 2,427 ballots were cleanly but inaccurately punched in odd-numbered holes that corresponded to none of the 10 presidential candidates on the ballot. Of the 653,963 Miami-Dade ballots used on the even-numbered holes for the presidential race.

The certified final results in Miami-Dade were 328,808 votes for Gore and 289,533 for Bush, according to the Florida secretary of state's office. Bush won Florida but did not win out of about 16 million votes cast in the state.

Later this month, a research firm hired by a media group that includes the Post, The Associated Press and other news organizations will undertake an inspection of all roughly 180,000 undervotes and overvotes in the Florida presidential election.

Doctor. Reagan recovering well after hip surgery

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — In a remarkable sign of recovery, former President Reagan was able to sit up in a chair one day after surgery to repair a broken hip, one of his doctors said Monday.

"That's a goal you obtain about half the time. He did it on the first try," Dr. Kevin Ehrhart told ABC's "Good Morning America." The surgeon also said Reagan was able to eat.

Reagan, who is 89 and has Alzheimer's disease, fell Friday at his Bel-Air home. A pin, plate and screws were used to repair the joint in a 65-minute operation Sunday at St. John's Health Center.

Although his use of a chair on Sunday was a good sign, Reagan faces months of difficult physical therapy and a "long, uphill struggle" to recovery, Ehrhart said.

Plane makes emergency landing after crew notices smoke in cockpit

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Delta flight bound for Orlando, Fla., made an emergency return to Kansas City International Airport on Monday after smoke was noticed in the cockpit.

Crew members aboard Flight 2589 discovered the smoke just after takeoff, and the plane circled KCI before landing.

Eighty-seven passengers and crew were evacuated using inflatable chutes, said Joe McBride, an airport spokesman. At least one person suffered abrasions during the evacuation, he said.

The cause of the smoke was under investigation.

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IDAHO/WEST

Budget writers split agenda approval

By Bob Fick
The Associated Press

BOISE — A key component of Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's rural development initiative won approval on Monday from legislative budget writers who have used their early deliberations to challenge at least part of Kempthorne's assertive agenda.

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee unanimously voted to increase the state support for local airport improvement grants from \$50,000 to \$800,000, making it easier for hard-pressed rural communities to secure federal money for their local facilities.

But the committee nearly top-

Panel says yes to cash for airports

doed the new scholarship program intended to put \$500 in the pockets of thousands of Idaho high school seniors bound for college next fall.

Committee members who unsuccessfully opposed enactment of the Promise Scholarship program last winter repeatedly questioned the financing scheme, suggesting that the program would cost \$9 million instead of \$6 million as advertised and begin a year sooner than intended.

Committee leaders finally ended the confusion so that the money — \$3 million to provide up to \$,000 freshmen with the \$200 scholarship this fall — will be approved later this week. Immediate action

was needed because in the next few weeks the colleges will be issuing acceptance notices and financial aid offers to applicants.

Kempthorne endorsed the scholarship program, which will be increased to \$6 million in a year to that sophomores as well as freshmen can benefit, and Sen. Bob Lee, the Rexburg Republican who created the program, called it another part of the campaign to bring economic growth to rural Idaho. He said the scholarship money, which can be matched by the colleges, could help teen-agers in farm and logging communities decide to get an education and set the stage for a better life.

But the budget panel delayed until next month action on Kempthorne's plan to tap into a new federal program offering college scholarships in return for a commitment upon graduation to serve as a state or local police officer. Members wanted more details.

The additional state investment in airport improvement grants was triggered by an increase in the federal commitment from \$10 million to nearly \$19 million. State and local governments must put up a 10 percent match to claim part of that cash, but those needing the money the most are least able to put it up. Idaho has seven commercial and 33 general aviation airports eligible for the federal aid.

LEGISLATIVE LOG

- The Associated Press**
- Introduced in Senate**
- SB1001 (Agricultural Affairs) — Urges Congress to provide disaster money for potato farmers facing depressed prices.
 - SB1003 (Resources and Environment) — Authorizes temporary water rights transfers during droughts without public notice.
 - SB1004 (Resources and Environment) — Requires irrigation district boundary changes to be filed with the county.
 - SB1005 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes grammatical correction to the law protecting farmers from disparegament.
 - SB1006 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes technical corrections in the good faith purchasing law.
 - SB1007 (Judiciary and Rules) — Limits civil liability for dishonored checks only to small claims actions.
- Authorizes dismissal of criminal charges in cases where the defendant is not tried within six months.**
- SB1009 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes technical corrections to the Natural Death Act.
 - SB1010 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes technical corrections to the jury selection law.
 - SB1011 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes technical corrections to the jury selection law.
 - SB1012 (Judiciary and Rules) — Makes technical corrections to the law defining who is an accessory to a felony.

LAMPHOUSE THEATRE

BEST IN SHOW TODAY 7:00-9:15

Groups to intervene in lawsuit

Conservationists fight association to stop snowmobile ban

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. (AP) — Five conservation groups will intervene in a lawsuit brought by a manufacturers' association that seeks to stop a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park.

The ban would take place in 2003 as part of Yellowstone's new Winter Use Plan, signed in November. The Michigan-based National Snowmobile Manufacturers Association filed suit in December to overturn the plan.

Ed Klim, association president, said the park service didn't follow the National Environmental Policy Act in putting together final proposal that eventually was accepted.

"I believe they've underestimated the level of importance that many Americans have for having access to their national parks," Klim said. "This plan has certainly mobilized snowmobilers."

Klim said snowmobilers see it as just the opening salvo for limiting access to other public lands. But the conservation groups say that snowmobiles are fouling the park with air and noise pollution and are impacting wildlife.

The conservation groups said visitors to the park's most scenic sites, including Old Faithful and Yellowstone's Grand Canyon, have trouble escaping the roar of snowmobile engines. In other places, they say heavy snowmobile use forces wildlife to avoid habitat vital to their winter survival.

"We're not going to let politics keep the park service from doing the right thing by Yellowstone," said Bob Ekey of The Wilderness Society. "The winter use plan is the right decision according to the law and according to the science and we're going to fight to keep it in place."

The conservation groups asking to intervene in the snowmobile manufacturer's lawsuit include the National Parks Conservation Association, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Wilderness Society, BlueWater Network, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Between 1983 and 1993, the number of winter visitors to the park doubled from 20,000 to 140,000. Most use snowmobiles, which the conservation groups say are responsible for up to 68 percent of the park's carbon monoxide pollution and up to 90 percent of its annual hydrocarbon emissions.



A historic iron and glass pergola is shown collapsed Monday at Pioneer Square in downtown Seattle. A semi truck knocked down the historical landmark while making a turn.

Truck levels historic landmark

SEATTLE (AP) — The historic iron and glass pergola at Pioneer Square, one of the city's most famous meeting spots, collapsed early Monday when it was struck by a truck, police said.

Police spokesman Sean O'Donnell said a truck clipped a corner of the 91-year-old structure at about 5:45 a.m. and knocked it down. No one apparently was beneath the canopy on the holiday morning, and no injuries were reported.

The pergola, originally built as a cable car stop and as a grand entrance to a lavish underground restroom, was about 60 feet long and 16 feet high. It fell to a twisted

and shattered pile of wreckage on the cobblestone square, although much of the upper canopy framework appeared intact.

O'Donnell said a tractor-trailer rig coming west on Yesler Way tried to turn right onto First Avenue. Its rear tires came up onto the sidewalk, caught a corner of the pergola, "and the whole thing went over."

The driver was cited for driving on the sidewalk, O'Donnell said. The police spokesman said it appeared much of the structure could be salvaged, but no appraisal of the damage or the possible repair had been done.

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Twin 12 Cinema - Twin Falls
Walt Disney's 101 Dalmatians 7:30 - 9:45
Walt Disney's Emperor's New Groove 7:00 - 9:15

Twin 12 Cinema - Twin Falls
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 7:00 - 9:15

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
Charles Aronoff 8:45
Anti Trust 7:00 - 9:20
Fading Frontier 7:30 - 9:45
Vertical Leap 7:25 - 9:45
Family Man 7:15 - 9:30
Miss Congeniality 8:45 - 9:30
Catsy 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45
What Women Want 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45

The Odyssey 6 - Twin Falls
Miss You, Miss You
All Stars 8:00-8:45 & 9:15

Twin 12 Cinema - Twin Falls
Dude Where's My Car? 7:15 - 9:15
Meet The Parents 7:25 - 9:45
All the Pretty Horses 7:25 - 9:45
Save the Last Dance 7:00 - 9:15
Double Take 7:15 - 9:15

Twin 12 Cinema - Twin Falls
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 7:00 - 9:15

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
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Anti Trust 7:00 - 9:20
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Family Man 7:15 - 9:30
Miss Congeniality 8:45 - 9:30
Catsy 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45
What Women Want 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45

Jerome 4 Cinema - Jerome
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 7:00 - 9:15

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
Charles Aronoff 8:45
Anti Trust 7:00 - 9:20
Fading Frontier 7:30 - 9:45
Vertical Leap 7:25 - 9:45
Family Man 7:15 - 9:30
Miss Congeniality 8:45 - 9:30
Catsy 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45
What Women Want 8:45 - 9:30 - 9:45

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Bush honors civil rights hero

Says education reform will be his civil rights mission

HOUSTON (AP) — President-elect Bush celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. for seeing "the image of God in everyone" in a Monday commemoration of the civil rights hero, a cautious wary Black American. "My job will be to listen not only to the successful, but also to the suffering."

The former Republican governor of Texas, who won a dismal 5 percent of black votes in his home state and one in nine nationwide, took a brief break from preparations for his inaugural activities to reach out to minorities on the King holiday.

"I will remember the promise etched in this day," Bush said at the predominantly black and Hispanic Kelso Elementary School, which was closed for the federal holiday. "Dr. King's dream placed demands on each of us."

Bush cast education reform as his own civil rights mission, saying equal opportunity eludes students in bad schools. "The dream of equality is empty without excellent schools that stress reading and discipline and character and decency. That goal will take presidential leadership," Bush said. "It is a goal we will work endlessly to achieve."

Bush has pledged that his first priority after being sworn in Saturday will be congressional passage of his voucher plan to take government money away from consistently failing public schools and give the funds to parents to send their children elsewhere, including private or religious schools.

On Monday, Bush saluted King, who was assassinated in 1968



President-elect Bush speaks at Kelso Elementary School Monday to mark the holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. in Houston.

when Bush was a senior at Yale University, for a faith-based "passion for justice" that recognized "the image of God in everyone."

"As president, my job will be to listen not only to the successful, but also to the suffering—to work toward a nation that respects the dignity of every single life," he said.

President Clinton, meanwhile, marked the King holiday by saying he hopes America will become a place where the quest for common humanity outweighs racial, ethnic and cultural differences.

"If I could leave America with one wish as I depart office, it would be that we become more the 'One America' that we know we ought to be," Clinton told a crowd of about 900 at the University of the District of Columbia.

At Bush's side in the stuffy elementary school gymnasium, whose 100 invited guests barely outnumbered the reporters, was

Education Secretary-designate Rod Paige, the black chief of Houston's school district.

Paige told students, parents and teachers that Bush's appearance at Kelso Elementary "signals he understands the importance of this day to you and to me — that he understands the character that Martin Luther King represented."

To get there, Bush's limousine rocked through the rutted streets of a neighborhood of rundown houses, metal fences and littered ditches.

Striding into the gym five minutes before the program was scheduled to begin, Bush spoke for 12 minutes and remained at the school for less than one hour.

Returning by charter flight to his 1,600-acre ranch in Crawford, Bush settled back into the final preparations for his move to Washington and several days of inaugural activities.

During his campaign, Bush turned off many black voters by speaking at Bob Jones University, which until recently banned interracial dating; refusing to condemn the flying of the Confederate battle flag over the South Carolina Capitol; and opposing a hate crime measure in Texas.

Exit polls Nov. 7 showed black voters chose Democrat Al Gore over Bush by a 9-to-1 margin, the lowest mark for a Republican presidential candidate since Barry Goldwater in 1964.

By better than a 2-to-1 margin, most blacks believe they will lose influence under Bush, a Pew Research Center poll this month showed. And a CNN-USA Today poll last month showed less than a quarter of blacks thought Bush would work hard to address their interests.

Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush's needed repair work with black Americans did not drive his King holiday schedule.

Two escape from Oklahoma prison

MCALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Two inmates, one of whom raped and murdered his 81-year-old neighbor, broke out of a maximum-security prison Monday by removing the toilets in their cells, crawling through an air duct and scaling two fences topped with razor wire. James Robert Thomas, 25, and Willie Lee Hoffman, 21, were discovered missing from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary about 5 a.m., said Jerry Massie, a spokesman for the Corrections Department.

A third inmate also tried to escape but got caught in the wire.

It was the first escape from the high-security area of the prison known as H Unit, which opened in 1991, Massie said.

Thomas was convicted in the 1993 slaying of a woman who had hired him to mow her lawn. He was sentenced to life without parole and 400 years for rape. Hoffman was serving 20 years

for kidnapping and other charges.

The inmates apparently removed toilets from the back of their cells, which gave them access to a maintenance crawl space, prison spokeswoman Lee Mann said. They crawled through an air duct, made their way to the roof, then reached the ground and climbed over the fences, she said. There were no signs of blood and no evidence that the fences were cut.

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Time as POW doesn't daunt female officer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The mission — to rescue a downed pilot — was going very wrong. Enemy fire riddled the helicopter carrying flight surgeon Maj. Rhonda Cornum, and the aircraft was plunging to the Iraqi desert.

She felt strangely calm. "I remember very distinctly thinking as I was crashing, 'I have had a great life' because I thought it was ending then," Cornum said. "I really got to do more stuff than most people get to do, so I should not complain."

Five of her fellow soldiers were killed and Cornum, seriously injured, became one of two American servicewomen taken prisoner during the Gulf War.

Ten years later, the pain and fear of the experience haven't dimmed her zeal for Army.

"I feel exactly like I felt 10 years ago, when I thought I was going to die in the middle of the desert," said Cornum, now a 46-year-old colonel in charge of a field hospital unit at Fort Bragg, N.C. "Every day is a gift. I feel really lucky."

Cornum is a wife, mother and physician whose Gulf War exploits earned her the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and for better or worse — a role representing women in the military.

She spent a week as a prisoner of war, enduring abuse from her captors with stoicism.

"I knew going into the Gulf that it was a high-risk activity, so I was pretty accepting, I suppose," she said.

After the war, Cornum testified before a presidential commission on women in the military, and air combat roles for women subsequently were expanded. She also spoke out against Virginia Military Institute's men-only admissions policy before the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1981.

Still, she doesn't consider herself a crusader for women in uniform.

"I guess I'm a crusader for anything, it's equal opportunity for everybody," she said. "If you want to do something, then you need to go identify with the activity, not your gender. You shouldn't think of yourself as a female colonel. You should think of yourself as a colonel who just happens to be a woman."

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Notes on the economy

Magic Valley report

Here's the total number of new multifamily dwelling units that got building permits from Twin Falls...

Table with 2 columns: Year, Units. Rows for 1990-2000.

Source: Twin Falls Economic Development Director Dave McAllindri's records.

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

INEEL develops tool for fuel researchers

IDAHO FALLS - Scientists at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory have completed a project that could help researchers understand alternative fuel market opportunities.

The Dynamic Industrial Materials Exchange, a software model, was used to estimate market growth potential as scientists demonstrated regional applications.

"This project shows how decision tools can be used to help make informed decisions by understanding how those decisions can affect environmental, economic and social systems of a region," said principal investigator David Shropshire.

The INEEL project showed the materials exchange software can help understand ethanol and compressed natural gas markets. The computer work can also demonstrate how market growth could be enhanced by the creation of new alternative fuel markets.

INEEL scientists contend the model could be used by local governments, planners and fuel suppliers to evaluate alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure growth opportunities.

IDACORP reaffirms fourth-quarter estimates

BOISE - IDACORP Inc. reaffirmed its fourth-quarter earnings estimates of 60 to 70 cents per share, up from 1999's fourth-quarter results of 49 cents per share.

The results are driven by continued strong performance from energy marketing activities, with a portion of the gains offset by increased purchased-power expenses on the regulated side of the business.

IDACORP will report its fourth-quarter results Feb. 2 before the stock markets open. The company will hold an analysts conference call that day at 2:30 p.m., and anyone may listen through a live webcast on the Internet.

Report: Ralston Purina accepts offer from Nestle

NEW YORK - Ralston Purina Co. reportedly has accepted a \$1.1 billion takeover offer from Nestle, the Swiss food giant whose products include Friskies and Alpo pet food brands.

Nestle will pay \$33.50 for each share of Ralston, a 36 percent premium to the St. Louis-based company's closing stock price Friday of \$24.63 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

Twin Falls chamber of commerce holds annual awards banquet

By Virginia S. Hutchins Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - TitleFaci Inc.'s leaders exemplify the kind of business character that Curtis T. Eaton was renowned for all over Idaho, according to Magic Valley's premier business organization.

In memory of the late bank executive, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Monday night gave the 11th annual Curtis T. Eaton Award for business excellence to the T. W. Stivers family and Todd Blass of TitleFaci.

The chamber's 81st Annual Banquet Monday was a cocktails-and-dinner event highlighting 2000's good deeds for Twin Falls and its business community.

Idaho undeservedly gets a bad rap from much of the rest of the world for being a nondiverse population," said outgoing chamber president Terry McCurdy's prepared remarks.

"When Curtis T. Eaton passed away a decade ago, a great leadership void occurred in our community," McCurdy said.

The evening's top award commemorates the standard for business and community leadership set by the late Eaton of Twin Falls Bank & Trust.



TitleFaci Inc. in downtown Twin Falls earned Monday night's top award at a chamber of commerce banquet.

Falls Bank & Trust. Criteria include business practices, support for unique community activities, encouragement of employees' community involvement, leadership on important issues and at least 10 years in business.

When Curtis T. Eaton passed away a decade ago, a great leadership void occurred in our community," McCurdy said.

TitleFaci is a family firm that - fittingly enough - was in Eaton's Twin Falls Bank & Trust building and faced Shoshone Street

when it was purchased from Hugh and Dorothy Boone in 1963, the chamber said.

A former House Speaker and noted fiscal conservative still referred to as "Mr. Speaker," T.W. Stivers had been county clerk before going into business for himself and later bringing his son, Rich, into the family firm, the chamber said.

The award plaque they received Monday cites 38 years of involvement in the chamber, the local library foundation, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, Twin Falls' planning and zoning, the College of Southern Idaho and local and statewide politics.

The Curtis T. Eaton Award was first given in 1990 to Universal Frozen Foods. First Federal Savings Bank won it last year.

Recipients of other chamber honors Monday night:

Charter Member Awards - Gem State Realty, founded in 1959 by the Messersmith family, and Lazy J Ranch, a retirement community built on the Ferris Coulee north of the CSI campus

Each year, the chamber selects for this honor two businesses who have supported the chamber and the community for a long time and been chamber members for at least half a century.

When J.C. Williams came up with the idea for Lazy J, his plans included support of the Twin Falls chamber," McCurdy said.

President's Award - immediate past president Ken Edmunds, who should have had an easy year but instead took on the challenge of authoring a couple of important documents in 2000: the chamber's strategic plan and its Technology Telecommunications Position.

Volunteer of the Year - Jack Jordby of Hertz Car Sales, chosen for the honor by the chamber's hired staff.

Special Recognition Award - First Federal Savings Bank, which the chamber said has demonstrated extraordinary support for community projects in the past year, such as taking on the funding of the chamber's student leadership program and supporting a Magic Valley television Christmas special.

Ambassador of the Year - Donna Bach of Irwin Realty.

Times-News Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 242, or by e-mail at virginia@magicvalley.com

Software maker relives childhood in his work

The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. - Growing up, Martin Hash divided his time between two childhood passions: computers and cartoons.

"My room was a clutter of electronic components and art books," Hash said.

As an adult, Hash brought his two interests together. He wrote a pioneering piece of computer software called AnimationMaster that makes the tools of professional animators available to anyone with a PC.

Designed as an easy-to-use introduction to computer illustrations, Hash said AnimationMaster takes some of the labor out of the sometimes laborious animation process.

Although professionals use Hash's product, he said it was designed with children and teenagers in mind.

"Our target market is aspiring animators," Hash said. "It's relatively cheap (\$299) and easy to learn, he said, making it ideal for people just starting out.

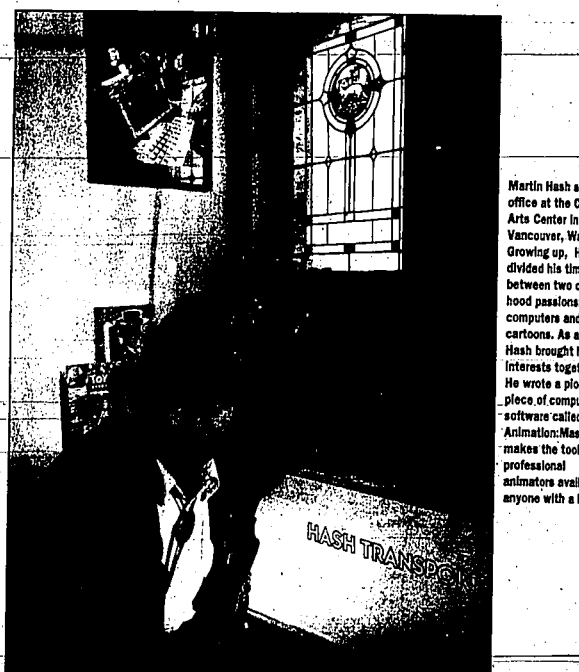
"Within five minutes, I guarantee you'll be animating something," he said.

Raised on Saturday morning cartoons, Hash kept framed images from the Jetsons, Looney Tunes and other classic cartoons in the office.

"Storytelling isn't just the script. It's how it was drawn, the personality of the artist," he said.

A former software programmer at Hewlett-Packard, Hash left in 1987 to found Hash Inc. Its first product, Animation Apprentice, came out the same year.

The first edition of AnimationMaster followed in 1993, and new editions have been added annually. To date, Hash has sold more than 35,000 copies at trade shows, in stores and over the Internet.



Martin Hash sits in his office at the Columbia Arts Center in Vancouver, Wash. Growing up, Hash divided his time between two childhood passions: computers and cartoons.

As an adult, Hash brought his two interests together. He wrote a pioneering piece of computer software called AnimationMaster that makes the tools of professional animators available to anyone with a PC.

The program is designed to enhance an artist's creative vision, Hash said, but not get in the way.

When artists create an image on AnimationMaster, the computer allows them to shade it, rotate and record movement. A host of

other features add perspective and flair to the animated films that result.

There are more sophisticated animation programs on the market, Hash said, designed for high-end complex animation. But Hash said there are few products for the beginner.

"We have competitors, but they're all focused on trying to do that Arnold Schwarzenegger movie," Hash said. "They don't care how hard it is, because they're got professionals using it."

Nothing about computers makes them inherently better than pen-and-ink for illustrating, according to Hash. In fact, he said, traditional artists generally have the upper hand.

"The talented artist can paint, painting or draw a drawing and just kick a computer's butt," he said.

There are two advantages a computer offers, Hash said. For one, computers allow people to share images. The image creates can be passed on to another so they can collaborate or so that a new animator can learn from a veteran.

Computers also eliminate the repetitive work of animating. Artists don't have to draw a new image for each of their characters' movements the computer will automatically update the image to create the illusion of movement.

"Really, that's all computers do is just repeat stuff really quickly," Hash said. "That enables one person and a computer to put together an animated film that otherwise would have taken a team of artists to create."

"That's why professional animators, who know what they're doing, use this software," said Doug Kelly, author of the 1998 book "Character Animation in Depth."

Kelly said they like the program's ease of use and features that allow them to add backgrounds, skirts, clothes or other details without

Utilities commission may require fiber optics installation

The Associated Press

LEWISTON - The Idaho Public Utilities Commission may require Qwest Communications to construct a fiber optics line as part of the pending sale to Citizens Communications in northern Idaho and eastern Washington.

Qwest must use \$12.4 million to benefit Idaho - does not have a direct fiber route bridging the northern and southern parts of the state. The proposed line would bring the state one step closer to filling that void.

line stems from removing rock along the route. But customers have months to wait before they see changes. Citizens Communications expects to take control of phone connections in Clarkston, Wash., Lewiston, Grangeville, Cottonwood, Craighton, Kamiah, Kootenai, Lapwai and Nezperce in July, August or September.

Emergency services in Idaho County have been problematic due to faults in the current network, according to a commission notice about the proposal.

There are no direct connections between Grangeville, the county seat of Idaho County, and its southern towns of Riggins and Whitebird. A call from Riggins to Grangeville sometimes goes to Boise and Spokane before it bounces back to Grangeville.

A few years ago when the Little Salmon River flooded, Riggins residents could not call Grangeville because a line washed out, said George Enkeling, an Idaho County commissioner.

When the service works, calls between Riggins and Grangeville are expensive, Enkeling said.

"Without a doubt, we need it," he said. But Qwest has to overcome complications resulting from rules it must follow since it used to be part of the Bell System. Qwest is not allowed to provide service between northern and southern Idaho. The boundary cuts between Grangeville and Whitebird.

Once Citizens Communications is in local telephone service territory, those restrictions will not apply, as it was never a part of the Bell System and it already has the local telephone company for Whitebird and Riggins.

The commission will accept comments until Jan. 31 about whether the fiber line is a good use of part of the \$12.4 million.

Death toll rises to 600 in Salvadoran quake

SANTA TECLA, El Salvador (AP) — The earthquake death toll rose to 600 Monday with rescuers hoping for pulling more survivors from landslides that swept through villages across El Salvador — though one man was freed after using his cell phone to call for help.



Rescue workers carry the body of an earthquake victim from the rubble in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Monday. Authorities said they are losing hope of finding more survivors of the earthquake that killed at least 600 people and left another 1,000 missing.

As information came in from the countryside, where hundreds of communities remained isolated, the government said 594 bodies had been counted in El Salvador. At least six people died in neighboring Guatemala, and hundreds of people were still believed to be buried.

The vast majority of those killed were here in Santa Tecla, where a mountain of rock and earth came tumbling down on the Las Colinas neighborhood, three miles west of the capital, San Salvador.

Salvadoran police said 1,830 people were injured and nearly 34,000 houses damaged or destroyed in Saturday's 7.6-magnitude quake.

Rescuers said the chances of finding survivors were dwindling as more time passed and the ground, covered from the landslides, settled.

Residents of Las Colinas complained that the government allowed land owners over the years to clear trees from the hill-

side, alleging that the lack of ground cover left those below vulnerable to landslides.

The quake loosened that hillside, burying the middle-class neighborhood at its base, and bringing down some of the mansions above.

Although the largest number of deaths appeared to be in Las Colinas, the quake caused 185 landslides across El Salvador,

burying coffee workers and blocking roads.

The numbers varied and the death toll was expected to rise. The emergency committee for the Santa Tecla region said 436 were dead here alone. It said 366 remained missing — hundreds less than the figure given Saturday by the Red Cross.

Police said nearly 18,000 people had been evacuated from danger-

ous areas. Many were living with relatives or in shelters. Others who still had homes lacked basic services. Water service was cut to as many as half of the country's 6 million people, the Pan-American Health Organization said.

Aftershocks continued to rock the country Monday, frightening residents and knocking more debris onto highways. Many towns were reachable only by helicopter, and little was known about damage or deaths in isolated communities.

In Las Colinas, environmentalists and residents had sued landowners and construction companies to stop the deforestation of the hillside. A judge had ruled against them, and angry residents on Monday argued that the resulting development had caused hundreds of deaths.

Scientists find possible mad cow case in McDonald's slaughterhouse

ROME (AP) — Scientists have found Italy's first suspected case of mad cow disease in a cow at a slaughterhouse that supplies meat to McDonald's restaurants in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. The slaughterhouse in Lodi, in Italy's northern Lombardy region, belongs to the Cremonini group. Cremonini is the exclusive meat supplier for the American fast food giant's restaurants

across Italy, company spokesman Massimiliano Parboni said Monday. Parboni couldn't immediately say which other countries besides Italy get beef from the company. Until Saturday, when the case was discovered, Italy had been considered mad cow-free. The only two cases reported there were two cows in 1994 which had been imported from Britain.

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OPEC aims to curtail production

LONDON (AP) — Haunted by recent memories of over-supply and plunging prices for crude, key OPEC members aim to curtail their production amid signs of U.S. economic frailty and fears of a weakening demand for oil.

OPEC representatives are expected to approve a cut of at least 1.5 million barrels a day when they meet Wednesday in Vienna, Austria, despite appeals from the United States and the European Union.

"We want the market to be in a stable mode. Therefore we need to take a reduction. The size of the reduction will probably be around a million and a half barrels a day. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi said Monday in Vienna. Saudi Arabia is OPEC's largest producer.

A reduction of that amount would equal about 5 percent of the cartel's current output. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries supplies almost two-fifths of the world's crude, and it wants to keep prices firm — and revenues flowing — even if the U.S. slowdown infects the economies of other major oil-importing nations.

alerted customers that it plans to pump less oil starting next month, energy analysts said.

"It seems to be almost a foregone conclusion that there will be a cut," said Mehdi Varzi, a senior oil analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, an investment bank in London.

"The surprise would be if this doesn't happen," added Peter Gignoux, head of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith-Barney.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, urged the cartel Monday not to cut production. The 15-nation EU, along with the United States, would like to see oil prices remain at a stable level between \$20 to \$28 a barrel.

"The fear is that this action is a bit hasty," said EU spokesman Gilles Gantelet. "This gives rise to a yo-yo effect (in prices)."

U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, who traveled to the Persian Gulf to press OPEC members to keep output at current levels, said Monday he had been assured that a curtail would be "significantly lower" than 3 million barrels a day.

He told reporters in London that the group has made no final decision on the size of the expected cut.

"If OPEC decides to make cuts, we hope it will act in a cautious and measured fashion," he said.

Nevertheless, the implications for consumers are unclear, primarily because Iraq continues to withhold the bulk of its crude from market. Iraq is embroiled in a pricing dispute with the United Nations, which regulates all Iraqi exports.

If Iraq resumes exporting normally next month, the anticipated OPEC cutback won't do much to unsettle prices, analysts said. However, if Iraq stays out of the market in February, the combined effect of a curtail in OPEC production would likely cause a shortage of oil.

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EDITORIAL

Go slow on Cassia hog farm proposal

On Wednesday, a series of public hearings will begin that will go a long way toward deciding whether Blaine County developer Ron Achs gets to build a 50,000-animal hog farm on a 5,100-acre site east of Burley.

Wednesday night's session is a hearing by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on its draft permit for the Big Sky Farms LLC proposal. Thursday and Friday nights, Cassia County's Planning and Zoning Commission will also hold hearings on the project.

County planners—and ultimately, the county commission—have the final say on the project, and they should proceed cautiously.

This column generally advocates value-added agricultural development in the Magic Valley, but this one is troubling for a number of reasons:

- The size of the proposal calls into question whether it could be managed effectively to prevent damage to the groundwater. Neither state nor local officials have any experience in overseeing an animal operation of this size.
- The site, 24 miles from Burley near Raft River, is good farm and ranch land. What effect would the facility have on property values in the area? Would anybody want to buy 600 acres

that abutted a giant hog farm? This is a quality of life issue of the first order. Public officials should examine the impact not only on the economy, but on the lifestyle of the Raft River community.

We're not sold on the argument that the Big Sky project would necessarily mean a lot more good jobs for Cassia and Mindoka county residents. If Big Sky imports labor from out of the area, the positive impact on the local economy might be limited.

• The so-far prickly relations between the developer and local officials make us wonder just how dedicated Achs would be to working out problems if they arose.

The bottom line, it seems to us, is that the burden of proof lies squarely on the developer. If the Cassia P&Z green-lights this project, it should do so cautiously and incrementally—and subject to repeated reviews.

Idaho is just beginning to learn how to manage industrial ag on this scale. Just last year, the Legislature passed and Gov Dirk Kempthorne signed legislation creating the first comprehensive review process for such projects.

That law leaves Cassia County with broad discretion over how—or if—this hog farm is developed. County planners and county commissioners should make the most of that leverage.

Hearings this week

- The Department of Environmental Quality will conduct a public hearing Wednesday on developer Ron Achs' proposal to build a 50,000-animal hog farm in eastern Cassia County. The hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Burley High School Little Theater. Written comments will be accepted through Feb. 20.
- The Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct two public hearings on the project, at 7 p.m. Thursday and at 7 p.m. Friday, both in the King Fine Arts Center at Burley High School.

What do you think?

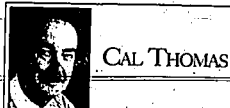
We'd like to print your opinion about the hog farm proposal. Send your letter, or a copy of your written testimony, to The Times-News at:
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The religious double standard

During the last presidential campaign, there was much "God-talk" from Vice President Al Gore and his running mate, Joe Lieberman. Some commentators decided that Lieberman's injection of God into the campaign was not only something new but something wonderful. When George W. Bush talked of God, and especially Jesus, however, that was something—according to these same people—that threatened the republic and made people who do not share his view of God feel inferior.

I recall no senator, and certainly no liberal special interest group, raising the type of concerns about Gore and Lieberman that they now raise about Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft.



Ashcroft is an Evangelical Christian, who believes in a literalist, in-speak-plainly about his faith and to follow its precepts in private and in public. One might reasonably argue that we don't suffer from too much union of personal faith and practice but, too little, especially as we witness the consequences of their complete detour, and certainly no liberal special interest group, raising the type of concerns about Gore and Lieberman that they now raise about Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft.

A few individuals might think: since the Department of Environmental Quality has issued a draft permit for the proposed hog farm, why this is a fine deal. Absolutely not! This is far from over. What the DEQ has submitted is a draft only. It is still completely up to the planning and zoning committee to decide this issue.

Here are some things you may want to consider: The proposal is for a 55,000-sow operation, which means 1,200,000 pigs a year will be produced, or 40,000 pigs at any given time, on less than 5,000 acres. In comparison, if this were a cattle feeding operation or a dairy, that would mean 238,000 cows.

It would produce waste equivalent to 1.4 million people. You may think that this will not affect you, but what happens when the waste seeps into the aquifer like it has been proven to happen all over the country? The aquifer has been proven to run from the proposed site directly toward the Declo-Burley area. In the past, this site has had some serious flooding. If this were to happen again, the flooding off this property would run down the Raft River into the Snake River and again toward Declo and Burley, where many of us enjoy great recreational activities on or around the Snake River.

Approximately 50 people live within one mile of the proposed site; within one to four miles, there are an additional 80 people, and within four to 10 miles, there are another 170 people. At least 300 people will be directly affected.

We have received several testimonials from people living within 10 to 25 miles of large hog facilities in other states saying that their lives have been drastically changed due to relating health problems, intense odors and declining and total loss of land value. There are a lot of operations looking to be started somewhere. If we open the door and let this one in, how far will it go? The next one could be in your back yard.

We ask all citizens of Cassia County and surrounding areas to help a big problem before it gets started. Please become educated on the proposal by coming to the hearings on Jan. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. at Burley High School. If any of these things concern you, too, please submit letters or questions to the planning and zoning committee.

TODD B. WEBB
 MARK WEBB
 Declo

The left likes the policies of liberal leaders who invoke God but dislikes the policies of conservatives who operate in God's name. It isn't God they fear. It's the policies. If an atheist is a liberal, it would be no problem for them. But an atheist who is pro-life, for example, is as anathema to them as a pro-life Christian. Similarly, a pro-choice Christian is acceptable to the left.

The second reason for Ashcroft's publication the left fears Ashcroft's publication is that he truly is a law-abider. He has not will enforce laws he disagrees with because he respects the law more than his predecessor at Justice. Eighteen of Ashcroft's 24 years in government were in positions where he was an enforcer of laws, not a maker of them. During that time, he upheld the lottery laws in Missouri, though he opposed the lottery and believed the state had taken vice in once outlawed and turned it into a virtue when government decided it could make money.

Faithfulness to the law is the real reason the left fears Ashcroft so much. They worry that enough doctors and testimony from leftover career employees might stay behind to indict the former trustees of the Department of Justice for lies, cover-ups and obstruction of justice. Their worst nightmare is someone who accords to be in the law enough to enforce it and not investing it for his own political or personal benefit.

John Ashcroft is such a man.

Cal Thomas is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

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LETTERS

Victims' families need our support

There are many times that I am proud and thankful to live in a community where there are so many good, compassionate and caring people. Like this past week, where, for days, the media focused on the death of two law enforcement officials and helped raise money to support their families.

Then at the same time, I am saddened and disappointed that this same media did not come forward to recognize that there were three families of homicide victims. Three families have lost sons, brothers, uncles and family members.

There are three families who have to bear the final expenses of burying their loved ones and the pain and suffering caused by their loss.

By most accounts, the police officers were good men, and by most accounts, George Timothy Williams was a quiet, caring man and a good neighbor liked by most, if not everyone, in the town of Eden.

Something terrible happened Jan. 3. Since the time of the incident, law enforcement officials have withheld facts and evidence from the media, public and the family of Tim Williams. It is too early to tell who was the good guy and who was the bad guy, if any were. Maybe someday we will know what really happened; maybe we never will, but it is not the victims who need our compassion and support. It is each man's family and friends. Each family has lost a loved one. Tim Williams' family as well as the other two families suffer equally the loss of their loved ones. My heart and compassion go out to the family and friends of George Timothy Williams as

well as the families and friends of the other two men who died.

I hope the media and the rest of the community will show the same compassion and support for the family and friends of Tim Williams that they have shown for the families of the two police officers. I hope those who can afford it will send what they can to the Tim Williams benefit fund at the D.L. Evaris Bank so Tim's family can pay for Tim's final expenses and know that the people of Twin Falls also care about them.

JERRY DEWAAL
 Eden

New driving law is unfair

My opinion on the new law about people under 17 getting their license is why change the law? My reason for saying this is because what about the ones who don't need the extra time behind the wheel or don't need to take driver's education? Don't get me wrong, driver's education is a good thing to have and something a lot of people need to go to, but the law is going to punish all teens because some did what they're not supposed to. I'm 16 years old, and I've already taken driver's education but when transferring my road test scores (skills test), they were lost. Now I'm going to have to redo all that, plus more.

I feel that this new law is unfair to a lot of people under 17 in the communities. I say that how well you do on the written exam and how well you do in driver's education (if you take it) should determine if you have to do the extra hours and work.

MATT PIKE
 Gooding

The facts about hog farm issue

A few individuals might think: since the Department of Environmental Quality has issued a draft permit for the proposed hog farm, why this is a fine deal. Absolutely not! This is far from over. What the DEQ has submitted is a draft only. It is still completely up to the planning and zoning committee to decide this issue.

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It would produce waste equivalent to 1.4 million people. You may think that this will not affect you, but what happens when the waste seeps into the aquifer like it has been proven to happen all over the country? The aquifer has been proven to run from the proposed site directly toward the Declo-Burley area. In the past, this site has had some serious flooding. If this were to happen again, the flooding off this property would run down the Raft River into the Snake River and again toward Declo and Burley, where many of us enjoy great

LETTERS

Clinton ought to clear out

In my opinion, President Clinton should be getting his house in order or packing his bags and getting ready to move. But he is still trying to mediate some kind of settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The cost of shutting Madeline and her entourage back and forth from one country to another adds up. You figure transportation, lodging, security and all, it's into the millions. Any proposal made by the United States is looked at with skepticism by the Palestinians because of our track record with the Israelis.

I think the U.S. taxpayer would be money ahead if some other country would stand up to the plate and see if they could hit one out of the park.

The U.S. taxpayer needs a rest. We can't spend our money all over the world. I think we should call in some of our markers. And the Bush administration should take notes. I know he's chomping at the bit to turn Colin Powell loose to see what he's made of, but he better bring the voters back together and bring some harmony across the land.

LEE DOCKSTADER
 Rupert

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsler

The real roots of the California power crisis

LANCE T. IZUMI

Watching California Gov. Gray Davis address the state's electricity crisis in his January 8th State of the State speech was like watching black-and-white newsreels from the 1930s featuring popular demagogues inveighing against big business.

"We have surrendered the decisions about where electricity is sold - and for how much," said Davis, "to private companies with only one objective: maximizing shareholder profits."

In true 1930s style, Davis threatened government intervention at every opportunity. Indeed, the governor's speech was vintage Huey Long, minus the mesmerizing delivery, and was high on promises and low on economic common sense.

To combat "a dysfunctional energy market, driven by out-of-state energy companies and brokers," Davis donned his red hat and promised, among other things, to hire 50 new government energy guardsmen "to monitor and stand guard if necessary - at any facility suspected of deliberately withholding power from the grid."

He wants the attorney general to investigate and prosecute power companies for possible racketeering, market manipulation, price fixing, and other potential violations. He also wants to "expand the authority available to the government in the event of imminent power outages." He proposes a "California public power authority that can buy and build new power plants."

Finally, with an attempt at bravado, he threatens, "if I have to use the power of eminent domain to prevent generators from driving consumers into the dark and utilities into bankruptcy - then that's what I will do."

The reality, though, is that government, not the market, is the cause of California's power woes. Despite Davis's slam against California's 1996 "deregulation" of electricity, state government did not totally deregulate the pricing mechanism for electricity.

What Davis failed to say was that the price at which utilities could buy electricity was deregulated, but government capped the price at which utilities could sell that electricity to consumers. Also, until recently, government regulators prevented the utilities from signing long-term contracts to buy electricity at stable prices.

When the current spot price of electricity began to soar, the utilities faced bankruptcy with skyrocketing wholesale prices, but a low government-controlled retail price. The low retail price also ensured continued high consumer demand that outstrips supply, causing shortages.

The difference between the high wholesale price of electricity and the low government-controlled retail price has caused a \$12 billion debt for California's utility companies. Davis said absolutely nothing about this debt and had no proposals as to how to deal with it, despite his earlier statement that he wouldn't allow the utilities to go bankrupt. No wonder then that the verdict on Davis's speech is that, despite his huffing and puffing, he continues to show no leadership in this crisis.

Davis did mention that since the early 1990s, not a single new power plant has been built in California. What he didn't say was that because of complex government regulations on design, construction, and siting, and the opposition of environmental groups, it takes longer to build new power plants in California than elsewhere.

Although Davis claimed that his administration has approved new power plants, he failed to say that

even after approval, government red tape prevents plants from being built quickly. Thus, for example, it can easily take five years or more for a clean natural-gas burning plant to be approved, built, and put on line.

Davis's 1930s proposals will not solve the energy problems of 2001. To solve California's power predicament, government must get out of the way of a market-oriented solution to this crisis. In the short run, the retail price of electricity charged to consumers must be allowed to rise to cover a more representative part of the wholesale cost utilities pay for that electricity. Allowing only relatively

minor retail price increases, as Gov. Davis and the Public Utilities Commission support, simply guarantees blackouts at slightly higher prices.

In the long term, government obstacles to the building of more power plants must be removed so that we can increase the supply of electricity to meet demand and eventually to lower prices. That means that political leaders, like

Davis, must be willing to stand up to the environmental lobby and local NIMBY-ites. It is a travesty that a power plant in Utah can be built in one-third the time it takes in California.

In his State of the State speech, Davis claimed that "we will meet this challenge and meet it quickly." To meet the challenge, however, he is using the wrong weapons and the wrong strategy.

Demagoguery is not leadership, and Davis's likely failure will, unfortunately, have grave consequences for Californians and the economy.

Lance Izumi is a senior fellow in California studies at the California Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, 755 Sansome St., Suite 450, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.

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Iraq: Investigation shows U.S. pilot was killed without ejecting



Michael Spelcher

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A search in 1995 of a U.S. warplane downed in Iraq's western desert during the Gulf War showed the pilot was killed without ejecting from the cockpit, though his remains were never found, a senior Iraqi official said Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Iraq cooperated fully with a U.S. team that visited the crash site for several days in December 1995, adding that

there was no reason to believe Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael S. Spelcher survived the crash of his F-18 Hornet on the first night of the war, Jan. 17, 1991.

However, U.S. intelligence officials in Washington said there were unconfirmed reports in recent years that Spelcher survived and was detained by the Iraqis. The U.S. government last week demanded an accounting of the case.

"All the indications were that he was killed while he was still in the cockpit," Aziz said when asked about the matter by a group of visiting American activists opposed to the international sanctions against Iraq. "But there were no remnants of his body after several years in a remote desert environment."

According to Aziz, the investigators were able to determine that the pilot

had not ejected. Parts of his uniform were found at the site, the Iraqis and the Americans said.

Aziz did not indicate how the Iraqis would respond to the U.S. government's demands, but said the country had provided the Americans with full assistance during the inquiry.

Iraq was not aware of the crash site until the Americans notified Iraq, Aziz added.

Before the U.S. investigators arrived, digging at the site had been carried out by desert-dwelling Bedouins in the area, Iraq said, adding that the Bedouins took some parts of the plane.

"We have told the Iraqis that their statements to this point have either turned out to be inaccurate, misleading or incomplete," National Security Council spokesman P.J. Crowley said Sunday in Washington.

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P185/75R-14	38.13
P205/75R-14	40.67
P215/75R-14	44.17
P205/75R-15	43.07
P215/75R-15	44.59
P225/75R-15	47.30
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P185/80R-13	42.19	P205/70R-15	58.97
P185/75R-14	43.69	P215/70R-15	59.33
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Nabisco Premium SALTINES  **1 Lb. Box \$1.59**

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Gardetto's SNACKENS **Asst. 11 Oz. 2/\$3**

Dirty Moore BEEF STEW **24 Oz. Can \$1.99**
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Hunt's KETCHUP **Big Quart Squeeze Bottle \$1.39**

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Holiday classic

Students bring 'Nutcracker' to life

GOODING - Visions of Sugar Plums.

Serena Roseberg's fifth-grade language arts class presented the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 20 at Gooding Elementary School second-graders.

The cast included: Clara was played by Brittany Fuqua; Herr Drosselmeyer, Andrew Jensen; Fritz, James Vitak; Nutcracker Prince, John Walker; Mouse King, Ricky Garcia; and Narrator, Derek Muck.

Extras and backstage crew members were Brett Baumgardner, Marilynne Booher, Jordan Braga, Heather Barth, Josh Branham, Jessica Burnett, Kaden Cook, Elizabeth Garcia, Jessica Hellwinkle, Misti Jessop, Danielle McLean, Bobby Meyer, Francisco Mireles, Destiny Pauls, Zack Strickland, Travis Vitak, Grace White, Millie Zarate and Alissa Reed.



Above, students dance in the production of 'The Nutcracker.' Right, John Walker played the prince and Brittany Fuqua starred as Clara in a production of the holiday classic at the Gooding Elementary School.



COREEN HART/The Times-News

Artist Marilyn R. Miller describes her personalized books to the members of AARP Chapter 853 during their recent meeting at the Golden Heritage Senior Center. The books were of all sizes with a number of production methods.

Handmade books open up personal views

By Coreen Hart
Times-News correspondent

BURLEY - Some are as tiny as three inches and consist of only a few pages. Others are nearly full-sized. But all of artist Marilyn R. Miller's handmade books are uniquely personalized.

Her diminutive Christmas story has illuminated lettering in Bible text and is bound with gold cord.

"I got the whole thing on one 1/2 inch by 11 inch sheet," she said, referring to the original, uncut draft which was photocopied. The brilliantly colored lettering and deep-toned parchment give the appearance of age to the recent creation.

Her latest book is "Images From The City of Rocks," a collection of botanical drawings of the wildflowers and rock formations found in the Elba City of Rocks. She combines text and drawings, recalling childhood days spent there and personal discoveries.

"I remember wishing I could climb Bathrub Rock," she wrote. But she didn't have the right kind of shoes.

She recalled the old legend that if you bathe in Bathrub Rock before sunrise, you reapTURE your youth.

A legend of "buried gold" captivated her child's heart.

"I thought it was irresponsible not to go and dig it up," she wrote.

The book has one page with a small round window, cellophane covered that includes a quaking aspen leaf and a sprig

of sagebrush.

"You each have books in you," Miller told AARP members at a recent meeting. "It's fun to make books. It doesn't matter how it's bound. You don't have to make your own drawings. Photos would work. Or leave out illustrations and just do sonnets or recollections that you want to pass on."

She showed several books to illustrate different styles and methods of assembling these personal memoirs.

Miller is a graduate of Brigham Young University with degrees in fine arts. She taught at the Salt Lake Jewish Community Center and the Salt Lake Arts Center. Her work has been widely exhibited throughout the United States.

Miller ran her art studio in Salt Lake City for 20 years. She returned to Burley nine years ago to care for her parents.

Ruth Cottingham was intrigued by the books.

"I wonder how people have time to do this," she said. "We were farmers and we worked all the time."

Dorothy Rose said she had made many books of her own and had decorated book covers.

"I like Marilyn's strong use of color in the background of her drawings, the way she left the rock formations light," Rose said.

Times-News correspondent Coreen Hart can be reached through the Mini-Cassia bureau at 677-4042.

Teen builds mini-skatepark

By Lorraine Cavener
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS - When Twin Falls leaders began discussing the construction of a skatepark in the city, one teen-ager started building a model of a dream park.

Seventh-grader Eric Heib, 13, started constructing his mini-park out of cardboard on his birthday, June 9.

"It has gotten bigger and bigger," he said. "My bed is right up against the corner. When it gets too cluttered, I sleep in the closet."

The two-tiered model has it all - half pipes, quarter pipes, stairs, bowls, rails, ramps and even miniature skate boards and bikes that Heib can "ride" around the park with his fingers.

"It's really big," said Andy Shepherd, a friend of Heib's, who helped with some of the designs.

Kathy Heib said her son's elaborately designed park would probably cost about \$2 million to actually build. The Twin Falls project has been projected to cost \$140,000.

The boys realize the city of Twin Falls - or most anywhere - would not be able to afford they park they have envisioned.

They build a skatepark, they should get some ideas from Eric," Shepherd suggested. "He's pretty creative."

The boys see definite advantages to building a skatepark with as many features as possible. For example, Shepherd said, he travels to tournaments in Boise, where there is a nice skatepark.

"As soon as they build the skatepark, it



LORRINE CAVENER/The Times-News

Eric Heib built a miniature skatepark in his room. The cardboard park takes up nearly the entire room.

attracted more people to skate," he said.

Heib has always been interested in building, his mother said. He has constructed palaces and other elaborate structures for as long as she can remember.

When he was in the first-grade, his teacher asked the students to make a valentine for their mother.

"Eric built a 3-D valentine," Kathy

Heib said. "He really liked to draw," said Julie Leiva, his first-grade teacher at Morningside Elementary. "I'd have to give him extra time. He'd really want to be detailed."

Times-News correspondent Lorraine Cavener can be reached at the Mini-Cassia Bureau at 677-4042.

Drama teacher extends talent to community

By Daro Jensen
Times-News correspondent

BUHL - Dave Blaszkiewicz has put the community on stage.

Blaszkiewicz has been at the helm of the Buhl High School Drama Department for the past three years. But also started last year a community theater troupe, the West End Theater Company.

"I enjoy what I am doing and I don't consider it work," he said.

He brings to Buhl a strong background in theater arts. He earned degrees in theater arts and history at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston and his teacher certificate at the University of Idaho.

The drama teacher keeps his young actors busy.

"The students don't like too much time between plays," Blaszkiewicz, 41, said. "With the student interest, it is easy to request that the students keep their grades up and the parental support is great."

Blaszkiewicz also said he expects students to present a quality show and professional performance. Meeting this goal requires a lot of practice.

Under his leadership, student membership has grown in a national thespian society.

"I feel we are extremely fortunate to have an auditorium like the one here in the Buhl Middle School," Blaszkiewicz said.



DAVE BLASZKIEWICZ/The Times-News

Dave Blaszkiewicz directs students for a Buhl High School drama production. The drama teacher also helped start a community theater group.

try, so he stayed.

He has worked in Boise schools, community theater in Lewiston and Boise and professional theater in Boise and Seattle playing the lead in "Jesus Christ Super Star" while serving as set director. He also has played the lead and supporting roles in "Lil Abner" and "The King and I."

"I always wanted to teach as well as stop and smell the flowers," Blaszkiewicz said. "I've smelled a lot of flowers."

Filer teen-ager shapes balloons into small-business venture

By Margo Holley
Times-News correspondent

FILER - An enterprising Filer teen-ager has made a small business venture out of the air. Alexander Doby, 15, is a balloon-twisting entertainer and has appeared in parades and at parties, making and handing out balloon figures.

Doby started his venture about two years ago as a

favor to a family friend who was having a birthday party for a youngster. Doby shaped balloons into dogs, cats, mice and other assorted figures.

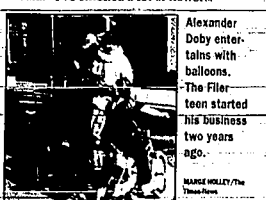
The teen's interest in balloon sculpting had started when he was 4 years old and his aunt gave him a kit to make balloon animals one Christmas.

As he got older, his interest grew. When he was about 9-years-old, he saw a clown entertaining children at a pizza parlor. Later, his mom, Dora found him at a table

where the clown was showing him how to make balloon animals. The clown also explained various aspects of his business to the boy and sparked his interest when he learned that he could earn money doing something that he enjoyed, Doby said.

Doby has since added juggling and magic tricks to his repertoire, he said.

His mom and his sister help with his make-up and costume preparation.



Alexander Doby entertains with balloons. The Filer teen started his business two years ago.

MARGO HOLLEY/The Times-News

COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Selective hearing

Speech technology still faces obstacles

NEW YORK (AP) - In the movies, computers are always good listeners. In real life, they only hear what they want to hear.

Much as people would like to speak with their machines, to browse the Internet by voice rather than keystroke, recent strides in speech-recognition technology hardly provide the ease and spontaneity of a free-flowing dialogue between humans.

Instead, the machines monopolize the discussion.

While the latest speech engines can recognize spoken words with better than 90 percent accuracy, a vast improvement from only five years ago, the machines dictate the specific words and phrases that users can say. They ignore any commands that stray.

Still, even with a scripted dialogue, the allure of "voice browsing" is strong, especially for those trying to stay connected on mobile phones and handheld computers with tiny keypads and screens. For drivers, the attraction is even greater.

In less than three months, more than 200,000 of America Online's members have signed up for AOLbyPhone, one of several new "voice portals" whose recorded voices read small nuggets of online information to callers in response to set-spoken commands.



Michael Lambert uses BeVocal in his office at the Foster City Library in Foster City, Calif., Thursday. He said the accuracy of the voice recognition software has improved dramatically.

Palm computer users are also showing interest.

In a survey of Palm users, senior director of product management for Lernout & Hauspie, a leader in dictation software and text-to-speech technologies, which are used to make computers read aloud.

The main obstacle for natural speech technology involves simple brute power. While huge gains in processing speeds have helped computers tackle the listening part of the equation and understand specific words, it requires a lot more firepower to make that machine comprehend the countless combinations of words used to express thoughts.

"Natural language understanding is one of those Holy Grail areas," said Bill DeStefanis, senior director of product management for Lernout & Hauspie, a leader in dictation software and text-to-speech technologies, which are used to make computers read aloud.

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Firm to hackers: Bring it on

BOSTON (AP) - Gentlemen, start your modems.

OpenHack III, a computer-hacking contest sponsored by eWeek magazine, will feature some stiff competition when it opens Monday.

In one corner is Savoy, Ill.-based Argus Systems Group, maker of a computer security product called PitBull that the company claims is virtually impenetrable.

In the other is an army of hackers who will try to break into a PitBull-protected system and win a \$50,000 prize, supplied by Argus.

Hacking contests have been going on since the mid-1980s, but Argus has raised the stakes this time in an effort to validate a product it believes - and many experts agree - is the Fort Knox of computer security.

Hackers generally try to access computer operating systems by exploiting holes in the applications the systems run, and most security products try to plug those holes. But PitBull protects the operating systems themselves, making it virtually impossible for a hacker to gain access.

In the contest, hackers will have two weeks to complete four tasks related to corrupting a Web site protected by PitBull. There are prizes for being the first to complete each task, and a grand prize of \$50,000 for being the first to complete all four.

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Defragment that slow computer

By James Costes
Chicago Tribune

Q: I have a Dell Dimension computer with Windows 98, and the problem is how excruciatingly slow it is to move between file folders. It's OK at start-up, but with every folder move, it gets slower until it takes literally minutes to move to a new folder. I have 256 megabytes of RAM, but it feels like I've got a paltry 256 kilobytes instead. I've tried reinstalling Windows 98, but no improvement. Fortunately, the problem doesn't affect Web browsing.

-Eric Rosenbery

A: The first thing you should do is defragment that slow poke hard drive of yours. Hopefully the only system is that drive has just about filled up and, as you move things about, the operating system must scurry to find an ever-dwindling amount of free space to store bits of every file in every folder.

Computers don't store information in any rational order the way humans using ink on paper do. Instead they break large documents up into smaller chunks and scatter them about on the hard drive. As the user continually saves a file, the computer scatters these chunks into whatever available hard drive space might be found. As more and more of these fragmented documents build up, the machine takes longer and longer to find free space to store stuff and to read it later on.

Defragmentation software takes over the computer for a few hours and methodically rewrites every file so that the various elements are right next to one another and thus can dramatically improve the machine's access speed. The Windows defragmentation software can be found by clicking the Start button on your desktop, choosing Programs and then Accessories and then System Tools. Set aside a big block of time, and your machine should restore the kind of speeds you enjoyed when the OS was fresh out of the box.

Voice recorder takes place of pen, pencil

The Dallas Morning News

Hundreds of times have I scrambled for a scrap of paper to jot down an idea while driving. Or forgotten to bring a pen for notes during a meeting.

Or wished I could just listen instead of writing furiously.

Voice recorders, of course, can be the answer to such predicaments, and owners of Handspring's Visors are in luck.

Targus has just shipped the Total Recall Digital Voice Recorder, a 1.2-ounce module that pops into the personal digital assistants.

The \$99 Total Recall can hold up to 1.5 hours of recordings, depending on the audio quality setting. By using the Visor's on-screen menu, recordings can be arranged by date, priority, when they were finished or when projects are due.

-Rick Barrick

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WORLD

France casts doubt on uranium's effect on soldiers

PARIS (AP) — France cast doubt Monday on claims that exposure to armor-piercing ammunition containing depleted uranium may have triggered cancer in French troops who served in the Balkans.

The fear that depleted uranium ammunition might be a health risk has swept Europe in recent weeks as various nations have reported cancer cases among their troops, and NATO medical experts are

studying the possible health risks.

But the Defense Ministry in Paris said tests on five French soldiers who served in the Balkans and who now have cancer did not reveal any traces of depleted uranium. Tests on a sixth soldier were continuing.

The findings mirrored similar research from neighboring Germany.

Last week, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said tests on soldiers sent to Kosovo and

those never deployed there showed no differences. He said the incidence of two cancers — leukemia and lymphoma — among German soldiers was no higher than among the general population in 1999.

U.S. forces fired weapons containing depleted uranium in Bosnia in 1994 and 1995, and in 1999, NATO fired such weapons during its 78-day bombing campaign in Yugoslavia.

Depleted uranium has not been widely studied, and experts say they don't know exactly how much must be consumed to be harmful. The lack of conclusive scientific evidence has only served to feed public concern, which emerged when Italy said it was investigating illnesses in 30 Balkan veterans and then exploded as tales of sick or dying soldiers poured in from local media across Europe.

Palestinians offer amnesty to suspected informers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Yasser Arafat's government on Monday offered amnesty to suspected collaborators with Israel — an apparent attempt to blunt international outrage over executions of informers and thwart Israel's campaign of assassinating Palestinian militants.

Despite this shadowy war fought by the two sides, peace talks were to resume Tuesday, after a day's break called by Israel over the killing of a Jewish settler by Palestinians near his greenhouse in the Gaza Strip.

In response to the slaying, Israeli troops reimposed a tight blockade on the Gaza Strip, closing the Palestinian international airport and border crossings. Troops blocked major roads, cutting the strip into three parts.

After 30-year-old Roni

Tealah's body was found Monday in an orange grove near the Kfar Yam settlement, a group of settlers went on a rampage in a nearby Palestinian village. Settlers burned a greenhouse, smashed car windows and shot toward homes.

In the West Bank village of Kfar Salem, a Palestinian man was shot and killed in a clash with Israeli troops. Earlier in the day, shots were fired from Kfar Salem at an Israeli convoy, injuring a motorist. In another West Bank village, Burkin, the body of a suspected informer with Israel was discovered, Palestinian police said.

In all, 369 people have been killed in 15 weeks of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, including 317 Palestinians, 13 Israeli Arabs, 38 other Israelis and a German doctor.

American teen says Hong-Kong official threatened execution

HONG KONG (AP) — An official interpreter warned a New Jersey teen-ager she could "face a firing squad" in China if she didn't sign someone else's name to several immigration documents, the young woman testified Monday.

Lin Qiaoying told a judge she also was threatened with life in prison in Hong Kong if she didn't go along with instructions from immigration officials who questioned the validity of her main-

land Chinese passport.

"I was so scared at the time that I burst into tears," Lin testified at the trial of three officials who allegedly coerced her into wrongly admitting guilt in the October 1999 incident.

Lin, who was 16 at the time, falsely confessed to using a bogus passport and was jailed for almost three months before it emerged that her travel documents were genuine and she was freed. The

case stirred controversy over Hong-Kong immigration procedures.

Official interpreter Wong King and immigration officials Lung Kinsing and Yong Chut-kam have pleaded innocent to charges of trying to intimidate Lin into making the false confession.

The defendants sat impassively in court on Monday as Lin, who lives in New Brunswick, N.J., testified.

Lin, who moved from the southern Chinese province of Fujian to the United States in 1995, stopped over in Hong Kong in late 1999 en route to New York after visiting relatives in mainland China.

An immigration official who is not on trial, Chan Man-chung, said he became suspicious about Lin's identity when she said her green card, or proof of U.S. residence, was lost.

Small Business Feature

Spotlight

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Can I have a MRI scan?
 Dr. Frank G. Shellock M.D., a leading expert in regard to MRI patients, this transient slight swelling has only occurred in a few patient safety states that there may be some temporary irritation to the eyelid. "Out of thousands of patients, this transient slight swelling has only occurred in a few patients, and is therefore considered a "minimum risk." There are no reports of "eye damage" due to MRI and permanent make-up.

Choosing the right permanent make-up technician is an important decision. Your first concern should be to find someone who follows proper sterilization procedures and works in a clean environment. Ask about their training and professional background. Decide by appearance and conversation if this is a person you can work with. Do pictures of their work make you feel comfortable? Ask for client referrals and speak to them about their experience. Most clients are more than happy to "show off" their permanent make-up!!!

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An announcement from:

The Firm is pleased to announce the association of two new attorneys.

WILLIAM L. SMITH, joins the firm after most recently serving as legal clerk for the Honorable J. William Hart. Mr. Smith was born and raised in Kimberly, Idaho and is a 2000 graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law.

WADE F. HYDER grew up in Jerome, Idaho and is a 1988 graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California. Mr. Hyder's emphasis in private practice has been and will continue to be in the representation of employer's and employee's interests.

Both attorneys look forward to assisting the Firm in the continuation of its mission: "Providing quality legal services in a timely, professional and courteous manner since 1919."

50 LEGAL
50 LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, the duly appointed successor trustee, will on April 20, 2001, at 11:00 A.M. record in the County Recorder's office of the County of Blaine, Idaho, a certain trust agreement...

The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the property but, for purpose of compliance with Section 00-113 of Idaho Code, the Trustee has been informed that the address of the property is 4851 S. Main Way, Twin Falls, ID 83401...

The detail for which this sale is to be made is the detail for the sale of the property, under the deed of Trust Note dated February 10, 1992, the monthly payments of \$1,033.20 per month for the month of June 2000 through SEPTEMBER 2000 and \$1,000.95 for the month of OCTOBER 2000 through DECEMBER 2000...

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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STORE MANAGER/SALES
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STUDENTS
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MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I just want to be in a winning situation. It's nothing financial. It's just me doing what the system allows me to do.

Cincinnati running back Corey Dillon, who recently hired agent Leigh Steinberg to negotiate a new contract.

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Which NFL franchise has the best Super Bowl record?
ANSWER: below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Girls' high school basketball

- Carey at Dietrich, 3 p.m.
Buhl at Gooding, 4:15 p.m.
Shoshone at Bliss, 4:30 p.m.
Cass County at Ketchum, 4:30 p.m.
Kimberly at Wendell, 6 p.m.
Murtaugh at Hansen, 6 p.m.
Castelford at Oakley, 6 p.m.
Richfield JV at ISDB, 6 p.m.
Twin Falls at Minico, 6:15 p.m.
Wood River at Filer, 7:30 p.m.

Boys' high school basketball

- Buhl at Valley, 4:15 p.m.
Carey at Dietrich, 4:30 p.m.
Murtaugh at Hansen, 6 p.m.
Burley at Declo, 6 p.m.
Rat River at Hagerman, 6 p.m.
Twin Falls at Mt. Home, 6 p.m.
Shoshone at Bliss, 7:30 p.m.
Wendell at Wood River, 7:30 p.m.
Cass at Ketchum, 7:30 p.m.
Richfield JV at ISDB, 7:30 p.m.

High school wrestling

- Shelley/Buhl at S. Fremont, 5 p.m.
Twin Falls at Spring Creek/Battle Mtn., 5:30 p.m.
Jerome at Burley, 7 p.m.

High school bowling

- Kimberly at Buhl, 4 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Tennis touney entry deadline is Jan. 29

TWIN FALLS - The 2001 Singles Tennis Tournament, presented by First Federal Savings Bank, will take place Feb. 4-11 in Twin Falls.
The entry deadline is Jan. 29. The touney will be played on the indoor courts of the Magic Valley YFCA. All matches will be played Monday through Friday and all day Saturday. Players are guaranteed two matches. Entrants do not need to be YFCA members to play.
Entry fees are \$20 per person for Twin Falls Tennis Association members, \$25 for non-members. Juniors can play at the NTRP level best fitting their ability. Contact touney director J.C. Burdick at 736-8142 or Randy Wrasstad at 734-2278 for more details.
Sign-ups are also being taken at www.twinfalls.com.

Mini-Cassia Bulldogs to meet on Wednesday

BURLEY - The Magic Valley's expansion football team, the Mini-Cassia Bulldogs, will hold its first team meeting of the season on Wednesday Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Burley City Hall building.
New and returning players are expected at the meeting to discuss the upcoming season as well as new rule changes that have occurred. The Bulldogs kicked off the season on April 14th.
For more information contact Ruben Bolidana at 678-5764.
Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWERS

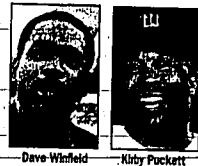
The San Francisco 49ers, with 25 wins.

Choosing the Cooperstown Class of 2001

NEW YORK - Dave Winfield got his 3,000th hit, a milestone almost asuring admission to the Hall of Fame, on a single that drove in Kirby Puckett.
Today the former Minnesota Twins teammate could be headed toward a reunion in Cooperstown. Winfield and Puckett lead the list of 17 rookie candidates on the ballot, with Don Mattingly, Kirk Gibson and Lou Whitaker also eligible for the first time.
Jim Rice, Gary Carter and Dale Murphy are among the 15 holdover hopefuls. So are Goose Gosage

Winfield, Puckett lead list of Hall of Fame candidates

and Bruce Sutter, trying to open the Hall door for more closers.
"I've done everything I think I possibly can on the field and now I have to wait for people to vote on my destiny," Puckett said. "That's my own hands."
Results will be announced today at noon. Players must be picked on at least 75 percent of ballots in voting by 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.
Induction ceremonies will be



Dave Winfield Kirby Puckett

selected by the Veterans Committee on March 6 at Tampa, Fla.
Winfield seemed destined for stardom from the day he was born - Oct. 3, 1951, the afternoon Bobby Thomson hit one of the "most famous home runs ever."
A multi-sport standout at the University of Minnesota, Winfield was drafted by the San Diego Padres; the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL; the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA and the Utah Stars of the ABA.

He chose baseball and, without spending a single day in the minor leagues, went on to become a 12-time All-Star. He finished with 3,110 hits, had 465 home runs and won five Gold Gloves in the outfield.
Overall, he batted .283 with 1,833 RBIs. He played from 1973-95, and returned from back surgery that sidelined for the entire 1988 season.
Winfield's toughest choice might be deciding which cap to wear on his Hall plaque - he became a star with the Padres, gained national

Please see HALL, Page D2

KNICKS KNOCK OUT SPURS

New York coach gets the worst of bizarre brawl

NEW YORK - Marcus Camby threw a punch at Danny Ferry and Jeff Van Gundy got in the way. The coach got the worst of it, and Camby hung around Madison Square Garden for nearly an hour after the game looking for more.

On a bizarre afternoon when a blowout turned into a brawl, Van Gundy ended up leading 12-15 stitches to close a cut above his left eye after his head collided with Camby's knee in the fourth quarter of New York's 104-82 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

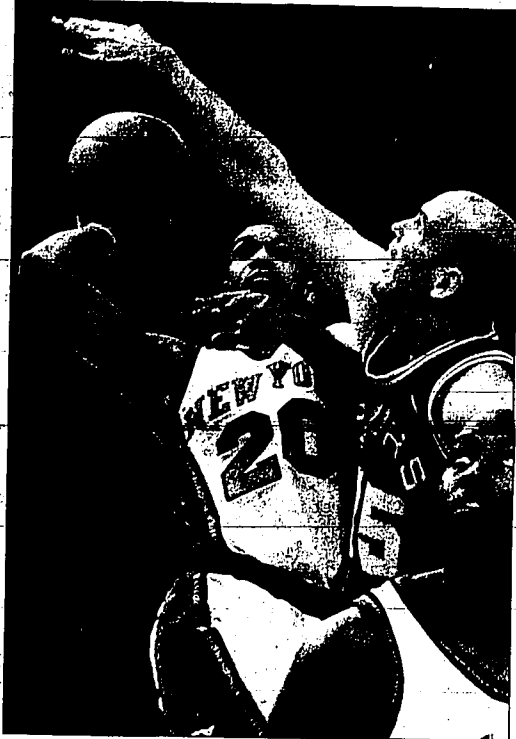
More NBA - D2

"He got the shot in that everyone of our players would like to do to me. He just got a free one," Van Gundy said afterward, his eye badly swollen and partially covered by a bandage.
Camby, who had been poked in the eye by Ferry, was ejected for throwing a punch, while Van Gundy was led bloodied and back to the locker room for treatment.

After the game, Camby stood outside the San Antonio locker room for 10 minutes until Knicks officials - including president Dave Checketts, general manager Scott Layden, forward Larry Johnson and several security officers - persuaded him to leave.
Camby then went downtown to the area where the Spurs' bus was idling and spent another 20 minutes waiting for Ferry as team officials continued to try to calm him down.

Camby was finally persuaded to leave, and nearly a dozen security officers then escorted Ferry to the team bus.
"We were banging around the whole game," Ferry said. "I don't remember doing anything to lead to something like that."

It was a strange ending to another dominant performance by the Knicks, who got 31 points from Allan Houston, 20 from Glen Rice and 19 from center Sam Sprewell.
Winning for the ninth time in 10 games and holding their opponent below 100 points for the 31st consecutive game, the



Knicks were having one of their best all-around games of the season until late in the fourth. Camby was poked in the eye by Ferry and was being restrained by his teammates

when he lunged after Ferry and threw a windmill punch.
"His poked me in the eye, bloodied me up," Camby, still emotional, told Johnson in the hallway outside San Antonio's locker



Left: New York's Allan Houston shoots over San Antonio's Danny Ferry during the first quarter at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday.

Above: New York coach Jeff Van Gundy holds a towel on his head after butting heads with Marcus Camby, Van Gundy tries to stop Camby from hitting Ferry during an altercation between the two late in the fourth quarter.

room. "I wasn't going to hit him until I saw the blood in my eye."

The punch did not hit anybody, but Camby collided with Van Gundy as the coach jumped between them - much like Van Gundy did in a fight between the Knicks' Larry Johnson and the Heat's Alonzo Mourning during the 1998 playoffs.

Van Gundy stayed down for about a minute before getting up, blood dripping down his face.

"I'm getting there," Van Gundy said. "Last time I got their guy, this time I got my guy. Next time I'll say the heck out of the way."

Camby faces a mandatory suspension under NBA rules for throwing a punch. Houston, Sprewell and Rice each shot over 50 percent while Camby blocked six shots and grabbed 11 rebounds, for the Knicks, who were coming off a 15-point victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday.

"I thought that was our best game of the year," Van Gundy said. "Camby was really ready, and that's what the focus should be on."

Huskies run out of luck

Notre Dame snaps UConn's 30-game winning streak

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Another basketball winning streak came crashing down at Notre Dame, this time on the women's side.
Responding to the largest home crowd in school history, No. 3 Notre Dame beat No. 1 Connecticut 92-76 Monday to end the Huskies' 30-game winning streak and hand UConn its worst loss in more than



Notre Dame's Ruth Riley (right) and Connecticut's Tamika Williams battle under the Irish's basket as Kelley Simon of Notre Dame and Connecticut's Ashjha Jones look on left in the first period Monday in South Bend, Ind.

College basketball

seven years.
The Irish played almost perfectly on a momentary lull in the same building where the Notre Dame men ended UCLA's 88-game winning streak with a 71-70 victory on Jan. 19, 1974.
"I'm still kind of shocked," said Notre Dame guard Wade Trevy. "I think someone hit me upside the head or something. It's just a great feeling. UConn's a great team and to come out there and have a total team effort is just incredible."
It's a showdown between the

first Big East loss since Boston College beat them on Jan. 23, 1999.
"I'm embarrassed personally," said Connecticut's Sue Bird. "A lot of people did come out to play on our team, but collectively, no way. We just didn't play the way we normally can, for whatever reason."
Notre Dame, which used only six players until the final 19.5 seconds, did everything it needed to win. The Irish handled Connecticut's press, shot 57 percent, stayed out of foul trouble and got inspired.
Please see UCONN, Page D2

Old friends, new places

Giants, Ravens meet in unlikely Super Bowl

NEW YORK - This will be an old pals Super Bowl, with two coaches who are longtime buddies leading teams operated by the two league's most venerable owners.

Jim Fassel of the New York Giants and Brian Billicek of the Baltimore Ravens are close friends who steered a pair of unlikely teams into the NFL championship game.
Giants co-owner Wellington Mara and Art Modell of the Ravens have held key roles on various league committees during the last 40 years.

Now maybe these friends can agree that the first team to score wins. Points figure to be at a premium with both teams coming into the big game with impressive defenses.

Baltimore is favored by 2.5 points with Las Vegas bookmakers setting the over/under at 34 points. One of the lowest in Super Bowl history.

There is good reason for that. The Ravens set an NFL record, allowing just 165 points in 16 games. They had four regular-season shutouts and have allowed just 16 points in playoff victories over Denver, Tennessee and Oakland.
The Giants shut out Minnesota for the NFC title, allowing the Vikings just 114 yards, tying the record for third-lowest yards allowed in a postseason game. No team has allowed fewer yards in a playoff game since 1959, when the Giants allowed the Cleveland Browns just 86 yards.

Both teams had stretches during the regular season when it seemed the only way they'd reach the Super Bowl would be to buy a ticket. The Ravens went five games without scoring a touchdown and the Giants went five months without impressing anybody.

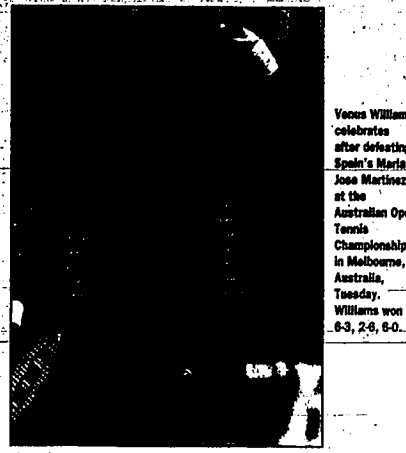
Baltimore survived its offensive dry spell with a record-setting defense. The Giants overcame their anonymity with Fassel's play-

Please see FRIENDS, Page D2

SPORTS

Venus survives upset bid at Aussie

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—At the start, the focus was on Venus Williams' new outfit. By the third set, it was strictly tennis. Williams caused a stir with her latest fashion statement, a three-piece black and blue ensemble, then courted disaster against obscure Spanish Maria Jose Martinez before winning 6-3, 2-6, 6-0 in the first round of the Australian Open.



Venus Williams celebrates after defeating Spain's Maria Jose Martinez at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday. Williams won 6-3, 2-6, 6-0.

The rocky victory marked the start of Williams' bid for a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament. "It's a good thing to have a little tension in the first round," said the third-seeded Williams. "I was, of course, concerned, because she was playing very well and very consistent. Somehow I managed to turn it around."

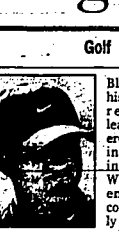
Williams won despite 64 errors and an erratic serve in her first singles match of 2001. She said she has recovered from a recent bout with pneumonia, and she's seeking to add the Australian Open to the Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Sydney Olympic titles she won in the second half of last year.

Venus had her hands full against Martinez, a hard-hitting 18-year-old playing her first match in a major tournament. But just as the center court crowd began to get to the point of an upset, the youngster lost her nerve. Williams, who studies fashion design, unveiled her first new outfit since signing a \$40 million endorsement deal with Reebok. She repeatedly tugged at the low-cut wraparound top, and while she said that it bothered her, she added, "I didn't design that one."

"I really feel motivated when I come down here," Williams said. "I make a 24-hour trip just to come, and the ticket is expensive. I feel I deserve to reward myself with some kind of a tide." Kafelnikov extended his streak of success Down Under by beating Jens Knippschild 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. Kafelnikov was the 1999 champion, and he has a 2-3 record in Australia since 1998.

Martin's saga continues

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Casey Martin longs for the day when he is known as an ordinary golfer, instead of the sport's most famous litigant. But his career could very well be over before the next battle. Martin, suffering from a painful and brittle right leg, has sued for the right to use a golf cart on the PGA Tour. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments on Wednesday. There's no recourse for me after this," said Martin, who will attend the court proceedings with his family. Martin, 28, has been allowed to use a cart pending appeals. However, his leg, afflicted by a rare circulatory disorder, is getting weaker. Amputation may become necessary. Or he could step the wrong way and the leg could snap, ending his career. Martin's game is also down. He finished in a tie for 23rd at the 1998 U.S. Open and qualified for the PGA Tour last year, but did not play well enough to keep his card for 2001. In the first tournament of the season, the Tucson Open, he failed to make the cut. Tiger Woods, the best player in the world and one of its most famous athletes, was a teammate of Martin's at Stanford, and the two used to room together on road trips. Woods said Martin sometimes would be in so much pain that he couldn't get up to use the bathroom. Martin was born with Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome.



Casey Martin

Willis won his first event as a cart-carrying member of the PGA Tour by sinking a 6-foot putt to save par Monday in the Tucson Open. The 27-year-old rookie with the University of Tennessee bag shot a 3-under par 69 to beat Kevin Sutherland by one stroke. It was a repeat performance for the North-Carolina native, who won a Hoopers Tour title in Decatur, Ga., in his first professional tournament out of East Tennessee State. Willis, who finished at 15 under 273, qualified for the 1998 and 1999 U.S. Opens and played in the 1995 Canadian Open as an amateur, failing to make a cut in any of them. He also missed the cut in his last year — Buycost tournament last year — one reason he has no bag sponsor. Old Course to hold 250th British Amateur in 2004. The British Amateur Championship will be played on St. Andrews' Old Course in 2004 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. The British Amateur has been played 15 times at St. Andrews. The last time was 1981, when Philippe Ploujoux of France defeated American Jeff Hirsch 4 and 3 in the final. The tournament will be played May 31-June 5.

BASKETBALL

Table with 3 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Lists various basketball teams and their records.

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ON THE AIR TELEVISION

Table listing television programs and their times. Includes Tennis, Australian Open, Earlyround play; College basketball, Iowa at Wisconsin; NBA, Raptors at Celtics; College basketball, Tennessee at Kentucky; NFL, Islanders at Avalanche.

Table listing various sports events and their times. Includes Women's 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, 10000m, 20000m, 30000m, 40000m, 50000m, 60000m, 70000m, 80000m, 90000m, 100000m.

Table listing various sports events and their times. Includes Women's 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, 10000m, 20000m, 30000m, 40000m, 50000m, 60000m, 70000m, 80000m, 90000m, 100000m.

Table listing various sports events and their times. Includes Women's 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, 10000m, 20000m, 30000m, 40000m, 50000m, 60000m, 70000m, 80000m, 90000m, 100000m.

SCORES AND STATS

Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists various sports teams and their scores.

Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists various sports teams and their scores.

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Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists various sports teams and their scores.

HOCKEY

Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists various hockey teams and their scores.

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Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists various hockey teams and their scores.

TRANSACTIONS

Table listing various sports transactions and player movements.

Table listing various sports transactions and player movements.

Table listing various sports transactions and player movements.

Table listing various sports transactions and player movements.

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

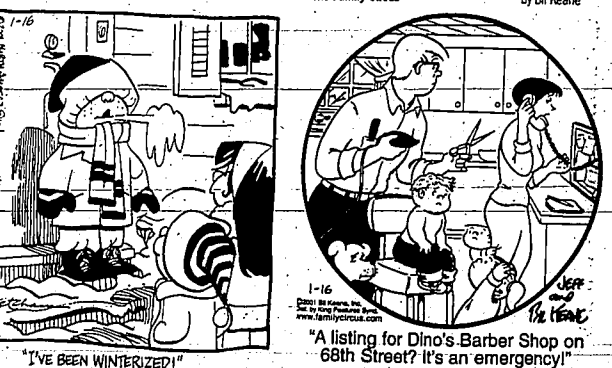


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

The Family Circus

By Bill Keane



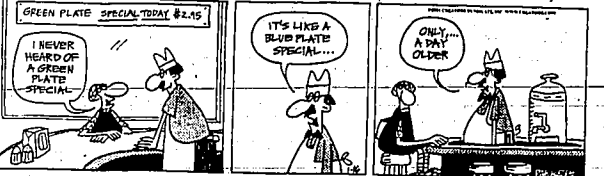
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



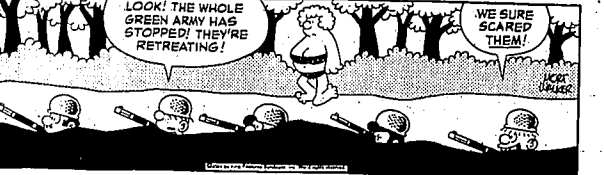
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Luann

By Greg Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Bom Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley

