



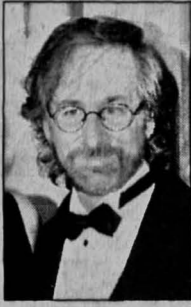
People in the News

People

Spielberg unveiled as buyer of Gable Oscar

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Clark Gable's best-actor Oscar for "It Happened One Night" is coming home, thanks to director Steven Spielberg.

Spielberg was the anonymous buyer who paid \$607,500 for the gold-plated statuette at an auction at Christie's, and he plans to give it back to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Spielberg

"He felt it should be cherished," Academy President Arthur Hiller announced Tuesday. The Academy was unsuccessful in a suit to keep the 1934 Oscar off the block. A judge ruled Friday that it didn't give proper notice of a hearing to Christie's and didn't notify Gable's son John, also a defendant.

The Academy claims two years before his death in 1960, Gable signed a standard contract giving it first right to buy the statuette for \$10 if it was ever sold. Christie's claims the signature on the agreement was a fake.

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Photographer says JFK Jr. shouted expletives at him

NEW YORK (AP) — Depending on whom you talk to, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s patience is wearing thin with aggressive paparazzi photographers, or maybe he just likes chatting with them.

Photos in the Daily News on Monday showed Kennedy reaching into the driver's seat of a freelance photographer's vehicle after he and his wife, Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, were tailed by photographers while walking their dog.

"He pushed an arm inside the Blazer and started screaming at the driver," photographer Marcel Thomas told the News. "He was screaming, 'Why don't you leave us (expletive) alone?'"

Not so, said the driver, photographer Angie Coqueran. Kennedy wasn't angry, she said Monday, and he didn't try to take her keys, as Thomas had suggested, but actually wanted to shake her hand.

"He was just talking to me," said Coqueran, who took a widely published photo of Kennedy and Bessette arguing in a park before their marriage. "He wasn't arguing; he wasn't upset."

Judge rules Stern's conduct with 'Space Lesbian' doesn't warrant suit

NEW YORK (AP) — Rattling the cremated remains of a topless dancer and calling her the "Space Lesbian" isn't grounds for a lawsuit against radio-TV personality Howard Stern, a judge ruled.

Stern broke no laws, although his actions were "vulgar and disrespectful," state Supreme Court Justice Richard Huttner said Monday as he dismissed the case.

The lawsuit was brought by the family of Debbie Tay, a topless dancer and frequent guest on Stern's programs before she died in April 1995 at age 28.

Stern called Tay, who claimed to have had a sexual encounter with female aliens, the "Space Lesbian."

Awaiting the millennium

David Foster  
Associated Press

President Clinton pledged to build a bridge to it. The pope entertained followers to "overcome laziness and mediocrity" to ready for it. Computer programmers lost sleep over it.

It's the year 2000, gateway to the third millennium and — depending on who's talking — the dawn of a bright new age or portent of dark times ahead. And what a lot of talking there was in 1996. While sci-fi fans have long obsessed over what lies beyond the 2-K milepost, the past year saw millennium madness infect the wider public.

The Vatican kicked off preparations for the Grand Jubilee of 2000, and 76-year-old Pope John Paul II promised to be there, "at God's pleasure." The Holy Land cities of Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem spent millions on renovations, anticipating a flood of pilgrims during the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' birth.

The Class of 2000 started its freshman year in high schools and colleges, inspiring oratorical overkill throughout the land. Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, for example, stopped merely teaching and began "Preparing Leaders for the Next Millennium."

Politicians dusted off rhetoric not heard for a thousand years, declaring profoundly that we stand at the brink (or threshold, cusp or eve) of a new millennium

"1996 was the year that non-computer nerds finally took this date problem seriously. It's a mess, a real mess, and it's slowly dawning on people just how big a problem it could be."

Paul Saffo, trend forecaster at the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park, Calif.

— as if it couldn't have happened without them.

President Clinton made "Building a Bridge to the 21st Century" the theme of his re-election campaign, asking repeatedly: "Will you help me build that bridge?"

Purists say the 2000 hoopla is premature, noting the next millennium doesn't really start until 2001.

But purists will miss the best parties. Hot spots from Seattle's Space Needle to Manhattan's Rainbow Room are already booked solid for New Year's Eve 1999. In Japan, revelers are planning cruises to the international date line, where they can usher in 2000 twice, once from each side.

"We have a fascination with boundaries. We create artificial boundaries where none actually exist," said Paul Saffo, trend forecaster at the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park, Calif.

"This three-zeroes thing corresponds to nothing in the physical world, but it's going to become a Rorschach blot for our deepest hopes and our deepest fears," Saffo said.

Dark millennial overtones reverberated this year in the apocalyptic world views of extremist groups such as Montana's defiant Freemen.

Despair also cast its shadow in popular culture. Consider "Millennium," a morbid Fox TV series about a retired FBI agent who tracks demented killers.

"People have lots of sicknesses that compel them to do things," "Millennium" creator Chris Carter said before the October premiere, in which people were beheaded and buried alive. "I think there's a confluence of social, psychological and possibly even millennial forces that are possibly coming to play on people."

He forgot to mention computers, which may deliver a nasty future shock of their own. Many computers use a two-digit shorthand for the year, assuming the first two digits to be 19. That's fine through 1999, but interpreting 00 as 1900 instead of 2000 could wreak havoc.

Driver's licenses may suddenly expire. Navigational aids in airliners could malfunction. And try telling the IRS your taxes aren't really overdue since 1900.

It's a simple problem with no simple solution. The federal government alone faces \$30 billion in reprogramming costs, computer experts testified at congressional hearings.

"1996 was the year that non-computer nerds finally took this date problem seriously," Saffo said. "It's a mess, a real mess, and it's slowly dawning on people just how big a problem it could be."

SEQUEL OF THE CENTURY

Juror dismissed from Simpson trial

Linda Deutsch  
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — An alternate juror was booted from the O.J. Simpson wrongful death trial Tuesday after bragging in a Christmas card to a childhood pal that he was serving on the panel.

The friend, who happened to be a sheriff's deputy, reported it to court officials, said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jurors were not told why the Hispanic man in his 40s was dismissed. But Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki sternly reminded them of the rules against talking about the case.

"I've warned you about talking about this case ... people may know you are on this case ... you are not to initiate any contact," Fujisaki said.

The dismissed alternate, who wore Badge 330, told attorneys during jury selection he was unbiased and, "I call 'em as I see 'em." He was one of two jurors and three alternates to be dismissed; only four alternates remain.

Earlier Tuesday, plaintiff attorney Edward Medvene sputtered with indignation as he accused defense pathologist Dr. Michael Baden of shading his testimony to favor Simpson.

Medvene even pulled out a TV talk-show tape to undermine Baden's testimony that two attackers may have killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994, and that it took a relatively long time for them to die.

Baden testified earlier in the wrongful death trial that a long struggle and the lack of screams during the slayings supported his theory that two attackers restrained the victims.

Medvene focused on Baden's testimony that Goldman could have

been on his feet struggling with a killer for two to three minutes after he was stabbed in the jugular vein.

The attorney asked Baden if he told a national TV audience that Goldman was standing for five or 10 minutes.

"I don't think I said it that way," Baden said.

Medvene then played part of a Nov. 11 "Rivera Live" show in which Baden said: "It would have taken five or 10 minutes for the blood to go down to the left shoe. He was standing for that period."

"Does that refresh you, sir? Yes or no?" Medvene bellowed.

"Yes," Baden said. The pathologist later said the difference between two, three and five minutes didn't matter significantly because the gap between the first stab wound and death was still five to 10 minutes. He said Goldman continued to bleed after he collapsed.

His time line differs drastically from that of the plaintiff pathologist who said both victims could have expired in about a minute.

A shorter time line favors the plaintiffs because it would give Simpson time to kill the victims, ditch bloody clothing and a weapon and return home in time to catch a limousine ride to the airport.

Medvene's shrill verbal attack left Baden wiping his forehead with a handkerchief and struggling to get a word of explanation in as the attorney repeatedly shouted, "Answer yes or no!"

Fujisaki overruled defense objections to the argumentative tone of the questions and ordered the witness to answer.

"Will you answer the question instead of arguing?" asked the judge.

Defense attorney Robert Baker said, "I object to the court's comment."

"That objection is overruled," the judge said.

Baden testified that Simpson said he cut his hand at his home shortly before leaving for Chicago the night his ex-wife and her friend were killed.

"He said he cut himself a lot, and he does have a lot of scars," Baden noted. He remembered Simpson saying "he was rummaging around in his car and somehow noticed blood on his hand."

Baden, who examined cuts on Simpson's hand five days after the slayings, told the jury that the cuts could have been inflicted by glass or anything sharp — even a knife.

Baden said Simpson told him about going to his car to get his cell phone, reaching around in the vehicle in the dark. He said, "he thought he might have cut himself there."

The testimony conflicted with Simpson's testimony about how he cut his hand on a glass in his Chicago hotel room. Simpson told jurors he cut his hand again after he got back, perhaps while wrestling with his young son.

Simpson watched impassively as jurors listened to the conflicting accounts. He was acquitted of murder in a criminal trial last year; now the families of the victims to hold him responsible and get a cash award as compensation.

Tuesday afternoon, the defense called two witnesses who didn't testify during the criminal trial.

Thomas Tallarino, a driver for actor Danny DeVito in 1994, said he was rollerblading past Brown Simpson's condo before 9 p.m. the night of the slayings when he saw a man with dark, straight hair — possibly a light-skinned Hispanic — crouching in some bushes. He said he couldn't describe the man in detail.

"If he were in this courtroom right now, could you pick him out?" asked plaintiff attorney Daniel Petrocelli.

"No," Tallarino said.

Daniel Gonzalez, a police officer sent to Simpson's estate at 5:20 a.m. the next morning, said he saw Detectives Mark Fuhrman and Ronald Phillips lead Simpson's adult daughter, Arnelle, from her cottage to a fence where she was shown her father's Bronco and asked to identify it.

Then, Gonzalez said, they told Arnelle her stepmother had been killed, and she collapsed in tears.

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Avoiding during

Kristin Bauer  
The Daily Iowan

If someone wriggles chimneys or raps on the door of UI students' vacant apartments during the break, chances are it would be old Saint Nick.

Empty student residences are an invitation to theft — the Police Department reported building burglaries between Dec. 12 to Jan. 2.

"Be really careful about trust," Iowa City police Kevin Berg said. "We have burglary cases before you're even watching the residence, actually involved with them."

He also said students should take their valuables home during winter break.

"By taking your computer, television and VCR, you're leaving much for them to steal. When you do get home, don't leave the items in the car. The car will get broken into."

Berg said there are plenty of students who can take a house or apartment search during winter break.

"First thing, don't advertise that you will be gone. Be careful about information that you give out."

UI will be to boost

Renee Bovy  
The Daily Iowan

The UI will host faculty predominantly minority universities this summer as part of a program to increase international curriculum at the university level.

The International Curriculum Network (INCNET) is a cooperative agreement between UI and faculty from 10 hispanic universities and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Arthur Miller, UI police professor and project director, said the program will increase international politics and international politics in the curriculum.

INCNET will bring 10 faculty members from 10 universities to the UI for a week program during the summers of 1997 and 1998.

The program will include weeks of intensive course

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LEGAL MATTERS

POLICE

Rebecca S. Blair, 22, 128th St., was charged with driving suspension at the corner of Gilman and Highway 6 on Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Carol C. Burkhardt, 50, Coralville, was charged with operating a vehicle at the intersection of D Street and Interstate 80 on Dec. 9:10 p.m.

Donald L. Green, 43, 503 S. Drive, was charged with operating a vehicle at the corner of Hafor drives on Dec. 16 at 4:12 p.m.

Compiled by Mike

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THE DAILY IOWAN

IOWA CITY'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 128, NUMBER 118

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Calendar Policy:** Announcements for the section must be submitted to The Daily Iowan newsroom, 201N Communications Center, by 1 p.m. two days prior to publication. Notices may be sent through the mail, but be sure to mail early to ensure publication. All submissions must be clearly printed on a Calendar column blank (which appears on the classified ads pages) or typewritten and triple-spaced on a full sheet of paper.

Announcements will not be accepted over the telephone. All submissions must include the name and phone number, which will not be published, of a contact person in case

of questions.

Notices that are commercial advertisements will not be accepted.

Questions regarding the Calendar column should be directed to the Metro editor, 335-6063.

**Corrections:** The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made by contacting the Editor at 335-6030. A correction or a clarification will be published in the announcements section.

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## Metro

# Avoiding break-ins during winter break

Kristin Bauer  
The Daily Iowan

If someone wriggles down the chimneys or raps on the windows of UI students' vacant houses and apartments during this winter break, chances are it won't be jolly, old Saint Nick.

Empty student residences are an invitation to theft — the Iowa City Police Department reported 40 building burglaries last year between Dec. 12 to Jan. 20.

"Be really careful about who you trust," Iowa City police officer Kevin Berg said. "We have had burglary cases before where the friend watching the residence was actually involved with the break-in."

He also said students should take their valuables home with them during winter break.

"By taking your computer, or television and VCR, you aren't leaving much for them to take," he said. "When you do get home, do not leave the items in the car, or the car will get broken into."

Berg said there are precautions students can take to keep their house or apartment safe during winter break.

"First thing, don't advertise the fact that you will be gone," Berg said. "Be careful about the information that you give out concern-

ing when you are leaving and how long you will be gone, even in casual conversation."

Berg said students should make their residence look lived-in by following certain precautions such as setting timed lights and radios so they go off every few hours and pulling the shades.

He said it is important for residents to lock all of their doors and windows and communicate with all of their roommates.

"The best thing to do is to stagger the amount of time that each resident will be gone," Berg said. "If each resident is there at different times, the residence will not be empty at any length of time."

UI junior Lara Baker said she hasn't thought about how to prepare her apartment for the break.

"I will be here most of the time," Baker said. "I don't know what we're going to do with the plants, but we will make sure the lights are off, the garbage is out and that there is no rotten food in the fridge."

There are other things to consider when leaving a residence empty for long periods of time, such as stopping mail and newspaper delivery and double-checking the thermostat and water heater.

Kim Koster of MidAmerican Energy Company said energy conservation is important when no one

### Apartment thefts

Some tips to prevent burglaries while your apartment is empty during winter break:

- Don't leave behind valuable items such as computers and VCRs.
- Don't advertise that you will be gone, even in casual conversation.
- Make your residence look "lived in" by using light and radio timers.
- Pull your shades and lock your doors and windows.
- Coordinate the time you will be gone with your roommates so someone will be around most of the time.

Source: Iowa City Police Department D1/ME

occupies a residence for an extended period of time.

"If you turn your thermostat down to about 50 to 55 degrees and your water heater to about 125 degrees, you can save energy over the break period," Koster said.

Koster said anything customers can do to save energy is helpful. Unplugging items such as lights, televisions and radios help make a safer environment, although some precautions could be inefficient.

"We do not suggest you turn off your pilot light, because in the end it will cost you more to turn it back on," Koster said.

Koster said there will not be a huge decrease in residents' electric bills if they follow these suggestions, but the conscientiousness will help somewhat.

Berg said if students who stay in Iowa City see anything suspicious or notice someone they don't think lives in their building during winter break, they should call the police.

# Band prepares to bowl over football fans

Kelley Chorley  
The Daily Iowan

They get fun in the sun and extra money to play with, and all the members of the UI Marching Band have to give in return is a little music.

As UI football fans rush to find tickets and transportation to the Alamo Bowl, 260 UI band members already have been promised an all-expense paid trip to San Antonio from Dec. 26-29.

The Athletic Department provides members with a plane ticket, a hotel room and spending money for food. All the band members need to bring are themselves, their instruments and spending money for souvenirs.

"The entire trip is paid for. It won't cost me anything," UI junior and trumpet player Jackie Kleppe said. "Unless I buy some souvenirs, I won't have to spend any extra money."

John Gilbert, public relations director of the Hawkeye Marching Band, said most bands don't get as lucky as the UI Marching Band.

"It's a great honor to be invited to a bowl game and cheer on your team," Gilbert said. "The fact is that not every band gets spoiled like we do. Our Athletic Department pays for us to take planes instead of buses or not going at all. The Athletic Department is wonderful."

The football team wouldn't be the same without the support from the band, UI assistant football coach Bob Elliott said.

*"The band means a lot to the football team. They give the players a big boost, and with a big contingency of fans the band can really stir up the crowd. The band adds a great deal to the atmosphere and the college flavor."*

UI assistant football coach  
**Bob Elliott**

"The band means a lot to the football team," Elliott said. "They give the players a big boost, and with a big contingency of fans the band can really stir up the crowd. The band adds a great deal to the atmosphere and the college flavor."

Shannon Youngs, UI sophomore and mellophone player, said she is really excited about the trip to San Antonio.

"This is the first time I will go to a bowl game," Youngs said. "The game should be a lot of fun, and the other band members said that San Antonio is an awesome place to be. The only thing I'm not looking forward to is driving back to Iowa Christmas afternoon."

Aaron Petersen, UI senior and trumpet player, will be making his second trip to San Antonio. He said he is looking forward to his three-day vacation.

"I went three years ago and it

was a great time," Peterson said. "The river walk, a bunch of stores and restaurants lower than the street level, is outstanding. Unlike the Sun Bowl last year, we will be able to stay downtown. It is a great atmosphere."

After their halftime performance, the band will immediately return to Iowa.

"Nobody minds leaving so early too much," he said. "This gives the band and the team time to practice before the game, and you really can't complain. The trip is basically free."

Although most band members are excited about their trip to San Antonio, some are skeptical due to the last trip to the Alamo Bowl.

"Some of my friends are a little hesitant to go back to Texas," Kleppe said. "Three years ago they had cockroaches in their hotel. This year, they really had their heart set on going to Florida. Regardless of their opinions, I'm excited to go. I heard San Antonio is really neat with the river running through the city."

Gilbert said there haven't been any real horror stories during past bowl trips, except for the 1991 trip home from the Rose Bowl, in Pasadena, Calif.

"We ended up at O'Hare Airport instead of in Iowa," Gilbert said. "We waited hours for a plane back to Iowa City. We don't plan on running into any problems this year, because the Athletic Department has done a very good job of planning over the years."

# UI will host program to boost world studies

Renee Boyv  
The Daily Iowan

The UI will host faculty from predominately minority-student universities this summer as part of a program to increase international curriculum at the university level.

The International Curriculum Network (INCNET) is a cooperative agreement between the UI and faculty from 10 historically black universities and colleges and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Arthur Miller, UI political science professor and INCNET project director, said the purpose of the program is to help minority colleges improve their international politics and business curriculums.

INCNET will bring 10-12 faculty members from minority universities to the UI for a 10-week program during the summers of 1997 and 1998.

The program will include six weeks of intensive courses in

Slavic politics, economics, language and culture.

The faculty also will visit Iowa companies that participate in international business, such as Rockwell International, Pioneer Hybrid and Amana Refrigeration, to study their business methods.

The program will conclude with a four-week trip to Russia and the Ukraine, where faculty will have the opportunity to learn about Slavic business on a firsthand basis.

Miller said INCNET initially intended to bring in students from minority colleges for the program.

However, he said, giving the faculty the training instead will have more enduring results and will provide many more students the opportunity to take courses that concentrate on international curricula.

The program is funded by a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense National Security Education Program.

### BOARD OF HEALTH

# Vote to be held Thursday to fill board vacancies

Mike Waller  
The Daily Iowan

Although uncertainties pervade the Johnson County Board of Health, they will not prevent the Johnson County Board of Supervisors from filling positions at Thursday's meeting.

Graham Dameron, health director for the past 20 years, was dismissed by a 3-2 vote on Oct. 16. Apparent reasons for his dismissal revolve around personal differences between Dameron, members of his staff and the board of supervisors.

Dameron appealed the decision and continues to work while the dispute goes through mediation. Dameron has said if the mediator does not overturn the decision, he will continue to appeal.

Supervisor Joe Bolkom said he thinks the friction within the board of health could be limited simply with new appointments rather than mediation.

Supervisor Don Sehr, who also is chairperson of the board of supervisors, said the problems within the board of health go far deeper than personal differences.

Despite the controversy surrounding Dameron, the board discussed possible reappointments to various boards, including the board of health.

Supervisors discussed the possible reappointment of Cam Campbell as chairperson of the board of health. Campbell has told the board of supervisors he is unsure if he wants to serve another full term.

Linda Whitaker, a member of the League of Women Voters who addressed the board of supervisors at a Tuesday meeting, said Campbell should not be reappointed

unless he agrees to serve a full term.

"It's confusing and disappointing that you're willing to consider an appointee that is unsure about his tenure," she told the board. "Cam brings some experience to the table and he's committed to the mediation process, but if he's uncertain, we're uncertain."

Sehr said one benefit to reappointing Campbell, even for a limited time, is he would be able to continue to participate in the mediation process while a new appointee would be thrown into the middle.

### LEGAL MATTERS

#### POLICE

Rebecca S. Blair, 22, 1288 Dolan Place, was charged with driving under suspension at the corner of Gilbert Street and Highway 6 on Dec. 16 at 4:28 p.m.

Carol C. Burkhardt, 50, Coralville, was charged with open container at the corner of Benton and Orchard streets on Dec. 16.

Kenneth H. Schultz, 50, Coralville, was charged with operating while intoxicated at the intersection of Dubuque Street and Interstate 80 on Dec. 16 at 9:10 p.m.

Donald L. Green, 43, 503 Scott Park Drive, was charged with operating while intoxicated at the corner of Teg and Halor drives on Dec. 16 at 4:12 p.m.

Compiled by Mike Waller

#### COURTS

##### District

OWI — Kenneth H. Schultz, Coralville, preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.; Donald L. Green, 503 Scott Park Drive, preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.

Compiled by Kelley Chorley

### CALENDAR

#### TODAY'S EVENTS

Iowa City Public Library will sponsor a basic World Wide Web instruction class in Meeting Room C of the library, 123 S. Linn St., at 9 a.m. and "Christmas Story Time with Deanne" in the Hazel Westgate Story Room of the library at 1:30 p.m.

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# Viewpoints

## Quotable

"Film crews are reluctant to have students on the set. College degrees don't matter. What they want is experience. The only reason 'Mommy II' hired us was because we'd work for free."

UI junior Jenny Deiker, on her experiences with the movie industry

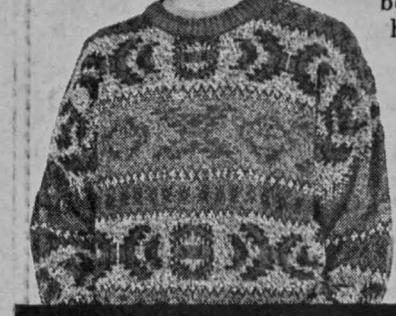
## And the Easter Bunny's a fraud, too

**A**mazing. *U.S. News & World Report* actually conducted a Christmas poll. It seems there are political pollsters out there who just don't know what to do after an entire year of calling up the unwary during dinner and asking "Clinton or Dole?" Perhaps President Clinton asked the media to keep the pollsters on the payroll so when Congress kicks up again, there will be plenty of staff members on hand and ready to go. Without them, Clinton won't know what to think on a given day.

Even more amazing than the fact anyone bothered to conduct the poll in the first place is the results. *U.S. News* asked adults — adults — if they believe in Santa. One in 10 said "yes."

Let's pause a moment before we continue, shall we? We already know people sometimes lie to pollsters. More than once I imagined saying "Jesse Jackson" or "Miss Piggy" to a pollster who asked me who I was planning to vote for. I even considered telling them I was voting for "Michael Totten" as a write-in candidate.

But, hey, let's ignore the liars for now. We also know there are plenty of crackpot beliefs out there. Millions believe aliens have traversed the universe to come to Earth, abduct rednecks and probe their private parts. Many believe the "sightings" of Elvis at the local muffler shop actually happened. On a recent science test given to randomly selected



Michael Totten

adults, less than half correctly answered the Earth revolves around the sun once a year. Less than half!

So, it's not all that far out to imagine that, sure, one in 10 adults believe in Santa. Why not? Maybe Santa is an alien. Some have postulated that Elvis was, is, an alien.

Here's my question. Who are these people? Who believes in Santa? Are they the same who believe in alien abductions? Is there an overlap? A friend of mine pointed out that approximately one in 10 adults is a habitual drug user. Maybe they are the Santa believers.

The circulation of *The Daily Iowan* is somewhere in the ballpark of 20,000 copies per day. That means right now, as we speak, I am communicating to 2,000 Santa believers. I have this to say to them: He's made up. He doesn't exist. *Comprende? Kapish? He ain't real.*

Call me a scrooge. Go ahead. Write a letter to the editor. *DI* columnist Michael Totten is an intolerant crank. He is offensive and deserves coal in the stocking and gruel for Christmas dinner. He has trampled all over the true meaning of Christmas. I'll frame the letter if you write it.

Let's look at the poll further. Four percent of adults surveyed said they never believed in Santa in the first place. This shows one in 25 4-year-olds have a better grip on reality than one in 10 adults.

I am one of the 4 percent. I just never bought it. The North Pole is too damn cold. It makes Iowa in January feel like Southeast Asia in July. We're talking COLD. Why would Santa live there? If he had the superhuman abilities to visit every good kid in the world in a single night, surely he could build a house where he pleased. If he were real, he would be a hero. It would be easy to get citizenship in any country he wanted. No one would relegate him to the middle of a frozen sea.

When I was 4 or 5 years old, I crept down the stairs around midnight and caught my parents stuffing the stockings. "Ha!" I said. "I knew it!" They turned red and smiled like I used to do when caught with my hand in the cookie jar.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to brag about my super intellect as a youngster. When I was little, I believed in all sorts of craziness.

One night my dad told me he was going to keep the sun from rising the next day. He opened the curtains, spread his arms wide to the sky and said, "Sun, you shall not rise tomorrow."

The next morning he woke me and my brother up really early in the morning. We were going on a trip to see my aunt and he wanted an early start. It was still dark when we got up. There was no sun.

I don't think he meant to do it, but he messed me up for years. I really believed he had powers to control the universe. I kept trying to figure out how he had done it. I was 10 years old before I realized I had been bamboozled.

But, the thing is, I figured it out. All on my own. My dad isn't God. And Santa ain't real.

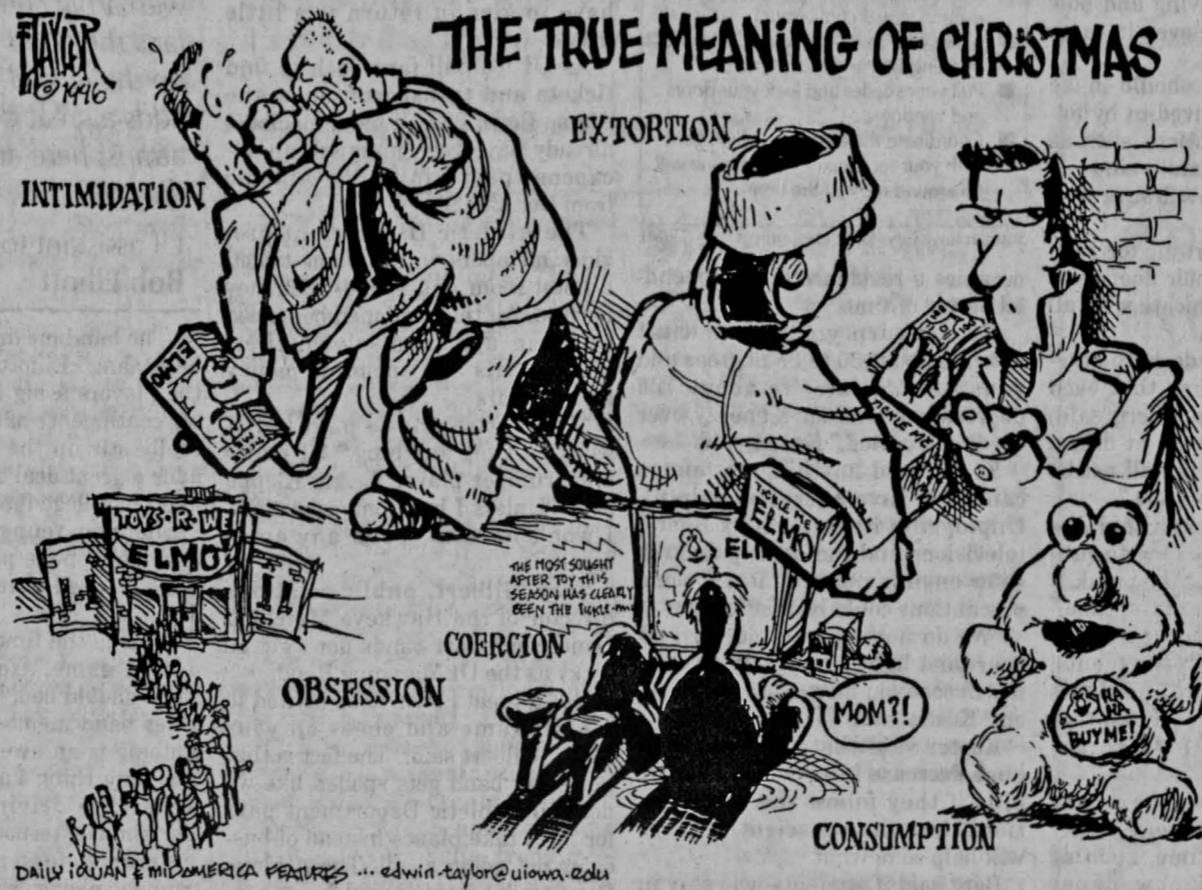
Sorry if I spoiled your Christmas.

Michael Totten's columns appear Wednesdays on the Viewpoints Pages.

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## The funnies just aren't funny anymore

**T**hese days, it would not be at all uncommon to find the lifestyles page or the editorial page of any newspaper funnier than the "funny" page.

In the last decade, the comics page has taken a major hit as some of the hippest, most original and creative comic strips ever created have vanished. These include Berkeley Breathed's "Bloom County," Bill Watterson's "Calvin and Hobbes" and Gary Larson's "The Far Side." Each of these comics were incredibly good for a short period of time. Then, before the audience had a chance to see the slow decline, the creators retired, leaving a void in the day-to-day lives of many readers.

There are still some good comics being published. Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" (from which "Bloom County" sort of sprouted) is still going, off and on. Trudeau takes a lot of breaks, and sometimes it seems like he's retired. But "Doonesbury" can't go on much longer. The audience is getting older; the jokes are stale. Many students who know "Doonesbury" is published in *The Daily Iowan* either skip reading it or shake their heads, wondering what Trudeau is talking about.

Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" is still funny on occasion. It's an

*In the last decade, the comics page has taken a major hit as some of the hippest, most original and creative comic strips ever created have vanished.*

attached sort of humor, though, full of decade-old "in jokes" that are hard to catch if you have not been keeping up. Snoopy still drives around on top of his doghouse like it's an airplane from World War II, Charlie Brown still loves the little red-haired girl and the adults still don't talk or show their faces.

Jim Davis' "Garfield" is always kooky. As far back as 10 years ago, Breathed was already making Garfield Gets Old jokes in "Bloom County," and now the mean cat is almost 20 years old. He still celebrates his birthday every year, steals all of the food in the house and watches Jon make a fool of himself with Odie, the mute dog.

There are a hoard of other ancient comic strips that are rarely funny, but kept around seemingly for the sake of tradition. "Marmaduke," "Family Circus," "Dennis the Menace," "Beetle Bailey," "Hagar," "Marvin" and "Blondie"

all fall into this group. They were never great, but sometimes they were funny. The creators seemingly never had a huge inspiration, and thus never had any fire to burn out. On many days, it seems like the characters in these strips would like to die in peace.

There are a few newer comics that show signs of brilliance and bring life to the tired, old funny page. "Close To Home" and "Non Sequitur" are closely related to "The Far Side," and are occasionally the hilarious hang-on-your-refrigerator type. "Fox Trot" can be boring, but at times the exploits of Jason Fox are reminiscent of "Calvin and Hobbes."

But the three above examples are not original, because they were created in the mold of a better comic strip, one that is truly original and potentially brilliant: "Dilbert," by Scott Adams. This comic features hilarious comments and true commentary about the corporate world.

If Dilbert is featured in the funny page of the paper you read, don't skip straight to the lifestyles section.

Clancy Champanois is an editorial writer and a UI senior.



## What's your favorite holiday tradition?



"All the family meeting at the grandparents' house for a family breakfast."  
Terry Bozeman  
UI graduate student



"Opening presents."  
Joe Bedford  
UI junior



"Going to see my grandparents."  
Alicia Jahnke  
UI freshman



"I like making Christmas cookies."  
Annie Busta  
UI sophomore



"My favorite time is Christmas Eve, when our family comes over to have soup and open gifts."  
Amie McGrain  
UI sophomore

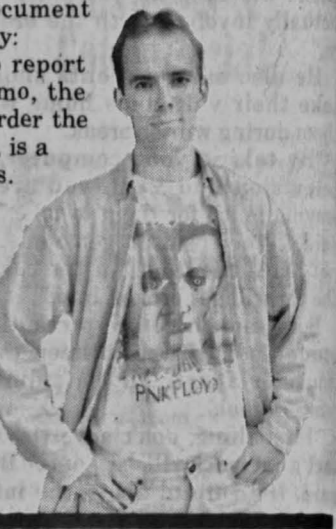
## Coming soon to a mall near you: Spawns of Elmo

I have seen the enemy, and it is Tickle Me Elmo.

Yes, those good folks at Tyco Toys Inc. have made their first step toward world domination, and I have proof. I did some "60 Minutes"-style investigative reporting and I got my grubby little hands on a Tyco internal memo marked "Top Secret: Eyes Only!"

I'll quote the document for you in its entirety:

"I am pleased to report that Tickle Me Elmo, the doll that laughs harder the more you squeeze it, is a resounding success. In light of this achievement — a joint commission between the marketing division, the research and development division and the janitorial staff — we have come up with the following products to cash in on Elmo's success:



Patrick Keller

"Elmo's Presley: Now you can simulate the three stages of Elvis' life at home with your Elmo doll. Squeeze him once and he croons gently. Squeeze him again and he expands to twice his original size. Squeeze him three times and Elmo yells for his bodyguard to get him a burger, has a violent heart attack and then passes gas.

"Light Me Up Elmo: This special little Elmo will show kids the dangers of smoking. Leave him alone and Elmo will have a nicotine fit. Listen to him mutter, 'Gotta have a smoke ... Gotta have a smoke ...' in 10-minute intervals. You can set your watch by it! Then, squeeze Elmo once and hear his hacking cough. Squeeze him again and hear him complain of shortness of breath. Squeeze him a third time and Elmo clutches his chest, wheezes and stops moving. Light Me Up Elmo comes with a trachea ring!

"Mentally Unbalanced Elmo: This adorable doll turns ugly when you squeeze him. Press his tummy once and he grumbles under his breath. Press him twice and he shouts angry obscenities. Press him three times and look out! Elmo shakes and yells angrily about how no one ever leaves him alone for a moment of peace and quiet. Fun for the whole dysfunctional family!

"Pickle Me Elmo: Binge Drinking is this doll's middle name! He really knows how to party! The more you squeeze him, the drunker he gets. The first squeeze makes Elmo slur his words: 'Gimme another Guinness ...' On the second squeeze, hear Elmo tell you how much he loves you: 'I lovelish you, man! No, come 'ere, I mean it. I LOVE YOU!' Squeeze him a third time and watch Elmo have alcohol-induced hallucinations! 'Oh, crap! Ernie, the ceiling is bleeding again. And my arm! It's gone ...' "Stop Following Me Elmo: This Elmo has a serious paranoia problem. Touch him and he shouts 'Who sent you?' Touch him again and he looks over his shoulder nervously. Do it a third time and Elmo has a full-blown nervous breakdown, complete with governmental conspiracy rants and foaming from the mouth!

"5 Steps of Loss Elmo: With each squeeze, you can hear Elmo move into another stage of personal loss: denial, anger, fear, bargaining and acceptance. He can go through several different personal crises, including Elmo getting dumped:

First squeeze: 'She didn't break up with me! She didn't!'  
Second: 'I hate her! I don't know why I ever went out with her in the first place.'  
Third: 'Oh no ... What if I never find anyone ever again?'

Fourth: 'Please come back to me ... Please! Pleasepleasepleasepleaseplease!'

And, finally: 'I wonder if there's a game on.'

"Abduct Me Elmo: With this adorable little guy, kids can play into the alien abduction craze ... as the aliens! Tie him down and hear Elmo say nervously, 'Hey, what are you doing?' Then listen to Elmo scream when you do experiments on him. Probes not included.

"Gulf War Veteran Elmo: This cutie comes with a number of ailments and disorders, including fur loss, stuffing leakage and missing batteries, which the federal government can neither explain nor will admit to the existence of. Comes with a shopping list of diagnosed problems (signed by Muppet Labs' own Dr. Bunsen Honeydew), a copy of a lawsuit against the armed forces and a mysteriously empty government file!

"In addition, we are developing Demonic Possession Elmo, Aggravated Hernia Elmo, Narcolepsy Elmo, Rabid Elmo, an Elmo doll that has fits at the sound of Mary Hart's voice, Subliminal Elmo, Chronic Drooling Elmo and an Elmo that simulates Marge Schott by running off at the mouth.

"We are also working on other 'educational' Muppet dolls including Roid Rage Animal, Binge & Purge Cookie Monster and Adult Diaper Oscar the Grouch.

"Soon, our domination of the toy industry will be complete, and we will be the largest corporation in the world! Then, we can buy a middle-sized Indonesian country and declare war on the rest of the world. We will use motorized Elmos that will say things like, 'Don't shoot me, it tickles!' and they will be so cute that enemy forces will surrender en masse. Tyco will run the world!"

So, maybe it's time to rethink your Christmas gift list. Do you really want your little Billy or LaToya to be a tool of a delusional mega-corporation?

Of course you do.

"Tickle Me" Patrick Keller's columns appear alternate Wednesdays on the Viewpoints Pages.



## After you 'Keepin'

**F**all semester '96 its swan song. By we look up from ing and exams, over. Undoubtedly, part of the university exp learning to live in an cycle of "Hello ... Goodbye long ago, we were just g know our instructors a mates. A mere 16 weeks b endar, and yet, it also ancient history. Now, w goodbyes.

As transitions go, a s break is a minor thing graduation, marriage, c and death, semester break invite recognition as a s event. It is, however, des comment. Like many non aspects of university life, es between the intense r learning quietly

give us lessons for the real world. Sometimes those lessons come with sadness, but that does not mean they are with-out value. Knowing the va not eliminate the sadness can make the burden mo able.

When this semester bega the great fortune of be acquainted with many fine intelligent and wise indi Over time, we have l together, cried together, d and found common grou have learned together, tau other and bumbled along through the hard parts. C course of the semester, v become a regular part of e er's lives. Some of us even true friends. A lucky fe become old friends. By an though, the end of the se means the end of our relat On our final day of class, exit the familiar room with iar faces and rarely, if eve paths again.

It is sad. Sadder still is t mon result of future me Only the greenest of fre have not had the painful ence of running into a cla from a previous semester receiving a black stare in re their friendly greeting. Mor former classmates who me they don't get much beyo How are ya?" and "So, how es?" Once the frame of refer removed, it's hard to find n common. So, what is the v this?

For those of you who are might I suggest taking H Pop Final/Psychological Pr reveal the answer. Don't pa multiple choice, voluntary, affect your GPA and has no carcinogens. And you don need a No. 2 pencil. Remen show your work. Ready? Beg

Question: Students develo stimulating relationship their classroom peers duri semester. After the semeste go their separate ways, wit opportunity to continue th tionships. Many students ence a sense of loss and s due to the abruptness of the ration and the repetitive na the experience. What value found in this experience?

A. There is no value. This ence is a meaningless and exercise in pain. It is furth dence that God/the gods mak dance like puppets His/Her their amusement.

B. The value lies in learn see how easily human behavi

Viewpoints



The Carville Air Bag

After your classes are out, say 'Keep in touch' ... and actually do it

**F**all semester '96 is singing its swan song. By the time we look up from our studying and exams, it will be over. Undoubtedly, a major part of the university experience is learning to live in an unending cycle of "Hello ... Goodbye." Not so long ago, we were just getting to know our instructors and classmates. A mere 16 weeks by the calendar, and yet, it also feels like ancient history. Now, we say our goodbyes.

As transitions go, a semester break is a minor thing. Unlike graduation, marriage, childbirth and death, semester break does not invite recognition as a significant event. It is, however, deserving of comment. Like many nonacademic aspects of university life, the pauses between the intense rounds of learning

**GUEST OPINION**  
**Helene Lubaroff**

be manipulated through negative reinforcement. The student makes an emotional connection, only to have that connection taken away. The loss causes the student pain. To escape the maze (I mean cycle) the rat (whoops! student) must learn to avoid the lever (sorry, emotional connection) and thus avoid the electric shock (pardon me, sadness).

C. The value of the experience is learning to develop close relationships with everyone you ever meet in your entire life. You must then spend the rest of your life attempting to stay in touch, sending birthday and holiday greetings to every person you have ever met. This way, separation is prevented and the loss is avoided.

D. I'm sorry ... could you repeat the question? E. Sometimes true, because if some wing nuts are cylinder heads, and all cylinder heads are emission control devices, then some wing nuts are regulated by the EPA.

F. The value is in learning people are worth getting to know, even if we risk losing them. OK, time's up. See below to score yourself, and reveal your profile. If you answered:

A. Snake eyes, too bad, of course, since you consider life to be a cosmic crap shoot, then failing this test was your predetermined fate, anyway. Have a nice day! Whoops! Sorry, I forgot; that's predetermined, too.

B. You have spent way too much time at Seashore Hall. Undoubtedly, you have begun to salivate every time you hear the Old Capitol bell ring. Go home and read "I'm Okay, You're Okay." Better luck next time.

C. Theoretically, this could work. If you spent all your time pursuing superficial and meaningless connections with people you met once, then you wouldn't have time to meet anyone new. Of course, you'd probably end up on some tabloid talk show featuring people who obsessively stalk acquaintances by sending them Christmas cards. Worse, you'd most likely die alone, surrounded by hundreds of cats.

D. You are suffering from a common finals week disorder caused by too many allnighters and residence-hall food. The combination has created a gastro-neurological reaction, called corpus callosum vaporous. In layman's terms, you have vapor lock of the brain. Go immediately to an unnamed downtown restaurant and eat a burrito as big as your head, followed with a large double espresso. It is the only known cure.

E. You are in the wrong exam. Principles of Reasoning meets two doors down on the right. You say you've been here all semester? Oh well, there's always second grade option.

F. Yahtzee!!! You will always have good luck in your personal affairs. Your lucky numbers are 19, 32, 04, 63, 17.

**S**o, if you're like me, and you feel that semester-break letdown creeping in, here are a couple of tricks to make it easier. Say your goodbyes now. If you wait until after your last final, you'll look up and notice most everyone already has split town. If you and a classmate are intent upon establishing a friendship, get out your planners and make a date for coffee during the first week of next semester. It's easier to keep a date than to remember to call and set one a month from now. Finally, allow yourself to let this past semester go. In another month, you'll be meeting all sorts of new and interesting people. Let yourself look forward to it. See you in 1997.



Helene Lubaroff is a UI freshman and a mother of two. She appears periodically on the Viewpoints Pages.

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Nation

# Super Bowl fans may suffer in Fox-Time Warner crossfire

Juan Elizondo Jr.  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Football fans planning to watch the Super Bowl on five Fox stations around the country might have to pull out the old rabbit ear antenna.

The reason: the feud between Fox and cable operator Time Warner. Fox ran newspaper ads this week warning its stations in Austin, Texas; Tampa, Fla.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Milwaukee might be dropped from Time Warner cable

systems. Detroit also could be affected.

In the middle sit about 1.5 million anxious Super Bowl fans.

"I'll be hacked at both of them," said Todd Baker, a University of Texas student and Super Bowl fan. "It looks bad. Especially because it's two big companies. There has to be a way to work it out."

TV viewers cut off from the signal could still pull in their station by either using a satellite TV service or dusting off the old rabbit

*"I think that viewers should be very, very clear that if the Fox signal disappears at midnight on Jan. 1, it will only be because Fox forced us to do it."*

Michael Luftman, spokesperson for Time Warner

ears.

Baker said he may trek to a bar with a satellite dish to catch the action. He usually watches the Super Bowl at home with friends.

The feud between the two enter-

tainment powerhouses has been going on for some time now, beginning with Time Warner's refusal to carry the fledgling Fox News Channel on its cable systems.

Fox sued Time Warner, arguing it

broke an agreement to carry the channel. Time Warner denied that. At the height of the dispute, Time Warner vice chairperson Ted Turner likened Fox's Rupert Murdoch to Adolf Hitler and called him a "disgrace to journalism."

Exactly which company is doing what in the battle for the Super Bowl is murky, as is much in this titanic corporate struggle.

For its part, Fox argues Time Warner is forcing it to pull the five stations off Time Warner cable sys-

tems on Jan. 1 because the cable operator won't renegotiate contracts to carry the stations.

Time Warner says it is Fox that is threatening to cut off the signals, a retaliation for Time Warner's decision not to carry the Fox News Channel.

"I think that viewers should be very, very clear that if the Fox signal disappears at midnight on Jan. 1, it will only be because Fox forced us to do it," said Michael Luftman, a spokesperson for Time Warner.

NASA

## Challenger wing pieces wash ashore

Marcia Dunn  
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Two large chunks of space shuttle Challenger's left wing washed ashore Tuesday, apparently the biggest pieces discovered since NASA closed the investigation into the accident in 1986.

NASA officials were surprised, especially at the size and fairly good condition of the barnacle-encrusted metal: one piece was 6 to 8½ feet wide, 13½ feet long and 2 to 2½ feet thick; the other was about 6 inches wide and 5 feet long. Some thermal tiles and shriveled wires still were attached.

"This is really out of the clear blue," said Elliott Kicklighter, NASA's former caretaker of Challenger remains.

Both pieces were found in the surf in Cocoa Beach, some 20 miles south of Kennedy Space Center. They were discovered 10 blocks apart.

Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, killing schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six crewmates. A leak in a joint on the right solid-fuel rocket booster was blamed.

Officials do not expect the discovery to shed any new light on the accident.

"We understand what happened with Challenger," NASA spokesperson Bruce Buckingham said. "There's nothing more we can learn."

It's been several years since anything from Challenger has been found. Fishermen usually discover the scraps; in 1991, for example, they found a small tank and a metal fragment a few feet long in the Atlantic off Cape Canaveral.

"It brings things back," said Bruce Jarvis, father of Gregory Jarvis, who died in the accident. "It's like having a bad wound and you've got a scab. It's like somebody picking at the scab."

The discovery also brought back painful memories for Marvin Resnik, father of Challenger astronaut Judith Resnik. But he said, "It doesn't cause me heartache as much as it did. You never forget it, but you don't let it rule your whole life."

Police said they were tipped off by a motel as well as a radio station that got a call from a listener reporting the debris.

Within hours, NASA had verified the fragments were, indeed, from Challenger, and the parts



Beachgoers at Cocoa Beach, Fla., look over the exploded of two pieces of the space shuttle Challenger that washed ashore Tuesday. The Challenger



Associated Press

This photo shows a portion of the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle on Jan. 28, 1986, at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Two large chunks of the Challenger washed up on the shore Tuesday, nearly 11 years after it exploded.

were back at the Kennedy Space Center.

Parts of black-and-white thermal tiles and bits of shriveled wires were visible. White thermal blankets were peeled upward and

some of the aluminum was crumpled slightly, but overall the fragment was not bent.

It was a dirty beige, primarily because of all the barnacles and caked-on sand.

*"It brings things back. It's like having a bad wound and you've got a scab. It's like somebody picking at the scab."*

Bruce Jarvis, father of Gregory Jarvis, who died in the accident

Both pieces will be buried after the holidays with the other shuttle remains — about 5,000 pieces weighing a quarter-million pounds — in two abandoned missile silos nearby.

NASA said they believe the two pieces originally were connected and came from the flaps of Challenger's left wing. The larger piece still had thermal tiles attached.

Hundreds of pounds of metal from Challenger were salvaged within a day of the accident. The remains of the astronauts were found in March 1986 in the debris of the crew cabin.

Most of the space shuttle, however, remains in the Atlantic Ocean: half the orbiter and boosters, two-thirds of the external fuel tank and one-fourth of the satellite payload. Only the critical pieces were retrieved.

Although NASA regularly receives reports of Challenger debris being found, it usually turns out to be chunks of unmanned rockets or other junk.

NASA theorized the fragments may have washed ashore because of rough seas from the past hurricane season, or a fishing boat may have snagged them and brought them close to shore.

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Luanne Schneider, American Farmer & Educator

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Nation

# Investigator: Freighter crew did not follow pilot's instructions

Roxana Hegeman  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Chinese crew of the runaway Liberian freighter did not respond to their English-speaking pilot in the critical minutes before the ship slammed into a crowded shopping mall along the Mississippi River.

Pilot Ted Davisson told investigators during early interviews the vessel's captain did not answer him when he asked why the ship's engine was losing power, John Hammerschmidt, a National Transportation Safety Board member, told reporters Tuesday.

The crew failed also to act when

he shouted orders to drop anchors and turn the ship — "as if I wasn't there" — the pilot told investigators.

The inquiry is focusing on whether language problems contributed to Saturday's accident, in which more than 100 people were injured.

The 763-foot freighter, loaded with 56,000 tons of corn, crashed into the Riverwalk mall and hotel. No deaths have been reported, but searchers have yet to penetrate a 100-by-100-foot heap of debris by the river.

Preliminary findings show a lube pump on the 763-foot Bright Field failed and a backup pump

*"I'm going to hit that damned cruise ship! Call them or do something! I'm going right for them!"*

Pilot Ted Davisson, on a recording made before a freighter hit a shopping mall

switched on just minutes before the crash. An automated safety system came on also, which reduced engine rpms and the vessel's speed, eroding the freighter's steering control, Hammerschmidt said Monday.

The ship's pilot and crew apparently didn't use the system's manual override controls, he said. The automated safety systems worked

as they were designed.

Davisson had boarded the ship just three hours before the accident to guide the freighter through that treacherous stretch of the Mississippi River.

A formal hearing into the accident opened Tuesday with the playing of a dramatic recording of his exclamations as the ship headed out of control — first toward the

Creole Queen excursion boat and then toward the crowded mall.

"I'm going to hit that damned cruise ship!" Davisson exclaimed. "Call them or do something! I'm going right for them!"

A "course recorder" — a ship's version of an airliner's "black box" — was on board but not in operation. The tape was made by an outfit called Triangle Fleeting, where barges park. Officials said they have been hit so often they set up their own recording devices.

Davisson, who has held a pilot's license since 1980, told investigators he had been involved in a "few accidents" before Saturday's crash, including three involving a loss of

engine power, Hammerschmidt said before the hearing began.

Hammerschmidt did not elaborate, saying he did not know the seriousness of those earlier accidents.

Davisson, who has been praised by maritime officials for missing two cruise ships and a casino boat, has not talked publicly about Saturday's crash at the request of officials. He passed an alcohol test after the wreck.

The tape recorded him shouting: "There's people on the dock! Tell them to get away!"

Just before the tape ended, a voice was heard saying, "They have a mess down there."

ECONOMY

## Fed leaves interest rates unchanged

Martin Crutsinger  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve passed up a chance to raise interest rates at its final meeting of the year Tuesday, despite a report showing newfound strength in housing.

Following more than three and a half hours of closed-door discussions, Fed policymakers announced they had decided to leave rates unchanged, meaning millions of consumers and businesses whose loans are tied to Fed rates will see no change in their borrowing costs.

The Federal Open Market Committee, composed of Fed governors in Washington and regional bank presidents, meets eight times a year to review interest-rate policies. The panel next meets Feb. 4.

Most economists believe there will be no change at that meeting either and indeed, some analysts are forecasting the central bank could stay on hold for most of 1997.

The U.S. economy remains on a moderate growth, low inflation path, very much in line with Fed hopes," said Bruce Steinberg, senior economist at Merrill Lynch in New York. "We believe the Fed will remain on hold through the

first half of 1997 and probably through most of the second half as well."

Financial markets, which had been set on edge by remarks earlier in the month by Federal Reserve chairperson Alan Greenspan worrying about "irrational exuberance" in the markets, were reassured by Tuesday's Fed decision.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 37.67 at 6,306.02. The bond market, which had lost ground after a stronger-than-expected housing number, showed little reaction to the Fed decision. Treasury's benchmark 30-year bond was trading at 6.67 percent, up from 6.62 percent late Monday.

The government reported before the Fed's deliberations began that housing construction shot up 9.2 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.51 million units.

While it was the biggest increase in 16 months, many economists noted that it came after two months of sharp declines. They said the November report was essentially a blip in an otherwise downward trend for housing, given that pent-up demand has essentially been exhausted.

Recent statistics leave unclear

where the economy will head next, with some reports such as housing showing strength and others showing weakness, making it harder than usual to guess the central bank's next move.

"There are people who are betting toward tightness and some who are betting the Fed will next ease," said David Munro, chief economist at High Frequency Economics in New York. "Everybody is guessing."

Analysts said Greenspan's concerns about the runup in stock prices had to be viewed against a backdrop of this uncertainty.

"He was just saying that the economic fundamentals are not keeping up with the stock market," said William Dunkelberg, chief economist for the National Federation of Independent Business. "We are seeing a pretty flat economy right now."

The central bank last changed interest rates on Jan. 31, when it reduced its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter-point down to 5.25 percent.

It was the third in a series of small rate cuts aimed at spurring an economy that looked as though it could slide into a recession.

## NewsBrief

### Final rule: Chickens stay 'fresh' only above 26 degrees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chickens finally will come in from the cold.

Starting next December, supermarket chickens can carry the "fresh" label only if they have never been chilled below 26 degrees, the Agriculture Department said in a final rule published Tuesday.

The rule ends a long dispute that pitted California poultry producers and consumer groups

against the majority of broiler makers in Arkansas and the rest of the South. Before the rule, chickens could be labeled "fresh" even if they had been chilled to nearly 0 degrees. Poultry below zero must be labeled as "frozen."

There is no special labeling for chicken between 0 and 26 degrees Fahrenheit, but any description may not be misleading, says the department's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

At 26 degrees, chickens begin to get hard to the touch. At zero, they're frozen throughout.

The final rule, first proposed in August 1995, was delayed by the Senate, which most recently objected to the requirement that chickens between 26 degrees and 0 degrees be labeled "hard chilled" or "previously hard chilled."

The Senate, in the 1997 spending bill, stripped that requirement. The Senate also said the rules must allow a tolerance so some of the chickens may reach 24 degrees during distribution — but the shipment must average 26 degrees.

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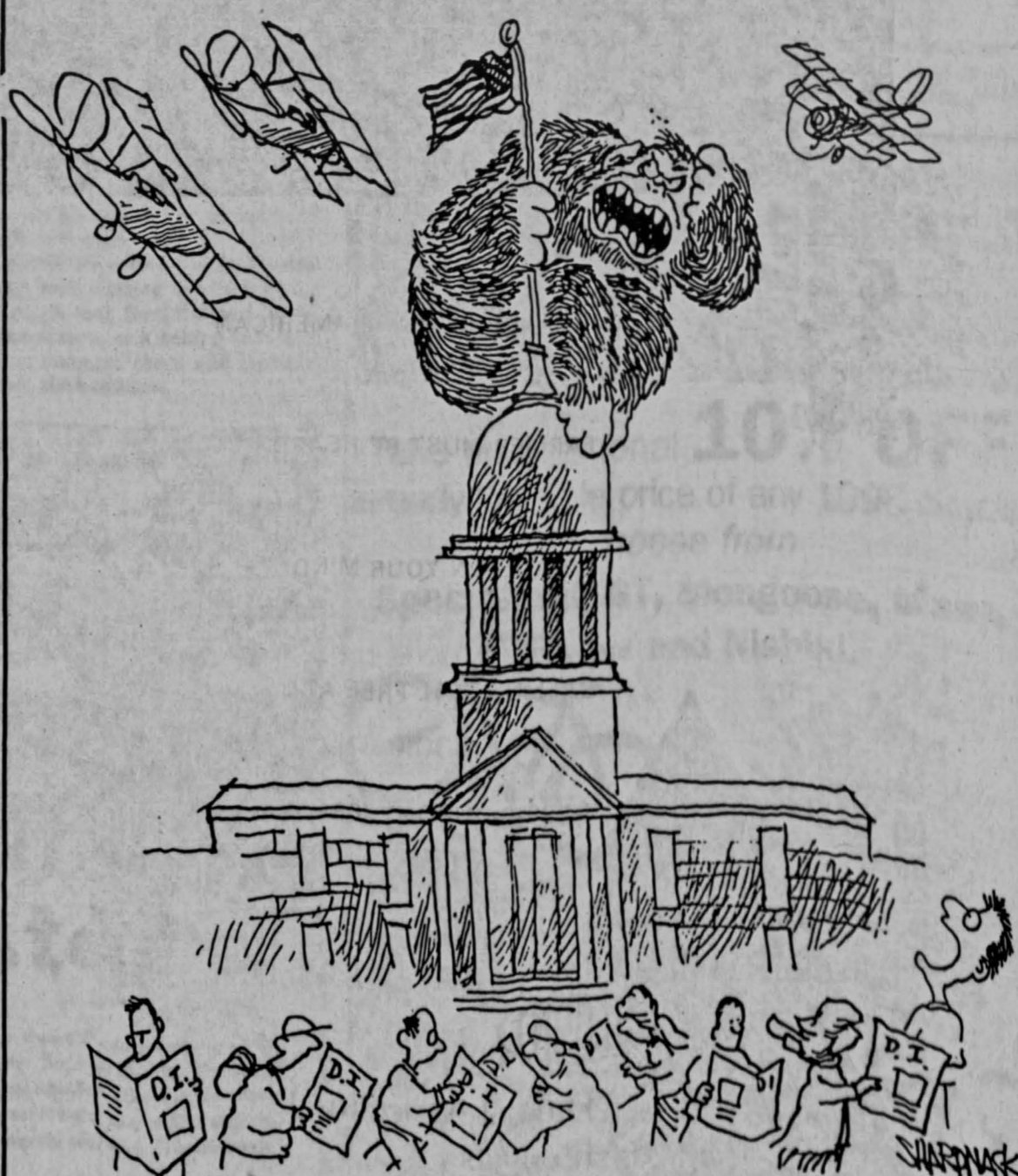
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IOWA CITY'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

## New ma deemed

Brenda Coleman  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — An infertile woman injected with a single sperm in a laboratory dish works a standard in-vitro fertilization causes no higher rate of defects, a study found.

The treatment, used to overcome male infertility, was developed in Belgium and has been popular since it was introduced in this country in 1993. But it has lingered over where it increases the incidence of defects.

In a new study involving hundreds of births, women who were part in the procedure conceived and delivered babies in 3 percent of cases after a single sperm — about the same rate as standard in-vitro fertilization. In addition, the rate

SKIN CARE

## FDA to stu

Lauran Neergaard  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FDA has advertised as miracle products, but American consumers on these lotions containing increasingly popular alpha hydroxy acids also might want to use sunscreen.

Scientific advisers to the FDA industry said Tuesday counter wrinkle creams contain up to 10 percent of the acids, and they only slightly increase the wearer's sensitivity to sunlight.

But the Food and Drug Administration, noting some people are especially sensitive, is a study just how safe these creams — with sales now a billion dollars a year — are.

"These are acids in the sense," the FDA's director of cosmetics, John Bailey, said Tuesday. Still, research indicates hydroxy acids remove skin without significant problems. Adding sunscreen is common sense, said University of Pennsylvania

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## Health

# New male infertility treatment deemed successful by physicians

Brenda Coleman  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — An infertility treatment in which a woman's egg is injected with a single sperm cell in a laboratory dish works as well as standard in-vitro fertilization and causes no higher rate of birth defects, a study found.

The treatment, used to overcome male infertility, was developed in Belgium and has been increasingly popular since it was introduced in this country in 1993. But questions have lingered over whether it increases the incidence of birth defects.

In a new study involving hundreds of births, women who took part in the procedure conceived and delivered babies in 38.7 percent of cases after a single attempt — about the same rate seen in standard in-vitro fertilization.

In addition, the rate of birth

defects was found to be less than 3 percent. That's about the same as in in-vitro fertilization, and it's lower than New York state's overall rate, the researchers reported in Wednesday's issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The procedure, called intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), is for men who do not produce enough sperm — or sperm of high enough quality — to penetrate the egg.

With in-vitro fertilization — which is used to overcome female infertility — sperm is obtained through ejaculation and combined in the laboratory with an egg surgically taken from a woman. The sperm bathes the egg and fertilizes it naturally. Then the fertilized egg is implanted in the woman's womb.

In ICSI, the sperm is taken from the man through a needle or surgical biopsy. An embryologist then injects a single sperm cell into the

egg, and the fertilized egg is implanted.

Some experts feared birth defects might be more common with a technique that depended on using a possibly sickly and genetically defective sperm, but those fears appear unfounded, according to the study.

"Most of the abnormalities occurred in multiple pregnancies, where birth defects are generally more common anyway," said Dr. Zev Rosenwaks, a co-author of the study.

Massey estimated that about 100 U.S. centers are now offering ICSI, which he said could help 50 percent to 60 percent of infertile men.

But the procedure costs \$500 to \$1,000 more than in-vitro fertilization, which costs \$8,000 to \$11,000 per try, and many couples require several tries, he said. Health insurance often doesn't cover fertility treatment.

# Doctors question safety of diet drugs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Some obese people may need to take diet drugs indefinitely to lose weight and keep it off, but doctors don't know if long-term use of such drugs is safe, a research review indicates.

"There is very little information out there on how safe or effective these drugs are for more than a year of use," said Dr. Susan Yanovski, lead author of the article that appeared in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The review by members of the National Task Force on Prevention and Treatment of Obesity suggests using medications to "jump-start" a weight-loss program has very little impact and long-term use, combined with a good diet and exercise, is preferable for some obese people.

"If you are going to use these medications, it does not make sense

*"The magic bullet has not yet arrived. The advice we've given about eating a healthful diet and increasing physical activity are still appropriate."*

Dr. Susan Yanovski, who analyzed patients who took drugs to control obesity

weight, but keeping the pounds off. Diet drugs can help, but they're not the whole answer, Yanovski said.

"If you're going to use them, I think you need to prepare to use them indefinitely — noting that we don't have answers for use for more than a year," she said.

The authors suggested the drugs should only be used to control weight by those who are seriously overweight, who have tried unsuccessfully to lose or keep off weight in the past or who face increased medical risk because of the added weight.

For people who are only a few pounds overweight, a healthy diet and exercise alone are the best treatment, the authors said.

"The magic bullet has not yet arrived," Yanovski said. "The advice we've given about eating a healthful diet and increasing physical activity are still appropriate."

## SKIN CARE

# FDA to study ingredient in wrinkle removers

Lauran Neergaard  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They're advertised as miracle wrinkle removers, but Americans who slather on these lotions containing increasingly popular alpha hydroxy acids also might want to use some sunscreen.

Scientific advisers to the cosmetics industry said Tuesday over-the-counter wrinkle creams containing up to 10 percent of the acids are safe, and they only slightly increase the wearer's sensitivity to sunlight.

But the Food and Drug Administration, noting some people are especially sensitive, is about to study just how safe these wrinkle creams — with sales now at half a billion dollars a year — are.

"These are acids in the true sense," the FDA's director of cosmetics, John Bailey, said Tuesday.

Still, research indicates alpha hydroxy acids remove skin cells without significant problems, and adding sunscreen is common sense, said University of Pennsylvania

dermatologist James Leyden, who recommends his patients use the acids.

"You're not, by day going to wreck yourself and then, at night, try to repair the damage," he said. "If you're ... trying to make your skin better, you'd be foolish not to use some sun protection."

Alpha hydroxy acids arguably are the most popular ingredient in skin-care products. They essentially speed up the natural process of shedding skin cells, and range from lower concentrations in over-the-counter creams that promise to smooth fine surface lines on fragile under-eye skin to "chemical peels" typically offered in salons that contain 30 percent to even 70 percent of the acids.

Last summer, dermatologists at Massachusetts General Hospital confirmed the acids can improve skin's appearance — slightly. Using a 10-point scale, they found women who used acid-containing face creams showed a 1 to 2 point improvement in skin quality over regular creams.

But because the FDA doesn't

regulate cosmetics as strictly as other products, no one has studied the long-term effects. The FDA said Tuesday it is about to gather experts to evaluate lingering questions about the acids, including whether they increase sensitivity to sun rays that can cause wrinkles and even cancer.

At the same time, a seven-member scientific panel that advises the cosmetics industry voted unanimously that:

- Consumers safely can use over-the-counter lotions that contain no more than 10 percent alpha hydroxy acids, but manufacturers should either include a sunscreen in the lotion or instruct consumers to use one separately.
- Salons safely can offer "chemical peels" using up to 30 percent alpha hydroxy acids, and should instruct consumers to use sunscreen daily.

The panel based its decision partly on an FDA study that found the acids, applied to guinea pigs, did not appear to hurt the skin's ability to act as a protective barrier.

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World

# Zairian leader returns after 4-month absence

Tina Susman  
Associated Press

KINSHASA, Zaire — Hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets and cheered wildly Tuesday as President Mobutu Sese Seko returned to Zaire, seeking to put down a rebel uprising and prove he is in control of the country he has led for 31 years.

Traditional African bands played as the ailing leader, wearing his trademark leopard-skin cap and a flowered shirt, descended smiling and waving from his chartered jet after a flight from southern France.

Mobutu, 66, who had been in Europe for the past four months getting treated for prostate cancer, was greeted by Prime Minister Leon Kengo wa Dongo and other dignitaries.

Dancing soldiers and children waving the green and yellow Zairian flags crowded around the red carpet on the tarmac. Mobutu briefly stepped up to a podium between two Zairian flags and raised his ornate wooden staff above his head in a gesture of triumph.

Heavily armed soldiers kept back the crowd, who were hanging over balconies and off the control tower at Ndjili International Airport.

"No words can express the profoundness and intensity of the emotions I feel now," Mobutu said later in the day in a brief, nationally broadcast speech.

While making no mention of the rebel movement that has captured a swathe of eastern Zaire this fall, he did say "enemies of democracy" were "taking advantage of my ill-

*"No words can express the profoundness and intensity of the emotions I feel now."*

**Mobutu Sese Seko,**  
president of Zaire, upon his return home



Associated Press

Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife Bobi Lawda wave to supporters from atop their limousine as they pass by in Kinshasa, Zaire, Tuesday. Mobutu returned to Zaire Tuesday after four months in Europe for cancer treatment.

and declaring the nation "will pray for your recovery," lined the boulevard.

In Nairobi, Kenya, African leaders ended a summit with a call Tuesday for an end to incursions into Zaire. They invited also Zairian rebels and the government to negotiate. No Zairian officials, however, attended the meeting.

Zaire accuses both Uganda and Rwanda of providing arms, money and assistance to the Tutsi-led rebels who have swept through 310 miles of eastern Zaire, meeting little resistance from Zairian troops.

In Kinshasa, opposition activists said they would consider Mobutu's return a success only if it is fol-

lowed by his ousting in elections promised for May.

"We're not happy about the return, because we know he won't have any solutions. He's never done what he says he's going to do — that's the way he's always been," said Kadiebwé Bakatuambamba, an unemployed opposition activist.

The fuss over Mobutu's appearance in his own country showed how far removed he is from Zaire and its problems — troubles many blame on his plundering of their nation's wealth.

Even in times of crisis, Mobutu rarely has left his European villas or his Zairian mansion several hundred miles outside the capital.

# Serbian president promises to investigate election fraud

Jovana Gec  
Associated Press

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Facing the biggest in a month of anti-government protests, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic tried to ease the pressure on him Tuesday by meeting with some demonstrators and promising to investigate charges of electoral fraud.

About 200,000 people took to the street in Belgrade as workers, who had stood on the sidelines for weeks, finally joined the crowds of students and opposition supporters who have been demonstrating daily against the annulment of Nov. 17 election results.

Milosevic met with a group of student protesters who had walked 150 miles to give the longtime Serb leader documents they said proved the opposition had won the elections.

While Milosevic has defended the election process as fair, he has publicly distanced himself from the election commissions and courts that overturned opposition victories in 17 cities housing two-thirds of Serbia's people.

In recent days, the opposition's hopes have risen since authorities reversed themselves and restored opposition victories in Nis, the southern city where the students came from, and in Smederevska Palanka, 30 miles outside Belgrade.

Despite Milosevic's promise, pressure on the street grew. About 1,000 workers joined oppo-

sition supporters and students to protest the annulment of opposition victories in Belgrade and elsewhere. Tuesday's crowd was the largest in four weeks.

The workers who joined Tuesday's protests carried banners declaring: "Slobo Demon" and "Peace, Bread."

"Milosevic should know that it is hard to get workers out of their factories, but it is even harder to get them back in," warned one of the workers, Dragan Matic.

Workers, who traditionally have formed the backbone of Milosevic's support, generally have stayed away from the protests. Their participation in large numbers would markedly increase the pressure on Milosevic.

The three students who met Milosevic gave him documentation they said showed election results in Nis were falsified.

Milosevic told the Justice Ministry to thoroughly examine the students' submitted documentation and publish its findings, the Tanjug news agency reported.

State TV, which is controlled by Milosevic, and has all but ignored the protests except to condemn them, broadcast the part of the meeting where Milosevic sought to convey his innocence and promised justice in the election.

Milosevic told the students they had "secured legality" by coming to him.

"Neither you nor I count the votes," he added. "All mistakes are possible."



A Palestinian blacksmith in Hebron Monday in the old town.

# Palestinian report on

Said Ghazali  
Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank — Palestinian pottery seller told a stranger in a blue Mercedes up last month outside his home which sits opposite the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Khaled Fakhouri said the offer to buy his 54-square-foot business for \$1.5 million. Fakhouri said when he hesitated, the stranger said he could write his own name on a blank check.

Also near the Tomb, a Muslim and Jew hall owner Abdel Raouf Matar said he, too, was offered \$1 million for his business — \$1 million.

Such stories abound in Hebron these days, a town what seems to be the site of the transfer of most of the city's Israeli to Palestinian residents — a move Yasser Arafat's government has been buying Arab land for settlers in a last-minute scheme to expand Israeli control of the West Bank.

Palestinian security agencies are watching closely to try to stop transactions, getting local residents who tell on their neighbors. So far, as many as 30 homes and businesses are reported to have been sold.

Khader Shabaneh, a baker who lives near the tomb, said he called security forces when his neighbor bragged he would buy a four-room house to the left of the tomb unless the Palestinian government bought it for \$450,000.

"There is a lot of talk about people who are selling their homes," Shabaneh said.

Over the years, right-wing Jewish groups have been buying properties in disputed areas.

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**AIDS**

**Mother Teresa enlists help for AIDS patients**

Chandra Banerjee  
Associated Press

CALCUTTA, India — Mother Teresa received a get-well card from India's prime minister Tuesday and took the opportunity to press for land to build a home for AIDS patients.

During the brief meeting, Mother Teresa's hospital Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda promised to donate property in Bangalore, the capital of the state of Karnataka, chief surgeon Dr. Devi Shetty said.

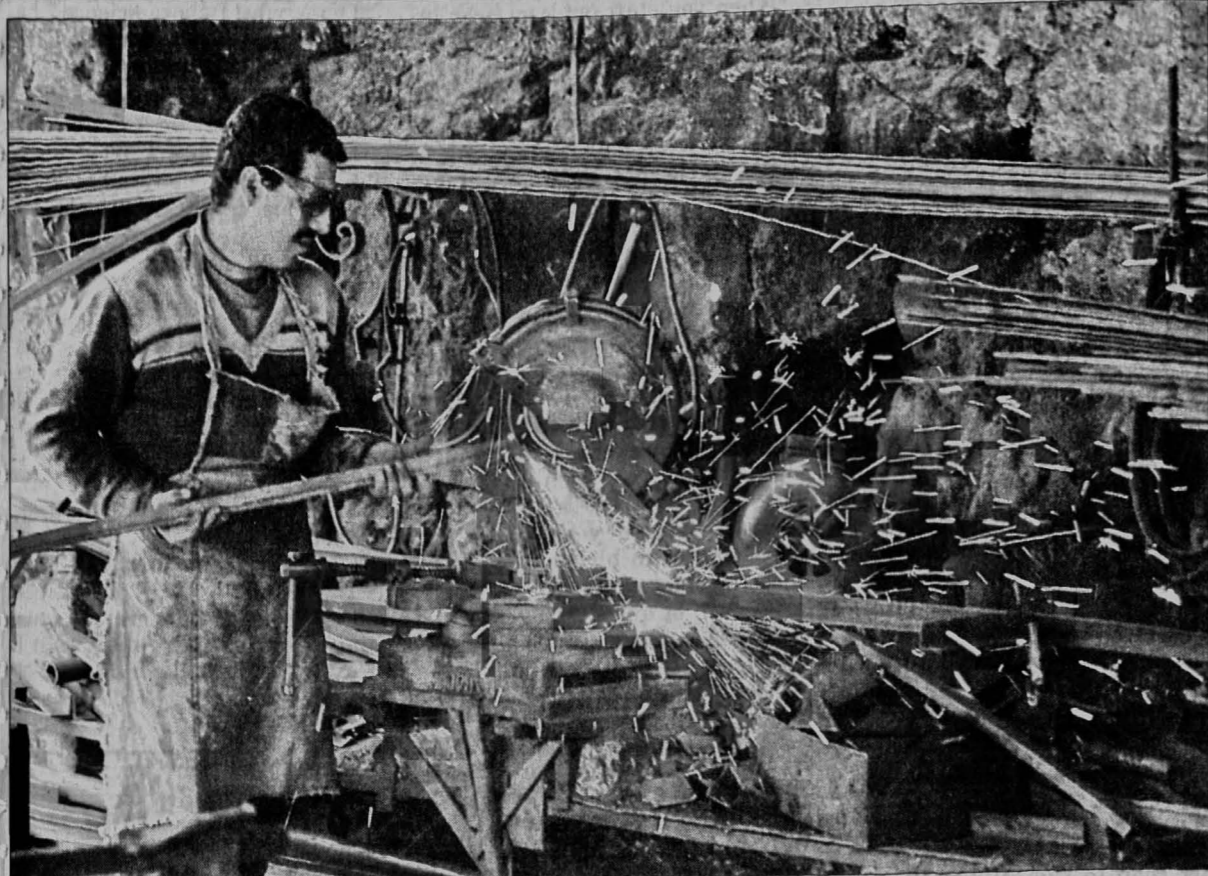
"You have got a home in your body's heart," he quoted Gowda telling the 86-year-old Nobel Prize winner.

"Mother Teresa is doing her best to give her a bouquet of roses," she gave me her love and affection," Gowda said.

A statement from the hospital said doctors were encouraged by the improving condition of Mother Teresa's heart and lungs.

Her heartbeat remained steady a day after a mild electric shock was administered to stabilize it. The second time she was treated since she was hospitalized Nov. 22 following a heart attack.

World



Associated Press

A Palestinian blacksmith works in his shop in Hebron Monday in the old quarter, where a mysterious stranger has been offering people as much as \$1.5 million to buy their shops.

## Palestinian property owners report offers of large sums to sell

Said Ghazali

Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank — As the Palestinian pottery seller told it, a stranger in a blue Mercedes pulled up last month outside his shop, which sits opposite the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Khaled Fakhouri said the driver offered to buy his 54-square-foot business for \$1.5 million. Fakhouri said when he hesitated, the driver said he could write his own price on a blank check.

Also near the Tomb, a shrine sacred to Muslims and Jews, pool hall owner Abdel Raouf Muhtaseb said he, too, was offered a huge sum for his business — \$2.5 million.

Such stories abound in downtown Hebron these days, ahead of what seems to be the inevitable transfer of most of the city from Israeli to Palestinian control. Palestinian residents — and even Yasser Arafat's government — fear wealthy Americans and Europeans are buying Arab land for Jewish settlers in a last-minute scheme to expand Israeli control of the city.

Palestinian security agents are watching closely to try to stop any transactions, getting leads from residents who tell on their neighbors. So far, as many as 30 Arab homes and businesses are rumored to have been sold.

Khader Shabaneh, a Hebron baker who lives near the Tomb, said he called security when his neighbor bragged he would sell his four-room house to the Israelis unless the Palestinian government bought it for \$450,000.

"There is a lot of talk about people who are selling their houses," Shabaneh said.

Over the years, right-wing Jewish groups have been buying Arab properties in disputed areas such

"There are many people throughout the world for whom it is very important to do what they can for the city of the patriarchs."

David Wilder, a spokesperson for the 500 Jews living in the city of 130,000 Palestinians

as Jerusalem's Old City.

The group Ateret Cohanim, which relies heavily on donations from the United States, has spearheaded the Jerusalem drive, negotiating often through middlemen and paying above-market prices.

And in disputed east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as their capital, Miami millionaire Irving Moskowitz owns land in the heart of an Arab neighborhood. Israel announced recently a plan to build 132 homes for Jews there. Palestinians warned of riots if Israel proceeds with the plan.

Jewish settlers in Hebron were evasive Tuesday when asked about their supporters.

"There are many people throughout the world for whom it is very important to do what they can for the city of the patriarchs," said David Wilder, a spokesperson for the 500 Jews living in the city of 130,000 Palestinians.

"Anyone who has the ability to assist in redeeming land in Hebron is only to be blessed," he said.

Settler leaders have said they secretly bought more than 20 Arab homes in recent years. That's in addition to what settlers said are properties owned by Jewish families driven out after the 1929 massacre in which Arab rioters killed 67 Jews.

The housing battle becomes only more fierce with the approach of the Hebron transfer. Under the emerging agreement, Israeli troops would remain in one-fifth of the city to protect Jewish settlers who live in five compounds downtown.

The Palestinian Authority is spending \$18 million in donations from Persian Gulf countries to renovate dozens of crumbling and abandoned Hebron stone buildings, especially those near settler enclaves.

Wilder said it was difficult to buy from local Palestinians because once a sale became known, the Arab property owners faced ostracism, at best, and death, at worst. Palestinians living abroad, he said, "are much more likely to relieve themselves of properties they don't need for large amounts."

Take the Boti family.

The Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot* published an aerial photograph of a cluster of homes outside the Tomb. It said one of the homes was being sold for \$950,000, and the Palestinian owner apparently lived in South America.

Suspicion fell on 67-year-old Yousef Boti, who had just left for Jackson, Miss., to visit his three children.

Palestinian security agents questioned Yousef's brother, Kamel, who told them the house was not being sold. So worried was Kamel Boti about his family's reputation, that he went on the Voice of Palestine radio station to deny the sale.

That's why Fakhouri, the pottery seller, said he turned the stranger down, even though he certainly could have used the money. Instead, he reported the proposition to Palestinian security.

"I didn't want to lose my religion, my honor and my nationality."

Muhtaseb, the pool hall owner, also turned down the money.

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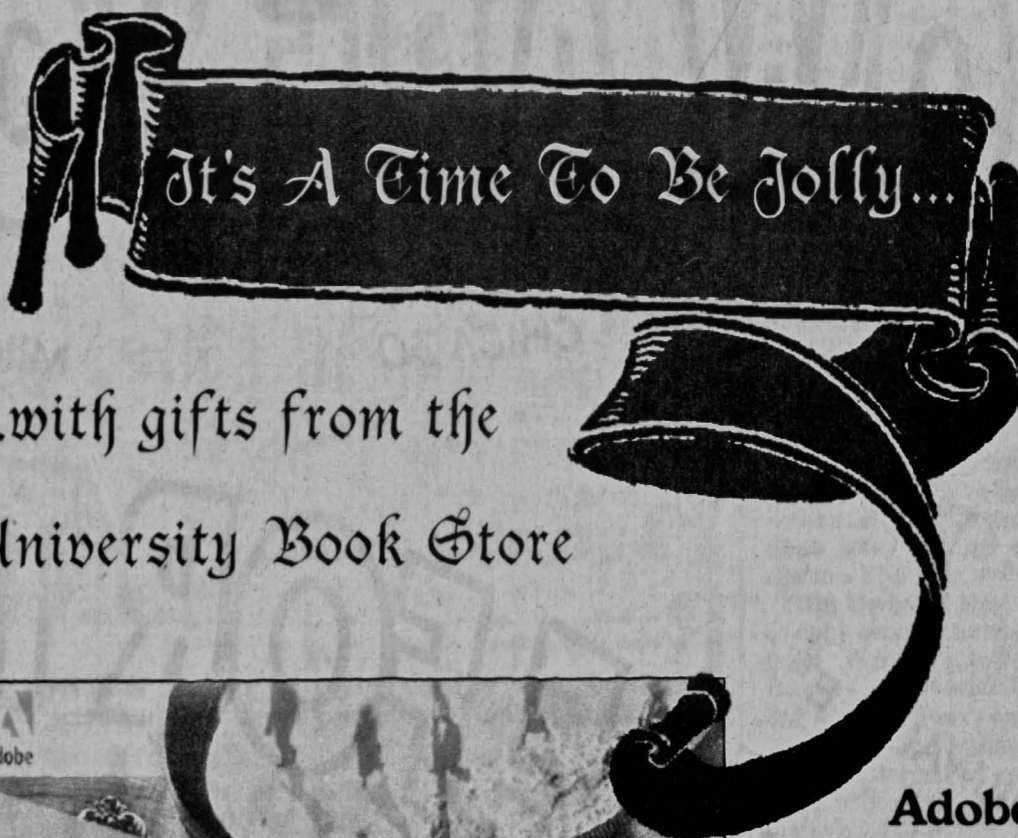
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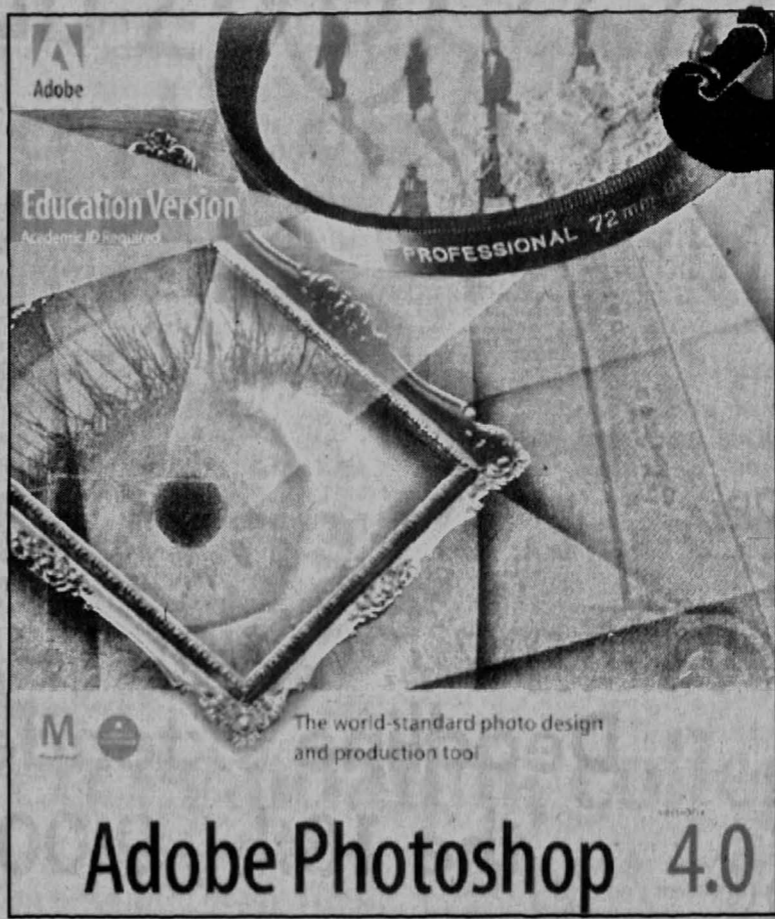
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## AIDS

Mother Teresa enlists help for AIDS patients

Chandra Banerjee  
Associated Press

CALCUTTA, India — Mother Teresa received a get-well visit from India's prime minister on Tuesday and took the opportunity to press for land to build a hospice for AIDS patients.

During the brief meeting in Mother Teresa's hospital room, Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda promised to donate property in Bangalore, the capital of his home state of Karnataka, chief cardiologist Dr. Devi Shetty said.

"You have got a home in everybody's heart," he quoted Gowda as telling the 86-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"Mother Teresa is doing better. I gave her a bouquet of roses and she gave me her love and affection," Gowda said.

A statement from the hospital said doctors were encouraged by the improving condition of Mother Teresa's heart and lungs.

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## promises tion fraud

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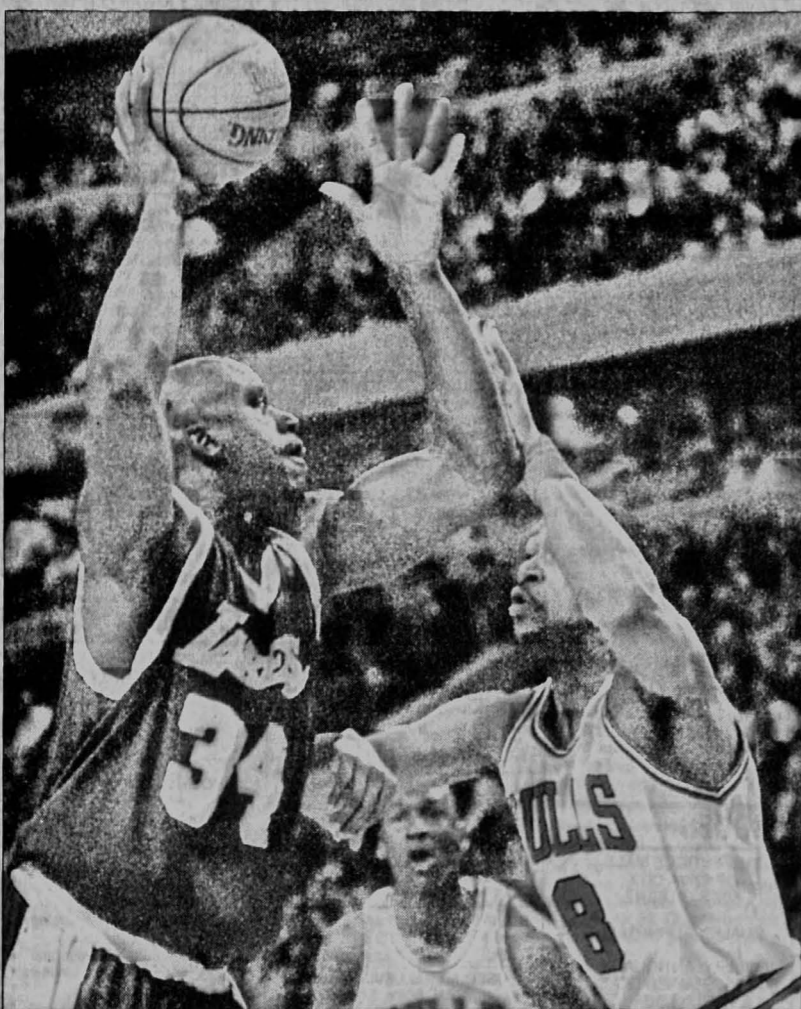




# Sports

## NBA ROUNDUP

# Bulls charge back from 22-point deficit



Shaquille O'Neal shoots over Chicago's Dickey Simpkins Tuesday. Associated Press

**Associated Press**  
CHICAGO — Scottie Pippen made a driving layup with 42.7 seconds left in overtime after Toni Kukoc rallied Chicago from a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit as the Bulls beat the Los Angeles Lakers 129-123 Tuesday.

Kukoc scored 23 of his season-high 31 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to offset a poor performance by Michael Jordan, who made just 10-of-32 from the floor and scored 30 points.

Pippen had 35 points and Dennis Rodman added 18 rebounds for Chicago, which trailed by 22 points in the first half.

Nick Van Exel scored a season-high 36 points, Shaquille O'Neal 27 and Eddie Jones 21 for the Lakers, whose five-game winning streak was snapped. O'Neal got only four of his points after halftime and missed two free throws in overtime.

The Lakers were 20-of-35 from the line and missed eight of 11 attempts in the fourth quarter and OT.

Van Exel hit a 17-foot jumper with 56.3 seconds left in overtime to make it 123-123. Pippen then drove to the hoop and was credited for the basket when O'Neal blocked the shot on its way down.

### Knicks 99, Jazz 94

NEW YORK — Chris Childs and Patrick Ewing scored all but four of New York's fourth-quarter points and the Knicks won their seventh straight game.

Despite what New York's 16-6 record would suggest, it was a rare win for the Knicks against a quality opponent. It was just their seventh game — and third victory — against a team with a record above .500.

Childs finished with a season-high 24 points, including a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 31 seconds left and a pair of free throws that iced the victory with 7.6 seconds to go.

Ewing had 25 points and all five New York starters reached double figures.

Karl Malone led Utah with 29 points, but he missed a two-point attempt with 10 seconds left when the Jazz needed a 3-pointer to tie.

### Pacers 103, Heat 89

MIAMI — Miami lost guard Tim Hardaway with a strained lower back, then lost to Indiana.

Antonio Davis scored 21 points for Indiana, which withstood a fourth-quarter rally by the Heat to end their four-game winning streak.

Hardaway, who began the game as the Heat's leading scorer this season, departed late in the first quarter with the score 16-16. Indiana scored 15 of the next 17 points for a 31-18 advantage and led the rest of the way.

Hardaway was dribbling the ball near midcourt when he called timeout and collapsed on his back. Moments later he rose unsteadily to his feet and was helped to the locker room by two trainers.

His status for Thursday's game against Utah was uncertain.

Miller and Travis Best had 18 points apiece for the Pacers.

### Raptors 97, Nets 88

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Walt Williams scored 24 points and Damon Stoudamire scored 14 of his 17 in the fourth quarter as Toronto snapped a four-game losing streak and won its first road game this season.

Kerry Kittles led New Jersey with 27 points.

New Jersey's Jayson Williams, the league's leading rebounder who had missed the two previous games with sprained thumb ligaments, played with his thumb in a split and scored 14 points and grabbed 18 rebounds.

### Hornets 93, 76ers 84

PHILADELPHIA — Muggsy Bogues tied his career high with 24 points as Charlotte Hornets won for the fifth time in six games.

It was Charlotte's second win in five nights over the 76ers, who lost their eighth straight.

Dell Curry had 20 points, 15 in the first half, and Anthony Mason added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte. Derrick Coleman scored a season-high 27 points for Philadelphia.

### Hawks 109, Mavericks 73

DALLAS — The Atlanta Hawks made an NBA record 19 three-pointers in a rout of the Mavericks.

Mookie Blaylock made five 3-pointers and scored 27 points — 19 in the first half — for the Hawks, who won for the ninth time in the last 11 games.

Atlanta made 19-of-27 3-pointers to break the league record of 18 3-pointers set twice last season by the Mavericks.

Blaylock hit 5-of-7 3-pointers in the first half, and the Hawks eventually built a 37-point lead.

George McCloud scored 20 and Jim Jackson added 17 for the Mavericks, who dropped their third straight.

## NHL ROUNDUP

# Whalers dump slump, Blues with 5-3 win

### Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Kevin Dineen scored Hartford's third power-play goal with 7:17 left in the third period and the Whalers snapped a three-game losing streak with a 5-3 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday night.

Dineen tipped Curtis Leschyshyn's shot from the left point under Blues goalie Jon Casey, and gave the Whalers their only lead of the game. Andrew Cassels added an empty-net goal in the closing seconds for the Whalers.

Steven Rice scored two goals and Nelson Emerson had three assists for Northeast Division-leading Hartford, which beat St. Louis for the first time since Nov. 18, 1992. The Whalers, who are third in the NHL on the power play, were 3-for-7 with the man advantage.

Joe Murphy, Al MacInnis and Pierre Turgeon scored for St. Louis, which lost its third straight.

### Avalanche 4, Red Wings 3

DENVER — Adam Deadmarsh had two goals and two assists as the depleted Colorado Avalanche overcame the loss of two players and a two-goal deficit to rally for a win over the Detroit Red Wings.

Already playing without leading scorer Peter Forsberg and two other front-line players, Colorado lost right wing Rene Corbet and

defenseman Alexei Gusarov to injuries in the second and third periods.

The Avalanche rallied after Martin Lapointe drew a five-minute major for his hit on Gusarov, tying the game 3-3 when Scott Young put a slap shot past Detroit goaltender Mike Vernon with 9:12 left.

After killing Detroit's only power play of the game, the Avalanche took the lead at 14:01 on Eric Lacroix's 10th goal of the season — a rebound past a diving Vernon.

The win was the Avalanche's first in eight games when they have trailed after two periods. It also marked the first time the Red Wings have lost in the 15 games they have scored at least three goals.

The Red Wings, who have been angry with Colorado ever since Claude Lemieux bloodied Kris Draper in last year's Western Conference finals, now may be even after sending Corbet and Gusarov to the hospital.

Both players were knocked out briefly, but team officials said they regained consciousness and had full movement of their bodies.

### Bruins 6, Penguins 4

PITTSBURGH — Ted Donato had two goals and two assists in a five-goal second period as the Boston Bruins ended a six-year winless streak in Pittsburgh with a 6-4 victory.

Boston posted its first win at the Civic Arena since Jan. 2, 1990, ending a 0-16-1 streak that included playoffs. The Bruins had been 0-

11-1 in the regular season at Pittsburgh with 10 straight losses.

Overall, the Bruins ended a four-game losing streak and a 0-5-1 stretch. They had gone 136:22 without a goal before Steve Heinze scored shorthanded at 11:21 of the first period to tie the game.

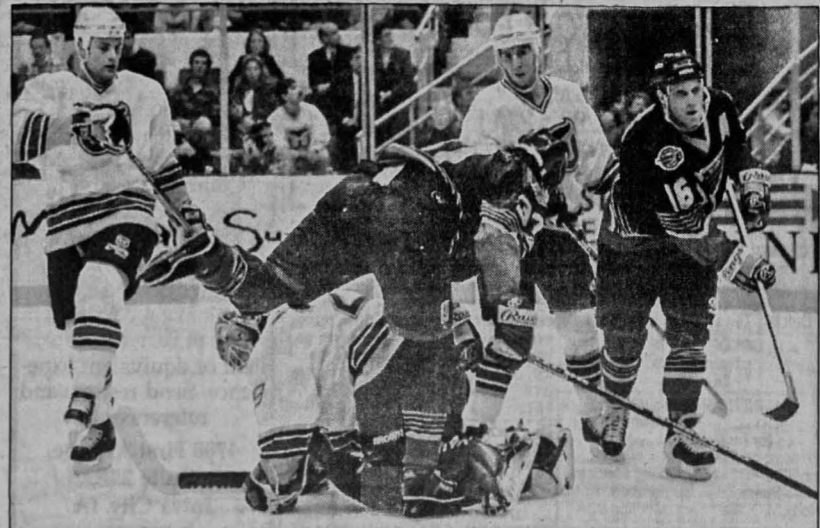
### Islanders 4, Kings 3

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Bryan McCabe scored the winning goal after making the defensive play of the game late in the third period as the New York Islanders beat the Los Angeles Kings 4-3.

Scott Lachance, Bryan Smolinski

and Marty McInnis also scored for the Islanders, who won for the third time in four games and beat the Kings for the third straight time at home. Kai Nurminen, Ray Ferraro and Philippe Boucher scored for the Kings.

Goaltender Tommy Salo and defenseman McCabe saved the game for the Islanders with 6:32 left. Salo stopped a right-point shot from Rob Blake. The puck came to Brad Smyth, who had a wide-open net to put in the rebound. But McCabe slid through the crease to block the puck with his stick.



Hartford goalie Jason Muzzatti, below, dives onto the puck as St. Louis' Harry York (37) runs into him Tuesday. Associated Press

## WALKER

Continued from Page 1B

still not an excuse. Nothing's an excuse," Walker said. "Everybody has to face up to what they do, no matter what kind of situation they're in."

Walker left school the day before practice started this fall, but no one fully understood his reasons for doing so until details of his arrest surfaced. At the time, Davis told the media that Walker was homesick and was under a lot of pressure.

After learning of the arrest and later talking to Walker, Davis said he has no doubt his leaving was simply a hasty reaction to the situation.

"When he left and I talked about his leaving, I only knew what he told me," Davis said. "Then the credit card thing surfaced, literally immediately, as he knew it was going to. And he just wasn't sure how to cope with it all."

Walker will join an already elite field of freshmen when he kicks off his Iowa career next season alongside recruits Ricky Davis and Dean Oliver. Now that he's starting to get past an auspicious beginning, Walker has a limitless future in front of him.

Said Iowa assistant Gary Close: "Hopefully in four or five years, we'll look back and say this was a great moment."

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**JERRY MAQUIRE (R)**  
EVE 7:00 & 9:45

**JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)**  
EVE 7:10 & 9:30

**THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG)**  
EVE 7:10 & 9:45

**ENGLIT 1&2**  
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**RANSOM (R)**  
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**SPACE JAM (PG)**  
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# Women's Basketball No. 1 Stanford tumbles

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Nyrce Roberts led four Old Dominion players in double figures with 19 points Tuesday night and the No. 4 Lady Monarchs stunned top-ranked Stanford 83-66, ending the Cardinal's nine-game winning streak. Old Dominion (8-1), playing host to the nation's No. 1 team for the first time in 12 years, improved to 3-1 in games against top-ranked opponents. The Lady Monarchs also beat top-rated Louisiana Tech at Old Dominion Field House in 1982 and 1984. Stanford (9-1) was denied its third-ever 10-0 start. The first two, in 1990 and 1992, ended with the Cardinal winning national championships.

# Classifieds

111 Communications Center • 335-5784

11 am deadline for new ads and cancellations

CLASSIFIED READERS: When answering any ad that requires cash, please check them out before responding. DO NOT SEND CASH, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER until you know what you will receive in return. It is impossible for us to investigate every ad that requires cash.

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## Arts & Entertainment

# 'Airframe' falls short in end

Stacey Harrison  
The Daily Iowan

"You can't build a machine with a million parts and not have snags."

So said Casey Singleton, the heroine in Michael Crichton's latest novel, "Airframe," in reference to the mammoth jetliner at the center of the book's intrigue.

But Singleton easily could be commenting on the author's skill at constructing his high-concept, intricately plotted thrillers. Crichton puts a lot of goings-on in his books with way too many characters to keep track of, much less to care about. Although there are some fun and enthralling segments to "Airframe," it is almost inevitable that it lags toward the end. The novel reaches an unsatisfying conclusion accompanied by an extremely lame denouement.

There are certain elements one should expect when picking up a Crichton novel: short chapters, stock characters and tremendously lean prose. All of these are pervasive in "Airframe," which ends up covering a lot of the same ground the author covered in "Disclosure" with the major subplot of internal politics at a major airline.

"Airframe" recounts the investigation into a mysterious airplane incident that killed three passengers and injured 57. This tragedy takes on a deeper significance because Norton Airlines, who made the plane, is in the middle of a company-saving transaction that depends on having a safe, reliable reputation. The mystery must be solved fast, and Norton



must be absolved from any blame. Chosen to head up the investigation is Singleton, a divorced, thirtysomething woman who often keeps to herself.

Beyond the standard, uninspired investigation portion of "Airframe," Crichton does include a fascinating, insightful look at the TV-news industry that would have made an intriguing book all its own. The shallowness and techniques exhibited by TV journalists are exposed with a scathing, assured tone that is all too convincing. In fact, this part of the book is done too well for its own good, because it is much more interesting than everything else that's going on.

Crichton would have better served his book by making the main character a journalist as opposed to a bureaucrat. That

undoubtedly would have vitally increased the interest quotient and decreased the predictability factor.

It would have been nice if "Airframe" had transcended the usual Crichton fare by injecting the slightest bit of emotion into what should be a heartfelt subject matter. There is nary an exchange of words that goes beyond explaining some part of the plane or some method of procedure in the investigation. It is dialogue only in the academic sense.

Crichton is considerate enough, out of necessity, to include a character, Bob Richman, who is as ignorant of all the technological spiel as the audience is, and needs everything explained to him in minute, painful detail. However, even this bit of literary machinery loses its credibility in the end when Richman is attached a certain significance that totally negates the possibility of him being so uninformed.

It is appropriate that "Airframe" concludes, not with prose, but with a graphically imported copy of an incident report. This just further illustrates the distant, mechanical feel Crichton brings to his work, and how hard it is to be moved by suspense when it involves characters the audience really hasn't gotten to know beyond a superficial level.

However, "Airframe" is far from a torturous reading experience. Given the reader has the right level of expectations going in, one might even come away entertained and ready to see a big-budget Hollywood movie of the same name some time next year.

### WEDNESDAY PRIME TIME

	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
<b>HOME ANTENNA</b>												
KGAN	News	Seinfeld	The Nanny	Pearl	My Cousin Vinny (R, '92) *** (Joe Pesci)	News	Late Show w/Letterman	Cher's				
KWWL	News	Wheel	Wings	Caroline	NewsRadio	Men ...	Christmas Washington	News	Tonight Show	Late Night		
KCRG	News	Home Imp.	Grace ...	Coach	Carry	Ellen	PrimeTime Live	News	Roseanne	Coach	Nightline	
KJIN	NewsHour	MotorWeek	Candies, Snow ...		The New Explorers	Juletide Fest	Business	Mulberry	Rockless (PG-13, '95)			
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>												
UUTV	Hungary	France	Croatia		China: Tai Yuan	China	Philippines (9:35)	Korea	Greece	News		
FAM	Santa Claus/Town	The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (96)			The 700 Club		3 Stooges	3 Stooges	Carson	Carson		
LIFE	Designing	Designing	Unsolved Mysteries	Palomino (91) ** (Lindsay Frost, Lee Horsley)			Weddings of Lifetime VI	Unsolved Mysteries				
BRVA	Naked Hollywood	The Missionary (R, '92) **			Foot Notes		Inside Actor's Studio	84 Charing Cross Road (PG, '87) ***				
BET	Hit List	UnReal			Comieview		Talk	Benson	Rap City			
SPC	MCC	UIC Flames	College Basketball: Ill. St. at Northwestern (Live)		Back Table	NBA	SportsChannel Report	Golf Scene	PGA Tour			
AMC	Diamond Horseshoe (5)	WENN	Man in the Shadow (57) **		Touch of Evil (58) **** (Charlton Heston)		Man in the Shadow					
ENC	You're a Big Boy Now (6:15) (66) ***		Empire of the Sun (PG, '87) ** (Christian Bale, John Malkovich)				Reds (PG, '81) ***					
USA	Highlander	Star Wars (PG, '77) **** (Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford)			The Big Easy		Silk Stalkings		Big Date			
DISC	Beyond ...	Next Step	Wild Discovery		Discover Magazine		The New Detectives	Next Step	Beyond ...	Wild Discovery		
FX	Mission: Impossible	A-Team: In Plane Sight	Miami Vice		In Color	In Color	Picket Fences		Miami Vice			
WGN	Matters	BZZZ!	Sister	Nick Freno	Wayans	Jamie Foxx	News	Wiseguy: Meltdown	In the Heat of the Night			
TBS	Fun Videos	Fun Videos	NBA Basketball: New York Knicks at Detroit Pistons (Live)				Toy Soldiers (9:45) (R, '91) ** (Sean Astin)					
TNT	In the Heat of the Night	Magnum Force (R, '73) *** (Clint Eastwood, Hal Holbrook)					Sharky's Machine (9:45) (R, '81) **					
ESPN	College Basketball: UNLV at Syracuse (Live)	College Basketball: LSU vs. North Carolina (Live)					SportsCenter	NFL Great	Dog Show			
COM	Daily Show TV Nation	An American Werewolf in London (R, '81) ***			Dream On	One-Night	Daily Show TV Nation	Saturday Night Live				
A&E	The Equalizer	Biography	American Justice: Godfathers vs. the Law		Law & Order		Biography					
TNN	Dukes of Hazzard	12 Videos of Christmas	Prime Time Country	C'ry News	Dance	Dallas: Who Done It?	Dukes of Hazzard					
NICK	Doug	Rugrats	Alex Mack	Happy Day	Honeymn.	Honeymn.	Taxi	Odd C'ple	Bewitched	Jeanie		
MTV	Savants	Singled	Prime Time		Style	Real World	Real World	Savants	Singled	Loveline		
UNI	Bendita Mentira	Maria, La del Barrio	Canaveral de Pasiones	Fuera ...	Lente Loco	Impacto	Noticiero	La Tocada				
<b>PREMIUM CHANNELS</b>												
HBO	Regarding Henry (5)	Clueless (PG-13, '95) *** (Alicia Silverstone)	L. Sanders	High Life	Comic Relief's 10th	Heat (R, '95) ***						
DIS	Rudolph and Frosty's Christmas ...	A Mom for Christmas (7:40) (90) **	Disney	The Avonlea Saga	Buddy Holly Story (PG, '78) ***							
MAX	Nine Months (5:15)	Almost Dead (95) **		Point of No Return (R, '93) ** (Bridget Fonda)	The Doom Generation (95) **							

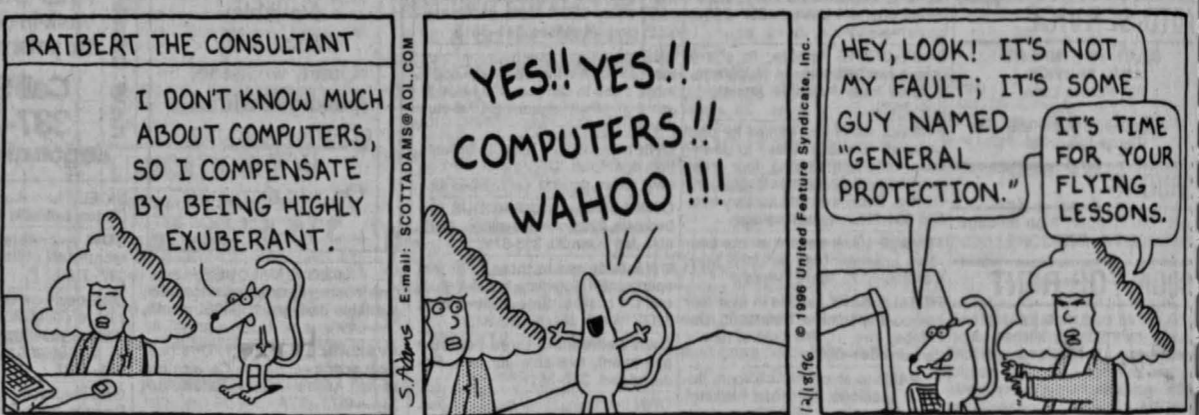
### Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



### DILBERT

by Scott Adams



### THE FARROWGRUNDS

BY Kevin Fair



### NewsBriefs

#### Tony Curtis takes on bar's female tradition while dressed in drag

NEW YORK (AP) — Certainly, no lady would dance on top of a honky-tonk's bar and it was certainly no lady who did so this weekend at a Manhattan saloon. It was Tony Curtis.

The 72-year-old actor jumped up on the bar of Hogs & Heifers and danced with some female

bartenders Saturday night while swinging a red lace bra over his head, the New York Post reported Monday.

"This is great. I love this!" a heavily made-up Curtis shouted.

Dancing on the bar is a tradition for female customers. Curtis apparently is the first male to participate.

Curtis, fetching in female attire in the 1959 film "Some Like It Hot," is in town to film a

movie in which he has a dream about being a drag queen, the Post said.

After dancing to Johnny Paycheck's "Take This Job and Shove It," Curtis added the bra to a collection of bras left by such celebrities as Julia Roberts, Drew Barrymore and Daryl Hannah, the paper said.

No word on who owned the undergarment.

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IRISH PUB  
4-10 PM \$2.99  
BURGER BASKET  
8-CLOSE  
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**THE Q BAR**  
LONGNECK NIGHT!  
\$1.50 Longnecks (Domestics)  
\$1.00 Old Style Light Bottles  
7pm - Close

**BASS**  
Open For Lunch Monday - Friday 11am - 2pm  
Tuesday Chicago-Style House Party 9pm-12mid: \$1 Cover • \$1 Subs  
Wednesday An Evening of Blues With Kevin "B.F." Burt & Friends  
Thursday Boogie Night Disco Party!  
Viernes 9pm - 4am La Noche del Baile Latino  
Saturday 7pm - 11pm High School Night (18 & Under)  
Saturday 12mid - 4am NON-STOP DANCE TRACKS Hip-Hop • House • R&B • Reggae  
Must Be 18 or Over • I.D. Required  
13 South Linn Street • 354-BASS

Welcome Back Students  
**FAST FREE DELIVERY**  
Open Late  
**GUMBY'S Pizza**  
35-GUMBY 702 S. Gilbert St., Kennedy Plaza  
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HOURS: SUN-WED 11 AM-2:30 AM THURS THRU SAT 11 AM - 3 AM

**\$4.99**  
DORM SPECIAL  
Large 14" one topping DORMS ONLY  
MasterCard VISA DISCOVER NO CASH? NO PROBLEM!  
NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS

### Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1106

**ACROSS**

- Inside the foul line
- Like Inesca's soprano
- Romantic actor Charles
- It parallels the radius
- Perlman of "Pearl"
- A month in Madrid
- Robin
- Actress Shire
- Wall Street order
- Brain test results, for short
- Some linemen: Abbr.
- Hopes
- School failure
- Alphabetic run
- Kind of summit
- All over
- Pinkish color
- Custard tart
- Longtime Israeli foreign minister
- Rock concert equipment
- See 32-Down
- Start of a Latin boast
- Alto, Calif.
- Mobil rival
- E-mail predecessor
- Oklahoma city
- 1995 earthquake site
- Potash
- Conniver
- Having deep pockets
- Miller Sebastian
- French tire
- Shot over the head
- D-Day beach
- Legal-tender bill
- Situation for Pauline?
- Ice cream thickener
- Industrial show
- First name in cosmetics
- Mother of Apollo
- ex machina

**DOWN**

- Raccoon, e.g.
- Bitter
- Not the party type: Abbr.
- Browning's Ben Ezra, e.g.
- Supreme Court Justice Stephen
- "Gotchal"
- majesté
- Saw
- Trusts
- roll
- Chicken, so to speak
- "A Masked Ball" aria
- Friars Club event
- Part of R.F.D.
- Super-duper
- Royalties org.
- Pore in a leaf
- Stick
- "60 Minutes" newsmen
- Irk
- With 42-Across, a famous pirate
- Shows up
- Busk model
- Fell off
- Feel the
- Make haste
- Dinner table exhortation
- Sub's eye, for short
- Fire
- Computer's heart, for short
- Dempsey stat

Puzzle by Mark Elliot Skolsky

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

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BEST  
80 Hours, Page

THURSDAY, DE  
Crimes  
against  
women  
increas

Cassandra Burrell  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — every five victims of crimes reported in 1995, the Justice Dept. said Wednesday. That's 20 years ago, when accounted for two of six victims.

And most crimes women are committed, people closest to them ing to a Bureau of Justice statistics report.

During 1992 and 1993, an average of 3.5 million against women involving sexual assault were reported, said in about 1 million of them, the at were relatives, acquai or intimates — boyfri husbands.

About 800,000 strangers, the study said. "Females experience times as many incidents of fatal violence by an intimate male — more than 143,000 for men," the Department said in a report.

Also Wednesday, the Department announced million in grants for 100 communities across the country to help them investigate acute domestic assault crimes. The grants awarded under a Violence Against Women Act program aimed at encouraging arrests of domestic violence offenders.

The money will be used on such projects as developing automated information systems to track perpetrators, training police, prosecutors, judiciary and probation officers.

Of the 10.9 million crimes reported in 1995, 1.9 million occurred against women and 6.2 million against men, the Bureau of Justice statistics report said.

"There was one rape every 270 women, one for every 240 women in sexual assault for every 29 women the report said. "For homicide — the least frequent — was one female victim approximately every 12 women 12 or older."

Women accounted for 40 percent of all known homicides in the United States in 1995, according to the cases involving a sexual assault, 89 percent and 90 percent of women.

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**Memorial service**  
There will be a service for "Claudier" McCutcheon at 2 p.m. at Old Brick Church, Dec. 15 at Mercy Hospital. She was 52 years old.

READ, THEN RE...