





RECORD

Weekenders . .

Places to go . . . things to do

Group to sponsor dance

Parents Without Partners, East of the River Chapter No. 1296, will sponsor a dance on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kosciazko Club, One Vernon Ave., Vernon. Music will be by Spring Fever. Admission is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. For further information, call 649-1949 or 423-8958.

Art exhibit to open

The Manchester Arts Council will hold an opening reception for "Squares and Other Paintings," an exhibit by artist Dr. Felix Bromer at the Chamber of Commerce, 20 Hartford Road, on Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibit will remain on display until Feb. 23. Walk around trail planned.

Trail walk scheduled Sunday

The Hoekman River Linear Park Committee will sponsor a walk around the Union Pond Trail on Sunday at 1 p.m. Parking is available at the Robertson School where the approximately 2 1/4 mile walk will start. Rain date is Jan. 28.

Square dance on Saturday

The Manchester Square Dance Club will hold a mainstream plus level dance Saturday from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Tilling Junior High School, 259 E. Middle Turnpike. Dennis Marsh will call the dance. A round dance workshop will be held from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Donations are \$8 per couple. For more information, call 643-1005 or 643-9375.

About Town

Self-help group meets

Narcotics Anonymous will meet Friday at Manchester Memorial Hospital at 7:30 p.m. Ask for the room number at the information desk.

Program to hold orientation

Family Home Share, a home-matching program for single parent families, will hold a free orientation meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Center Congregational Church, 11 Center St. Any single parent having difficulty maintaining a home or finding affordable housing is eligible to participate. Children welcome. For registration information, call Child & Family Services, 236-6511.

Financial aid forms explained

Assistance in completing the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Form will be available Saturday from members of Alpha Delta Kappa, a national honorary sorority of women educators. They have been trained by Carol Chivarrini, financial aid officer at Wesleyan University and consultant to the Manchester Scholarship Foundation. To make an appointment, call 643-0969.

Military Notes

Completes Army course

Pvt. Ronald M. Palmer Jr., nephew of Cynthia Casavino of 9 South Road, Bolton, has completed a supply course at the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C.

He is an honor graduate of the course. He is a 1988 graduate of East Hartford High School.

Awarded Air Force degree

Tech. Sgt. Edward J. Kuczyński Jr., son of Edward J. and Lucille Kuczyński of 110 Walnut St., has been awarded an associate degree in applied science by the Community College of the Air Force.

Kuczyński is an electronic warfare systems technician with the 3380th Technical Training Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

In 1976 Kuczyński graduated from Manchester High School. He received an associate degree in 1985 from Miami-Dade Community College, Miami, Fla.

Lottery

Here are Thursday's lottery results from around New England:

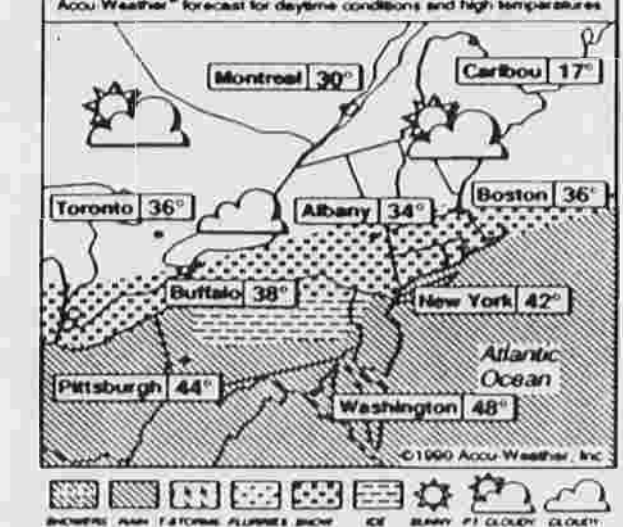
CONNECTICUT: Daily: 2-5-9. Play Four: 4-5-4-6. MASSACHUSETTS: Daily: 7-7-7-7.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND: New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine daily: 0-9-1 and 4-8-0-9. RHODE ISLAND: Daily: 2-8-1-8. Lot-O-Backs: 1-4-16-16-20-26.

Weather

REGIONAL Weather

Saturday, January 20



SILK CITY CHORUS — The Silk City Chorus practices Wednesday in preparation for its two shows. The chorus will perform Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Manchester High School. For tickets, call 649-8578.

Obituaries

Carmine J. Manente

Carmine J. Manente, 70, of 890 Hop River Road, Bolton, died Wednesday (Jan. 17, 1990) at West Haven Veterans Hospital. He was the husband of Claire Savio-Manente.

He was born in Hartford, and lived in East Hartford before moving to Bolton 7 1/2 years ago. Before retiring, he was a manager for Shawnee Stove Co. of East Hartford and Waterbury. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, a member of the Manchester VFW, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Hartford Lodge of Elks No. 19.

He is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Gloria Manente of East Hartford; a stepson, Robert Bissonette of Coventry; two stepdaughters, Elaine G. Bissonette of Mansfield, and Patsy Ann Muro of Manchester; three brothers, Edward deAngelis of Vernon, Horace Manente of Waterbury, and Ernest Manente of Hartford; two sisters, Anna Roxany of Vernon, and Connie Manente of East Hartford.

Burial will be in Veterans Memorial Field, Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford. Calling hours are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Ruth Shedd, 96, of 12 Fenwood Drive, Bolton, widow of George Shedd, died Thursday (Jan. 18, 1990) at the Avery Heights Home in Bolton.

She was born in Moodus, Sept. 27, 1893, and was a Bolton resident most of her life. She was a member of North United Methodist Church, and the church choir for many years.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ward (Dorothy) Krause of Bolton, and Ruth Farmer of Honolulu, Hawaii; two brothers, Paul Carter and John Carter, both of Hartford; a sister, Marion Hewitt of Hartford; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Earl Shedd.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. at North United Methodist Church, 300 Parker St. There are no calling hours. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Mineral donations may be made to the North United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 300 Parker St., or Church Homes Inc., 705 New Britain Ave., Hartford 06106.

He is also survived by a brother, James Pauski of East Hartford, and two sisters, Amelia Conral of East Hartford, and Gladys Klymer of East Hartford.

The funeral will be Saturday at 9:15 a.m. at the Callahan Funeral Home, 1602 Main St., East Hartford, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 10 a.m. in St. Isaac Jogues Church, East Hartford.

Burial will be in Veterans Memorial Field, Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford. Calling hours are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

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Police Roundup

Painter charged in theft

A Hartford man, who was working as a painter at Arthur's Drug Store, was arrested Thursday and charged in connection with the theft of \$12,500 in cash and checks and \$2,000 worth of drugs from the Main Street store, police said.

Twenty-four-year-old Wendell Robert Moyses, also known as Robert Moyses and Bob Moyses, of 35 Redding St., Hartford, was charged with third-degree burglary, first-degree larceny, and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, police said.

The theft took place sometime early Thursday morning.

Police said that witnesses had told them that Moyses, while working at the store, had asked employees many questions about the drugs they were handling, and made several trips to the bathroom and a car parked outside the store. During the investigation, some of the stolen drugs were found in the bathroom, police said.

Police said that Moyses, when interviewed Thursday at his Hartford apartment, had drugs on his person that were of the same type stolen from Arthur's.

He is being held on a \$50,000 cash bond, and is scheduled to appear today in Manchester Superior Court.

Man cited after crash

Batilla Pagan, of 13 Falkner Drive, Manchester, was issued a warning for failure to grant a right of way in relation to a two-car accident Wednesday night at Center and Adams streets, police said.

Pagan, 82, suffered a neck injury for which he was treated at Manchester Memorial Hospital, said hospital spokesman Andrew Beck. He was released the night of the accident.

Police said that Pagan was traveling south on Adams Street and drove across the intersection into a car traveling west on Center Street. At the impact, he told police that he thought the intersection was a four-way stop, rather than a two-way stop, police said.

He is also survived by a brother, James Pauski of East Hartford, and two sisters, Amelia Conral of East Hartford, and Gladys Klymer of East Hartford.

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MANCHESTER/BOLTON

School chairman works to prevent juvenile crime

By Nancy Foley Manchester Herald

Prevention of juvenile crime will be a top priority for a Board of Education committee in November, as appointed by Gov. William A. O'Neill earlier in the month as chairman of the committee which will advise the governor and the Legislature on policy concerning juveniles.

"I'm happy to continue working with kids," Dyer said.

Dyer, 39, has been chairman of the school board since 1986 and a member since 1981. He chose not to run for re-election last year.

The juvenile justice committee presides over a budget of \$500,000.

He sees many factors contributing to juvenile crime. The breakdown in the family and the fact that moral values are not taught in the home are part of the problem, he said.

Some children do not receive the supervision they need because both parents are working, he said.

Young people with learning disabilities may get into trouble when they find they are not successful at school, he said.

He saw drugs were a problem with many youthful offenders during the 1970s.

"Now, we're awash in drugs," Dyer said.

He does not believe the system is too "soft" on juvenile offenders.

Dyer said, some of which is used to fund local programs for juveniles. He will chair his first meeting of the committee in February.

The schools and courts should try to identify and help juveniles who are at risk for getting into serious trouble before it is necessary to put them in a jail or a private residential center, Dyer said.

He pointed to the Transitional Living Center, a group home in Manchester, as a "bunama" program that allows teen-agers to stay in their own communities.

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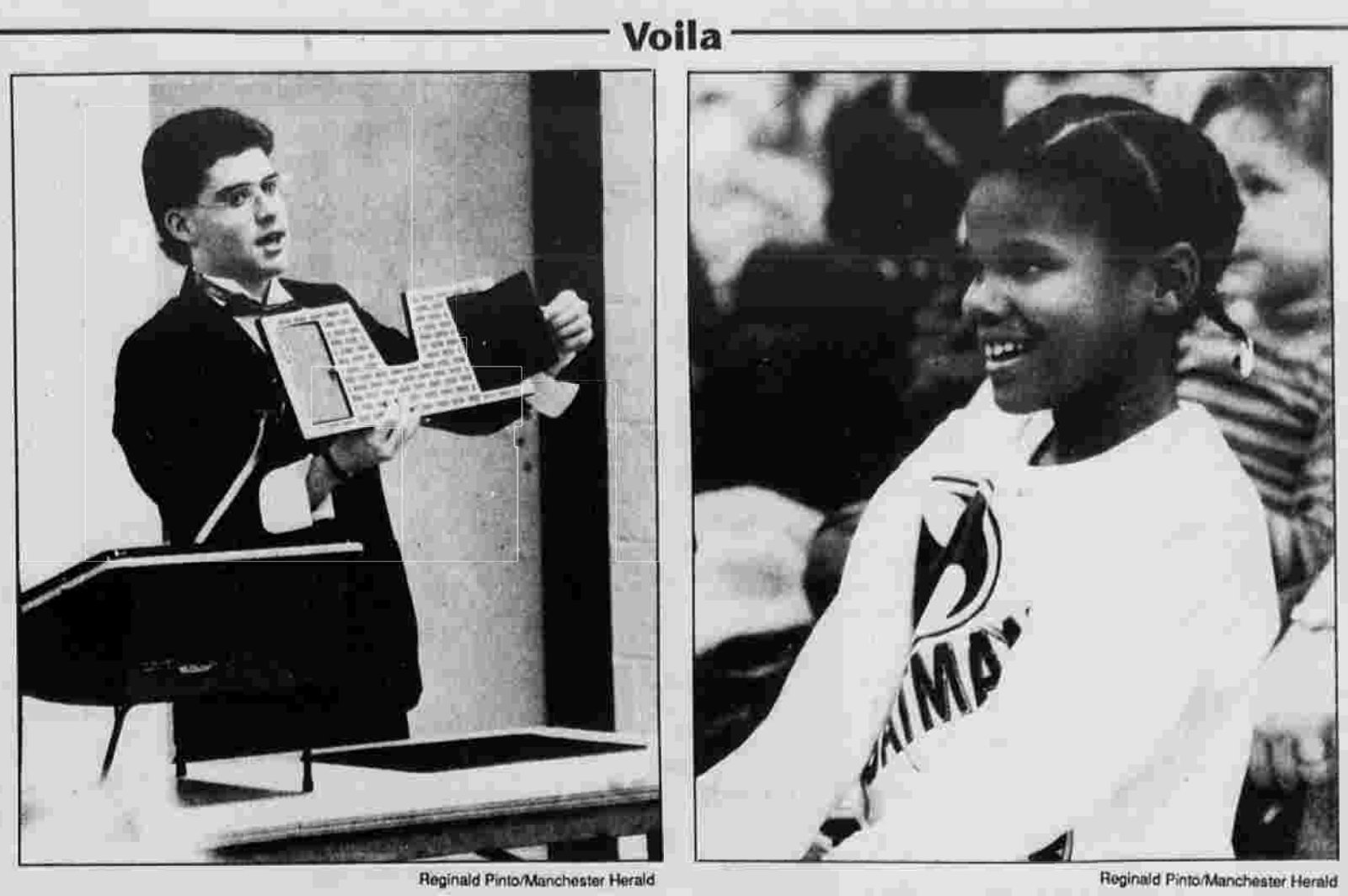
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IT'S MAGIC — David Kaplan, a magician from South Windsor, enjoys the time he spent entertaining Washington School pupils Thursday.



ENCORE PLEASE — Branda Rhoe, a pupil at Washington School, enjoys a magic show Thursday by magician David Kaplan of South Windsor.



APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE — Pupils at Washington School enjoy a performance Thursday by magician David Kaplan. Among other tricks, the young audience witnessed an old trick when Kaplan pulled a rabbit out of a hat.

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Births

RAMIREZ, Christopher Michael, son of Robert and Debra Ramirez of 77 Oxford St., was born Dec. 14 at Manchester Memorial Hospital. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Proctor of East Hartford. His paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Ramirez, El Paso, Texas. He has a brother, Andrew Robert, 2.

PAULIUS, Emily Anne, daughter of Chris and Eileen Gordon Paulius of Columbia, was born Dec. 22 at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Her maternal grandparents are Robert and Phyllis Gordon of 43 Wellington Road. Her paternal grandparents are Paul Paulius of Wilmanic and Lois Paulius of Mansfield. Her maternal great-grandmother is Ethel Sandberg of Manchester. Her paternal great-grandmother is Edith Masse of Waterbury.

The Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., is in charge of arrangements.

Thoughts

The word "Kosher" has become a part of the English language. People use it to mean "proper." Its origin, of course, is in the Jewish dietary laws. We Jews have a rather complex set of regulations that we are supposed to follow in regard to what we may and may not eat and how it must be prepared and served. This isn't the place to go into detail, but I would like to deal with one question: Why do we bother?

According to Jewish theology, we have a covenant with the Lord. We are bound by that covenant to observe certain precepts as laid down in the first five books of the Bible (the Torah) and as they have been explained and developed by our tradition over the centuries. The purpose of these precepts is to help us to transcend our physicality, to transform our mundane lives into sacred moments. Eating is one activity that occupies us more than almost any other activity. On the one hand, it is a strictly physical act — we must provide our bodies with nourishment and so eat. Yet, it can be a sacred meal. A meal shared with family or friends — even eaten alone — can be holy if we choose to sanctify it. For Jews, this is done by adherence to the laws known as Kashrut.

On the TV series, Rusty Hamer played the part of Rusty, and Danny Thomas played his father, a nightclub singer and comedian.

He is also survived by a brother, James Pauski of East Hartford, and two sisters, Amelia Conral of East Hartford, and Gladys Klymer of East Hartford.

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New vote will be needed for GOP in District 8

A new election for Republican Town Committee members from Voting District 8 will be held because only one person voted in the Jan. 11 caucus and a minimum of two votes is needed to make the election valid.

As a result, a petition will have to be submitted to the Republican Registrar of Voters by 4 p.m. Jan. 31 containing the names of about 35 District 8 Republicans who intend to nominate candidates for the town committee.

If seven candidates or fewer submit petitions, the candidates will be deemed elected. Seven members are authorized in the district, which votes at Verplanck School.

The money, a 10 percent increase over last year's request, will be used to purchase instruments, including basses, cellos, violas and sopranoes, she said.

She said that when parents rent instruments from professional music stores, they usually are paying toward owning the instrument.

The Board of Education will hold another budget workshop on Thursday and the public is invited to come to the meeting to discuss the superintendent's proposed budget.

The Board of Education must approve a budget to send to the town manager by Feb. 21. He must call a joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Board of Directors within 15 days of that date.

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MANCHESTER ADULT EVENING SCHOOL REGISTER BY MAIL

All courses to be held at Manchester High School

COURSES:	FEES	WEEKS	NIGHT	TIME	ROOM	COURSES:	FEES	WEEKS	NIGHT	TIME	ROOM
Accounting	\$23	8	M	7-9	145	Algebra Basics & You	7	T	7-9	252	
Computer by Small Business Use	\$23	8	T	7-9	101	Baking Your Best	4	M	7-9	148	
Inviting Funds	6	W	7-9	145	Career Advancement	4	W	7-9	117		
Intro to Word Processing (DW 4)	\$23	8	M	6:30-8:30	128	Career & Planning	9	T	7-9	260	
Internet Word Processing (DW 4)	\$23	8	M	6:30-8:30	129	Chores What they tell you	4	T	7-9	260	
Art Lect. 1 & 2	\$23	4	T	6:30-9	128	Family Computer Skills	9	T	7-9	260	
Art Lect. 1 & 2	\$23	4	T	6:30-9	128	Financial Planning	6	M	7-9	150	
Break-Up/Shortyard	6	W	7-9	142	GPA (work \$14) prep. to B.S.	4	W	7-9	262		
Typing I/WEB 2/ILES or 3/MCM	\$6	8	6	6:30-9	141	Health & Safety (MS) Series 3(2)	8	W	7-9	262	
Auto Repair - MAIN 2/ILES or 3/WEB	\$6	8	6:30-9	141	Family Computer Skills	9	T	7-9	260		
Woodworking I/WEB or 2/MCM	\$6	8	6:30-9	141	Photography I	9	T	7-9	143		
French 1	6	W	7-9	262	Photography II	9	T	7-9	143		
German I/MCM or 2/ILES	6	W	7-9	264	Philosophy of Literature	6	M	7-9	143		
Spanish I/MCM or 2/ILES	6	W	7-9	262	Preceptor: The Masters	6	M	7-9	143		
Sig Language I/WEB DE 2/ILES	6	W	7-9	262	Writing Creative Fiction/Novel	7	W	7-9	148		
British/Pastor Studies	6	W	7-9	153	Writing for Publication (oprig 3)(2)	4	T	7-9	148		
Basic Drawing	6										



## STATE

### In Brief . . .

**Accident decapitates man**  
MIDDLETOWN (AP) — A 45-year-old Hartford man was decapitated while performing routine maintenance on a press at a Middletown metal forging company, police said.

Ivan Brooks, a maintenance man, was working on a drop hammer machine at the Bourdon Forge when the accident occurred about 6:40 a.m. Thursday, said Sgt. Richard Ward, supervisor of the Middletown detective bureau. The machine was accidentally turned on, Ward said.

Police are investigating the accident. Ward said the incident did not appear suspicious. The body was taken to the Medical Examiner's Office in Farmington for an autopsy.

**Oil companies settle suit**  
HARTFORD (AP) — Three major oil companies have agreed to pay a total of \$200,000 to the state to settle a gasoline pricing suit brought by the state in 1986, Attorney General Clarence Nardi Riddle said.

The suit against Mobil, Sun and Texaco alleged that the companies illegally discriminated by charging direct-buying retailers one price for gasoline and wholesalers another. The companies admitted no wrongdoing under the settlement, Riddle said Thursday. They will be required to file bi-monthly reports to Riddle's office on their current prices.

Riddle said the \$200,000 settlement would go toward state energy-related programs.

**O'Neill touts Weicker run**

HARTFORD (AP) — Democratic Gov. William A. O'Neill says former Republican U.S. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. would be a strong candidate should he get into this year's governor's race.

Weicker, who narrowly lost his bid for a fourth Senate term in 1988, said this week there was a slim chance that he would enter the governor's race, either as a Republican or an independent.

O'Neill, who's planning to seek a third full term this year, said Thursday that a Weicker candidacy "would make it a very interesting race, I must admit."

"I think Lowell would be a formidable opponent in any race that he ran, whether he runs as a Republican or an unaffiliated voter or whatever the case may be," O'Neill told reporters at the lobby of the Legislative Office Building as he headed for a legislative conference.

"However, I think I'll still be the governor when it's over," O'Neill added.

**Recount reaffirms victory**

HARTFORD (AP) — A recount has affirmed the narrow victory of Democrat Edna N. Negron in the state's 6th House District over former state Rep. Abraham L. Giles, also a Democrat.

The Hartford registrar of voters' office said Thursday that the recount showed Negron with 686 votes to Giles' 672 in Tuesday's special election. Those were the same totals registered Thursday, but a recount was required because of the narrowness of the victory.

The seat was left vacant by the death of freshman Rep. Maria C. Sanchez in November. Also in the running for the seat was Hartford Police Officer Edwin E. Garcia, with 201 votes, and James H. Monroe Jr., president of the Hartford Black Democratic Club, with 150 votes.

**Body homicide victim**

PROSPECT (AP) — The body of a 23-year-old Waterbury man was found near a residential area of Prospect, the victim of an apparent homicide, state police said.

Authorities initially believed the victim was a female since he was wearing a black dress, panny hose and a coat when found. The victim was later identified through fingerprints as Michael T. Schofield, state police said.

Schofield's body was found on the side of Morris Road near Route 68 about 8:40 a.m. Thursday by a passing motorist, State police spokesman Scott O'Meara said. The State Police Major Crime Squad was investigating, and the death was being treated as a homicide since there were several obvious wounds on the body, police said.

The body was taken to the state Chief Medical Examiner's Office and an autopsy was scheduled for today.

**GANG leader is sentenced**

NEW HAVEN (AP) — The former leader of a New Haven motorcycle gang has been sentenced to two years in prison for possessing one pound of cocaine and evading more \$37,000 in federal income taxes.

Leroy Bolden Sr., 51, the former president of the Flaming Knights Motorcycle Club, was also ordered Thursday by U.S. District Court Judge T.P. Gilroy Day to serve five years probation following his release from prison and fined \$50,000.

Bolden pleaded guilty Oct. 15 to one count of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and evading federal income taxes, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter S. Jongbloed said.

The charges stemmed from a raid on Bolden's apartment on March 31, 1988 during which federal agents seized cocaine, \$2,663 cash and financial records.

Jongbloed said Bolden did not file income tax returns despite making purchases totaling \$230,000 between 1984 and 1987.

The tax charge for which Bolden was sentenced stemmed from 1984 when Jongbloed said the former New Haven resident had \$91,894 in taxable income. Jongbloed said Bolden owed \$37,738 in taxes on the income.

Bolden is already serving a 10-year sentence in state prison on drug charges. He is scheduled to be released in June 1996 when he will begin serving the federal sentence.

Bolden is also awaiting sentencing in New Jersey in connection with possessing 150 baggies of heroin, U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy Jr. said.

**Day-care centers seek funds**

HARTFORD (AP) — The 109 state-subsidized day-care centers need an additional \$5 million in funding to stay in business, daycare officials say.

The centers are plagued by budget cutbacks, staff turnover and late payment of bills by both the state and federal governments, daycare officials said Wednesday.

"Without proper funding, promises, rhetoric and guidelines are meaningless," said Barbara Hamlin, co-chairwoman of the Connecticut Child Care Directors Forum. "It is essential that the public and those in political office understand the crisis for survival that is facing many centers due to lack of funding."



**ON THE MOVE** — State Rep. Paul Munns distributes copies of a questionnaire aimed at determining the area's transportation needs at a commuter parking lot on Buckland Street Thursday. The Republican says the state should seriously study a plan to start a mass transit line on unused rail lines.

## Munns moves on transportation needs

By Dianna M. Talbot  
Manchester Herald

Rep. Paul R. Munns, R-Manchester, took his pledge for mass transportation reform to commuter parking lots in town Thursday in an effort to get feedback on what it is like to commute in the Hartford area.

By 8 a.m., the chairman of the House Republican's Policy Committee on Mass

Transportation had distributed questionnaires to 250 commuters. In them, he asks questions such as: why and how far people commute, and how they think the state's mass transportation system could be improved.

Munns, who also represents parts of Glastonbury and East Hartford, said he hopes to have the questionnaires returned to him within the next few weeks. His committee then will use the results to try and create legislation that will improve

On Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Munns

will broadcast a half-hour program discussing the area's mass transportation problems on Channel 33, Cox Cable. Paul Earhardt, chairman of the Greater Hartford Transit District, will be a featured guest on the show.

Anyone wishing to contact the representative can reach him at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford at 240-8700 or his Manchester home, 645-0895.

## Pollution dips in Connecticut, but further efforts are urged

By Judith Evenden  
The Associated Press

HARTFORD — Connecticut companies poured 38.5 million pounds of chemicals into the air, ground and water in 1988, about 2 million pounds less than the previous year, according to Environmental Protection Commissioner Leslie Carothers.

Despite the improvement, Carothers said she was wary of reading too much into the new numbers.

"I'd like to think the tide is turning, and some credit is due to our stepped-up anti-pollution enforcement," she said, "but you can't identify trends with only two years worth of numbers."

She said her agency is investigating the causes of the reductions and

is "looking for opportunities to use its toxic control authority to press for further reductions."

The DEP began keeping the chemical pollution records in 1987. The numbers come from reports required under a federal community right-to-know law.

Of the nearly 400 companies reporting in 1988, the top 10 account for more than 50 percent of the chemicals released, Carothers said. As in 1987, Pizer Inc. of Groton was No. 1, although its chemical release was down by 32 percent from 1987, 8.7 million pounds to 5.9 million.

In second place was Specialty Packaging Products Inc. of Waterbury, which did not report in 1987, with 2.6 million pounds. In third place was American Cyanamid in Wallingford and in fourth place was

Uniroyal Chemical Co. in Naugatuck. Other companies in the top 10 were Carpenter Technology Corp. of Bridgeport, now out of business; Tectron Lyeomung of Stratford; and Chem-Tech Rubber Inc. of West Haven.

Major pollution reductions were reported by Pratt & Whitney, down 61 percent from its East Hartford plant and 41 percent from its North Haven facility; and Dow Chemical in Lyndebury, down 19 percent from 1987 totals.

More than 68 percent of the chemicals were released into the air, 16.5 percent went into surface waters, 8.6 percent were piped to municipal sewage treatment plants and 5.2 percent were released directly onto land, making groundwater contamination possible.

Bruno, who was convicted of tax fraud in connection with S&L payoffs, is a witness for the prosecution in Dyer's trial in federal court on extortion, tax evasion and racketeering charges. The government has portrayed Bruno as a victim of the alleged extortion, and he testified as a result of a plea-bargain agreement.

Defense attorney Hugh Keefe spent much of Thursday trying to discredit Bruno, seeking to portray him as a man who had engaged in a number of questionable practices while he was with the savings and loan.

He got Bruno to admit that he kept secret his one-third interest in a real estate partnership that applied for loans from his bank and that \$21,000 in renovations to his son's house was charged to the bank.

And Bruno repeatedly answered, "I don't know," or "I don't recall," when Keefe asked him for specifics or dates.

Bruno staunchly maintained that he had done nothing in proper by secretly securing a \$700,000 loan from his own S&L, and said there was nothing wrong with the theft picking up the tab for the home renovation because he later paid it back with interest.

Bruno testified that even though he frequently waived mortgage points for planning and zoning commissions during Dyer's administration, he didn't expect anything in return.

Bruno agreed with Keefe that he was a silent partner in Valley Associates when the development group got a \$700,000 loan from Danbury Savings & Loan in the early 1980s. But he maintained there was nothing dishonest about the deal because he was only a trustee for his children at the time and the mortgage went through normal channels.

Bruno said one of his partners in Valley Associates renewed the home in 1984 and charged it to one of the S&L's condominium projects in Brookfield. But he said he paid the bank the \$21,000 renovation cost plus interest in 1986 as soon as he discovered what had happened.

Bruno testified that the S&L routinely waived mortgage points for municipal workers or officials under a policy dating to 1954. A point is a cash fee equal to 1 percent of the mortgage.

Among those Bruno said probably saved as much as \$2,000 individually by the waivers were Paul Garwell, Richard Durkin and Richard Ranney — all of whom were Planning Commission members, and Harold Giarofalo, who served on the Zoning Commission.



**POLICE PROTEST** — About 40 police officers from Hartford and other communities formed informational picket lines Thursday at Hartford police headquarters to protest the use of state troopers on the city's most drug-infested streets. The trooper plan was backed by the City Council over the objections of the union.

## Troopers assist drug effort despite picketing police union

By Denise Lavioie  
The Associated Press

HARTFORD — State troopers are out patrolling city streets under a new drug-fighting initiative, but the local police union is continuing its drive to stop the program.

The union's battle moved from the picket line to the courts late Thursday, when union leaders filed a request for a temporary restraining order aimed at squashing the program. No date was immediately set for a hearing on the order.

The "Save our Streets" program, which began in Hartford Thursday when troopers were sent into the city's Frog Hollow neighborhood, teams uniformed state troopers with local police in drug-infested neighborhoods.

The \$250,000 pilot program calls for six state troopers and a supervisor to work with local police for 90 days in high-crime neighborhoods in each of the state's three largest cities — Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven.

The plan has been met with fierce opposition from police unions. They claim the program violates union contracts because the assignment of state troopers to the city constitutes contracting out services that are supposed to be performed by union members.

Sullivan was Hartford's police chief until his temporary retirement from law enforcement last year. "We believe there is no merit to the program," said Union President Dennis O'Brien. "It's simply the symbolism of bringing in state troopers."

O'Neill sent a letter to Union President Dennis O'Brien expressing his dismay at the union's continued opposition to the program.

"I am sorry this controversy has occurred, but I feel the criticisms of the program — before we have had a chance to try it — are unwarranted," O'Neill said in his letter.

The union filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the state Labor Relations Board charging that the program violates both state labor law and the union's contract with the city.

"We feel it's a very important issue to the members of the Hartford Police Union and to their effectiveness," said McElenny. "The premise of the program is that state police

## Fireman dies following drill

TOLLAND (AP) — A Tolland Fire Department volunteer collapsed during an emergency services disaster drill night and died after being rushed to an area hospital, fire officials said.

L. Gary M. Passaro, 45, of Tolland, collapsed during the drill at Tolland High School Thursday night, firefighter Bruce Cropper said.

Members of the Fire Department and a physician administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and Passaro was rushed to Rockville General Hospital, Cropper said. Passaro was pronounced dead at the hospital at 7:53, Cropper said.

Cropper said no further details were available.

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## Louisiana is joining outcry over state-Canada pipeline

DANBURY (AP) — Louisiana may be nowhere near the route of a proposed pipeline that would shuttle natural gas from Canada to Connecticut, but officials from that southern state have joined the outcry against the project.

Mariano Hinojosa, of the Louisiana Department of Conservation, said the proposed 370-mile pipeline would hurt domestic suppliers and further add to the country's dependence on foreign energy sources.

He also criticized retailers for looking to foreign gas companies instead of trying to work with domestic suppliers. Louisiana is the largest supplier of natural gas for the East Coast and produces one-third of the natural gas in the United States.

"Why don't they come to the U.S. companies for help instead of going to Canada?" asked Hinojosa of that state's director of pipelines. "It's like saying you get sick and want to see a doctor in another state. For what?"

The state of Louisiana recently hired a Washington, D.C., law firm to keep a close eye on the proceedings of the Hoquok Gas Transmission System, which is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve its pipeline plan. Louisiana wants to make sure there is fair competition between domestic and foreign natural gas, said David Robinson, an attorney for Patton, Boggs and Blow.

The \$332 million pipeline would begin in Canada, travel through Quebec, New York and the towns of Sherman, New Milford, Brookfield and Newburyton on its way to Long Island Sound. Fourteen natural gas retailers in both states would benefit from the system.

A host of environmental groups, residents and politicians have voiced opposition to the project, claiming it would cause untold environmental damage. They also say that the need for more gas has not been documented.

But Hinojosa said last month's record-breaking cold spell spurred natural gas supplies and cut into reserves such as liquefied natural gas, which comes from Algeria, and liquefied propane gas, which is purchased primarily from American suppliers.

Hinojosa said companies in Louisiana are willing to try to find those supplies but they aren't going to invest millions of dollars when there is gas in Louisiana.

"They might be able to get cheaper gas but that might be short-sighted because you're dealing with a foreign country," said Hinojosa. "Canada might be a nice foreign country but Canadian gas is not under U.S. controls."

## Cigna Corp. plans purchase of major Nashville company

HARTFORD (AP) — In a deal that would make Cigna Corp. the nation's largest health insurer for employees and stock analysts at Smith, Barney, Harris Upham & Co. "You have to get bigger in order to negotiate effectively with employers."

Cigna officials announced the agreement to purchase Equicor-Equitable HCA Corp. Thursday. After absorbing Equicor, which sells health insurance, Cigna would serve more than 12 million people with traditional health insurance operations and nearly 2 million more through HMOs.

Equicor is a joint venture owned by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States and Hospital Corporation of America. It is the sixth-largest group health insurer, based on \$5.5 billion in premiums and fees for administering employers' own health insurance plans in 1988.

Equicor has 7,300 employees nationally in about 80 offices, none of them in Connecticut.

Wilson J. Taylor, Cigna chairman and chief executive officer, said the acquisition would mean the elimination of some jobs because of

duplication of effort, but the company hasn't determined yet how many jobs would be lost, which would be eliminated from, or at what locations.

David Devereaux, president of Cigna Employee Benefits Group's sales, marketing and underwriting, said he believed some jobs eventually would be cut in Bloomfield, where Cigna has about 5,500 employees there, where its health insurance operations are based.

"Taylor said Cigna is buying Equicor because Cigna is committed to establishing a leading position in the managed health care business."

Managed care refers to health maintenance organizations and other services and networks of health care providers aimed at restraining the soaring costs of care.

"The timing for growth couldn't be any better" because of employers' increasing desire to limit rising costs of employee health care," he said.

Stock analysts said the plan was a good one for Cigna.

"I think it is a brilliant strategic move because size and critical mass have become the key strategic variables in this industry," said Taylor.

The closing on the acquisition, which is subject to regulatory approval, could take three to six months, Devereaux said.

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# NATION & WORLD Fog delays shuttle landing

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A threat of fog that proved real blocked Columbia's return to Earth until Saturday, making for the longest space shuttle mission yet.

The shuttle had planned a pre-down landing today at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., but Mission Control decided to keep Columbia in orbit because conditions were favorable for a fog bank to move in suddenly.

The new landing time of 12:01 a.m. PST extends the flight to nearly 11 days, surpassing the old record by 11 hours, 38 minutes. That was set by Columbia in 1983.

Capsule communicator Mike Baker early today initially directed the five astronauts to lengthen the flight by one orbit, or 95 minutes, in case the fog forecast improved.

When it didn't, he said, "We've decided not to come home today. The weather looks a lot better Saturday."

"OK. Sounds like the best plan," Columbia commander Dan Brantley responded. Earlier he said, "This is not a good vehicle to fly into fog."

The forecasters proved right. Dense patches of fog formed and were in the area at the planned landing time. Flight rules dictate visibility of seven miles for landing.

"Our concerns were valid and we did the proper thing today," said Flight Director Lee Briscoe.

The initial directive to hold off was relayed to the astronauts just three hours before they were to have fired their re-entry engines, wrapping up a flight that deployed one satellite and rescued another.

The shuttle will have four chances Saturday to land at the Mojave Desert base.

Columbia carries enough fuel and other supplies to stay in orbit until at least Monday, officials said.

Other U.S. landing sites at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and at White Sands Missile Base, N.M., also had unacceptable weather conditions today.

The space travelers planned a day of exercising, photography and other light activity.

Their day began at 9:35 p.m. EST Thursday with Mission Control blaring the Steppenwolf song, "Born to Be Wild" as the wakeup music.

"Good morning Columbia. I hope you're ready to rock and roll," said the control center.

"We're ready to rock and roll," replied shuttle pilot Jim Weibrecht.

The 11-ton scientific satellite stowed in the spaceship's cargo bay had been in orbit for nearly six years before being snared by the astronauts a week ago.

The satellite, called the Long Duration Exposure Facility, was deployed by a shuttle crew in April 1984 and was supposed to remain in orbit for less than a year, but its retrieval was delayed because of scheduling changes and the 1986 Challenger accident.

Scientists want to know how the various experimental materials stored in 37 trays outside the LDEF withstood being pounded by micrometeoroids, blasted by cosmic rays and corroded by atomic oxygen.

## Major killers get little attention

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal health officials said Thursday that nine preventable chronic diseases are responsible for more than half the deaths in this country — but get only 2 percent of the public health dollars spent by the states.

Meanwhile, another preventable cause, injuries, remains the leading cause of "premature loss of life" with suicide and homicide and AIDS also ranking high.

The national Centers for Disease Control reported that nine chronic diseases — diseases with long periods of onset or suffering — by themselves accounted for 1.1 million deaths in 1986, 52 percent of the deaths nationwide.

They are stroke, heart disease, diabetes, obstructive lung disease, lung cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer and cirrhosis of the liver.

"They're all largely preventable — or preventable to some extent," said Dr. Robert Hahn, a CDC epidemiologist.

The preventable risk factors for those nine chronic diseases include cigarette smoking, overweight, high blood pressure, drinking and lack of exercise.

"We know what the risk factors are," Hahn said. "We know less about how you get people to act on them."

According to a report from 45 states and the District of Columbia, less than 2 percent of state public health expenditures are allocated to prevent and control chronic disease, the CDC said.

"That's low," Hahn said, noting that other chronic diseases not included in the CDC's dangerous nine also could be targets of increased public health efforts.

The average state expenditure on chronic disease control and prevention is 66 cents per person per year, Hahn said.

That amount includes money spent on efforts such as disease screening programs, but does not include education or direct doctors' care at public clinics.

Comparable figures on federal public health spending for chronic disease were not available, Hahn said. Many of the federal government's health programs concentrate on research, epidemiology and education, not the traditional screening and prevention efforts of state-funded health clinics.

# Eastern Airlines 727 rips top off smaller plane, killing one



PLANE CRASH AFTERMATH — A Beechcraft 100 rests nose down off the runway of Atlanta International Airport Thursday after it and an Eastern Airlines 727 collided.

ATLANTA (AP) — A landing Eastern Airlines jet tore the top off a twin-engine plane that touched down just before it, killing one person aboard the smaller aircraft, officials said.

None of the 149 people on the jet was injured in the accident on a runway at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, an Eastern spokesman said. The spokesman said a wing was damaged on the jet, a Boeing 727.

The collision involved Eastern Flight 111, which originated in Montreal and stopped in New York, and a twin-engine Beechcraft King Air 100 flying from a suburban airport. A second person aboard the Beechcraft was injured.

Both planes had been cleared to land, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jack Barker said. Asked if that indicated a problem in the control tower, he replied, "That's under investigation."

"Obviously something went wrong for two airplanes to hit each other on the runway," Barker said. "Everything involving the movement of those two aircraft will be considered" by federal investigators.

Roger Myers, another FAA spokesman, said the Eastern plane was completing its landing as the Beechcraft still was taxiing on the runway.

"The Eastern airliner landed behind him, and they collided on the runway," Myers said. "He (The Eastern pilot) was on his landing roll," meaning the jet was still rolling to a stop.

Barker said officials did not know how much time lapsed between the two plane landings, although "it was very close between the two."

It isn't unusual for planes to land within two minutes of each other at Hartsfield, which was the world's busiest airport in 1987 and ranked third last year, according to FAA figures. The airport averaged 75 landings an hour on two runways in 1987, an airport spokesman said.

Gene Griffin, an Eastern passenger from New York, said, "The plane veered to the left and hit something. I thought maybe it was a pothole. No one was really sure what was going on, but no one was really hurt or shaken up."

"Those who witnessed the collision described it much differently."

"I seen this debris flying everywhere, terrible, just like it flipped over and it was way up in the air — terrible," said Rodney Johnson, an airport ground worker.

Airport spokesman John Braden said the jet coasted 2,000 feet before stopping.

The runway where the crash occurred was closed until National Transportation Safety Board investigators would let airport workers move the wreckage, probably sometime today, Braden said.

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# OPINION

## Residents deserved attention

The format of meetings by the Board of Directors has been the subject of a good deal of discussion and controversy. When he was a member of the minority, Republican Town Director Ronald Osetla argued that the Democrats were not following the prescribed procedures and that one of the results was that the citizens did not have as much opportunity as they should have for expressing views to the directors.

Apparently the problem has not been solved. At the meeting of the directors Tuesday, a number of citizens appeared to express their views on a town fire house to serve the northeast section of town. It is not easy to tell how many there were but about 25 people left the meeting hall when it became clear there would be no public discussion of the question.

Also present were about 15 town firefighters, there to express views on the question. At the beginning of the meeting, Osetla, who is board secretary, announced that the fire house question would not be taken up until next week because there were too many other items to be discussed.

When the minority Democratic directors tried to change the order of business so that public input would be allowed, the Republicans voted them down.

The agenda does list the firehouse question as one to be taken up at the second meeting of the month. But there is no specific place on that second week's agenda for public input on agenda items.

Past custom has been to hear comment at the first meeting of the month. Those who came to the meeting did so because they believed they would be heard.

There may be some valid argument for sticking to a prescribed order of business. There is no valid argument for having a format that gives citizens the right to assume they will be permitted to address the board on a given subject, only to find when they get to the meeting that they will have to come back the next week.

Those who wanted to express views about the fire house issue should have been heard. And the format should be changed to make it clear in advance when the public will be permitted to speak on what agenda items.

## Open Forum

### Don't need Taj Mahal

To the Editor: Does Andover need a \$1.5 million taxpayer cost for overexpansion? I do not believe the taxpayers need it, nor can our town afford it.

Our public officials never tire of remarking about the rural nature of Andover, yet have no qualms in proposing a Taj Mahal. They have never seen any commercial or industrial development they approve of, but empire building on the taxpayers' back is OK.

Home values are dropping, there is no development in town; a recession quite possibly awaits our state economy; it is this time to put ourselves in steep debt on a grandiose, overblown project?

Vote no on referendum day!

Dana J. Andraski  
183 Birch St.  
Andover

### Support student athletes

To the Editor: You know it's hard to believe what you see today with high school sports. What I'm saying is the support the kids get today in the games they play. What I've always said and will say is that kids who go to school and are involved in sports for the most part (65 percent) are out of trouble and turn out to be pretty good kids.

Where is the parent and student body support for the kids and the school? Don't tell me it's all over in the other schools also — go to Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, or any other New England school and you will see pretty good crowds at the high school level. Now let's get back to this town — Manchester. When I was a fan in the Dave Whites, Steve McAdams days (and a few more), you had to arrive at 5:30 p.m. for an 8:00 p.m. game or you couldn't get in. Come on Manchester fans, support Frank Kiner, the coach and players. You could be looking at better kids in the future.

Jack Bowers  
183 Birch St.  
Manchester

### Upset by TV program

To the Editor: The program "60 Minutes" should receive letters from Americans about the legal use of drugs in Switzerland that they aired last Sunday on television.

What are they teaching the American people? George Kierstead  
70 Segreaves Road  
Conventry



## Failure new growth industry

By Robert Walters

WASHINGTON — The headline appeared atop a story in one of the nation's leading newspapers on the very last day of the 1980s, but it clearly was a portent for the 1990s: "Wall Street Prepares for a Failure Boom."

What is a "failure boom"? The story explained that it's the forthcoming bonanza for investment banks, brokerage houses, law firms and others who will demand and receive huge fees for dismantling the collapsed empires, buyouts and other deals they arranged — for equally large fees — in earlier years.

"Failure," one Wall Street denizen was quoted as saying, "is a growth business." The New York Times account described a competition so frenzied among firms anxious to clean up their industry's mess that it was "setting of bidding wars for bankruptcy specialists."

That news came at a time when it's fashionable for pundits to proclaim that although the '80s were a decade of shameless greed and wretched excess, the '90s somehow will be different. Materialism and selfishness, we're told, will disappear along with such leading practitioners as Ivan Bosky and Michael Milken.

Don't bet on it. There probably will be some moderation — especially with the retirement from public life of President Reagan, a leading get-you-while-you-

can proponent. But human nature remains fundamentally unchanged. (After he left the White House, Reagan closed the '80s with a dazzling demonstration of his amoral peddling of the presidency: In a whirlwind tour of Japan, he picked up a quick \$2 million for a series of cameo appearances.)

Moreover, the "failure boom" offers new opportunities for experts in corporate restructuring, reorganization and bankruptcy to collect bloated fees for undoing in the 1990s the mistakes they made in the 1980s.

To comprehend the enormous amounts of money involved, take a look at what arguably was the most memorable failed deal of the '80s — the proposed buyout by management and the pilots union of the UAL Corp., the parent company of United Airlines, for almost \$6.8 billion.

Two of New York's largest banks, Citibank and Chase Manhattan, were engaged solely to raise from a consortium of other banks the money required for the purchase. Citibank declared that it was "highly confident" it could perform the task. They failed to do the job, sending UAL stock into a free fall and touching off the worst stock market panic in two years. Notwithstanding the humiliating collapse of their efforts, however, the two banks shared \$8 million in fees.

Two of New York's leading investment brokers, Lazard Freres and Salomon Brothers, divided another \$16.5 million in fees. They, of course, required their own legal counsel, and the law firm they engaged got \$2 million for its work.

The two law firms that advised the pilots union received a combined total of almost \$8.2 million, while the two law firms that advised company management got a combined total of \$5.0 million.

Another \$19 million in assorted fees brought the total to almost \$58.7 million in fees paid for a deal that collapsed. The UAL deal hardly set a record, however. Last year's \$25 billion leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco Inc. generated \$756 million in fees — including \$75 million advisory fee taken by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., the purchaser.

Meanwhile, among the collapsed deals of the '80s awaiting the high-priced clean-up services of assorted financial experts are bankruptcies involving department stores, gambling casinos, drug stores and a host of other ventures. Companies filing legal petitions in 1989 seeking protection from their creditors under chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code had combined assets of slightly more than \$40 billion in 1987 and less than \$10 billion in 1988.

Meanwhile, takeover artists are once again considering a UAL Corp. purchase. What's new in the '90s?

## Iranian backed a loser

By Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta

WASHINGTON — Romanian deputy Nicolae Ceausescu got some last-minute help from a soul mate who is now embarrassed about coming to the aid of a leader. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani tried to prop up Ceausescu by sending Iranian security troops to Romania to protect him.

Ceausescu's three-day visit to Iran while his troops massacred dissidents at home contributed to the foment that eventually overthrew him. Rafsanjani's embrace of the Romanian dictator on that trip has not been helped by the Western diplomatic community, for all child care workers.

There also is a growing emphasis on training, so that teachers and child care workers, as well as parents and children, know how to recognize the signs of sexual abuse.

The unfortunate legacy of McMartin may be the suspicion it cast on an overwhelmingly innocent group of people — the adults who care for children in day-care centers and nursery schools.

A study by the American Association for Protecting Children showed that about 65 percent of child abuse cases involved an older relative of the child, and only about 5 percent involved baby sitters or child care workers.

Other studies have shown the percentage of sexual abuse cases involving child care workers to be as low as half of 1 percent.

It's hard to say just how many of the changes in child care legislation can be traced to the McMartin case.

Interest in child care had been rising as more women entered the workplace. And there have been other notorious child abuse cases. In one of the most recent, seven people in Edenton, N.C., were charged with sexually abusing at least 70 children at a day-care center.

So the argument can be made that McMartin was only one of many influences, and that change would have occurred anyway.

The McMartin case was the first one to gain national notoriety. I'm not sure still, though, that it had that much of an impact, said Kaite Bond of the Denver-based American Association for Protecting Children.

Others say its influence has been profound. "First and foremost, there has been an enormous increase in awareness of abuse of children under the age of 6. ... That is a whole domain that didn't exist prior to McMartin, really," said David Finkler, co-director of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire.

Secondly, there's been quite a revolution in the investigation and handling of sexual abuse cases in the criminal justice system, and that can be traced to McMartin.

For instance, investigators, prosecutors and judges are now frequently trained to deal with the victims of child abuse, and some prosecutors employ counselors and other specialists to assist them.

In the McMartin case, hundreds of children initially told investigators that they had been sexually abused, but many of their accounts were later disregarded as false responses to leading questions.

## McMartin case led to basic changes

By The Associated Press

It began as the nation's largest child abuse case and ended as the nation's longest trial. In the six years between, the McMartin Pre-School case helped incite a revolution in the way society treats its youngest victims.

It was August 1983 when a woman named Judy Johnson called the police in Manhattan Beach, Calif., to say that her son had a red bottom and was talking about a man named Ray. Ray worked at the McMartin Pre-School.

What followed was a nightmare — a legal case that became too long, too cumbersome, too expensive and too traumatic. It ended Thursday with the jury acquitting the defendants of 52 charges and declaring themselves hopelessly deadlocked on the remaining 13.

Regardless of the outcome, experts say the case has led to fundamental changes in the way society looks at child abuse.

"McMartin made it evident to everyone working with kids and the legal system that there had to be some changes," said Nancy Peterson, a spokeswoman for the Chicago-based National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

"I think that it's safe to say that it has influenced a great deal of reform on behalf of kids."

Some of those reforms have been in the regulation of child care. Many states now require background checks, including fingerprints, for all child care workers.

There also is a growing emphasis on training, so that teachers and child care workers, as well as parents and children, know how to recognize the signs of sexual abuse.

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PEGGY McMARTIN BUCKEY

... after the verdict

## Jury rejects kids' testimony in biggest abuse trial ever

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The former operators of a preschool wept when jurors acquitted them of 52 child molestation charges, but outraged parents of children who attended the school expressed fears for youngsters nationwide.

Jurors in the nation's longest and costliest criminal trial Thursday deadlocked on 12 other sex abuse counts against Raymond Buckey and a single conspiracy count against him and his 63-year-old mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey.

Superior Court Judge William Pounders declared a mistrial on the 12 counts and dismissed the deadlocked conspiracy charge against Mrs. Buckey. He set a Jan. 31 hearing to determine whether the 13 unresolved counts will be dismissed against her.

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Others say its influence has been profound. "First and foremost, there has been an enormous increase in awareness of abuse of children under the age of 6. ... That is a whole domain that didn't exist prior to McMartin, really," said David Finkler, co-director of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire.

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## Barbara Bush softens stance on combat role

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Barbara Bush is softening the "qualified yes" she gave when asked if military women should be allowed to serve in combat.

She said in a radio interview with Mutual Broadcasting on Thursday that women are not "physically strong enough" to go into combat and their presence would cause morale and other problems.

"That differed from what she told news agency reporters Tuesday — "a qualified yes" — when she said: "If I thought a woman physically could pick up someone who was wounded and carry them to safety, if I thought they could throw a hand grenade as far as a man, then I would say yes, because I think certainly emotionally and mentally they are more than able to compete with a man."

"I'm sure they can shoot as well, they can fly as well," she said in the earlier interview. "The only problem I would have would be if it risked somebody else's life because they couldn't throw a hand grenade as far, or carry."

Mrs. Bush said Thursday, "I wasn't clear" in the earlier interview.

"What I said was I don't think women are physically strong enough. But it's much more complicated than that. There's a morale problem, other problems."

"I do not think a woman is as strong as a man."

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## Cartel hostage carries message

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

The Medellin cartel released a hostage with a message for President Bush pleading to end the drug trade, and some leading politicians said victory is near in the war on traffickers.

The cartel released two previous hostages on Wednesday, and in a message it defeated defeat to the government. It offered to stop its activities in exchange for amnesty.

The cocaine lords have made such promises before, and major newspapers and the government called for the anti-drug war to continue.

In their message to Bush Thursday, the Extradiables, a group representing the Medellin cartel, said, "We are going to release all of our hostages. The group's name refers to drug suspects the United States wants extradited to face charges."

The Extradiables have kidnapped 85 people in the last 45 days. Authorities estimate at least 18 remain in the hands of the cartel.

The message was repeated from memory by Roberto Toro Gonzalez, who was kidnapped on Dec. 14. Toro Gonzalez, 23, son of a wealthy family that owns a chain of stores, said in a radio interview his captors made him memorize the message before chaining him to the window grating of a house in Medellin.

Journalists from Colombia's two major radio networks, Caracol and RCN, were tipped off by anonymous phone callers and arrived at the scene shortly after Toro Gonzalez's captors drove off.

In their message, the Extradiables asked Bush to take them at their word.

"If President Bush and the men of the ... (U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration) do not believe the word of drug traffickers, why do they negotiate with them and why do they let them testify against other suspects?" the message asked.

The cartel apparently was referring to plea-bargaining agreements often made between drug suspects and U.S. authorities.

On Wednesday, the cartel freed Patricia Echevarria, the sister of President Virgilio Barco's son-in-law, and her daughter. The two, kidnapped in Medellin Dec. 16, carried the communique from the traffickers conceding defeat.

Leading politicians said the struggle was almost over.

Two Liberal Party presidential candidates, Ernesto Samper and William Jaramillo, said in statements published Thursday in the daily El Tiempo that the offensive had pushed traffickers into an "unconditional surrender."

Not necessary at all," But Atala did not rule out limited use of U.S. ships and planes for radar surveillance and aerial tracking.

"What we object to is unilateral decisions made by the United States without the mutual affairs of our country," he said.

"We would like to see what the government is doing, what the benefits would be, and you can be sure that the Peruvian government will be absolutely understanding of the arguments presented by the United States government and eventually reach an agreement," he said.

Defense Department sources said last week that the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy has been chosen to lead an interdiction effort off the Caribbean coast of Colombia but that no final decision had been made on deployment.

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