

SATURDAY

FEATURES INSIDE

- TV listings grids /Pages 12,13
- Social and Seniors news /Page 5
- Religion update /Page 6
- Children's games /Page 6
- Reader's forum /Page 4

Manchester Herald

Your Hometown Newspaper Voted 1990 New England Newspaper of the Year Newsstand Price: 35 Cents

What's News

Weekend Edition
Dec. 1, 1990

Churches hurt by slowdown in collections

By RICK SANTOS
Manchester Herald

MANCHESTER — One sign of the area's poor economic climate is that several local churches say their collections have begun to suffer, and several others say they believe similar shortfalls may be on the way.

"Traditionally, churches do well in times of recession and depression," said the Rev. William C. Trench, the pastor of North United Methodist Church on Parker Street.

But Trench said that tradition is being bucked during this economic slump.

The church faced a budget shortfall of almost \$10,000 at the end of September, but the pastor said the deficit would be covered by surpluses from the past two years. Income from pledges to the church through September was more than \$81,000, and the church's expenses exceeded \$91,000.

"I don't think it's a dire type of

thing," Trench said. "Certainly we're not in a crisis. A greater concern for me is that charities in general are doing worse."

Also, the \$10,000 deficit does not reflect the month of October or the high fund-raising months of November and December. But Trench does not expect the shortfall to be recovered this year.

Asked if it can be attributed to the economy, he said, "The honest answer is I don't know." In a small church, fund raising can be affected greatly by such variables as a few members moving out of town, he said.

The effects of the shortfall, Trench said, will most likely be low salary increases for paid employees and extra fund-raising efforts.

Things are also not going well at the Trinity Covenant Church, according to Chris Phillips, the office manager.

The primary problem, Phillips

Please see CHURCHES, page 8.

Slow Gulf action sought

By MELISSA B. ROBINSON
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Two Connecticut lawmakers this week joined the growing chorus of congressional Democrats who have urged the Bush administration to use restraint in the Persian Gulf.

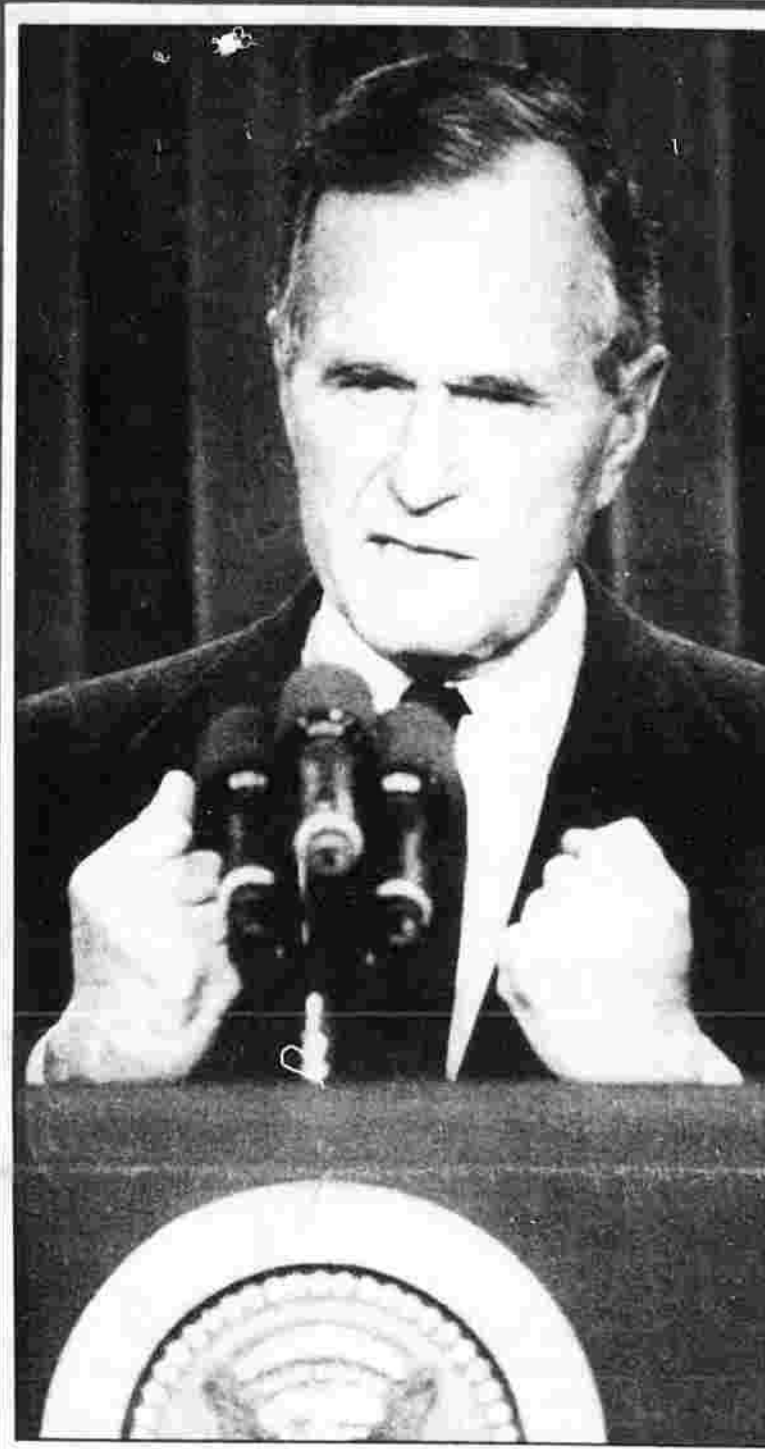
Sen. Christopher Dodd, speaking at a news conference in his Capitol Hill office, charged that the administration is "helmeted" on going to war in the Gulf. He said the economic sanctions imposed against Iraq are working and should be given more time.

"I see no rationale, no reason at this juncture, why we should be engaging in a military conflict in Kuwait," said Dodd, a Democrat and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The senator criticized U.S. diplomatic pressure to win United Nations Security Council passage of a resolution authorizing the use of force in the Gulf as "doing our damndest to guarantee us the right to go to war as soon as possible. They're helmeted, it seems, on going to war, and they're shopping around for a justification."

Rep. Barbara Kennelly, D-Hartford, a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, wrote to Bush this week, urging him and Secretary of State James Baker to "use the same ener-

Please see DODD, page 8.



HOW MANY LIVES? — President Bush gestures with his fists while talking Friday about the potential toll of human lives in a Gulf war.

Bush sending Baker to Iraq

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced Friday that Secretary of State James A. Baker III will go to Iraq in a last-ditch diplomatic peace effort, but said he's ready to wage war "with enough power to get the job done" if the mission fails.

"There will not be any murky ending," declared Bush, armed with a new U.N. resolution authorizing force, in a stern warning to Saddam Hussein.

His diplomatic initiative was quickly welcomed by members of Congress, including critics of his buildup policy, and by an Iraqi official.

In addition to sending Baker to meet with Saddam, Bush said he has invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz for a mid-December White House meeting on the Persian Gulf crisis.

He said the two-part diplomatic overture was an attempt to present the U.S. case directly to Iraq's leader. "I hope what it does is demonstrate that we are prepared to go face-to-face and tell him how committed we are to the United Nations resolutions" insisting Iraqi troops leave occupied Kuwait.

Bush, announcing the decision in a statement from the White House briefing room at the opening of a news conference, said Baker's mission would be at a "mutually convenient time" between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15.

"It isn't a trip of concession," Bush asserted, even though it reverses the administration's previous opposition to sending emissaries to Iraq. "I don't think there has ever been a question that the United States is going to blink," he said.

There was no immediate word from Baghdad on the development. But the Iraqi Ambassador to France, Abdul Razzack al Hashimi, called Bush's announcement "a very important step toward peace."

In an interview with BBC radio, the Iraqi official said, "We hope it is going to achieve what we are all striving for, negotiations instead of beating the drums of war. And this is really, I consider it very good news."

Bush hailed Thursday's United Nations Security Council vote authorizing force and setting a deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq's troops to leave Kuwait.

"I remain hopeful that we can achieve a peaceful solution to this crisis. But if force is required, and the other 26 countries who have troops in the area will have enough power to get the job done," he said.

The president added that any such battle "will not be another Vietnam. This will not be a protracted, drawn-out war. ... I pledge to you there will not be any murky ending."

Bush said he would continue to

Please see BUSH, page 8.

Ellis charges slander

By ALEX GIRELLI
Manchester Herald

MANCHESTER — A retraction is being demanded from Mayor Theunis Werkhoven by a lawyer representing developers of the Ribbon Mill for comments Werkhoven made at a meeting of the Housing Authority of Manchester Wednesday about the developers.

Neil Ellis, president of First Hartford Realty Corp., said Friday a letter demanding the retraction is being sent to Werkhoven by Attorney Bruce Stanger of West Hartford on behalf of First Hartford and Parker Street Corp.

Werkhoven left Friday morning for Houston, Texas, to attend the National League of Cities 190th Congress, along with Director Stephen Cassano. The conference runs until Dec. 5.

The letter says statements made by Werkhoven at the meeting were slanderous.

Werkhoven, who opposed a plan under which the authority would issue bonds to refinance conversion of the Ribbon Mill in Manchester, said at the meeting that "the private developer has a poor reputation in the three towns [of Manchester, Vernon and Norwich], with delinquent and back payments in some of the towns."

Please see SLANDER, page 8.

Moffett seeks Weicker slot

HARTFORD (AP) — Democrat Toby Moffett, who lost a bid for the 5th District congressional seat this year, is doing some volunteer work for Gov.-elect Lowell P. Weicker Jr. and may be interested in a post in Weicker's administration, according to a published report.

Moffett, who lost to Weicker in 1982 when Weicker sought a third U.S. Senate term as a Republican, said he has not been offered anything by Weicker, who was elected governor on Nov. 6 running as an independent.

State deficit remains \$562m

HARTFORD (AP) — The O'Neill administration on Friday affirmed its previous budget deficit estimate of \$562 million for the current year and blamed sagging sales and corporate tax receipts, as well as soaring costs for welfare.

"Could it get worse? It sure can," said Anthony V. Milano, budget chief for retiring Gov. William A. O'Neill, adding that he is not optimistic about a strong holiday shopping season.

The estimate was virtually unchanged from one issued two weeks ago when the administration presented the tentative 1991-92 budget to Gov.-elect Lowell P. Weicker Jr. The total includes a \$157 million deficit rolled over from the 1989-90 budget year.

State gets highway grant

HARTFORD (AP) — Federal transportation officials announced Friday Connecticut has been awarded a \$100 million grant to construct a 2.4 mile section of I-291 over the Connecticut River between Windsor and South Windsor and replace the Bissel Bridge.

The project is part of a plan to connect I-91 and I-84 in north-central Connecticut.

State Transportation Commissioner J. William Burns said the grant would cover 90 percent of the project's cost. The state will cover the rest.

Burns said construction would begin in the spring or early summer of 1991, with completion expected by 1994 or 1995. He said he is optimistic the federal Department of Transportation will approve funding for the final three-mile section of the I-291 connector next year.

Lancaster hospitalized

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. (AP) — Actor Burt Lancaster, the star of more than 60 movies, was rushed to a hospital Friday and was in serious condition, officials said.

Lancaster, 77, was taken by ambulance to the emergency room of Los Alamitos Medical Center, nursing supervisor Lindy Beck said.

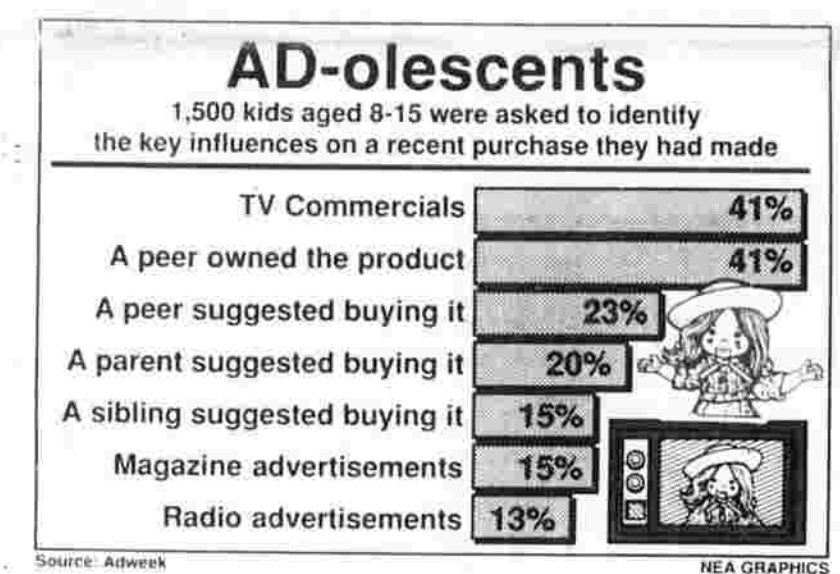
"He is listed in serious condition. We have not yet diagnosed a specific problem," Beck said.

Lancaster was visiting a friend when he was stricken, Beck said.

"He will be admitted to the intensive care unit," she said.

Inside Today...

Bubble Gum	6
Classics	14-16
Comics	10
Focus	2
Lobby	2
Manchester Has It	8
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
People	2
Religion	2
Senior Citizens	5
Sports	9-11
Social	5
Television	12-13
Weather	2



TV commercials or ownership by a friend are the two major influences on purchases made by kids between the ages of 8 and 15. Magazine suggestions by brothers or sisters and radio advertising have far less influence.

GOP asserts class improper

By JACQUELINE BENNETT
Manchester Herald

COVENTRY — Coventry High School's history department defended itself Thursday against attacks from Republican members of the Board of Education who accused the department of inappropriately promoting partisan politics in the classroom.

GOP members have charged that students in the department's "modern problems" course were required to actively support the town budget that was opposed by the Republican Town Committee.

"Education for citizenship is what schools are for," history department chairman George Coon said during a meeting at the high school.

"We produce good citizens," Coon added, noting that three board members — chairman Patrick Flaherty, Pamela Sewell and Wendy McMahon — are Coventry High graduates.

The point of the modern problems course, which was established in 1963, is to educate students about Democracy and Constitutional government, Coon said.

Without an understanding of our government, we are "crippled," he said.

Methods used in the civics

course, which is split into two parts — practical political action and community service — require that students actively participate, he added. Its purpose, Coon said, is to orient students to political values, skills and knowledge.

In order to graduate, students are required in their senior year to donate at least 10 hours to a community service, which can be with a political party, pressure groups or an individual candidate, he noted.

For example, a student could set up a mock election or invite a candidate to speak in class, Coon said.

Several candidates were invited to class, including U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson, before elections, teacher Richard Pellegrine said.

"Do you know what it means for a student to invite someone of national recognition to our school and have him come?" Pellegrine said.

Pellegrine said that after guest speakers had finished the floor was opened up to student questions, which promoted critical thinking and interest.

Some questions were especially insightful such as one from a student who asked candidates what newspapers supported them and why, he said.

Please see POLITICS, page 8.

TONIGHT NBC's news look

NEW YORK — When Steve Friedman took over as executive producer of the third-place "NBC Nightly News," one staffer recalled he spoke in dire terms of doom, maybe the end of the show, if he didn't succeed.

When NBC News President Michael Gartner introduced the book, shoot-from-the-hip Friedman at the NBC affiliates' meeting in June, he called him a "show doctor" who would "make 'Nightly' sparkle."

Then came a vow from Friedman: "We're going to do a show of interest, not the show of record." As traditionalists muttered, he went to work, having earlier put NBC's "Today" on top when he was its executive producer, then foiled a \$40 million syndication bid, "USA Today: The Television Show."

His "Nightly" priority: "To make the program more lively, more active than passive." That included more live interviews, he said, reports that weren't a day-late echo of those in major newspapers, and even entertainment news.

In one of the most noticeable changes, he installed an array of graphics — TV headlines — which critics said he'd used to woo success on his failed effort at a TV version of USA Today.

Some graphics on the new-look "Nightly" are edgier, flashier than those on ABC's first-place "World News Tonight." But others... well, in a recent broadcast, one report on the troubles of Eastern Airlines carried a mystifying graphic: "Goin' South."

But others... well, in a recent broadcast, one report on the troubles of Eastern Airlines carried a mystifying graphic: "Goin' South." And the show's final report, on the auction of Greer Garbo's goods, was headlined: "Goin' Gabor."

Several "Nightly" staffers who asked not to be identified — he's the boss, after all — said Friedman is "USA Today-ized" NBC's show. Nonsense, he responded, he's not taking time away from the news. "The purists have had their run on these shows for a long time and the audience has spoken, he added. "There's no honor in going out of business."

"I don't think our graphics are any more 'USA Today' than CBS or ABC," said Tom Brokaw, the "Nightly" anchor and managing editor. "I think it adds a real television vitality to it that I certainly welcome, and I think most people do as well," he said, including what he called "high-church journalists."

Brokaw's new producer is not what you'd call Traditional Executive. In the December Esquire magazine, a report on the new "Nightly News" includes a picture of Friedman, his head in an empty TV set he's holding. He appears to be yelling.

In the 1979-80 season, just before the onslaught of cable News Network and when local newscasts were expanding, the evening newscasts of CBS, NBC and ABC had a combined 77 percent share of the national audience.

Six weeks into the current season, the combined figure was 57 percent. Brokaw, whose lies with Friedman work go back 20 years, when both worked at KNBC-TV in beautiful downtown Burbank, concedes that to a certain extent "Nightly" is coding to CNN and local newscasts some types of breaking news.

The program "can't be above the news... and if there's a go-to-hell fire of some kind or flooding in the Northwest, we're going to touch on that." "But it's not the staple it once was."

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Sperber likes leading

By JERRY BUCK The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wendie Jo Sperber had misgivings about taking the leading part in the Fox Network's "Babes." She's always been a supporting player, and it was the first time her weight had any bearing on a role.

The series, about three overweight sisters sharing an apartment, began with a heavy emphasis on fat jokes, but has become the story of three women who are so fat, they're trying to juggle their lives and relationships in close quarters.

"Fat is not really what it's about," Ms. Sperber said during a recent rehearsal break. "The original script for the pilot had a lot of fat jokes. But it was rewritten and by the time we'd done the pilot, I said, 'Wow, this is great.' Then when I saw it, I realized there were still fat jokes in there..."

"But it's really about their love and struggle and survival. It's a more serious subject than I realized. It's like, 'Go, go, I laugh at her!'"

In the Thursday night comedy series, Ms. Sperber is married to the sly, slender Charles, Susan Perez plays the oldest sibling, Darlene, and Lesley-Ann Brand plays the youngest, Madeline. In the pilot, Darlene pours a whole box of cereal into a bowl.

Ms. Sperber said: "An overweight great would laugh at that. Maybe a thin person wouldn't think it funny. Even the bed collapsing — they're angry about it. I'm not someone else joking about it."

The actress points out that Valerie Harper's "Babes" is fondly remembered as "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," yet all of the laughs were at fat jokes until Miss Harper lost weight.

Ms. Sperber previously played some of the best of what supporting characters on TV series as "Bosom Buddies," "Freestyle," "Women in Prison" and "Private Benjamin."

"I was in the Army, in prison and lived with two men in drag," she said. "I was an evil twin with a rose and a PIX and a character named 'Freestyle.' We're all had those kind of roles. In 'Babes,' I seem to have broken my stream of strange things."

Nonetheless, playing the straight lead for a change would be a relief. "The producers wanted me to play the role I'm now playing, but I was used to playing 'Babes,'" she said. "I felt it was more like when I was used to playing. I'd always been the character who comes on, says 'Hi, my name is...'"

"Charles is a kind of set up as the leading lady. That's more pressure than I've had in a long time. But Charles is like the Mary Tyler Moore who's at the center. My real life is a straight man. She's the stable one, the logical one," she said. "How boring." But it's a sitcom and everybody's married. Now I'm having a great time.

Ms. Sperber is funny and has two children — both born since her last series, "Women in Prison." She identified her husband only as "Richard, who is in public relations."

"Charles is really happy, really content," she said. "She's a great boyfriend, a great sister. She's probably happy her jobs have moved in with her. She has a lot of confidence and self-esteem and a good self-image. I wish I had more of her contentment about myself."

"Everyone is so wrapped up in looks today — come on, it's our lives. It's ridiculous the way people hang on their day-to-day work and their looks. Calm down. Don't be raised on such things."

In the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, Ms. Sperber began her career appearing in theatrical films after she was spotted by casting director John Hollywood while still in high school.

"A casting director came around and said, 'How do you get 'Grease,'" she said. "I was a dancer and I worked one day, then I got 'Corvette Summer.' I never went back to it."

"She was a fanatic Beatles fan in 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand,' a man-manager in 'Bosom Buddies,' 'Freestyle,' and appeared in such commercials as 'Moving Violators,' 'Backlash Party' and 'Used Cars.' In 'Bosom Buddies,' Ms. Sperber was the only one who knew Tom Hanks and Peter Scolari were in drag so they could live in an all-women residence.

She was one of Lorna Paterson's burlesque buddies in 'Private Benjamin.'"

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

TONIGHT NBC's news look

Table with columns for time slots (11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their genres.

