


Sports
Marshall: Time passes quickly
Some things are good, some things bad, but QB always prepared.
Page 1-B

Movies
Top rentals
"I Robot" most rented DVD.
Page 6-A

THE DOMINION
Post

Entertainment
Living a dream
Wildlife artist earns National Medal of Arts award.
Page 6-A



World
Nightclub fire kills 174
Buenos Aires blaze started stampede that injured hundreds.
Page 10-B

Morgantown, West Virginia

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Newsstand: 50 cents

SATURDAY

Jan. 1, 2005

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mild with times of clouds and sun.

High 56 Low 43

Your complete forecast
Page 10-A

Obituaries

HALE, U.S. Air Force, Lt. Col. William R. 'Ray' Sr.
HOLDEN, D. Grace
MARTIN James Loyd 'Whitey'
MCCARTNEY, John Donham
O'NEAL, Mildred B. 'Ping'
RADABAUGH, James E. 'Speedball'
SHASTRI, Shantha Zacharias
YOOR, Ruby Bowman

Page 9-A



Bus fire kills 31
Blaze began after vehicle collided with a truck in Pakistan.
Page 10-B

COMING TOMORROW

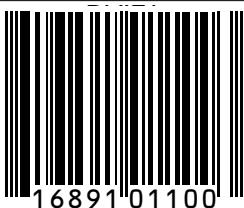


Our Town
Deckers Creek Valley was home to some of the earliest industrial settlements in Monongalia County.

INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS.....6B-8B
COMICS9B
CROSSWORD9B
LOCAL 7A
NATION.....3A
OPINION8A
SPORTS1B-5B
RELIGION NOTES4A-5A
TV SCHEDULE10A
WORLD10B

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Groups struggle to get aid to needy

Death toll tops 121,000

Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Two U.S. Navy battle groups loaded with supplies headed for tsunami-ravaged coasts Friday and an airlift of dozens of flights brought help to this wrecked Indonesian city, as a huge world relief drive to shelter, treat and feed millions of survivors

kicked in. The death toll passed 121,000 and was still climbing.

But with help streaming in, overstretched authorities were dealing with the logistical nightmare of getting it to the needy. Tons of supplies were backlogged in Indonesia, with thousands of boxes filled with drinking water, crackers, blankets and other basic necessities piled high in an airplane hangar nearly 300 miles from Banda Aceh, the wrecked main city in the disaster zone.

Indonesia, the hardest hit nation, said its toll — now at 80,000 — could reach 100,000, and officials began to

acknowledge that the number of dead may never be known with precision because the towering waves that smashed into Sumatra island swept entire villages with their inhabitants out to sea.

The Bush administration Friday increased the U.S. pledge tenfold to \$350 million. Secretary of State Colin Powell is also heading to the region to see first-hand what more the United States needs to do.

"Our contributions will continue to be revised as the full effects of

SEE **AID**, 2-A



Malaysians carry food and clothes to be supplied for tsunami victims across Asia at a temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Friday.

AP Photo

Mountaineer fans prepare for game



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post Photos

Geena Dierwechter of Morgantown peeks over the wall to watch the WVU cheerleaders during the Gator Bowl pep rally at Alltel Stadium on Friday afternoon.



The WVU drum line performs during FanFest on Friday.

Gator Bowl kickoff slated for 12:30 p.m.

WVU NEEDS a run of big plays to beat Florida State in the Gator Bowl. **Page 1-B.**

BY MARY WADE BURNSIDE
The Dominion Post

Carla Lukehart, a Morgantown native and WVU graduate, spent 16 hours on a bus to get to Jacksonville, Fla. on Thursday, and she'll set out for the return journey Saturday night.

In the meantime, she plans to watch the Mountaineers emerge victorious against the Florida State Seminoles in today's Toyota Gator Bowl at Alltel Stadium.

"I'm optimistic," said the Pittsburgh resident who works as a sleep technologist. "I think we have a good chance this year."

Area WVU fans were in Florida on Friday preparing for today's football game, which most sports bettors and prognosticators have the Seminoles beating WVU by anywhere from a 7 1/2- to a 10-point lead.

During a pep rally in which blue and gold peppered a field next to the stadium under a partly cloudy Florida sky, Lukehart

SEE **BOWL**, 2-A

Residents ring in the New Year in a variety of ways

BY ERIC BOWEN
The Dominion Post

Picking up boxes of noisemakers, party hats and balloons, Ashley Vecellio of Morgantown was nailing down her plans for New Year's Eve while shopping for party favors at Party World in Westover.

Vecellio and her friend, Ashley Shook, said they were hosting a bash at their friend's house to ring in the new year with food, games and maybe a little drinking to top off the evening.

"All the girls are hosting," Vecellio said. "All the guys have to do is show up dressed nice."

Whether spending time with friends, having a family get-together, or hitting the bars, local residents

found a variety of ways to ring in 2005 Friday.

Party World owner Jay Mullins said his store was doing a lot of business from people picking up decorations for their parties. He said he's had about 10 times the business on a normal day as people take advantage of his specialty items.

"It's the only party store in town," Mullins said. "We've had 200 extra people in here already."

Melody Anderson of Kingwood Pike bought some party favors to use while spending the evening playing cards and eating pizza with her sister and her sister's children. Anderson said between the two of them,

SEE **NEW YEAR**, 2-A



Jonah Myers/The Dominion Post

Ashley Vecellio (left) and Ashley Shook look for the perfect decorations at Party World in Westover, to complete their New Year's Eve party.

U.S. troops launch operation

Soldiers round up guerrillas near Saddam's hometown

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops rounded up 49 suspected guerrillas near Saddam Hussein's hometown Friday, a day after Iraq's most violent rebel groups warned voters against participating in crucial elections for a constitutional assembly Jan. 30.

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division detained the suspects during a midnight raid in Duluiyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad, dubbed Operation Powder River, the U.S. military said.

The statement did not provide any further details on the operation, which appears to be the latest in a series of anti-insurgency campaigns in the so-called Sunni Triangle in central Iraq. Duluiyah is near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, U.S. troops came under mortar attack Friday. They opened fire, killing one Iraqi and wounding two others, local hospital sources said.

Meanwhile in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, two civilians were killed and four Iraqi National Guardsmen wounded when rebels detonated a car bomb next to the taxi the soldiers were riding in. A passing car absorbed the brunt of the blast, and its two occupants were killed, Maj. Neil O'Brien said.

North of Fallujah, the body of an Iraqi national guardsman was found in the Thira'dijlla area with a handwritten note pinned to it saying: "This is the fate of anyone who collaborates with the occupation forces."

Stewart loses decorating contest in prison

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart, who has regaled audiences with countless holiday decorating tips in her magazine and on television, reportedly was unable to lead her team to victory in a prison decoration contest.

Stewart and a team of fellow inmates at a federal prison camp in Alderson crafted paper cranes to be hung from the ceiling, *People* magazine reported in an article posted on its Web site Wednesday. The group lost to a competing team that built a nativity scene showing "pictures of snow-covered hills and sleds and clouds on the wall," the magazine quoted an inmate as saying.

Each team was given \$25 worth of glitter, ribbons, construction paper and glue to build a display based on the theme "Peace on Earth," the magazine said.

BOWL

FROM PAGE 1-A

took a few moments amid a crowd chanting "Let's go, Mountaineers!" to talk about the team via telephone.

"I'm a diehard fan, definitely," said Lukehart, who noted that the mild 70s weather was a drastic change from Sunday evening's snow in the Pittsburgh and Morgantown areas.

Also in the crowd was Jennifer Dierwechter, a December graduate who drove down with her family for the game. "This is my first bowl game," she said. "We're really excited."

Dierwechter also graduated from University High School, and she planned to cheer on fellow alum Scott Gyorko. "I think we're going to do well," she said. "After the last football game, I think

they're going to be pumped to do well, especially after last year's Gator Bowl."

"I think we want to prove we are one of the best teams in the Big East," she said.

Last year, the Mountaineers lost handily to backyard rivals, the University of Maryland Terrapins, at the same venue. But the crowd on Friday did not seem to be thinking of that.

"Yes, there's a lot of blue and gold around," Dierwechter said. "It's really nice to be around a lot of people who are supporting the same team you are."

Back home in Morgantown, members of the Knights of Columbus prepared for fans in an effort to not only support WVU, but also the Rosenbaum Family House. The residence houses critically-ill adults, who are receiving care at Ruby Memorial Hospital, and their families.

The endeavor represents the first

time the organization has undertaken a bowl game-watching party, according to member Joe Smialek, and they were doing it up right with two large-screen projection televisions.

"I don't think anyone realizes how big of a screen this is," Smialek said Friday during a quick break. "This is 9-foot by 20-foot maximum."

IFNBC televises the game in high definition, Smialek said, the games can be shown at that maximum size. If not, fans will have to settle for 9-foot by 16-foot. Doors will open at 11 a.m. for the 12:30 p.m. game.

One screen will be in the group's ballroom that seats about 450, he said, while another will be in a hall that seats 250. The ballroom will be for families, and, Smialek said, "the exuberant Mountaineer fans will be directed to the lower hall."

He explained. "We've had people

call and ask, 'Can they bring their children?' This is the Knights of Columbus. Please bring your children. But we don't want to see the exuberant fan not liking the call and using profanity in front of a 6-year-old."

Admission is by donation, and free food will be provided by Hancock County-based Mountaineer Race Track and Gaming Resort to supplement the cash bar.

"Four or five of us have been setting this up for a few days," Smialek said. "We don't know what to expect."

The same could be said for the fans who will be watching the game, either on the television from afar or at Alltel Stadium.

"At least we can sleep overnight" on the bus ride back, said Lukehart, still at the pep rally. "Unless WVU wins. Then everyone will be partying and cheering and having a good time."



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post

"Eer Man" Everett Bowling shows his team spirit during the pep rally Friday

CLARIFICATIONS

The Dominion Post strives to publish balanced, accurate, responsible and fair information. If a factual error occurs, however, a correction or clarification will be published in this space. Errors should be brought to the attention of Editor Geri Ferrara, 291-9425, as soon as possible following publication.

In the Monongalia County Math Field Day, Allissa Sun from Suncrest Middle was the second-place winner for the sixth grade. Her name was spelled incorrectly in a Dec. 8 story.

OUR TOWN
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Each Sunday, The Dominion Post will visit a nearby community to explore its past and present.
Our Town Jan. 9: Newtshburg

NEW YEAR

FROM PAGE 1-A

they have five kids, and New Year's was the only night the kids can stay up until midnight.

After buying a bunch of helium balloons, Shelby Leary of Blacksville said she was heading out to the Morgantown Moose Lodge to finish the lodge's decorations. A member of the Women of the Moose, Leary said she expected to have a good time at the party, where they were having a band and plenty of cuisine.

"Everybody has a really good time," Leary said. "There's lots of good food, the place is decorated real pretty."

Todd Willard of Blacksville picked up some food at Kmart to spend the night at home with his family. He said that he just got his house fixed after the basement slipped underneath it, and Friday was the first day he was able to get back into his home.

Piling some last-minute supplies into their shopping cart at Kmart, Donna Eddy and her family intended to stay at home on New Year's Eve. She said she was planning a get-together with her sister and hopefully her parents to welcome the new year.

"You have to stay up to midnight," Eddy said. "That's the whole point."

What's your New Year's resolution?

To see my (Clay-Batelle) high school football team make it further in the state football playoffs.



Jason Miller
Wadestown

My New Year's resolution is to not get as stressed as I normally do and take care of my business.



Dee Swann
Morgantown

I'm just hoping we have a lot of health and happiness this year.



Shelby Leary
Blacksville

To have a good year and hope things go better this year than last year.



Todd Willard
Blacksville

AID

FROM PAGE 1-A

this terrible tragedy become clearer," President Bush said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by this epic disaster."

On India's Andaman and Nicobar islands, survivors were desperate for food and water, with Indian relief workers struggling to get them aid six days after the disaster.

"There is nothing to eat there. There is no water. In a couple of days, people will start dying of hunger," said Anup Ghatak, a utilities contractor from Campbell Bay island, as he was being evacuated to Port Blair, capital of the archipelago.

Rescue workers in the archipelago believe thousands of uncounted bodies remain in the debris of crumbled homes, downed trees and mounds of dead animals on several islands. India has officially reported 7,763 dead in the tsunami disaster — most from the

southern provinces of the mainland. Only around 700 dead from the archipelago were counted, but officials said Friday more than 3,700 were still missing. An official a day earlier said 10,000 could be dead in the archipelago.

Foreigners are banned from the archipelago — for security reasons because of its large air force post and for protection of its indigenous community — and India has so far refused requests by international aid groups trying to bring help to the islands.

Forensic teams in Thailand packed bodies in dry ice as the government announced its death toll had doubled to more than 4,500 people, almost half of them foreigners who had been vacationing on the country's renowned white-sand beaches.

Sunday's 9.0 magnitude quake struck just off the coast of Sumatra, near the Indian archipelago, sending walls of water racing across the Indian Ocean and wiping out coasts in 11 nations.

Mother forced to choose which son to save when tsunami hit

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Struggling in the raging flood waters, Jillian Searle had to make a choice: which son to hold on and which to let go.

Searle, of Perth, Australia, was near the pool with sons Lachie, 5, and Blake, 2, when this week's tsunami hit the Thai island resort of Phuket where she and her family were vacationing.

"I knew I had to let go of one of them and I just thought I'd better let go of the one that's the oldest," she told Sky News television. "A lady grabbed hold of him for a moment but she had to let him go because she was going under. And I was screaming, trying to find him, and we thought he was dead."

Lachie was found safe two hours later after surviving the raging waters by clinging to a hotel room door.

"I cried for mom for a long time and then I was quiet," he later told his father, Bradley Searle. With mud and water marks up to his ears, his first words to his father were: "My hands are all dirty and I need to wash my clothes."

Jillian Searle said the family feels extremely fortunate. Thai authorities say around 3,500 bodies have been recovered along the beaches of Phuket, while an untold number remain missing and are believed to have been swept out to sea or buried in debris.

"We are just so lucky to walk away with the small children I have got," she said. "I just can't believe they are still here."

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Justice Dept. issues rewritten memo on torture

Seventeen-page document follows Iraqi abuse scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department is issuing a rewritten legal memo on the meaning of torture, backing away from its own assertions prior to the Iraqi prison abuse scandal that torture had to involve "excruciating and agonizing pain."

The 17-page document states flatly that torture violates U.S. and international law and omits two of the most controversial assertions made in now-disavowed 2002 Justice Department documents: that President Bush, as commander in chief in wartime, had authority superseding U.S. anti-torture laws and that U.S. personnel had several legal defenses against criminal liability in such cases.

"Consideration of the bounds of any such authority would be inconsistent with the president's unequivocal directive that United States personnel not engage in torture," said the memo from Daniel Levin, acting chief of the Office of Legal Counsel, to Deputy Attorney General James Comey.

Critics in Congress and many legal experts say the original documents set up a legal framework that led to abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, in Afghanistan and at the U.S. prison camp for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After the Iraqi prison abuses came to light, the Justice Department in June disavowed its previous legal reasoning and set to work on the replacement document to be released Friday.

The Justice Department memo, dated Thursday, was being released less than a week before the Senate Judiciary Committee was to consider Bush's nomination of his chief White House counsel, Alberto Gonzales, to replace John Ashcroft as attorney general.

Democrats have said they would question Gonzales closely on memos he wrote that were similar to the now-disavowed Justice Department documents that critics said appeared to justify torture.

BRIEFS

Associated Press

Police find human remains during search for girl

PHILADELPHIA — Police searching for the missing teen daughter of a retired FBI agent found charred human remains in a barrel in West Philadelphia on Thursday.

Deanna Wright McIntosh, 15, has been missing since Dec. 3 from her family home in suburban Yeadon, Delaware County, Philadelphia Homicide Sgt. William Britt said.

Detectives were interviewing a man in his early 20s at Philadelphia police headquarters Thursday evening and expected to transfer him to Yeadon police afterward, Britt said.

Toddler in custody battle visits biological mother

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A 31/2-year-old boy at the center of a three-way custody battle was handed over to his biological mother, leaving the couple who had been raising him since his birth in tears.

Evan Scott's mother, Amanda Hopkins, who had won a court battle, picked up the boy Thursday for a "transitional visit" to his new home. Hopkins lives on a Navy base in Illinois with her husband and infant daughter.

Dawn and Gene Scott, who have cared for the boy since his birth in May 2001, are still seeking to overturn a judge's order denying them custody.

"I know he is confused," Dawn Scott said in an interview Friday on NBC's "Today." "I know he didn't understand all this turmoil happening in his life right now."

Scientists work to free entangled whale

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Scientists working to help an Atlantic right whale that is entangled in fishing gear were able to keep track of it overnight and expected good conditions to continue, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Rescue workers removed some of the hundreds of feet of fishing line and other gear attached to the 35- to 40-foot whale Thursday after it was spotted about 14 miles off the Charleston coast.

Aided by calm seas and the light from a nearly full moon, they stayed within a half-mile of the 2-year-old whale overnight, Theresa Barbo of the Provincetown, Mass.-based Center for Coastal Studies said Friday.

NASA's improved fuel tank begins trip to Kennedy Space Center

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—NASA's redesigned fuel tank, a massive vessel that supplies propellant for the launch of the space shuttle, began its five-day trip across the Gulf of Mexico to the launch site on Florida's east coast.

NASA workers in New Orleans rolled the massive tank onto a 200-foot barge on Friday for the trip down the Mississippi River and into the Gulf of Mexico. The tank will travel around the Florida Keys and up the Banana River and arrive next week at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. A Coast Guard patrol boat will escort the barge.

The tank "feels like our baby.

We have pampered it, and everyone takes great pride in it," said Sandy Coleman, NASA's external tank project manager.

The design of the shuttle's external tank was altered after an investigation blamed the February 2003 Columbia disaster on a chunk of foam that flew off the tank and struck a wing on the shuttle, causing it to break apart over Texas.

NASA officials have called the redesigned tank the safest ever. It underwent a meticulous final inspection Thursday, as workers with the space agency and contractor Lockheed Martin scrutinized it for imperfections in the foam, Coleman said.

"It's amazing how carefully they

look at every inch. We have eyes, triple eyes, on every part of the tank," Coleman said.

NASA plans to use the tank for a May or June launch of space shuttle Discovery. The shuttle fleet has been grounded since the Columbia accident as NASA scrambled to make changes in hardware, procedures and personnel to comply with recommendations from the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

Fixing the external tank was a key part of the shuttle program's return to space, officials said.

The 154-foot tank holds the liquid hydrogen and oxygen — the propellants for the shuttle's main rocket engines during launch.



AP Photo

Workers at NASA's New Orleans facility begin moving the redesigned shuttle fuel tank to a barge that will transport it to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on Friday morning.

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Weekend

On the Town Wildlife artist living a dream

Dance

SUNDAY
■ SINGLES DANCE, sponsored by Parents Without Partners, will be held from 8 p.m.-midnight the first Sunday of the month at Ramada Inn. All singles welcome. Admission: \$6. Info: 983-2717.

Music

Concerts & shows
Today
■ SAGEBRUSH ROUND-UP, Burners Ridge near Faimont, will have no show today. Info: 292-5854.
■ THE HISTORIC Alpine Theatre, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Hundred, hosts a country music show each Saturday. Open mic

from 6-7 p.m. Today's featured acts will be: 7 p.m., Big Country; 8 p.m., Little County; 9 p.m., Melissa Hixenbaugh and Shannon Duckworthy. There will be a free kielbasa, sauerkraut and potato salad dinner to ring in the New Year. More food available for sale at the snack bar. Admission is \$2 per person, with children under 12 admitted free. Info: 775-5378.

Today and Sunday
■ THE PURPLE FIDDLE Coffeehouse and Mountain Market in Thomas, features From the Hip (\$7) at 8:30 p.m. **today**; Wolf Creek Session (\$7) at 7 p.m. **Sunday**. Info: 463-4040.

Club Scene

Today
■ TURNER DOUGLAS BAND will perform at Savannah's from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Info: 789-6341.
■ BUCK NAKED will perform at Country Hideaway.
■ THE Z-RACK, Fairmont, features Hip-Hop/R&B at 9 p.m. **every Saturday**.

Sunday
■ W.VA. BREWING CO. features Quiz Night **every Sunday**.

ON THE TOWN is compiled by Katie Long at The Dominion Post. Call her at 291-9434. Deadline is noon each Tuesday.

BY LISA CORNWELL

Associated Press
 GEORGETOWN, Ohio — As a child growing up in Cincinnati in the 1930s, John Ruthven would sit on the banks of the Ohio River sketching wildlife and imagining journeys with famed naturalist John James Audubon.

Today, the 80-year-old artist is a National Medal of Arts recipient.

"It was the crowning moment for what I have tried to accomplish with my work," Ruthven says of the honor he received in November from President Bush.

Ruthven, often called by peers and fans a "20th century Audubon," began his career illustrating containers of Play-Doh.

His Redhead Ducks painting, selected as the 1960 winner of the federal Duck Stamp competition, started a wildlife art career that has

earned the respect of fellow artists and world leaders. His work has been exhibited in galleries from the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History to the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center.

Besides the White House, his work has been displayed in the Hermitage Museum in Russia and the President's Palace in the Philippines.

Ruthven has created paintings for foreign heads of state, the U.S. government and major corporations. His studio in the 19th-century farmhouse he shares with his wife, Judy, in this rural southwest Ohio community features photos of him with three former U.S. presidents who co-signed some of his original paintings.

The artist who still leads students on nature hikes through the fields and woods of his 150-acre farm has trekked through jungles, mountains and rain forests in search of rare species and subjects for his art. And he once was even forced to flee rebel guerrillas in a remote area of the Philippines.

"I've been so lucky to see so much of the world while doing what I love," he says, sitting amid paintings and sketches in the studio he maintains above his gallery and office in downtown Georgetown. "But I still want to go to the Poles, especially Antarctica, and I still have a lot of work to do since I've only painted about 2,000 of the 8,000 species of birds."

Ruthven can't remember a time when he didn't want to draw and paint wildlife. He also dreamed of seeing as much of the world as possible while capturing the wildlife and nature he loves on canvas. "I would lie in bed at night and hear the whistles of the trains and steam boats and long to be on them, and I spent hours roaming the fields and woods," he says.

As an 18-year-old sailor aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer in World War II, he visited foreign ports and drew cartoons for shipmates.

"I might have ended up a commercial cartoonist doing wildlife art on the side, if I had just had a more creative mind," Ruthven says. "I just couldn't come up with the right words to go with the cartoons."

Ruthven began a commercial art career upon his return to Cincinnati, drawing the boy that appeared on the first cans of the popular Play-Doh, a children's modeling compound created in Cincinnati in the 1950s. He earned as much as \$50 for his early work. Now, he gets as much as \$75,000 for a single painting.

He has promoted conservation and preservation of wildlife and natural resources.

Designated its first Artist of the Year in 1972 by Ducks Unlimited,



AP Photo

John Ruthven, wildlife artist, sits in front of a work in progress. The 80-year-old artist is a National Medal of Arts recipient.

Ruthven has contributed paintings for prints that have raised nearly \$2 million for the Memphis, Tenn.-based organization's efforts to protect and preserve wetlands in North America. His painting of a cardinal for Ohio's most popular license plate has raised more than \$5 million for the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Jim Berry, president of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, N.Y., compares Ruthven's work with that of Audubon and Peterson, another world-renowned artist and naturalist.

"Their styles are very similar in their depiction of birds in their natural habitats and their attention to the botanical side," Berry says. "Like Audubon and Peterson, John always has it right biologically and artistically."

A former president of the Society of Animal Artists, the New York City-based international organization that promotes excellence in the field of animal art, said Ruthven's composition and vibrant use of color show his depth of talent.

"John also puts a lot of himself in his art, and you instantly know his work when you see it," Joseph Vance, the society's president emeritus, said.

Ruthven, who stays in touch with nature during daily four-mile walks, has been known to draw initial sketches for future paintings on scraps of paper when nothing else is handy. "I've even drawn on the back of my hand," he says.

DeVere Burt, a wildlife artist and a former director of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, considers Ruthven a mentor.

"He constantly encourages other artists, telling them to 'paint what you know and paint what you love,'" Burt said. "It certainly has worked for him."

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TOP DVD SALES AND RENTALS

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

These are the best-selling and most-rented DVDs listed in the Dec. 31 issue of *Video Business* magazine, compiled from a national sampling of video stores for the week ending Dec. 26.

Sales:

1. NAPOLEON DYNAMITE — Fox
2. THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING EXTENDED EDITION (WIDE) — New Line/Warner
3. KING ARTHUR (WIDE) — Buena Vista
4. COLLATERAL — Dream-Works/Universal
5. I, ROBOT (WIDE) — Fox

Rentals:

1. I, ROBOT — Fox
2. THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE — Paramount
3. COLLATERAL — Dream-Works/Universal
4. DODGEBALL — Fox
5. THE BOURNE CONSPIRACY — Universal
6. KING ARTHUR — Buena Vista
7. NAPOLEON DYNAMITE — Fox
8. ANACONDAS: THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID — Sony
9. ELF — New Line/Warner
10. THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT — Buena Vista

★★★★★
 —Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE

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Finding Neverland	Sat-Sun 1:10 3:10 5:45 7:45 Mon-Fri 5:45 7:45	PG
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou	Sat 1:00 3:20 5:40 8:00 10:20 Sun 1:00 3:20 5:40 8:00 Mon-Fri 5:40 8:00	R
Sideways	Sat 1:30 5:30 7:40 10:10 Sun 1:30 5:30 7:40 Mon-Fri 5:30 7:40	R

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SPANGLISH PG13	1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG	12:00-2:20-4:40-7:05
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG13	9:30
POLAR EXPRESS G	12:00-2:20-4:40
NATIONAL TREASURE PG	7:00-10:00
LEMONY SNICKET'S PG	11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:50
OCEAN'S 12 PG13	1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50
MEET THE FOCKERS PG13	12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
FAT ALBERT PG	12:45-2:50-5:00-7:15-9:30
BLADE TRINITY PG	12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00

ALL SHOWTIMES INCLUDE PRE-FEATURE COMMERCE

BRIEFS

'Victims' wanted for Kingwood mock exercise

College students and others are needed to participate in a mock weapons of mass destruction exercise from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Jan. 14, at the Civic Center in Kingwood. Bus transportation will be provided for those living outside the Kingwood area.

The purpose of the "Gator I" full-scale exercise is to test West Virginia's Civil Emergency Response Force and 35th WMD-Civil Support Team's response in the event of an actual terrorist event.

Participants must be at least 18 years old. They are required to present photo identification and sign a liability release form during registration. Prior to the exercise, all mock victims will be briefed on their roles and responsibilities. Food, beverages and bathroom facilities will be provided.

Contemporary Staffing Hiring Agency will compensate all role players \$6 per hour for their services.

Interested individuals should forward their name, phone number and e-mail address to cust60@aol.com or 276-2982 by Jan. 12.

County receives funds for emergency food, shelter

Monongalia County has been chosen to receive \$23,045 to supplement local emergency food and shelter programs.

The local board will determine how funds awarded will be allocated among emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations.

Local organizations chosen to receive funds must be private, voluntary non-profit or unit of government, have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply. Deadline for applications is Jan. 19.

Info, and/or application for funding: Co-chairs Brandi Potock at 284-8400 or Joanna Krafczyk at 291-7293.

January blood drive schedule released

American Red Cross blood drives for January are:

- Monongalia County:**
 - noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 20 and 27 Morgantown Blood Center, Pineview Drive.
 - 1-7 p.m. Jan. 17, Suncrest United Methodist Church, Drummond Chapel Fellowship Room, Van Voorhis Road, Morgantown.
 - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 28, Healthworks, classroom, 943 Maple Drive, Morgantown.

WVU:

- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, One Waterfront Place, second floor, Wharf District. For an appointment, www.wvu.edu/~staff/blood_drive/registration.cfm.
- 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 19, Health Sciences Center, John Jones Conference Room, Med Center Drive, Morgantown. For an appointment, www.redcrosslife.org.
- 1-7 p.m. Jan. 20, Mountain-lair Ballrooms, Morgantown. Sponsored by Mountaineer Maniacs, WVU vs. Marshall.
- 1-7 p.m. Jan. 27, Mountain-lair Ballrooms, Morgantown. For an appointment, www.redcrosslife.org. Sponsored by Greeks.

Marion County:

- 1-7 p.m. Jan. 7, Baptist Temple, Fellowship Hall, 430 Morgantown Ave., Fairmont.
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 29, Med Plus Healthcare, Fairmont.

Preston County:

- 2-7 p.m. Jan. 13, Bruceton Mills Ambulance Building, Union Street.
- noon-6 p.m. Jan. 25, Kingwood Community Building, 115 Brown Avenue.

Greene County, Pa.:

- 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Jan. 19, Allegheny Power, Meeting Room, Jefferson.
- noon-6 p.m. Jan. 24, Greene County Memorial Hospital, fifth floor conference room, Waynesburg, Pa.

Info: Erica Dalton at (800) 732-0383.

Woman stable after Marion accident

19-year-old male charged with failure to maintain control, 4 other charges

BY MARY WADE BURNSIDE
The Dominion Post

At least one woman remained hospitalized Friday after a Marion County wreck that sent four people to area hospitals.

Mauria Fletcher, who turned 25 Friday, was in stable condition at Ruby Memorial Hospital, according to a nursing supervisor. She was driving a 2001 Ford Focus on Pleasant Valley Road near Fairmont when she was struck by a 2000 Pontiac Sunfire driven by Victor Alan

Kovack, 19, of Eastwood Drive, Fairmont, according to the West Virginia State Police.

The accident took place at about 9:20 p.m. Thursday, according to a dispatcher at Marion County Central Communications.

Kovack was driving south on Pleasant Valley Road, said Senior Trooper J.A. McDougal of the Fairmont detachment, when he lost control of his car.

"According to a passenger, he lost control and drove off onto the right

side of the road," McDougal said. "He then came back onto the road, sliding out of control, crossing the center line. Then, trying to correct that, he started back toward the southbound lane and hit the Ford Focus head-on before getting back over."

Kovack had two passengers in his car. Christopher Dean, 19, of Pleasant Valley Road, was in the front seat, and a 15-year-old female was in the back seat, McDougal said.

No alcohol use was suspected in the crash, McDougal said. "My educated

guess would be maybe that he was driving too fast for the turn and the roads were a little bit damp," he said.

Both Kovack and Dean were taken to Fairmont General Hospital, where they were treated and released, according to a nursing supervisor. In addition to Fletcher, who had to be extracted from her vehicle, the 15-year-old girl also was taken to Ruby, McDougal said. At least one of them, if not both, were transported by HealthNet medical helicopter, McDougal said.

A nursing supervisor Friday could not find any record of the 15-year-old.

The accident caused traffic tie-ups for about an hour, McDougal said. Kovack was charged with failure to maintain control, left of center and three separate charges of not wearing seat belts. Drivers are charged even when passengers do not buckle up, McDougal explained.

State Police, Pleasant Valley VFD, the Winfield District VFD, Marion County EMS and HealthNet responded, McDougal said.

Adding color to winter weather

WVU Greenhouse worker Caleb Lemley checks one of the colorful bush-type poinsettia plants (bottom, right) on display at the greenhouse on the Evansdale campus to see if it needs watering while performing his tasks surrounded by a bevy of winter blooms.

The colorful poinsettias are always popular around the holidays, and the greenhouse has had 10 varieties on sale for those wanting some naturally bright colors to liven up their homes during the cold weather. Lemley also keeps a close eye on some of the other winter offerings, such as pepper plants (right) and cyclamens (bottom, left) that fill the racks of the building. Lemley is getting some practical experience in the greenhouse while completing his studies as an agricultural biochemistry major in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences. The greenhouse, located near Allen Hall, is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Bob Gay/The Dominion Post Photos



Man crosses ocean to see memorial

Netherlands native is a fan of Hank Williams

Associated Press

SPANISHBURG — Ryns Boschma followed his ears and heart to a small Mercer County bridge named in honor of country music legend Hank Williams Sr.

Boschma, 40, an art teacher from Leystad, Netherlands, traveled to the U.S. to visit the places of Williams' last ride and to participate in a ceremony scheduled for Saturday in Montgomery, Ala. He made it to the Hank Williams Sr. Memorial Bridge on U.S. 19 near Spanishburg earlier this week.

Williams was being driven from Montgomery, Ala., to Canton, Ohio, for a concert when his driver found him dead after pulling the songwriter's Cadillac into an Oak Hill service station. Williams was declared dead at the former Oak Hill Hospital on New Year's Day in 1953 at age 29.

Boschma said he became curious about Williams in the 1980s after seeing his photograph on the cover of an album at a library.

"I was curious about his looks. His white suit and white hat made him look different," he said. "It wasn't very hip to look like that in the 80s."

Boschma borrowed the record and was immediately moved by Williams' music.

"I liked the emotion and I liked his words," he said. "I liked how he worked his phrases and sentences and the simplicity of his music. His music made me very quiet."

Remembrances of 2004 could 'ratchet' up your emotions a sliver

THIS LOOK BACK at 2004 should be different than most other reviews of the past 12 months because it has some personal observations about the news and general goings-on. So, you won't find too much about the election, or current world wars — that will be rehashed as they were throughout the year in this beat-it-till-it's-dead news era.

Actually, our year started with WVU's basketball team losing to Notre Dame in the Big East opener, a defeat that eventually brought the dismissal of the Mountaineers' top scorer, Drew Schifino. It was all about team rules and may have been the beginning of a new era in sports around here and throughout the nation.

That was followed on Jan. 18 by this comment about the weather: Wacky winter weather caused icy roads and at least one fatality in this area. You seldom see a day when it's 4 degrees in the morning and raining in the afternoon.

Then on Feb. 5, the rains came following weeks of below-freezing and days of near-zero temperatures. And it flooded, but it didn't melt the ice on sidewalks and parking lots, leaving slippery footing and ice that couldn't be broken with a mattock. Never had we seen anything like it.

In March it was observed that "ratchet" appeared to be headed for the Overused Word of the Year Award. Did you also picture a car jack each time you heard of something being "ratcheted?"

Also in March there was discussion of a parking building for WVU near the downtown campus at Wil-



JOHN SAMSELL

ley Street, University Avenue and Reid Street. At the time, it was observed that a similar proposal was made 26 years ago, with the city constructing the building and university students using it.

Last March, mine safety was in the news once again, and it was determined that although mining began in West Virginia in 1818, it wasn't until 65 years later that the Legislature enacted the first mine safety laws.

Street resurfacing projects were being proposed in Morgantown in early April, at a cost of \$250,000. In addition to the street jobs, there was to be surfacing of 16,000 square feet of the new skateboard park at Marilla at the site of the old Morgan Shirt Co. factory. The park now has modern skateboarding equipment.

While the Sunnyside Up committee was preparing a new look for that neighborhood, I ran across a copy of the 1880s rules for the Sunnyside Students' Home by WVU. It said students "will not romp, scuffle or halloo, or make any unnecessary noise in the rooms, halls, porches or any other part of the home." A similar atmosphere would be nice for the Sunnyside of the future.

In April, there was a welcome report that Mallo Cup candy was once again being produced in

Pennsylvania. Although it was being distributed in some areas, Morgantown is still waiting for its first delivery of the sweet treat.

May Day brought the observation that BOPARC in Morgantown has become one of the top entities in city government, with the introduction of the rail-trail, Dorseys Knob and other park and recreation responsibilities. And it all started in 1905 when some women on Beechurst Avenue sought organized playground activities for their children, most of them offspring of glass factory workers.

Also in May, folks on upper High Street were treated to a Sunday morning concert of the bells at Wesley United Methodist Church. The oldest tolling bell was cast in 1847 and had been restored by the congregation. The "Star Spangled Banner" was the first tune played on May 9, 2004. The church later observed the current building's 100th anniversary by opening the cornerstone and enclosing items to be observed 100 years from now.

On May 17, the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court was observed. It also was the 50th year of integration of schools in Morgantown and Monongalia County. Most African-American students had been in separate schools prior to that time.

One of the longest-existing women's organizations, the Elizabeth Ludington Hagans Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrated its 100th anniversary the weekend of May 29-30. The chapter was formed May 19, 1904, and named for a student,

teacher and public speaker who died four years previously at age 25.

The annual July homecoming of the Forks-of-Cheat Baptist Church had a void with the passing of the Rev. Joseph C. Gluck in 2004. He helped preserve the church's oldest existing church's history, and was dean of students at WVU for many decades.

Also in 2004, the former Fairmont State Teachers College, established in 1865, became Fairmont State University. A copy of the school's yearbook, the Mound, noted that the college was first created "for the purpose of educating and training teachers in improved methods of instruction and discipline."

Morgantown Municipal Airport improvements were announced, with the federal government providing \$4.3 million of the \$10 million project. The work is to include extension of the main runway's safety area by 1,100 feet and eventually lengthening the runway from 5,100 feet to 6,200 feet.

On Sept. 17-18, the Morgantown area escaped devastation caused elsewhere by Hurricane Ivan. Western Pennsylvania wasn't so lucky. Only 2 and a half inches of rain fell here in two days, and the barometer fell to 28.8, same as the March 1993 snowstorm.

It late September we were wondering if the George W. Bush vs. John Kerry presidential election would be among history's most crucial. The October 2004 issue of Smithsonian magazine listed the top four as Lincoln's win in 1860, the Reagan-Carter race of 1980, Woodrow Wilson's win in 1912 when William Howard Taft didn't

want to run and Theodore Roosevelt of the Progressive Party finished second, and the 1932 election of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Two more neighborhood streets suddenly became heavily traveled thoroughways in October when the new Trinity High School began operations in the fall. Residents of Linnehurst Avenue and Listravia Avenue in Sabraton were upset at the increased traffic, a problem Morgantown has faced from time to time throughout the years.

The sport of soccer at WVU got another boost in mid-October when the new Dick Dlesk Stadium was dedicated near the new State Police barracks (near where the old State Police barracks had been years ago), on the Evansdale Campus.

The announcement was made in late October and early November that two new large theaters are coming to Morgantown. It will raise the total of theater screens to about 40, in a community that once had just two screens showing first-rate movies.

In November, an archeological dig along W. Va. 705 was part of a continuing effort to find the Monongahela tribe. The natives of this area lived here between 300 and 1,900 years ago, and the search for their existence has been ongoing.

Now, 2005 would start nicely if somehow WVU's football team could chop down Florida State in a New Year's Day bowl game. Hope I'll be able to comment on it in a review of 2005.

JOHN SAMSELL is a retired copy editor/special sections editor for *The Dominion Post*. His column appears Saturday. His e-mail address is: johnsamsell@hotmail.com.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Are you happy and don't know it?

Jack Whittaker's plight reminds us all money is no cure-all in life

Is there a trickier question than this: Are you happy? The answer tends to shift from moment to moment.

The pursuit of happiness remains an American obsession, right up there with the pursuit of money. Often the two are intertwined, mistakenly considered to be one and the same.

This is a holiday season that imposes a certain expectation of gaiety, if not outright happiness, upon us. The mad credit-card-crushing dash through innumerable stores inevitably leads to thoughts of what a wonderful world this would be, if only we had a lot more cash. Yet the kind of happiness money can buy — and it can buy some — tends to be, at best, fleeting.

As Jack Whittaker has discovered, coming into money can also buy a ton of trouble. Whittaker, of Scott Depot, became an instant celebrity two years ago after he won the richest lottery jackpot in U.S. history, \$314.9 million.

He took his winnings in a lump sum of \$113 million after taxes and promised to donate 10 percent to his church and contribute to other causes. He has kept many of his promises, creating, among other things, a charity to help people find jobs or get an education.

But ever since his stroke of good fortune, he and his family have not lived happily ever after.

Most tragic of all, Whittaker's 17-year-old granddaughter, Brandi Bragg, was found dead recently of an apparent drug overdose. Some suggested a link to the lottery — too much money, people said, had fueled bad habits.

There's a certain amount of schadenfreude in Whittaker's plight. That's the dark human emotion of reveling in others' troubles, especially if they're rich, famous or celebrated.

Let's not be naive: Money helps. It insulates people against some catastrophes. But happiness is more complex than a fat bank account.

Wealth above a certain level of middle-class comfort, researchers say, does not produce dramatic differences in happiness as psychologists measure it. The biggest leaps in happiness, research shows, come when people move from dire poverty to a middle-class wage. After that, the gap narrows. As Harvard psychology professor Daniel Gilbert says, "The difference (in happiness) between a guy who earns \$3,000 and \$30,000 is much bigger than the difference between a guy who earns \$100,000 and \$100 million."

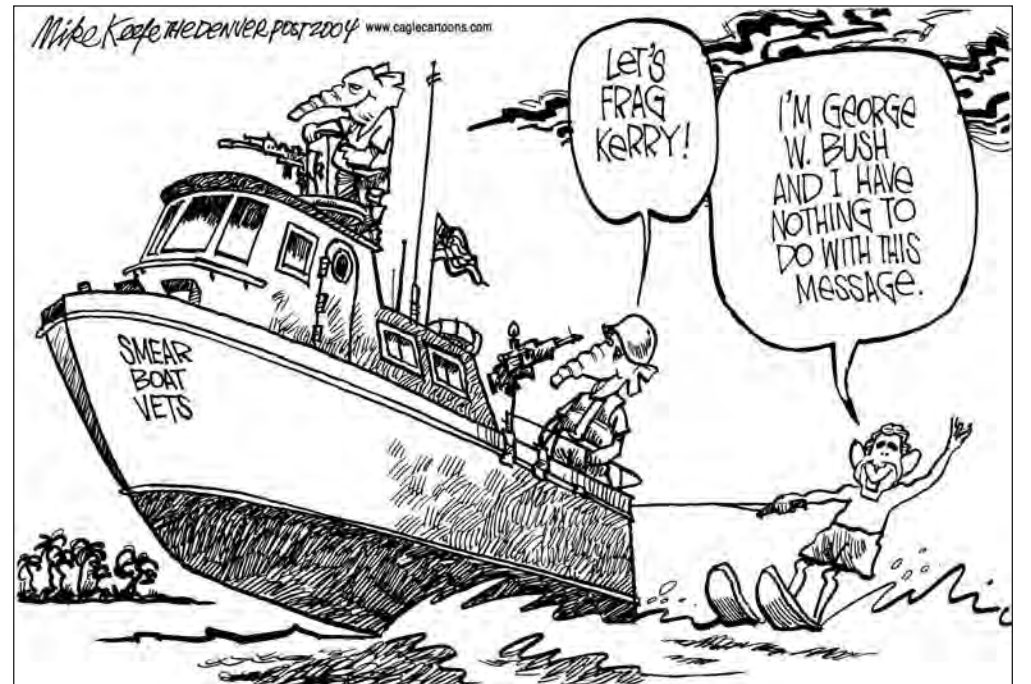
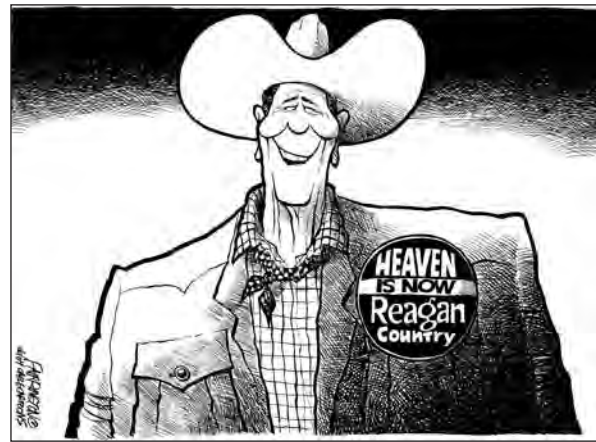
And it's certainly true that a lottery windfall can bring a confusing and even traumatic torrent of requests for money from long-lost relatives and strangers in desperate need of help.

This is the time of year when most people gather friends and family close to them. Those who most often answer the question at the beginning of this editorial with a resounding "yes" are usually those who find the greatest satisfaction in those relationships.

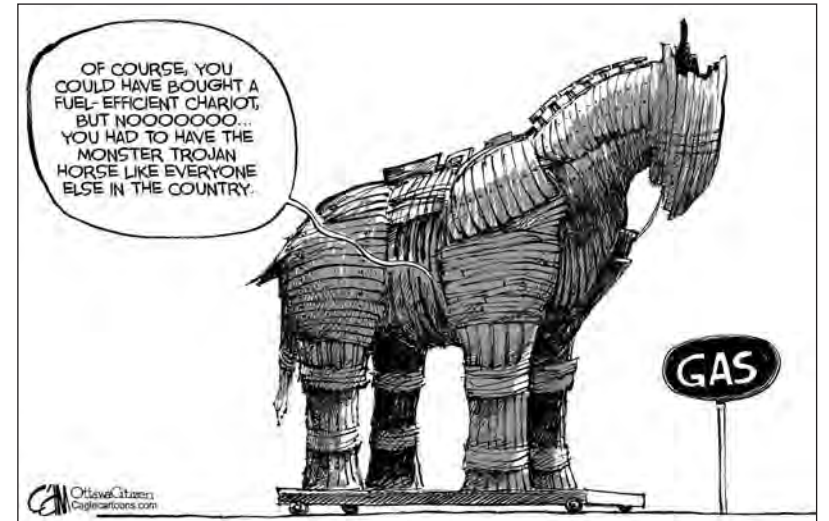
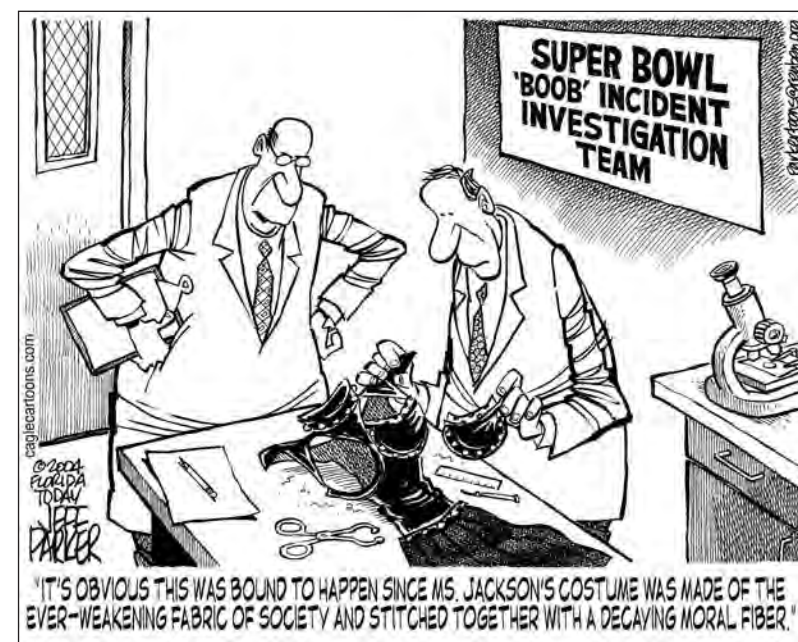
This is a timely reminder that a holiday-depleted bank account is an imprecise way to measure wealth — and isn't a good reason to declare ourselves unhappy. The kind of happiness money can buy — and it can buy some — tends to be, at best, fleeting.

THIS EDITORIAL appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on Wednesday. This commentary should be considered another point of view and not necessarily the opinion or editorial policy of *The Dominion Post*.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS FROM 2004



This is a compilation of some of the editorial cartoons representing some major events during the past year that have appeared in *The Dominion Post*.



2004: Was it really that bad or were we just dreaming?

OH 2004, 2004, bird thou never wert. Was it really that horrible a year, or does it only seem that way?

Abu Ghraib, the endless trials of Kobe Bryant and Scott Peterson, war in Iraq looking worse every day, Howard Dean eliminated over a whoop and a presidential race so devoid of joy that the high point was when the president claimed God speaks through him — leaving us to contemplate the news that God doesn't know how to pronounce nuclear and has yet to master subject-verb agreement.

"Performance enhancing drugs" in baseball. Ray Charles died. Karl Rove is Man of the Year. We're all overweight. Swift Boat Liars win the presidential race for Bush. Then just to round things off nicely, a terrible natural disaster. What a bumper. But, look at it this way ... the Boston



MOLLY IVINS

Red Sox won the championship. Eliot Spitzer is scaring the spit out of the insurance industry (check out those year-end bonuses on Wall Street). The Greek Olympics went well. Maybe we could end the payola by having them there all the time. Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France for a sixth time, a victory for cancer patients everywhere.

Jon Stewart survived a storm of approval and came out just as sardonic as ever. Richard Clarke showed us all that public servant, class act and

bureaucrat can be the same thing.

In other highlights:

■ The Coalition of the Willing was depleted when Hungary, Thailand, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Honduras, Ukraine, Spain, the Philippines, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Poland (so movingly cited by President Bush during one of the debates) all proved less than willing. On the other hand, Tonga is still with us.

■ Texan Jessica Simpson, the one who makes Paris Hilton look like a genius, showed an astonished nation what a Texas intellectual looks like. Upon meeting Interior Secretary Gale Norton, she said, "You've done a nice job decorating the White House."

■ The Ukrainians showed us all what people who care about democracy do when there's cheating at the polls. Bless them for just not standing for it.

■ Media Low Point of the Year: Rush Limbaugh on Abu Ghraib: "I'm talking about people having a good time, these people, you ever heard of emotional release? You ever heard of the need to blow some steam off?"

■ Emblematic Political Moment of the Year: As the full dimensions of the tidal wave in the Indian Ocean became clear, Bush's staff used the occasion to ... take a few cheap shots at Bill Clinton. Explaining why the president had neither returned to Washington nor even bothered to come out and read a statement of sorrow, *The Washington Post* reported that one official said: "The president wanted to be fully briefed on our efforts. He doesn't want to make a symbolic statement about 'We feel your pain.'" Many Bush aides believe Clinton was too quick to head for the cameras and to

hold forth on tragedies with his trademark sympathy. 'Actions speak louder than words,' a top Bush aide said.

So for action, the Bushies pledged \$15 million to help out, less than half the amount that will be spent on parties for the Bush inauguration.

■ What Were They Thinking? Moment of the Year: Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl. Seriously, who planned that?

■ Dumbest Reaction to Wardrobe Malfunction: FCC decides its job is to censor bad taste on television (got their life's work cut out for them, haven't they?), instead of preventing the truly obscene and dangerous concentration of ownership in the media.

■ Another high point: John Ashcroft (the man whose understanding of the right to dissent is so profound he said, "To those who scare peace-loving peo-

ple with phantoms of lost liberty, my message is this: Your tactics only aid terrorists, for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve") will be replaced as attorney general by Al (Defining Torture Down) Gonzales.

Gonzales put out the legal memo that says "cruel, inhumane or degrading" treatment does not constitute torture as long as it is not "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function or even death."

Well, friends, the old ball is starting another orbit of the sun, giving us all a chance to do better this time. Let's not blow it, because we sure look like dogmeat after this one.

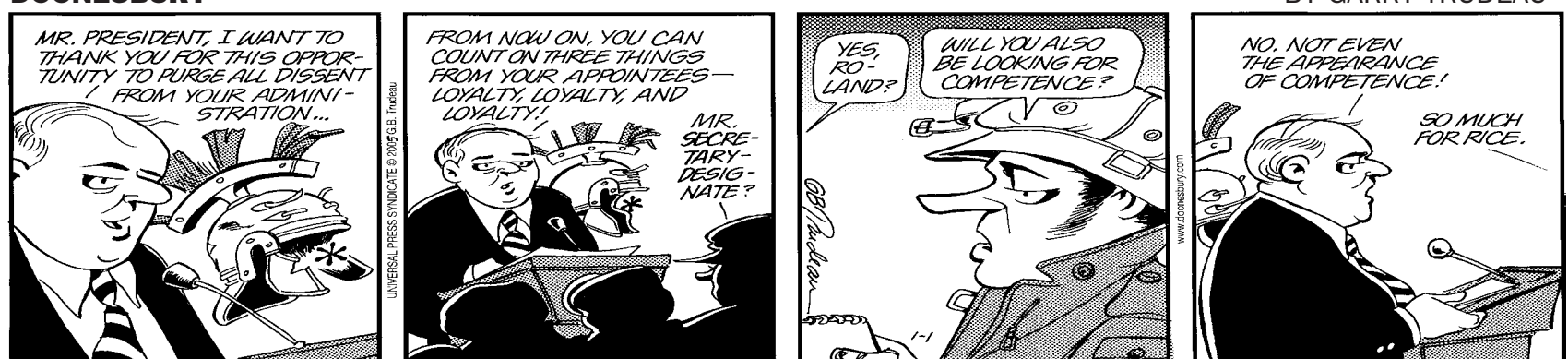
MOLLY IVINS writes a column for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

MALLARD FILLMORE



DOONESBURY



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

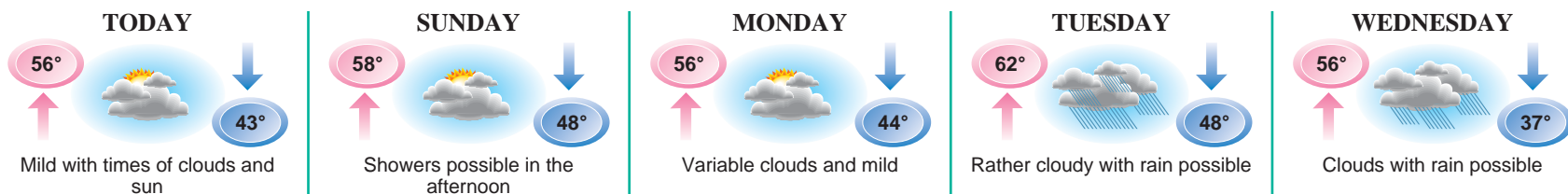
THE DOMINION Post

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AGNES JANE GREER 1880-1972

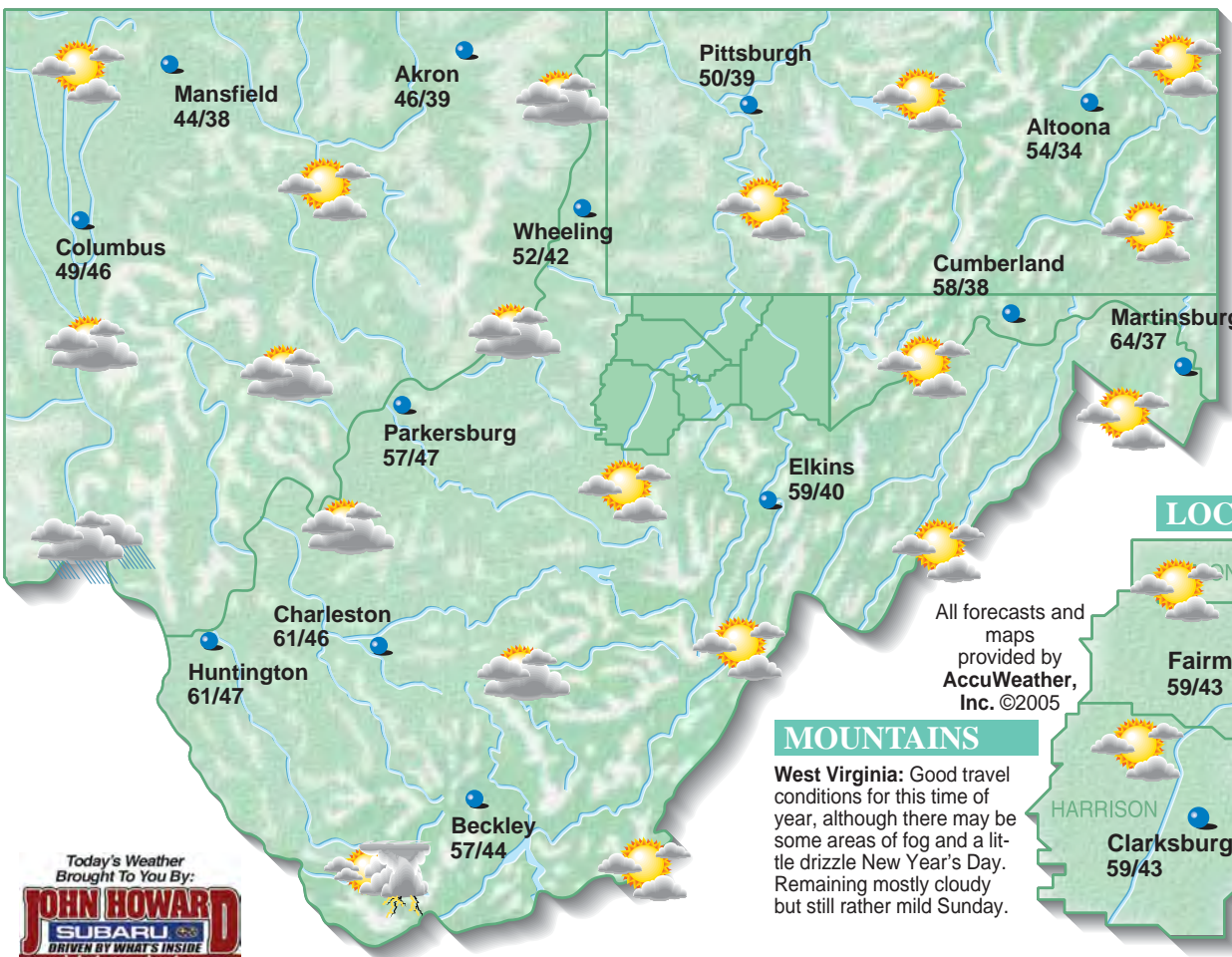
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55-C Ap PRESS PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



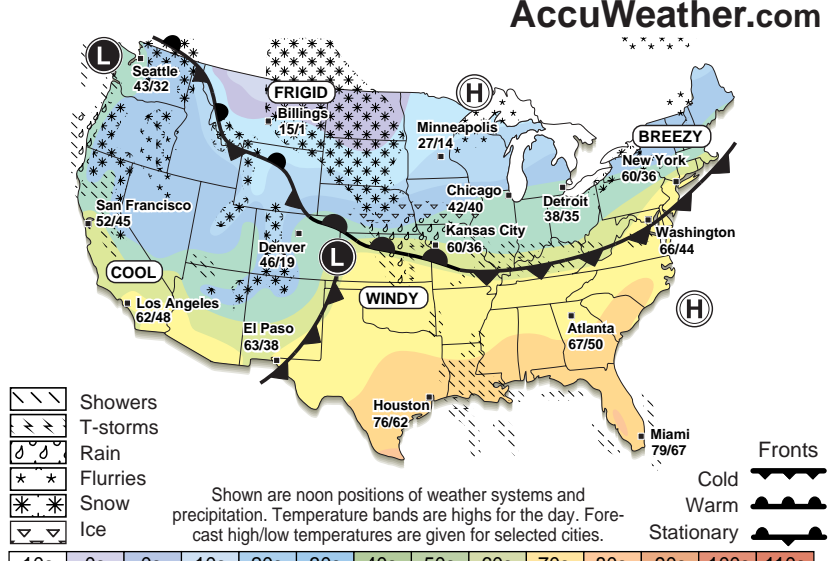
ALMANAC

Morgantown through Thursday
 Temperature
 High/low 54°/43°
 Normal high/low 40°/24°
 Record high 67° in 1971
 Record low 3° in 1983
 Precipitation
 Thursday Trace
 Month to date 1.87"
 Year to date 46.12"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:41 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 5:06 p.m.
 Moonrise today 10:56 p.m.
 Moonset today 11:20 a.m.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	24-36	11	
Seven Springs, PA	16-30	31	
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	34-48	56	
Timberline Four Seasons	28-60	16	
Wisp, MD	15-35	19	

SOLUNAR TABLE

Five-day forecast indicates peak feeding times for fish and game.

Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Sat: 3:35 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	3:55 p.m.	10:06 p.m.
Sun.: 4:20 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	4:40 p.m.	10:51 p.m.
Mon.: 5:03 a.m.	11:14 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	11:35 p.m.
Tue.: 5:46 a.m.	11:57 a.m.	6:09 p.m.	—
Wed.: 6:30 a.m.	12:42 p.m.	6:55 p.m.	—

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	57/44/sh	57/46/r
Charleston, WV	61/46/sh	63/47/sh
Columbus, OH	49/46/sh	58/42/r
Cumberland, MD	58/38/c	49/44/r
Fairmont, WV	59/43/c	59/47/sh
Grafton, WV	59/43/c	59/47/sh
Huntington, WV	61/47/sh	66/46/sh
Kingwood, WV	56/42/c	57/44/r
Pittsburgh, PA	50/39/c	58/44/sh
Wheeling, WV	52/42/c	57/44/sh

LAKES AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	867.22	-1.0
Deep Creek, MD	2456.36	-0.1
Jennings Randolph	1447.16	-0.2
Stonewall Jackson	1068.16	+0.0
Tygart	1035.08	+0.9
Youghiogheny	1418.03	+0.0

ALMANAC

Associated Press
 Today is Saturday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2005. There are 364 days left in the year.
HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:
IN 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.
ON THIS DATE:
IN 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.
IN 1898, Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island were consolidated into New York City.
IN 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, died of a drug and alcohol overdose while en route to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:
 Author J.D. Salinger is 86. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 83. Actor Frank Langella is 65. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 63. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 62. Actor Rick Hurst is 59. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 55. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 47. Actress Ren Woods is 47. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 41. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 39. Actor Morris Chestnut is 36. Actor Verne Troyer is 36. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 35.

Today gives us the chance to start fresh

DEAR ABBY: Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the column you printed last New Year's Day. My mother is always cutting out articles for me. The majority end up in the trash. But that one is taped to my bathroom wall. I read it every day on my way out. If I'm having a bad day, I think about it. Please print it again for me and others. Mine is a little tattered. — HEATHER IN FLORIDA

DEAR HEATHER: With pleasure.

DEAR READERS: Rise and shine, and welcome to 2005! This is our chance for a new beginning, the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I'm printing Dear Abby's oft-requested list of New Year's resolutions — adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will cor-



rect those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily — if only just for today. And not only that, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

JEANNE PHILLIPS writes "Dear Abby" under the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren.

TV LISTINGS

Time	Channel	Program
6:00	Broadcast Channels	News (S) (CC) 91, CBS News (S) (CC) 1, News (S) (CC) 2159, The Insider (N) (S) (CC) 5, The Andy Griffith Show (S) (CC) 2082, NCIS: Minimum Security (S) (CC) 7178, 48 Hours Mystery: Where is Mrs. March? A mother vanishes without a trace. (S) (CC) 7915, News (S) (CC) 11:35, Jerome Bettis Show (S) (CC) 7457/517
6:30	ABC	(4:30) College Football: Rose Bowl: Michigan vs. Texas. From Pasadena, Calif. (Live) (S) (CC) 362826, College Football: Tostitos Fiesta Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Utah. From Tempe, Ariz. (Live) (S) (CC) 140371
7:00	Broadcast Channels	News 1178, CBS News 6246, Entertainment Tonight (S) (CC) 2159, CBS News 6246, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (S) (CC) 8028, Law & Order: Criminal Intent: Consumed. (S) (CC) 91848, Law & Order: SVU, News, The Insider
7:30	Broadcast Channels	Antiques Roadshow: The Lawrence Welk Show: New Year's. (S) (CC) 10979, Dharma & Greg (S) (CC) 41739, The X-Files: The Erlenmeyer Flask. (S) (CC) 74772, Mutant X: Dancing on the Razor. (S) (CC) 94536, Antiques Roadshow: Lawrence Welk Show: New Year's. (S) (CC) 10979, Friends (S) (CC) 48178, Seinfeld (S) (CC) 89913, Cops (S) (CC) 57826, Cops (S) (CC) 36333, America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N) (S) (CC) 30352, Red Green, Red Green, America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N) (S) (CC) 30352, Mountain Stage 82791, Austin City Limits
8:00	Broadcast Channels	Antiques Roadshow: Lawrence Welk Show: New Year's. (S) (CC) 10979, Friends (S) (CC) 48178, Seinfeld (S) (CC) 89913, Cops (S) (CC) 57826, Cops (S) (CC) 36333, America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N) (S) (CC) 30352, Red Green, Red Green, America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N) (S) (CC) 30352, Mountain Stage 82791, Austin City Limits
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Happy Holidays!



Inside
Shocking?
Chargers
still a work
in progress.
Page 5-B

Sports

SPORTS EDITOR **BOB HERTZEL** ■ 291-9429
SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 2005 THE DOMINION POST **1-B**



BOB HERTZEL

WVU will win it on special teams? Is Pac dreaming?

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

THIS IS GOING TO SOUND screwy, considering the history of the West Virginia football team that faces Florida State in today's Gator Bowl, but Adam "Pac-Man" Jones believes not only that his Mountaineers will win but also that special teams will make the difference.

Normally, you would flick such thoughts away as pre-game dementia, but there are two reasons that the Seminoles might be well served to heed such chatter.

First, let us hear what Jones had to say moments before West Virginia's final practice for the Gator Bowl.

"Special teams are going to be a big part of this game. There's going to be a turnaround on special teams. I think special teams might win this game," he said.

When one considers that WVU's special-teams play has been four miles south of disaster, you have to wonder just what the Pac-Man knows that you don't.

Which brings us to the two reasons FSU should listen up.

To begin with, if special teams are to affect the outcome of the game, it will take a player who is a difference-maker to pull that off. When one thinks of a difference-maker on special teams, one thinks of Pac-Man Jones returning kicks.

In 2003, he averaged 26.3 yards a kickoff return — and brought one all the way back — and 6.1 yards a punt return. This year, he more than doubled his punt return totals, averaging 14.8 yards with one score while averaging 23.2 yards per kickoff return.

So, Jones seems to be predicting he will make a difference in the return game.

Now, you ask, why should he be feeling that way, a sly smile on his face as he talks of special-teams play?

Because, like Martin Luther King before him, he had a dream.

Now what that dream was he wouldn't exactly specify.

"I had a dream I was going to do something big. I don't want to put it on the air," he said into a battery of microphones.

So only Jones knows what he dreamed, but we're guessing it had very little to do with any Florida State defender tackling him.

No one doubts he can damage Florida State with a kick return. And no one should doubt that he has every reason in the world to want to inflict such damage.

Out of high school in Atlanta, Jones was recruited by FSU as a running back. In truth, all the top schools in the nation recruited him. But when it came time to make an offer, FSU shunned Jones.

That, in part, led to the bizarre press conference at Westlake High when Jones showed up wearing Georgia Tech gear. Everyone expected him to stay at home and attend Georgia Tech, but in mid-press conference he switched into a WVU hat and a shirt and announced to a disap-

SEE **HERTZEL**, 3-B

BOB HERTZEL is sports editor of *The Dominion Post*. He can be reached at sports@dominionpost.com



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post
Adam "Pac-Man" Jones

WVU needs a run of big plays to win

How Mountaineers can move vs. FSU 'D'

ANALYSIS

BY **BOB HERTZEL**
The Dominion Post

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Among the thousands of words spoken by both the Florida State Seminoles and the West Virginia Mountaineers in the week leading up to today's Gator Bowl game, perhaps the most meaningful were 14 uttered early in the week by WVU coach Rich Rodriguez.

"If we're going to win, we're going to have to run the ball some," he said.

That may sound like a simple goal for a team that averaged 253 rushing yards during the regular season, but it is anything but, for Florida State gives up rushing yards the way Jack Benny used to give up \$100 bills.

FSU is No. 1 in the nation

against the run, allowing 69.9 yards a game.

So what happens when you have a rushing attack like the Mountaineers', one that is shared by four backs — Kay-Jay Harris, Jason Colson, Pernel Williams and quarterback Rasheed Marshall — meeting a defense like Florida State's?

The answer to that, according to both coaches, is bad news for WVU.

"I've always felt the defense would win most battles, if you are a really superior defense," said FSU's veteran coach, Bobby Bowden.

"Most of the cases, the dominating defense will show up," Rodriguez answered. "The offense is more likely to make mistakes. Offense is more assignment oriented. That's why everyone says defense wins championships."

SEE **WVU**, 3-B

GATOR BOWL

Saturday, Jan. 1 • Jacksonville, Fla. • 12:30 p.m. ET (NBC)

Florida State 8-3 (6-2)	West Virginia 8-3 (4-2) (Conference)
OFFENSE	
Points per game	24.7
Rushing yards	1,643
Passing yards	2,369
Time of possession	30:27
DEFENSE	
Points allowed	13.7
Rushing yards	759
Passing yards	2,218
Time of possession	29:33

BOWL BOX: The Seminoles have played in 14 straight January bowl games. Florida State coach Bobby Bowden coached at West Virginia from 1966-75, spending his last six seasons there as head coach.

AP



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post

Rasheed Marshall will leave WVU as the school's all-time leader for combined touchdowns scored and TD passes, with 67.

Marshall: Time passes quickly

Some things good, some things bad, but QB always prepared

BY **TODD MURRAY**
The Dominion Post

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

West Virginia quarterback Rasheed Marshall always seems to find the perfect words to fit any occasion.

He knows what to say whether he's visiting a sick child in a hospital room or cracking a joke to keep his offensive teammates loose in a taut situation on the field.

When it comes to the end of his WVU career, which occurs in today's Gator Bowl game, against Florida State, at Alltel Stadium, the words don't flow so easily for Marshall.

"Rasheed is a great example of what a true student-athlete should be. He's set a lot of records. He's earned his degree and, more than anything, he's been a joy to coach."

Rich Rodriguez

"It came quick," he said, pausing to consider his response. "Five years are up already. I just have to go out there and take care of business and hopefully come out on top."

Marshall arrived in Morgantown in the summer of 2000 hoping to become the second

quarterback from Pittsburgh's Brashear High to seize the starting reins at WVU.

He knew he'd face the inevitable and tiresome comparisons with Brashear graduate and WVU legend Major Harris, but he still chose the Mountaineers over Big Ten school Wisconsin.

Ironically enough, a WVU victory against the Seminoles today would give Marshall the same number of starting-quarterback victories Harris compiled in his three-year tenure as the Mountaineers' starter in the late 1980s — 25.

Marshall is the Big East Conference's all-time leading rusher among quarterbacks, and he holds the WVU record for combined touchdowns scored and touchdown passes, with 67.

SEE **MARSHALL**, 3-B

For WVU, oddball is odds-ball

Rare defense, varied offense favor 9-0 men

BY **MICHAEL CASAZZA**
The Dominion Post

When WVU players awoke Friday morning and turned on "Sports-Center" or opened a newspaper, they were greeted with a surprise.

St. John's 63, No. 17 North Carolina State 45.

How that happened, the Mountaineers do not know. What they are certain of is, the Wolfpack will be as close to rabid as possible Sunday, when WVU enters the RBC Center, in Raleigh, N.C., and looks to move to 10-0 for the first time in 44 years.

Talk about a unique situation.

But unique is nothing new to WVU, and that disposition has suited the Mountaineers perfectly in a perfect start.

Start with what happened Wednesday night, against No. 20 George Washington. On a week-night in late December with the students on break and many fans away for the Gator Bowl, a school that hadn't beaten a ranked team in 10 tries and not at home since 2001 attracted a sellout crowd of 13,956 for a nonconference game.

How rare was this? The 13th-largest crowd in school history was also the first December sellout since 1982, the first advance nonconference sellout since 1989 and the largest December crowd since 1996.

"One advantage is that teams don't see our 1-3-1 a lot and they don't have a plan for it."

Joe Herber
forward/guard

"Under these conditions? Are you kidding me?" head coach John Beilein said. "I don't know how many programs in the country could do that. You can count them. Maybe 25 or 30 programs in the country can do that. Really, with the football team away and our population? But that's why we love it."

Granted, the Mountaineers could have made things dramatically easier on the fans Wednesday and increased that 15-point lead in the second half into the 20s and 30s, but, oddly enough, this is a team that is probably more comfortable playing a close game.

"These are some of the games we've lost and they've been in front of big crowds here," Patrick Beilein said. "But we've been through it so much now that we understand how to play. It shows our maturity as a team. We know what it takes and we know how to win."

Guiding WVU's success is a defense that is the equivalent of an endangered species. The 1-3-1 zone is rare and beautiful, but those who thought it was dead have no idea what to think when they see one.

This defense, and the way WVU constantly changes the shifts and angles within it, no doubt explains how the Mountaineers have forced almost 16 turnovers per game and why many come from an opponent throwing the ball right to a WVU player.

"One advantage is that teams don't see our 1-3-1 a lot and they don't have a plan for it," Joe Herber said.

Meanwhile, the Mountaineers play an offense that attacks defenses with a series of cuts and screens

SEE **ODDBALL**, 3-B

Yanks reach preliminary deal for Johnson

Trade not likely to be finalized until next week

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One week later, Randy Johnson again appears headed to New York.

The Arizona Diamondbacks and Yankees reached a tentative agreement late Thursday on a deal to

send the Big Unit to the Bronx for pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, young catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

The teams finished putting the deal in writing Friday but do not intend to submit it to the commissioner's office until Monday, the official said.

While not confirming the substance of the report, Diamondbacks managing partner Ken Kendrick said the teams "are in serious discussions."

Kendrick also indicated Arizona was working on another deal involving Vazquez. One possible suitor was the Los Angeles Dodgers, who could send outfielder Shawn Green and pitcher Brad Penny to Arizona.

Separate trades, if they include Los Angeles, would in essence reach the same conclusion as the three-team effort that fell apart Dec. 21, when the Dodgers backed out. Arizona also could deal Vazquez to another team.

"We would not agree to a final deal or a trade of Randy Johnson

unless we believed it would benefit our team," Kendrick said. "That would require in return at least two significant major-league ballplayers."

Kendrick said, however, that no deal could be completed, or the paperwork even submitted to the commissioner's office, until early next week.

Johnson, a 10-time All-Star, would join a reshaped rotation that now includes Carl Pavano and Jarret Wright. The Yankees already had Mike Mussina and Kevin Brown, but

blew a 3-0 lead in the A.L. championship series and lost to Boston.

Johnson was 16-14, a record skewed by playing for a team that went 51-111, tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history. The Diamondbacks scored two runs or fewer in 17 of his 35 starts. He led the majors with 290 strikeouts, was second with a 2.60 ERA and pitched a perfect game against Atlanta.

In addition, the Yankees finalized a \$3 million, one-year contract with first baseman Tino Martinez, a deal that includes a club option for 2006.

A New Year's toast

BY FRED LIEF Associated Press

First order of business: Let's raise a glass And toast to the year and what's come to pass. Keep the tap flowing. We'll run up a tab, Then wait for toast to come back from the lab. We'll pour a tall one for Yao Ming, For Smarty Jones and for Vijay Singh, For Albert Pujols and Stewart Cink, For Freddy Adu (too young to drink), For Phil Martelli and Michelle Wie,

For UConn, Utah and USC.

We'll honor the classics — here's to Greece, Which kept the games going, and kept the peace. But don't even ask the cost of the bill In getting this done — a two-minute drill Beset by delays, lame preparation, Driven by force of sheer desperation. Better to think of the glories of Crete, Of Phelps in the pool, of Finch throwing heat, Of Leslie, of Swoopes (these women don't lose),



Maria Sharapova



Lance Armstrong

Of Gatlin in flight, Hicham El Guerrouj, Of gallant Iraq, Aussies, Korea, Of those prize-winning Hamms, Paul and Mia. Let bygones be bygones — skoal! Larry Brown, Lucky, and then some, to get out of town Free of all signs of ulcers, angina.

Not your headache in four years in China.

For Shaq, Suzuki, Sharapova, For Coach K, Kurt Busch, Kuznetsova, For Jarome Iginla, Steve McNair, For Lennox Lewis and Juan Pierre, For Peyton Manning and Richard Pound, For MRIs and for ultrasound, For Corey Dillon and Jerry West. (We'll skip Giambi and Ron Artest.)

For our elders tonight, toss one down — Paterno and Gibbs and Hubie Brown.

And while you're at it make sure there's room For Lance in Paris, Jeremy Bloom. And say goodbye to Bambino's ghost — To Idiots all, here's one last toast.

The hour is late. Let's head for the door. They're clearing the tables, sweeping the floor. We'll make our way home if it's all the same, Then call for Keith Foulke and close out the game. Hand over the keys. Let someone else drive. Settle in for the trip: 2005.

TODAY'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 2005 COLLEGE FOOTBALL Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla. West Virginia vs. Florida State, 12:30 p.m.

NOTICES

MISCELLANY HEALTHWORKS BOOT CAMP, a physical conditioning program for anyone looking to improve his or her fitness level... WORLD CUP QUALIFYING FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, for men and women... GOT GAME? A free seminar for student-athletes in grades 9-12 and their parents... BASKETBALL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP BASKETBALL, for any boy or girl... GRADES K-3 CLINIC, Suncrest Middle School... ELKS HOOP-SHOOT free-throw contest... HIGH SCHOOL OFF-SEASON PROGRAM, at MVP Baseball Academies... HEALTHWORKS BASEBALL/SOFTBALL PRE-SEASON CONDITIONING CLINICS... WRESTLING MOUNTAINEER WRESTLING CLUB... BRUCETOWN BANDITS YOUTH WRESTLING... OUTDOORS ARCHERY LEAGUES... ICE SKATING ICE ARENA PUBLIC SESSIONS... TOUGHMAN 26TH ORIGINAL TOUGHMAN CONTEST... FIRST HANGOVER 90 OFF-ROAD RACE... MOTORSPORTS

TV SPORTSWATCH

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

11 a.m.: ESPN — Outback Bowl, Georgia vs. Wisconsin FOX — Cotton Bowl, Tennessee vs. Texas A&M 12:30 p.m.: NBC — Gator Bowl, Florida State vs. WVU 1 p.m.: ABC — Capital One Bowl, LSU vs. Iowa 4:30 p.m.: ABC — Rose Bowl, Texas vs. Michigan 8:30 p.m.: ABC — Fiesta Bowl, Utah vs. Pittsburgh MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL 2:30 p.m.: ESPN — Georgia Tech at Kansas Midnight: ESPN2 — Hawaii at Nevada 8:30 p.m.: NBA TV — Orlando at Chicago HOCKEY 8:30 p.m.: ESPN2 — World Junior Championships, U.S. vs. Sweden

PRO FOOTBALL

Table with NFL, AMERICAN CONFERENCE, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, and NFL playoffs sections. Includes columns for team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

Table with Eastern Conference and Western Conference sections. Includes columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Box score

Box score for Celtics 108, Wizards 103. Includes player names and statistics.

NBA leaders

Table with Through Dec. 30 Scoring, FG Percentage, Rebounds, Assists, and G, FG, FT, Pts Avg. Includes player names and statistics.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowl glance

Table listing various bowl games including Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 22, Dec. 23, Dec. 24, and Dec. 25. Includes team names and locations.

Table with First quarter, Second quarter, Third quarter, Fourth quarter, and Individual Statistics sections. Includes team names and statistics.

Thursday's late games

Table listing late games for Texas Tech, California, and Illinois. Includes team names and statistics.

Table with First quarter, Second quarter, Third quarter, Fourth quarter, and Individual Statistics sections. Includes team names and statistics.

Table with First quarter, Second quarter, Third quarter, Fourth quarter, and Individual Statistics sections. Includes team names and statistics.

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Activated G Erick Strickland from the injured list. FOOTBALL National Football League CHICAGO BEARS—Agreed to terms with P Brad Maynard on a five-year contract extension. CINCINNATI BENGALS—Placed DT Langston Moore on the injured reserve list. Signed OT Pete Loughhead from the practice squad. OLYMPICS U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY—Suspended U.S. sprinter Mickey Grimes for two years after testing positive for steroids. COLLEGE INDIANA—Named Gerald Brown running backs coach, Troy Douglas cornerbacks coach, Matt Canada quarterback coach and passing game coordinator; Brian George defensive line coach and co-defensive coordinator, Billy Lynch wide receivers coach, Joe Paicic co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach, Bobby Johnson offensive line coach and running game coordinator and George Ricumstrick linebackers coach.

SPORTLIGHT

Jan. 1

1934 — Columbia unveils Stanford 7-0, in the Rose Bowl, when Al Barabara scores in the third quarter on a 17-yard hidden-ball play. 1935 — Bucknell beats Miami, 24-0, in the first Orange Bowl. 1991 — SEC Tech routs Nebraska, 45-21, in the Citrus Bowl, to finish as college football's only unbeaten team (11-0-1). 1992 — Miami beats Nebraska, 22-0, in the Orange Bowl, the first shutout of the Cornhuskers since 1973, and finishes with a 12-0 record. 1993 — No. 2 Alabama wins its first national championship in 13 years and deprives Miami of its fifth title as the Crimson Tide defense humiliates the No. 1 Hurricanes, 34-13, in the Sugar Bowl. 1993 — Florida State beats Nebraska, 27-14, in the Orange Bowl, to set an NCAA record by winning eight consecutive bowl games. 2000 — Georgia's Hop Hines kicks a 21-yard field goal in overtime to complete the greatest comeback in bowl history. The Bulldogs pull out a 28-25 victory against Purdue after trailing 25-0 early in the second quarter, in the Outback Bowl.



Miami coach Larry Coker (right), with Florida interim coach Charlie Strong, at the Peach Bowl.

Move to ACC has killed Miami's gridiron goose

COMMENTARY

BY MIKE BIANCHI AESOP ONCE WROTE about a countryman who became rich by collecting a golden egg from his magical goose every morning. But as he grew wealthy, the countryman also grew greedy, "and thinking to get at once all the gold the goose could give, he killed it and opened it only to find — nothing."

University of Miami President Donna Shalala should have read Aesop two years ago before she got goose blood on her hands. In the zeal to milk every last dollar out of her magical football program, Shalala may have killed her gridiron goose with the move to the Atlantic Coast Conference. "It wasn't a great move for the football team, but it was a great move for the entire athletic program, especially the Olympic sports," U.M. Coach Larry Coker admitted this week as his team prepared for Friday night's Peach Bowl game, against Florida. I'm sure this was just what the dozens of U.M. fans who travelled to Atlanta for the Comedown Bowl wanted to hear: Hey, the football program is suffering because of the move, but look how much it benefits our women's badminton team.

I hate to say I told you so, but this is exactly what I predicted for Miami and Florida State when the 'Canes announced they were leaving their cushy little gig in the Big East. Let's look back at a column I wrote when U.M. announced its decision to take the money and run to the new, improved ACC: "The Gator Bowl — that's where Miami or Florida State will end up in most years. When you're used to going to the Sugar, Orange or Fiesta bowls every year, the Gator is like the American basketball team winning the bronze. It's that same feeling you get when you're ready for a nice sip from your hot, fresh cup of coffee, and suddenly you discover you're drinking the leftovers from an old cup you left on your desk three weeks ago."

Welcome to the Cold Coffee Bowl, fellas. Little did we know that U.M. and FSU would end up in second-tier bowls in the first year of ACC expansion. Without the realignment, FSU would be in the Sugar Bowl right now instead of the Gator Bowl. And Miami likely would have been 10-1 and perhaps headed to a major bowl, too. The new ACC is a little different than the old Big East, where Miami used to fatten up on Rutgers and Temple every year. Look no further than the Champs Sports Bowl to gauge the depth of the new ACC. Georgia Tech, which finished the season tied for sixth in the ACC, annihilated Syracuse, 51-14 — the same Syracuse team that finished in a four-way tie for first in the Big East.

This is not to say I don't like the new ACC; I love it. The competition is great for the league, just not great for two programs — FSU and Miami — built on perennially playing in BCS bowls. Miami needed only to look across the field at its opponent Friday night to see what could be in store for them. The Gators, who play in the SEC, haven't been to a BCS bowl in four seasons. Why do you think Coker was against the ACC move from the beginning? He knew it would be much harder to compete for national titles, especially starting next season, when the ACC goes to 12 teams and plays a championship game. "When you have a conference championship game, you've got another game you're exposed to and another chance to lose," Coker says. And now a moment of silence for the golden goose. She's just died and is on her way to heaven. With a short layover in Atlanta.

MIKE BIANCHI writes for The Orlando Sentinel (RTR).

Schottenheimer's Chargers remain 'work in progress'

Coach leads worst-to-first turnaround

BY RANDY COVITZ
Knight Ridder Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Marty Schottenheimer stood in the lower level of Arrowhead Stadium, wearing a bright yellow San Diego Chargers sweatshirt that still looked odd on him.

The Chargers had just defeated the Chiefs for their fifth straight win in what would become an eight-game winning streak. Just a few steps from the Kansas City locker room, former players and staff members came by to congratulate Schottenheimer on the victory and on the birth of a grandson.

Schottenheimer held it together until he received a bear hug from Chiefs president Carl Peterson. Schottenheimer's eyes began to moisten and his voice cracked, as it often did during emotional moments as head coach of the Chiefs during 1989-98.



Marty Schottenheimer

"The best 10 years of my life were in Kansas City," Schottenheimer said quietly of a decade in which the Chiefs won 101 games and qualified for the playoffs seven times.

If that was the case, this year in San Diego can't be too far behind.

Just a year ago, in Schottenheimer's second season in San Diego, the Chargers went 4-12 for the worst record in the NFL. It was just the second losing season of Schottenheimer's 18 years as an NFL head coach, and he was generally regarded as the prime contender to be fired in 2004.

Instead, Schottenheimer has gone from the hot seat to the leading candidate for honors as NFL coach of the year. He has led the Chargers, 11-4, to their first AFC West title since 1994 and first playoff berth since 1995.

It's also Schottenheimer's first winning season and trip to the playoffs since the Chiefs went 13-3 in 1997.

"All of those things are window dressing," Schottenheimer said of the accolades he's receiving. "There's a lot of attention and focus on us right now. It has been a terrific experience."

"But we are a work in progress, and our players are continuing to develop and to learn and to understand the way you have to do things if you want to be successful in the National Football League."

Until this season, some wondered whether the NFL had passed Schottenheimer by. After saying it was time to move on and resigning from the Chiefs following a 7-9 season in 1998, Schottenheimer spent two seasons as an ESPN studio analyst. He returned to the sideline in 2001 for intrusive owner Daniel Snyder at Washington, where his team started 0-5. He then won five straight and finished 8-8 only to be fired in favor of Steve Spurrier, who lasted two years.

Instead of living on Snyder's money and playing golf near his North Carolina home, Schottenheimer signed a four-year contract with the woeful Chargers. They were coming off 1-15 and 5-11 seasons, embroiled in a stadium controversy with the city and considered a possibility to relocate to Los Angeles.

The Chargers went 8-8 under Schottenheimer in 2002 before hitting rock bottom in 2003. The team's image and prospects were so forlorn that Eli Manning, the player the Chargers selected with the first pick of the draft, refused to go to San Diego, forcing a trade that turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

"The worst part was, try as hard as I did and we did, I couldn't seem to get the message across that needed to be understood," said Schottenheimer, 61.

But general manager A.J. Smith, who inherited Schottenheimer as coach after the death of John Butler, believed in him.

"Two years was not enough time for someone like coach Schottenheimer, with his previous record," Smith said. "I needed to do a better job of getting players. We put the rumors to rest that we were looking for a head coach, and we brought in some players in all kinds of different ways. Trades, free-

agency, the draft. We hired (defensive coordinator) Wade Phillips and fixed the defense, and went into the season optimistic."

Schottenheimer, who values his ability as a problem solver above all else, gutted the roster. The Chargers, taking the approach Schottenheimer called "addition by subtraction,"

cut their ties with old favorites who had worn out their welcome. They rebuilt the team, bringing in 21 new players to the 53-man active roster, including an all-new offensive line as Schottenheimer found players who bought into his mantra of hard work, discipline and his signature "one play at a time."

"Some things never change with that guy," said linebacker Donnie Edwards, who was drafted by Schottenheimer in Kansas City, in 1996, and signed with the Chargers as a free agent, in 2001, when San Diego made him a better offer. "One play at a time' forever in my head will be linked to Marty Schottenheimer. That's the good thing about this team. They truly believe in this coach."

"All the things he changed throughout this year really helped us out. I think the guys really believe in him, and that's why we are where we are."

While some things never change, others do. Take Martyball, for example.

It's not run, run, pass, punt and let the defense win the game for you anymore. The Chargers pass like crazy now. They call end-arounds, halfback passes, fake punts and direct snaps to running back LaDainian Tomlinson. No longer is Martyball a power-running-game offense that could win games but not championships in Kansas City.

"I consider Martyball to be primarily, find out what your players do best and then go do that, because it gives you the better opportunity to be successful," Schottenheimer said. "Certainly, ball security is pre-eminent in everything that we do. But we're dramatically different from the perception of Martyball."

"You've got to throw it to be successful. You have to be able to run it at times in the game, but the way the rules are set up, you spin your wheels playing Martyball. It's a thing of the past. The rules are designed to throw the ball."

And that's where Schottenheimer may have gotten his biggest break of 2003. The Chargers traded the rights to Manning to the Giants for quarterback Philip Rivers, the fourth pick in the draft, with the expectation he would be their starter.

But Rivers held out for nearly the entire preseason, enabling Drew Brees, who had been banished to the bench and was in the final year of his contract, to have his breakout season. He has thrown 27 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions for the Chargers, who average 28 points per game, third only to Indianapolis and Kansas City.

Had Rivers signed, he might have been Ben Roethlisberger. Or he might have been Eli Manning.

"We were going to open it to competition," Schottenheimer said of Rivers' chances of starting, "and he would have had a better opportunity. The outcome might have been the same."

Schottenheimer, who is in the third year of his four-year contract that averages \$2.5 million a year, is starting to discuss an extension with the Chargers that would run through the 2007 season.

But first comes the regular-season finale, against the Chiefs on Sunday, and then the playoffs. The postseason has not been kind to Schottenheimer, who is 5-11 in the playoffs, including 3-7 in Kansas City despite having home-field advantage throughout in 1995 and 1997.

If the Chargers can go deep in the postseason, Schottenheimer's team just may capture the imagination of a community as it did in Kansas City. The Chargers' first three games this season were blacked out on local television. Now, the fans in San Diego are starting to buy into the product, as four of the past five home games, including Sunday's against the Chiefs, have sold out.

It reminds Schottenheimer of the early days in Kansas City.

"To me, that's the most important part of it," he said. "The greatest satisfaction you get as a football coach is you have an opportunity to work, prepare a group, have them go out and have some success, and you get to share that with your coaching staff, with your players, with your fans, and it's almost as though you took the experience and the gratification and you multiplied it by the people you're around."

"Kansas City was terrific. That was a cherished time for my family, when you have an opportunity to work for somebody like Lamar Hunt and with a guy like Carl, who you know has exactly the same objective you have. It was 10 successful years, albeit without the championship."



Pittsburgh at Buffalo
14-1 9-6

Jacksonville at Oakland
8-7 5-10

Miami at Baltimore
4-10 8-7

The Bills, Jaguars and Ravens in that order are alive for an AFC wild-card spot, although they are dead if the Jets and Broncos win. The Bills have the best shot because they can get in by winning if either Denver or New York loses. Jacksonville led the AFC wild-card race last week but fell flat at home against Houston. Baltimore needs to beat Miami and also needs losses by the Bills, Broncos and Jaguars, an unlikely combination.



New Orleans at Carolina
7-8 7-8

Minnesota at Washington
8-7 5-10

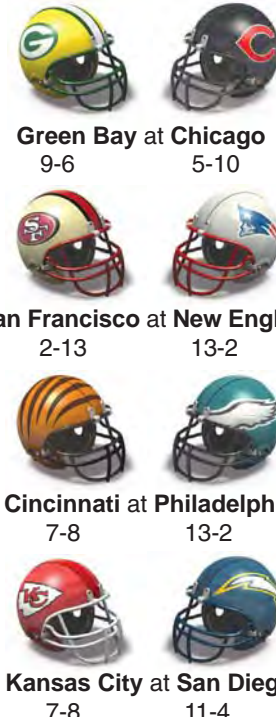
Atlanta at Seattle
11-4 8-7

The rest of the NFC playoff fight. Even if the Saints win in Charlotte, they need a St. Louis loss or wins by Seattle and Minnesota. Carolina's path is a win and a loss by the Rams or Vikings or a win and a Seattle loss. Seattle's incentive is much greater a home game the first week if it wins.

NFL WEEK 17

Broncos in quest of a playoff berth

The Indianapolis Colts don't have much to play for this weekend. Denver, on the other hand, has its season to play for. The Broncos need a victory to secure a wild-card spot. If the Broncos lose Sunday, they can still earn a berth if Buffalo, Jacksonville and Baltimore all lose.



Green Bay at Chicago
9-6 5-10

San Francisco at New England
2-13 13-2

Cincinnati at Philadelphia
7-8 13-2

Kansas City at San Diego
7-8 11-4

The Eagles are the NFC top-seeded team; the Patriots are second and the Chargers fourth in the AFC. None can go up or down. The Packers are third in the NFC regardless. But none of the playoff teams has to worry about the ethics of playing backups because none of their opponents are in contention. Cincinnati could get its second straight 8-8 season with a win, no big deal for anyone else but pretty good for a team that had six straight losing seasons until last year and 12 under .500 13 years before that.

Dave Goldberg AP Football Writer



N.Y. Jets at St. Louis
10-5 7-8

This game affects both conferences. New York also can get in if Buffalo loses to the Steelers. The Rams can win the NFC West if they win and Seattle loses. But they aren't guaranteed a wild-card spot with a win. Minnesota must lose for that to happen.



Detroit at Tennessee
6-9 4-11

Cleveland at Houston
3-12 7-8

Tampa Bay at Arizona
5-10 5-10

Dallas at N.Y. Giants
6-9 5-10

Not much at stake here except draft position the losers benefit from that. The winners gain momentum for next year, however much that means after lost seasons.



Indianapolis at Denver
12-3 9-6

Indianapolis is locked into being the third-seeded team in the AFC. So just how much will Indy try when it goes to Denver this Sunday in a game the Broncos need to lock up a wild-card playoff berth?

AP

Maddox, Scott back in lineup

But for how long? Former Steelers starters adjust to being subs

BY ALAN ROBINSON
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Tommy Maddox and Chad Scott figured to be among the Pittsburgh Steelers' most important players this season. Just as expected, they began the season as starters and will end it that way Sunday.

What happened in-between Weeks 1 and 17 probably won't be fondly remembered by either player, despite being part of one of the best teams in franchise history. The Steelers (14-1) take a franchise-record 13-game winning streak into Buffalo (9-6).

Maddox, the 2002 NFL Comeback Player of the Year, has been all but forgotten since injuring his right elbow Sept. 19. First-round draft pick Ben Roethlisberger stepped in to win 13 consecutive starts and, if the Steelers keep him signed, figures to be their quarterback for the next decade.

Maddox hasn't let himself think how the season might have gone if he hadn't gotten hurt.

"Things happen for a reason. I know that," said Maddox, who

will start Sunday because of Roethlisberger's rib cartilage injury. "We might have been just as successful if I was playing. Who knows? But you can't sit there and try to figure out things that don't happen. Things happen, you deal with them and you go on."

Unlike the Giants' Kurt Warner, who apparently wants out after being demoted to rookie Eli Manning's backup, Maddox figures to stay put in Pittsburgh. He is signed at an affordable price through 2007, and he and Roethlisberger get along well.

But after the Broncos' 1992 first-round pick waited 10 years to become an NFL starter, Maddox didn't anticipate returning to the bench so soon — especially not in a season Roethlisberger didn't expect to play.

"I've been on both sides of it. It's one of those things. That's why you've always got to prepare, you've always got to get ready like you're going to play every snap," Maddox said. "You just might. You never know."

Scott is the Steelers' highest-paid defensive player, with a \$4.1

million salary, and his knee injury Oct. 17 figured to be a major setback to one of the NFL's top-ranked defenses.

What the Steelers didn't project is backup Willie Williams, who hadn't been a starter since 2001, with Seattle, playing so well with Scott out.

Now, with Scott ready for the first time in 2½ months, there is no certainty Scott will be the starter once the playoffs begin.

He is starting Sunday only because Deshaea Townsend will miss at least one game with a broken right hand.

"It's always frustrating when you're sitting there watching, but I pretty much kept a positive outlook, took mental reps in practice, paid close attention to what was going on and now I get an opportunity to get back out there and play," Scott said.

Scott normally plays left cornerback but, with Townsend out, will start on the right side.

"You work on your breaks both ways in practice, so I don't anticipate it being that much of a problem," he said.

Bryant: 'It's all football'

The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

Guess who's back in Texas this weekend?

Antonio Bryant, banished by the Cowboys at the trade deadline, visits Houston on Sunday as a member of the Cleveland Browns.

Unhappy over his playing time with the Cowboys, Bryant has emerged as the go-to guy in the Cleveland offense with 35 catches for 459 yards, four touchdowns and a pair of 100-yard games.

"I've been with four different quarterbacks (in 2004), so it's hard to get into a rhythm," Bryant said. "I have never been able to get in a rhythm with anybody. It's still all football, though. That's the easy part — it's just all football."

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Helping you Home

SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The new housing law allows families to pay more toward their rent. The Fairmont and Morgantown Housing Authority anticipates being able to serve families over the next few months.

All interested person may either call the Housing Authority office in Fairmont at 363-0860, 291-1660 or 1-800-637-7464 TTD/VOICE come in the office at 103 12th Street, Fairmont, WV or to our satellite office at 278B Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV (Wednesday - Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Your household income MUST fall within our Income Guidelines in order for you to qualify for this Program.

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	MARION	MON.	PRESTON	TAYLOR
1 Person	16,050	18,950	14,300	14,200
2 Person	18,300	21,700	16,350	16,250
3 Person	20,600	24,400	18,400	18,250
4 Person	22,900	27,100	20,450	20,300
5 Person	24,150	29,250	22,100	21,900
6 Person	26,550	31,450	23,700	23,550
7 Person	28,400	33,600	25,350	25,150
8 Person	30,250	35,750	27,000	26,800

OUR TOWN
A SUNDAY SERIES

This week the spotlight is on ...
Rock Forge, Dellslow & Richard

Learn about history, Decker's Creek, coke ovens, coal mines, businesses Rock Forge Neighborhood House & more!

Each Sunday, The Dominion Post will visit a nearby community to explore its past and present.

Our Town Jan. 9: Rowlesburg

The newer, the better?

New WVU classified workers could soon earn more than employees with years of service.

Read about it Sunday

SALARIES

New hires Current employees

Staying close in your golden years

Ageing@Intimacy

Read about it in Balanced Life Sunday

preserving memories

Scrapbooks provide ways of remembering events, and act as an outlet for creativity.

Read it in Life & Leisure Sunday

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201st makes New Year's resolutions in Iraq

EVERYONE IN THE 201st had a nice Christmas in Iraq. Christmas was as good as can be expected without our families and being in the comforts of home. The dining facility here on Tallil Air Base prepared a large meal for the soldiers, consisting of turkey, ham, yams, stuffing and all the fixings. Even though it was not home cooking, it sufficed for the holiday season. The soldiers opened the Christmas gifts everyone sent them. Most of the soldiers had a chance to call home, but sometimes it took 45 minutes of redialing to try to get a line to call home, and the lines were long.

The most exciting event was the Christmas Eve show with David Letterman. Letterman, of "The Late Show with David Letterman" brought along his musical director Paul Shaffer and comedian Tom Dreesen. He also had other members of his show with him. You have to give entertainers credit that give up their holidays, especially Christmas, to entertain troops. A lot of people take it for granted that entertainers owe it to the troops, but it was the highlight of everyone's week to see the show. It actually made us forget that we were sitting smack dab in the middle of a war zone. Letterman and Shaffer kept referring to the fact they were proud of us and appreciative of the job we do here. I have a lot of respect for any entertainer that gives up their Christmas to bring some joy to the troops in Iraq, not to mention the risk they take in being here in Iraq.

The show cheered up a lot of the troops during a holiday season away from their families. One of the brigade soldiers from California came up with the top ten list for David Letterman.

The list was the, "Top 10 reasons you know you're in Iraq."

■ Number 10: You know



CW3 RONALD EAGLE

you're in Iraq when your puppy is replaced by a pet camel spider.

■ Number nine: You know you're in Iraq when you look forward to moving into a trailer.

■ Number eight: You know you're in Iraq when there are no United States flags flying, but this unit is from California, this one from North Dakota this one New Hampshire and so on.

■ Number seven: You know you're in Iraq when safe driving is weapons out the window in a fully-up-armed Hummer, full speed ahead.

■ Number six: You know you're in Iraq when you don't know what day it is but you know how many days you have left here in Iraq.

■ Number five: You know you're in Iraq when you have to check your pockets for loose ammunition prior to turning your clothes into laundry.

■ Number four: You know you're in Iraq when all the Iraqi's know you by your first name of "mister mister" and last name of "give me give me".

■ Number three: You know you're in Iraq when a nice ride has steel doors and a pintle mount for the crew served weapon.

■ Number two: You know you're in Iraq when women start looking good in desert camouflage uniforms.

■ Number one: You know you're in Iraq when on your way to work today you ran a police check point, went the wrong way on the freeway, blew four stop lights, entered the freeway on the off ramp, and it is considered a job well done.

I asked soldiers of the 201st to give me their Iraq New

Year's resolutions. After speaking with quite a few soldiers, I will give you the top ten Iraq resolutions.

Spc. Levi Payton of Barrackville said, "After being here in Iraq and seeing what little the Iraqi people have; they have done without water, electricity and gas. Necessities to us in the United States. My New Year's resolution is to appreciate the small things I didn't appreciate before."

Staff Sgt. Steven Lewis of Lewisburg said, "After being in Iraq and seeing what little freedom the Iraqi's had under Sadaam's reign, my Iraq New Year's resolution is to appreciate the freedom I have at home, and not take it for granted as I did in the past."

Spc. Micah Woodrum and Sgt. Jason Ballengee from Hinton said, "Circumstances here in Iraq has forced us to remove the West Virginia symbol we had on our humvee, so our Iraq New Year's resolution is that, being in Iraq can take away my West Virginia pride." Spc. Woodrum said, "And print 'Go Mountaineers in the bowl.'"

Sgt. Kent Hartlieb from Fairmont said, "Being in Iraq has forced me to pay more attention to my surroundings. Due to the high level of threat here, I was always paying attention to my surroundings to ensure my safety. This has made me realize how much I have missed in the past. So my Iraq New Year's resolution is to pay attention all my surroundings and take advantage of opportunities that come my way."

Sgt. Jack Williams of Lewisburg said, "Being in Iraq all this time and being separated from my family made me realize what I had missed at home when I was there, so my Iraq New Year's resolution is to appreciate my family more, and take advantage of horseback riding with them. The



Submitted Photo
David Letterman (center) entertained the troops Christmas Eve.

horse's saddle will be a lot better than the seat of a humvee."

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Daquilante of Salem was joking around with me and said he only had one resolution he could think of, but it was more humorous than anything else. He said, "As you know, I am a career soldier, so this is said in fun, but as the old National Guard saying goes, 'One week-end a month and two weeks a year,' my butt. My Iraq New Year's resolution is to pay more attention to detail and read between the lines."

Sgt. James Eubanks of Clarksburg said, "Being here in Iraq away from my family has made me more aware of how much I appreciate having a family. My Iraq New Year's resolution will be to appreciate my family more when I return and not find excuses to get out of the house."

Spc. Timmy Neel from Sweet Springs said, "Being here in Iraq and living in the conditions that we have endured here has shown me another side to life. There are days we may get a hot meal and other days that we eat MRE's. You don't know how good you had it until you go through something like this. My Iraq New Year's

resolution is to appreciate the good things and the good life I have back home."

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Arnold from Keyser said, "Before coming to Iraq I had preconceived ideas of what it would be like from watching the news and reading the magazine articles. My Iraq New Year's resolution is to trust what I see not what I hear."

As I sat here thinking about my New Year's resolution, I felt the percussion from one of the controlled blasts that occur here occasionally. I then realized once again where I was — Iraq. I have written many stories on the humanitarian missions we have performed here. All the missions I went on, I always got a special joy in helping the children by giving them toys, clothing and food. I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas this year away from my family and friends. In the past I wouldn't have even considered spending an hour away from my family to work at the soup kitchen to feed the homeless. My Iraq New Year's resolution is to not ignore the needy, poor and homeless we have in our own country. Learn to volunteer time to the shelters.

Day care helps build employee loyalty

CHARLESTON (AP) — About 20 employers in West Virginia offer day care in the workplace, not including centers run by school boards or the YMCA, according to the state Department of Health and Human Resources.

A child care center is expected to open in April at the Charleston law firm Pullin, Fowler and Flanagan, making it the third day care at a Kanawha County business, said DHHR spokesman Joe Thornton. Charleston Area Medical Center and West Virginia State University already offer child care services.

Victor Flanagan's office at the law firm overlooks what soon will be a fenced-in playground for the day care center on the building's first floor.

From his fourth-floor office, Flanagan will be able to see his 4-year-old son Cade playing outside.

"It gives you a level of comfort, knowing the level of care they're receiving," said Flanagan, one of the firm's managing members. "If something happens, you're there."

About 60 percent of the firm's 70 employees have children of day-care age, and Flanagan estimates that between 70 and 80 percent of employee absences are related to day care.

Workplace day care centers help build employee loyalty, said Diane Schulz, president of the Child Care in Health Care Association, a national group that promotes employer-sponsored child care.

Schulz, director of family

services at a Lincoln, Neb., hospital, said employees with children at the center stay with the hospital for 6.5 years while employees without a child at the center tend to stay 4.25 years.

Forty-five percent of parents miss at least one work day every six months because of a child-care breakdown, and 65 percent are late to work or leave work early because of child-care issues, according to a 2002 study by Bright Horizons, which manages more than 500 employer-sponsored child-care centers.

Nationally, there are about 8,000 employer-supported child-care centers, according to Sandra Burud of Burud & Associates, a child-care benefits research and consulting firm in Los Angeles.

Commission approves Ranson's annexation plan

CHARLES TOWN (AP) — The Jefferson County Commission has approved the town of Ranson's plan to annex 507 acres to absorb a planned commercial, retail and industrial development.

Commissioners voted 3-1 to approve the plan over the objections of Commissioner Greg Corliss, who argued the description of the number of acres involved was off by 20 acres. Corliss asked for the vote to be

delayed until the county assessor and prosecutor could review the plan. His motion was rejected.

Ranson officials, who attended Thursday's meeting, said they would look into the issues raised by Corliss.

The property annexed is known as Jefferson Orchards. Property owners David Ralston and Ronald Slonaker have said they plan to develop the land into commercial, retail, industrial and office space.

The parcel is across the road from a planned 1,370-house development. Ranson officials have said the two projects should complement each other.

Ranson's size has more than tripled with thousands of acres in annexations in recent years. Although the Jefferson Orchards property is outside of the town's original growth boundary, city officials have said they supported the annexation because of the potential tax revenue.

BRIEFS

Associated Press
Proposed road could displace 76 homes

PITTSBURGH — An environmental impact statement for a proposed Southern Beltway near Pittsburgh shows that 76 homes and eight businesses will be displaced if the road is built.

According to the plan, the proposed new road would connect Route 22 in northern Washington County to Interstate 79 near the Allegheny County border.

The toll road would be about 13 miles long.

A public hearing and open house on the proposal is scheduled for Feb. 9 at Canon-McMillan High School.

Soldier returns to be by injured wife's side

PITTSBURGH — A soldier whose wife was injured in a car accident has returned to Pennsylvania to be by her side.

Army Sgt. Charles Amos returned home Thursday. His wife, Tina, who was eight months pregnant, was injured in a nearly head-on crash Sunday. Her baby was delivered stillborn a few hours after the accident.

Tina Amos was in fair condition at Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. The couple married in November, just four days before Charles Amos was deployed to Iraq.

The 26-year-old is a member of the Pennsylvania

National Guard's 1st Battalion, based in Butler.

Dog offers comfort at funeral home

ELLWOOD CITY, Pa. — There's a new way to find comfort at the Turner Funeral Home, and its name is Aragon.

The 2-year-old dog was adopted by the funeral home in September. Since then, officials said the grief therapy dog has had a calming effect on the people he's met. In one case, a 6-year-old boy whose grandmother died smiled all night after meeting the dog and spending time with him.

"His temperament is the best for this," said Kenneth Turner, funeral director.

Vodka: The drink of choice for W.Va.

CHARLESTON (AP) — When it comes to distilled spirits, West Virginians apparently prefer vodka over other types of liquor sold by the state, according to the state Alcohol Beverage Control Administration.

Vodka sales accounted for three of the top five sellers and four of the top 10.

Vodka brands in the top five were: Vladimir, Smirnoff and Popov. Jim Beam bourbon and Canadian Mist rounded out the top five. The second half of the top 10 list includes Jack Daniel Black Label whiskey, Lord Calvert, Seagram Crown Royal, Bacardi dry rum and Absolut vodka.

"You can make so many drinks with vodka, that's the reason," Butch Pennington, chairman of the West Virginia Wholesale and Retail Alcoholic Beverage Committee, which is an arm of the West Virginia Retailers Association.

"Usually your top movers are your less expensive vodkas," said Pennington, who also owns Penn Liquors and Big Apple Liquors in the Eastern Panhandle. "This year, a lot of people were buying high-end Vodkas, like your Grey Goose and your Absolut."

The ABCA is the wholesaler to licensed liquor retail outlets.

Cancers may be difficult to detect

DEAR DR. GOTT: In March of last year, my wife had a CT scan of her pelvis because of persisting pain. The scan revealed three fractures in the pelvic bones, secondary to what appeared to be cancer.

Further testing, including a biopsy, confirmed the presence of a malignancy that had metastasized and was likely to have originated in the breast. However, a scrupulous exam, including a mammogram, failed to reveal the location of the primary tumor. Now she is receiving chemotherapy.

However, we are confused about the failure to discover the primary lesion. How can someone suffer from a metastasis without the original growth showing up?

We always believed that if a person has a tumor, there is a lump of some kind — or, at least, some suspicious lesion on X-ray studies.

DEAR READER: You are correct that the vast majority of patients with metastatic lesions (cancer that has spread) are diagnosed with a primary (that should itself be treated with surgery, radiation or chemotherapy). However, this doesn't always hold true.



DR. PETER GOTT

On occasion, the original tumor may be too small to see. Medical testing, although often miraculous, is not 100-percent effective.

This is the reason why your wife's doctors were challenged to find the source of her metastases.

Fortunately, in her case the doctors were able to test the metastatic lesion, which I gather was found to be of breast origin. Now she is receiving appropriate therapy.

Pathologists analyze biopsy specimens to determine the presence of cancer and, depending on the type of cells in the tissue, what kind of cancer is present. However, in some instances the metastatic cells are so abnormal that a precise connection to a specific organ or site is virtually impossible.

Consequently, doctors can be hampered by the limitations of medical testing, as well as the problem of tissue identification.

We doctors have yet to resolve these issues, but believe me, giant strides have been taken in the past decade.

We are getting better at diagnosing ailments such as cancer but we are a long way from perfection.

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005

You have some influential supporters who'll be in positions to help you in the year ahead if you're not too proud to accept their aid. It'll be up to you not to block their efforts by failing to let them have their way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Attitude is everything and today will be no exception, no matter how you try to spin it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You will not go unnoticed today, but make certain that you don't draw attention to yourself for all the wrong reasons.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Setting an example of how not to behave isn't the image you want to project. Be the first to offer compromise.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There's a chance you could have a run in today with someone over the way a job should be done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Every once in awhile your intolerance needs adjusting in order to restore balance. This may be one of those days where you could be a bit stubborn.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Before blowing your top with



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

somebody in the family today, weigh the person's pros and cons.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Put away the mops and pails and lock up the utility room today. It's time to take a day off and recharge your energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Unfortunately, you could be a bit out of sorts without something entertaining to do today. Rather than sulk, call up some of your friends and invite them over.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Just because you know your loved ones will tolerate it is no reason to take your frustrations out on them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be careful today that you don't read more into things people say than they actually mean.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Assess the costs not only in a monetary sense, but in time, before committing yourself to a group involvement today.

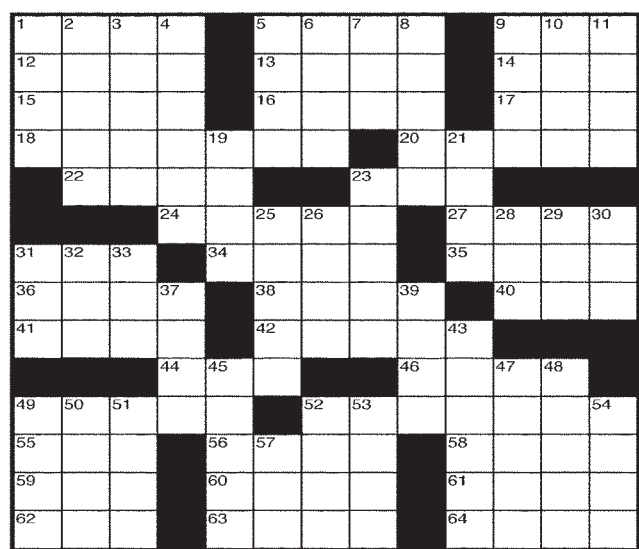
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If things aren't going your way today, maybe it's time to spend some hours to figure out if you're the one on the wrong track and not the others.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- "Me Tarzan, you —!"
 - Monster
 - Astonish
 - Styptic
 - Tumbledown building
 - Chinese dynasty
 - Use hip boots
 - Maj. — Hoople
 - Batting stat
 - Nods or winks
 - Brown pigment
 - Rorem and Bunline
 - Fergie's kin
 - Embarrass
 - Heart or essence
 - Mew
 - 007's alma mater
 - Fleece
 - QB — Flutie
 - Spouted, as a whale
- DOWN**
- Wrench parts
 - Delon or Le Sage
 - Push gently
 - Makes changes to
 - Spoken of fiction
 - Adhesives

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	I	P	S		B	O	K		R	A	G
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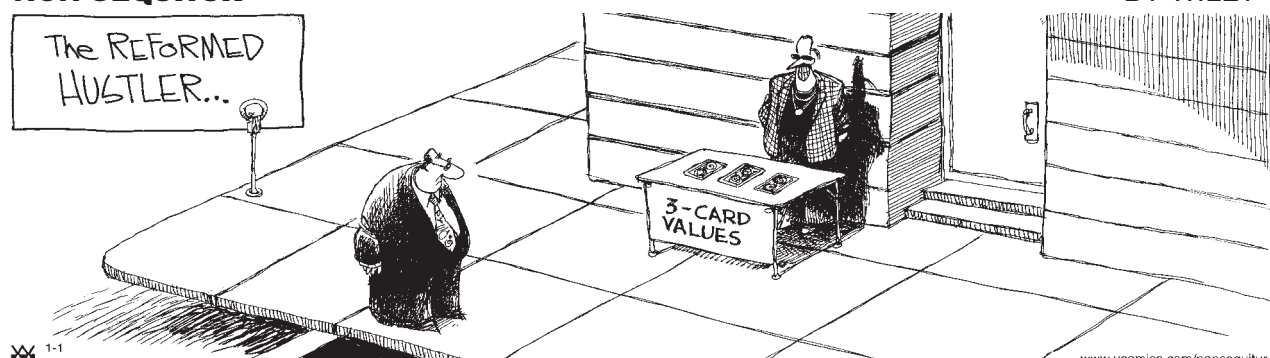
DILBERT



PEANUTS



NON SEQUITUR



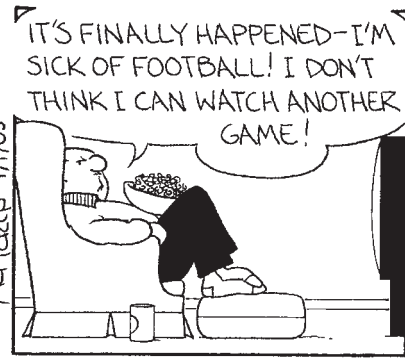
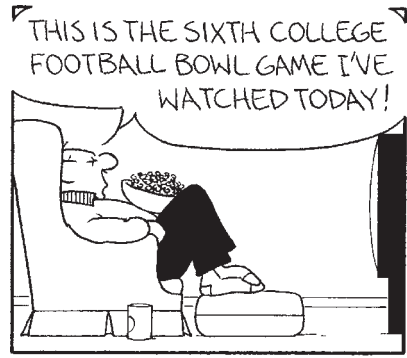
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FRANK & ERNEST



BORN LOSER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

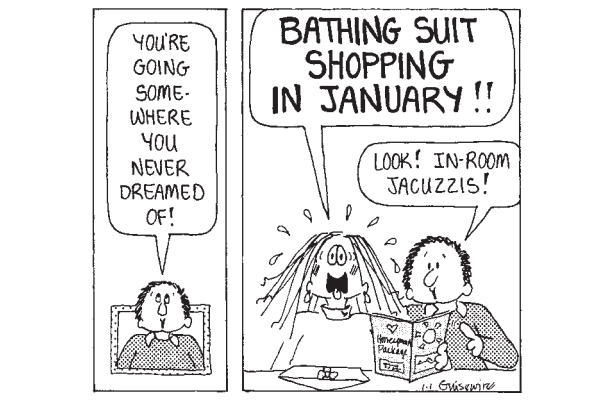
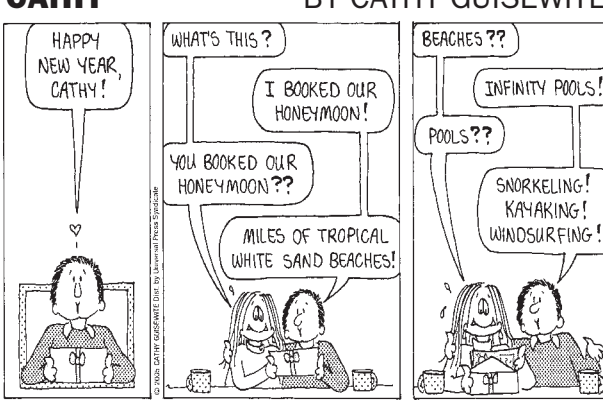


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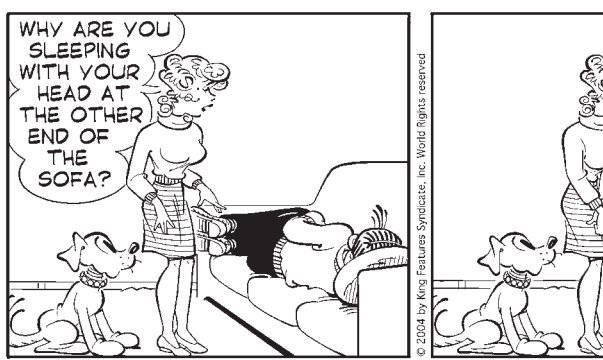


"How come you know all about these parties before I hear about them?"

CATHY



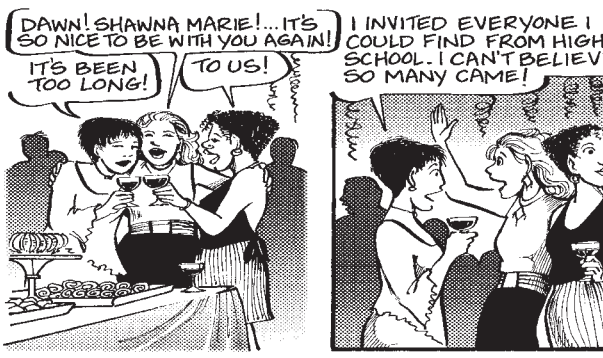
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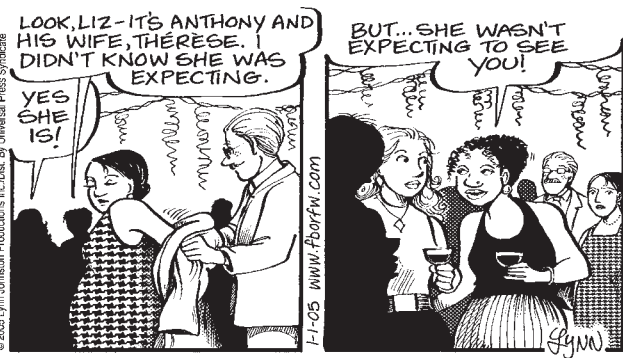
FAMILY CIRCUS



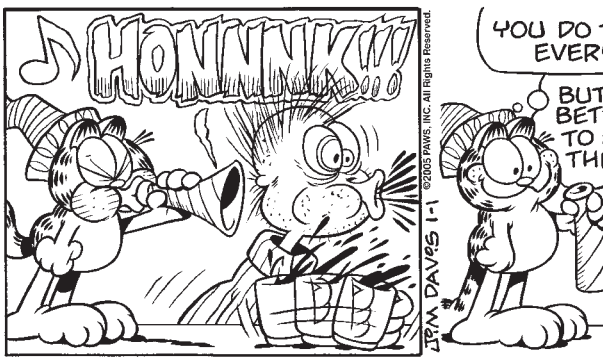
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE



GARFIELD



BY JIM DAVIS





AP Photo

Unidentified women comfort each other after identifying their loved ones at the local morgue in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday. At least 174 people were killed when a fire swept through a crowded nightclub.

Buenos Aires nightclub fire kills about 174

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A fire swept through a crowded Buenos Aires nightclub during a rock concert, killing at least 174 people and injuring more than 410 as young concert-goers scrambled for the exits, officials said Friday.

The blaze broke out late Thursday and the building in the Argentine capital quickly filled with smoke, setting off a stampede for the emergency exits, witnesses said. Television images showed the bodies of youngsters curled up on the sidewalk as bystanders and shirtless teenagers carried people out of the smoldering building.

"People were pushing and jumping over each other trying to get out," one concert-goer, Jose Maria Godoy, told The Associated Press. "It was like a human wave. As people fell down running for the door, others just simply ran over them or pushed them down."

City officials said it wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire, but several witnesses said they saw a flare hit a foam lining on the roof of the concert hall, triggering a fire.

"Someone from the crowd tossed a flare and there were immediately flames," said Fabian Zamudeo, a 22-year-old in the crowd to see the Argentine rock band, Los Callejeros.

"Parts of the roof started falling down in flames and people started running, knocking over the speakers and light stands," he added. "People were choking on smoke and I tried to push as many people out as I could."

BRIEFS

Associated Press

Officials, rebels sign cease-fire in Sudan

NAIVASHA, Kenya — Sudanese government and rebel officials signed a permanent cease-fire deal Friday and endorsed details on how to implement their peace plan to end a 21-year civil war in southern Sudan, a conflict blamed for 2 million deaths.

In Khartoum, thousands of southern Sudanese took to the streets, singing through loudspeakers and waving the rebels' green, black, red, white and blue flag with a golden star, which appeared for the first time on the streets of Sudan's tightly controlled capital.

"The peace deal is the beginning of real independence from Sudan," said Qamar Hasan al-Tajer, a member of the main southern rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The permanent truce in Africa's longest running conflict will come into force some 72 hours after the cease-fire deal was signed in Kenya's lakeside town of Naivasha, said Sayed El-Khatib, spokesman for the government delegation at the peace talks.

China's government seeks larger role in world affairs

BEIJING — Chinese President Hu Jintao touted his country's booming economy in a televised year-end speech Friday, while calling for a larger role for Beijing in world affairs in 2005 and vowing never to allow Taiwan to become independent.

In wide-ranging remarks, Hu characterized China as a peace-seeking nation that shares the world's hopes for an end to war and poverty and that will help other countries in any way it can.

Hu is head of both the government and the Communist Party of China, which holds a monopoly on power in this nation of 1.3 billion people. In September, Hu gained the additional post of chairman of the party's Central Military Commission, which oversees China's armed forces — the largest in the world.

Bus fire kills 31 in Pakistan

Blaze began after vehicle collided with a truck

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A bus packed with passengers returning from a wedding caught fire after colliding with a truck carrying flammable liquid in southern Pakistan, killing at least 31 people Friday, police said.

At least 11 people were injured, some critically, when the bus lost control and hit the truck on a slip-

pery road near Saeed Abad, a town about 142 miles northeast of Karachi, said Faisal Mohammed, a police inspector.

As many as 16 of the dead belonged to two Karachi families who were returning to their city after attending a wedding, police said.

Rescue teams transported charred bodies and the injured to hospitals. The bus was completely gutted.

Mohammed said the truck was carrying synthetic spirit, a flamma-

ble liquid used by medicine companies and chemical factories in Pakistan. He blamed the accident on poor visibility due to heavy fog and rain.

Another police official, Sikandar Ali, said the dead included 13 children, nine women and nine men. The bus driver died. Most of the dead had been identified, but others were very badly burned, almost beyond recognition, Ali said.

"The remains of some bodies look like coals. It is almost impossible to identify them," he said.



An investigation officer searches the wreckage of a passenger bus Friday in Saeed Abad, about 142 miles northeast of Karachi, Pakistan.

AP Photo

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