

Sanford Herald

Serving Sanford, Lake Mary and Seminole County since 1908

89th Year, No. 117 - Sanford, Florida



Today: Partly cloudy. High near 80. Wind southeast 5 to 10 mph.

Partly Cloudy

For more weather see page 2A

INSIDE



Give me a Blake

Sanford's Jeff Blake is quite a card. Read all about it in Russ White's sports column today on page 1B.

Redevelopment

SANFORD — The City of Sanford Community Redevelopment Agency meets Wednesday, at 4 p.m., in the city manager's conference room at Sanford City Hall.

Items on the agenda include reports of the Waterfront Master Plan Steering Committee, and a discussion of CRA fund allocation alternatives, a continuation of discussion which started in January.

The meeting is open to the general public.

Open house

SANFORD — TOPS Sanford chapter 79 will hold an open house this evening, Feb. 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at First Christian Church hall, 1607 S. Sanford Avenue.

Speaker is Stacey A. Whittle, of out patient dietitian nutritional services at Florida Hospital. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting is open to the general public. For additional information, phone Sally at 323-1788.

Breakfast meeting

LAKE MARY — The Greater Lake Mary/Heathrow Chamber of Commerce will hold a breakfast meeting this Wednesday, beginning at 7:45 at Heathrow Country Club. The event will feature speakers from Pisutti, Northpointe and Primera. The subject will be, "What's Up and Coming at Northpointe, Primera and Heathrow International Business Center, the area along the Interstate-4 corridor."

The meeting is sponsored by International Diamond Center.

Cost for the breakfast meeting is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members.

For reservations or additional information, phone the chamber office at 333-4748.

Volunteers wanted

SANFORD — Volunteers are needed by the Ritz Community Players for the first production

See Briefs, Page 2A

Classifieds.....	2B	Editorial.....	2A
Comics.....	4B	Horoscopes.....	4B
Crossword.....	4B	Puzzles.....	2A
Bear Abby.....	4A	Sports.....	1B, 2B
Deaths.....	2A	Television.....	2A
Dr. Gott.....	4B	Weather.....	2A

A sad soul can kill you quicker, far quicker, than a germ.

-John Steinbeck

County may privatize computer department

By RUSSE WHITE
Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — Call it a definitive sign of the times — the Seminole County Board of Commissioners today takes on billboards in the morning, computers in the afternoon.

The billboard issue is about changing an ordinance to get rid of signs that don't belong; the computer issue is about entering a partnership with a private computer service provider.

Should the county do away with its in-house computer department, 22 county positions will

be eliminated. Information technologies manager Chris Grasso and Acting County Manager Gary Kaiser huddled with these employees on Monday.

Both stressed that any partnership with a private provider would require that the affected county employees get jobs with the company. "Naturally, these people are apprehensive," Grasso said. "They have a lot of fears. We have agreed to be open with them."

The 22 include 10 from the programming staff, eight computer technicians from the information service staff and four aides.

The county wants to hire a private company

with better resources to keep up with the rapidly changing technology industry. "We're recommending a change," Grasso said. If the commissioners agree, the change would take place by the end of the fiscal year — October 1.

Grasso said that increasing demands for computer service and an added emphasis on getting information to the public promise to overwhelm the county's computer staff. Plans are to expand the county's local- and wide-area networks, e-mail, messaging systems and Internet services.

See County, Page 2A4A

Transportation Day: Students learn many ways to get around

By MARY ROWELL
Herald Columnist

The day was gray and foggy, but none of the children in the Early Childhood Program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary noticed. They were too busy having fun at the preschool's fifth annual transportation day.

Thursday, Jan. 30, vehicles of all kinds began arriving at the preschool. Once all the vehicles were parked, the children came swarming around for a look.

Sir Gus, a camel from the Bahia Shrine Temple, was a big favorite with all the children. Sir Gus likes to kiss people on the cheek. Some of the children thought it was neat, others thought it was "ooey." The Shriners also brought their Harley Davidson motorcycles. The dads who were helping out for the morning got a big kick out of those as the children did. Sir Gus was not the only animal on the premises. Seminole County Animal Control brought a whippet named Ernie for the children to meet and pet. They also brought two very long snake skins, which the children were permitted to touch. Seminole County sent a lift truck and a crash trailer from Traffic and Engineering;

a school bus from School Transportation and a rescue unit from Seminole County Rescue.

Snack food always is a big favorite with the children, and most of the adults. Paradise Popcorn was there handing out samples from their trailer. There was a Frito-Lay truck, complete with two Chester Cheetahs, handing out chips. And, despite the chill in the air, everyone enjoyed the ice cream from the Ice Cream Peddler.

Other visitors gave out souvenirs to the children. Spring gave out little fuzzy creatures. Roto Rooter gave out key chains with miniature wrenches.

The Wells Fargo armored car was not giving out samples, but the children enjoyed seeing how money gets from one place to the other. A Federal Express truck and a U.S. Postal Service truck showed the children how letters and packages get from one place to the other.

Police vehicles always get a lot of attention from the children. The Longwood Police Department brought three of their vehicles; a car, a motorcycle and a bicycle. The Seminole County Sheriff's Department also was very popular with their remote jeep. Eddie Miller tried several times to get the funny occupants of the

See Students, Page 2A



Ken Harrolean holds Hannah Kemp on his Harley Davidson.

Sheriff warns of gypsies' 'lost dog' scam

By NICK PFENAUER
Herald Staff Writer

The Seminole County sheriff's department is again looking into a problem with gypsies.

This past Saturday, a burglary was reportedly committed by two women identified as gypsies, at a home on Bear Lake Road in Forest City.

According to sheriff's spokesman Ed McDonough, Margaret Beggs, 81, told deputies she found the two women in the backyard of her home at approximately 1 p.m. Saturday. When she questioned them, their response was the same as had been given on a previous occasion in Longwood last month, that they were looking for a lost dog. After a few moments, the women left the area on foot.

McDonough said that later, Mrs. Beggs noticed several drawers in her home had been opened, and money had been stolen from her purse. The amount was not immediately revealed.

Deputies believe one or both of the women had entered the home through an unlocked back door. Nothing else was reported stolen.

The suspects in this Forest City incident were identified as white

females in their twenties. Both were about five feet tall and had short dark hair.

Mrs. Beggs and her husband reportedly had their home burglarized two years ago, in the same manner.

The situation appears similar to another residential burglary reported Jan. 16, at a home in the 300 block of Sweetwater Blvd. in

See Scam, Page 2A

A technological happening

Some of the students who took part in the science fair were Taylor Pendley, right, of Rock Lake Middle with ideas on how to prevent coastal erosion; Kristina Shiffette, bottom right, of Indian Trails Middle with a way to keep manatees safe from boats; and Tom Zychinski, bottom left, of Rock Lake with information about lightning.

Herald Photos by Steve Barnes



Young scientists shine in countywide exhibit

By VICKI DeGOMEN
Herald Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — The Seminole County Regional Science, Math and Engineering Fair was a huge success this past weekend, organizers said.

About 280 students, representing most of the county's public and private middle and high schools, created exhibits, did experiments and showed off their knowledge of math and the sciences.

The participation in the program

increased 23 percent over last year, fair director Michele Mingota said.

The increase in participation in this year's fair forced organizers to find a larger location than Seminole Community College, where the event has been held for the last several years.

Mingota said the new location at Seminole Towne Center mall in Sanford allowed the public to have easy access to the exhibits and allowed the young scientists to display their talents more easily

See Science, Page 2A

POLICE BRIEFS

Retail thefts

● Tamara S. Little, 24, 906 Bay Avenue, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at a store in the 1500 block of S. French Avenue. She was accused of taking several personal product items from the store without paying. She was charged with retail theft.

● Steven T. Smith, 27, of Riviera Beach, was arrested by Florida Highway Patrol troopers at the Seminole Towne Center Sunday after he was accused of taking \$924 in clothing from a store without paying. He was charged with grand theft.

● Bobby Gail Ruffin, 38, 1752 Roseberry Lane, Sanford, was arrested at a retail store in the 1700 block of W. Airport Blvd. Sunday. She was accused of taking \$65 in children's clothing from the store, and pushing the store manager who attempted to stop her. She was charged with retail theft and battery.

● Michael Arthur Kemp, 33, 2440 S. Oak Avenue, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday. Saturday, officers said he reportedly took \$132.56 in merchandise from a store in the 3100 block of S. Orlando Drive, and fled in a vehicle. The vehicle was identified and stopped by police Sunday in the 3400 block of S. Orlando Drive. Kemp was charged with retail theft.

● Barbara June Mason, 49, 100 Mayroe Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at a retail store in the 1700 block of W. Airport Blvd. She was accused of taking a \$2.98 bottle of shampoo from the store without paying. She was charged with retail theft.

Traffic stops

● Dexter Leon Graham, 21, 122 Academy Avenue, Sanford, was stopped by sheriff's deputies in front of his residence Saturday. Officers said after he stopped the vehicle, he attempted to flee on foot. After he was apprehended, he was charged with driving with a suspended license, resisting an officer without violence and attached tag not assigned.

● Thomas M. Green, 36, 500 S. Holly Avenue, Sanford, was stopped by Lake Mary police Saturday on Lake Mary Blvd. He was charged with possession of two grams of a controlled substance and resisting an officer without violence. Police found he was also wanted on a warrant for violation of probation on a previous conviction of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

● Wiley F. Fossitt, 46, 3421 Hughey Street, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sunday on SR-46 near Airport Blvd. He was charged with possession of a controlled substance (crack cocaine), and possession/use of drug paraphernalia.

● Luther Bernard Harper, 47, of 291 Harper Lane, Geneva, was stopped on SR-46 by sheriff's deputies Sunday. He was charged with driving under the influence.

Domestic cases

● Robert D. Adams, 47, 115 Hazel, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence Thursday following a reported dispute with a female. He was charged with battery domestic violence, and corruption by threats against a police officer.

● Daniel Gallagher, 38, 2404 S. Myrtle Avenue, Sanford, was arrested at his residence Sunday by Sanford police following a reported dispute with his wife. He was charged with aggravated assault, domestic violence.

● Jimmy Allen Herbert, 22, 10413 Groveview Way, Sanford, was arrested at his residence by Sanford police Saturday as the result of a reported altercation with a female. He was charged with battery, domestic violence.

Sheriff's reports

● Six "Red" and "White" with a total value of \$410, were reportedly stolen Thursday from a boat parked in the 100 block of Fisher Road near Sanford.

● A residence was reportedly ransacked Thursday in the 500 block of Ross Street. Items taken included \$100 in coins and a \$200 Colt semi-automatic handgun.

Sanford police reports

● An estimated \$967 in clothing and electronic equipment were reported stolen Thursday in a vehicular burglary at a business in the 1200 block of French Avenue in Sanford.

● Eleven gold Cadillac emblems, valued at \$700 were reported stolen Thursday from a vehicle in the parking lot at 1500 French Avenue.

● A \$474 boom box was reported stolen from a mobile home Thursday in the 400 block of Hanson Parkway in Carriage Cove.

● An estimated \$592 was said to be missing Thursday from the cash register of a business in the 3600 block of Orlando Drive in Sanford.

● An estimated \$240 was reported missing Thursday from a safe at a business in the 200 block of Towne Center Circle in Sanford.

Boy robbed

A 14-year old Sanford youth was reportedly robbed at gunpoint Saturday, as he was walking in the 200 block of Golden Gate Circle in Sanford. According to the Sanford police report, several persons pulled up in a vehicle, one of which was said to be armed with a handgun, and took \$25 in cash, his hat and shoes, for a total loss of \$129.95.

Teen killed in boating accident

From Staff and Wire Reports

DEBARY — Two persons remain hospitalized in serious condition today as the result of the power boat crash on the St. Johns River Saturday. One person was killed.

Lt. Bill Hightower of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission said the victim, Kelly Johnson, 16, was apparently riding on the bow when

the boat crashed at approximately 7 p.m., killing her. A rescue team recovered her body about four hours later.

Authorities say the boat slammed into a channel marker on the St. Johns River several miles north of the U.S. Highway 17-92 bridge in Sanford.

Two injured boaters were taken to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach. John

Courtney, 29, was listed in serious condition in the surgical intensive care unit on Sunday. James Courtney, 24, was treated and released.

The other boaters escaped with minor injuries. Four males and two females were on the boat at the time of the accident. Hightower said. No other details were immediately available.

Hightower said there are signs alcohol may have been involved

in the crash. He received conflicting reports about who was driving the boat.

"You could hear a motor coming up the river, then all of a sudden we heard a loud crash and heard people hollering," said Gail Rinehart, a nearby resident.

Officers at the scene said debris was spread over a wide area.

Today in history...

USO: Center of fun in this Navy town

By NICK PFEIFAUER
Herald Staff Writer

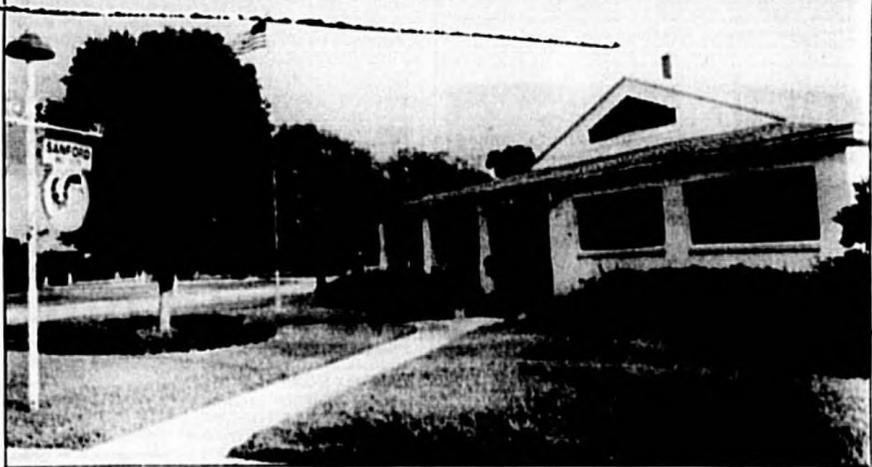
Happy birthday, USO, the United Service Organization was formed on Feb. 4, 1941, shortly after the beginning of U.S. involvement in World War II. The USO became the home away from home for millions of service men and women, first here in the United States, and eventually in cities throughout the free world where service personnel were stationed.

A hot cup of coffee and friendly conversation was the start, but the USO soon grew to an entertainment center which attracted such notables as Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters, and all of the nation's big bands which had enough musicians left after many joined the service.

Sanford was not without its USO. The facility was located at the northeast corner of Sanford Avenue and First Street, downtown, in the same building as presently occupied by the Greater Sanford Chamber of Commerce.

During a recent internal refurbishing, chamber officials located several items left over from the USO days crammed between various walls.

At the Sanford USO in the 40s and 50s, young ladies from the community, especially the upper grades at Seminole High School, served as hostesses and dance partners. Many Sanford misses subsequently married service



The sign has been changed, landscaping has been added, and the building has been spruced up many times, but the present Greater Sanford Chamber of Commerce building at First Street

and N. Sanford Avenue, served as the U.S.O. back in the 1940s and 50s when Sanford was "A Navy Town."

personnel they met at the USO.

Also on this day in history, in 1861, one of the longest wars involving the United States began. The Apache Wars broke out when Army Lt. George Bascom arrested Apache Chief Cochise for raiding a ranch. Cochise escaped, gathered his braves, and the war began. It lasted 25 years, with Cochise later replaced by Geronimo.

Today is Laugh and Grow Rich Day. Organizers in Medford, Maine say it is "...in recognition of laughter's power to add to the bottom line. People are more effective, tend to remember things better, and laughter helps to lower the turnover rate."

Torture was abolished on this day in 1985. Twenty countries signed a United Nations document called "Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The U.S. was not among the nations signing the document, saying it

was only a preliminary stage that must be followed by ratification. That was never done.

Historical birthdays include Charles Lindbergh, born Feb. 4, 1902 in Detroit, Michigan.

As for today's birthdays: feminist Betty Friedan is 76; Dan Quayle, the 44th vice president of the United States turns 50; comedian David Brenner is 52; singer Alice Cooper is 49; and civil rights leader Rosa Parks is 64.

Students

Continued from Page 1A

impressed by the television in the limousine from Mears Transportation. Greg Pullis was more impressed by the horn on the dump truck from Seminole County's Road Division.

Florida Power came with one

of their bucket trucks. Safety reasons kept them from taking the children up in the bucket, but the children did get a kick out of seeing some of their teachers go up in the bucket.

WFTV, Channel 9, brought their ENG (electronic news

gathering) van. They set up cameras and showed the children how to use the video switcher to go from one camera to the other. Radio was represented by WXXL, 108.7 They brought their big, brightly colored party bus.

County

Continued from Page 1A

The billboard issue - although it doesn't threaten the loss of any jobs - has been a constant headache to the commissioners who haven't yet agreed how to resolve lingering questions about outdoor advertising. Commission Chairman Randy Morris says he has been calling for a code to be enforced since June 1985 but has not convinced his fellow commissioners.

One problem is the fact a great many billboards - along Interstate 4 and U.S. Highway 17-92 - fall under state guidelines and are exempt from county regulations.

Scam

Continued from Page 1A

Longwood. At that time, a resident told deputies after he left his back yard and went back into the house, he found a woman standing in the living room who told him she was looking for a lost dog.

This woman however, was described as probably Hispanic, about 50 years of age, and five foot five inches tall. She was seen leaving the area in a vehicle driven by a man.

McDonough said the lost dog excuse is common among gypsies who frequent this area of Central Florida at this time of year. He said that while they are often described as Hispanic, most are Eastern European.

The sheriff's department, once again, is cautioning residents to lock all doors and windows, even when they are home. Beware of strangers in the neighborhood who claim they are looking for a lost dog, and report any suspicious persons or vehicles to the nearest law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

Briefs

Continued from Page 1A

Sanford's recently formed Nuisance Abatement Board will also meet Wednesday, Feb. 5, beginning at 6 p.m., in the city commission conference room.

Both meetings are open to the general public. Sanford city hall is located at 300 N. Park Avenue.

City meetings

Regarding a story on page 1 of the Feb. 2 Sanford Herald, Seminole County's Acting County Manager Gary Kaiser had a six-year rather than a six-month tour in the U.S. Marine Corps. The Herald regrets the error.

Correction

Regarding a story on page 1 of the Feb. 2 Sanford Herald, Seminole County's Acting County Manager Gary Kaiser had a six-year rather than a six-month tour in the U.S. Marine Corps. The Herald regrets the error.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy. High near 80. Wind southeast 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low near 60. Light wind. Wednesday: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 70s. Wind south 10 mph. Thursday: Decreasing clouds early becoming mostly fair and breezy. Lows in the mid to upper 50s. Highs in the lower to mid 70s. Friday: Mostly fair and breezy. Lows in the lower to mid 50s. Highs in the lower to mid 70s.

FLORIDA TEMPS

City	Hi	Lo	Pct
Daytona Beach	72	65	80
Fort Lauderdale	77	68	80
Fort Myers	63	54	80
Gainesville	75	48	80
Homestead	88	68	80
Jacksonville	75	60	80
Key West	78	68	80
Lakeland	78	60	80
Miami	80	68	80
Panama City	79	59	80
San Jose	79	54	80
Tallahassee	79	58	80
Tampa	79	54	80
Vero Beach	79	68	80
West Palm Beach	78	68	80

BEACH CONDITIONS

Daytona Beach: Waves are 2 to 3 feet and glassy. Current is running to the north with a water temperature of 63 degrees.

New Smyrna Beach: Waves are 2 feet and glassy. Current is running to the north with a water temperature of 62 degrees.

TIDES

WEDNESDAY
SOLAR TABLE: min., 2:45 a.m.; 3:08 p.m., maj., 8:55 a.m., 9:25 p.m. TIDES: Daytona Beach: high, 5:47 a.m.; 6:02 p.m.; low, ---, 12:03 p.m.; New Smyrna Beach: high, 5:52 a.m.; 6:07 p.m.; low, ---, 12:08 p.m.; Cocoa Beach: high, 6:07 a.m.; 6:22 p.m.; low, ---, 12:23 p.m.

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2	Sanford	200 N. French Ave.	32771	11	Daytona Beach	200 N. French Ave.	32771
3	Sanford	300 N. French Ave.	32771	12	Daytona Beach	300 N. French Ave.	32771
4	Sanford	400 N. French Ave.	32771	13	Daytona Beach	400 N. French Ave.	32771
5	Sanford	500 N. French Ave.	32771	14	Daytona Beach	500 N. French Ave.	32771
6	Sanford	600 N. French Ave.	32771	15	Daytona Beach	600 N. French Ave.	32771
7	Sanford	700 N. French Ave.	32771	16	Daytona Beach	700 N. French Ave.	32771
8	Sanford	800 N. French Ave.	32771	17	Daytona Beach	800 N. French Ave.	32771
9	Sanford	900 N. French Ave.	32771	18	Daytona Beach	900 N. French Ave.	32771

Editorial/Opinion

Science

Continued from Page 1A

than ever. Many students reported they enjoyed the opportunity to discuss their projects with interested shoppers.

The projects were judged by science, math and engineering professionals from the area who volunteered their time to help out with the fair.

The judges recognized 134 students for their outstanding projects with ribbons for first, second and third place as well as honorable mention. Their criteria for selection for honor include creativity, scientific method, thoroughness, skills and presentation. Teams were also judged on their teamwork.

Thirty students were selected to represent Seminole County at the State Science and Engineering Fair in Ft. Lauderdale April 1-4.

The middle school winners who will be attending the state

event are: Jessica Andrews of Jackson Heights Middle (Behavioral and Social Science); Brian Peterson of Rock Lake Middle (Biochemistry); Lauren C. Ball of Annunciation Catholic Academy and Rock Lake Middle (Biochemistry); Alyssa Zeikowitz of Rock Lake Middle (Botany); Scott J. Dunlap of Rock Lake Middle (Chemistry); Laura Mills of Rock Lake Middle (Earth and Space Science); Kristin Arndt of Rock Lake Middle (Environmental Science); Jared Novick of Jackson Heights Middle (Mathematics); Veronica Rodriguez of Indian Trails Middle (Medicine and Health); Faith Tessaro of Indian Trails Middle (Microbiology); Justin Edwards of Lakeview Middle (Physics); Emily Goldman of Greenwood Lakes Middle (Zoology); and Drew Bagley and David Younker of Indian Trails Middle (Team - Physical Science).

The high school winners are: John Li of Lake Brantley High (Behavioral and Social Science); Johann A. Thuek of Seminole High (Biochemistry); Kevin Foust of Lake Brantley High (Biochemistry); Renee Hutchinson of Lake Brantley High (Botany); David Rumsay of Lake Brantley High (Botany); Nathaniel Wylie of Oviedo High (Chemistry); Jed Rose of Lake Brantley High (Computer Science); Katie Bellairs of Seminole High (Earth and Space Science); Robert Shydo Jr. of Lake Brantley High (Engineering); Karen Regn of Lake Brantley High (Medicine and Health); Andrew Howard of Lake Brantley High (Microbiology); Daniel Shaw of Oviedo High (Physics); Oveida Norris of Lake Brantley High (Zoology); and Jill Ricker and Sarah Sherwood of Lake Brantley High (Teams - Biological Sciences).

EDITORIAL

Fixing what ain't broke

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We've heard that saying for many decades. Apparently however, even though we didn't know it was broken, there are some people who believe the Florida Constitution needs fixing.

There are 100 people in a constitutional revision committee, headed by former Governor Reubin Askew. They consist of two former governors, former house speakers, journalists, business leaders, university presidents, judges and educators from all parts of the state.

They have just concluded a two-day seminar at the Askew Institute on Politics and Society at the University of Florida.

According to one poll, 48 of the members said Florida is the best state when it comes to government service to its citizens. A similar number, 48, said it was the worst state.

Many focused on education: Some, like William McBride, managing partner at the Holland and Knight law firm and a Tampa resident with children in a good public school, thought well of the educational system.

Others, with children who have no textbooks and have to make do with overcrowded classrooms, thought much was wrong.

Like education, other things tended to turn up on both lists, including protecting the environment, public safety and protecting the health and welfare of citizens.

President Bill Clinton is also scheduled to address what he sees as problems in the education system during his State of the Nation address this evening. It should be interesting to hear his observations and proposals.

Almost everyone in Florida's study committee agreed that the fast-growing state faces a revenue pinch and needs tax reform.

Now they are going to turn their findings over to the state legislature for consideration. What's to consider? It appears as though all we have is a group of people who haven't agreed on anything other than they were split.

While most reportedly believed the state is in need of obtaining more tax money, no one specifically said why or for what the money would be used.

They couldn't even agree on the position of the governor. Half said Florida needs to strengthen the role of its governor, while the other half said the governor already has too much power.

Judging from what we have heard about this charter study group's findings, we must see it as nothing more than another reason for a group of people to get together and argue.

Is our state's constitution broke? Does it need changing? If so, let's get a group together and tell them to come up with valid suggestions. We don't need people who will spend two days arguing about what our problems are. We need someone who will come up with solutions.

The meeting was held in Gainesville this past weekend. It has now ended. As far as we are concerned at this point, it was useless. Can anyone prove it was not?

LETTERS

Thank you

Seminole Volunteer Enterprises, Inc., would like to give a great big "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the farmshare vegetable distribution on Jan. 16, 1997. We had volunteers come from Lake Mary, Sanford, Winter Springs, DeBary and Osteen.

Volunteers unloaded the semi truck filled with fresh vegetables (22,000 lbs.), packed them for food recipients and distributed all the vegetables to 10 non-profit agencies as well as 865 families who drive through our parking lot.

This work was accomplished from 9 a.m. until the veggies ran out at 3 p.m.

Thanks to all the volunteers who so generously gave their time and energy to get this job done. What a wonderful community!

Sincerely
Jean Metta, Director

Let your voice be heard

Our readers are invited to contribute guest opinion columns for publication, as well as letters to the editor. Opinions expressed need not be those of the Herald; we may or may not agree with you, but we will always uphold your First Amendment right to express your views.

Sanford Herald

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ELLEN GOODMAN



Silvia Dillard was not exactly a banker's dream customer.

Microcredit works in this country too

BOSTON — Silvia Dillard was not exactly a banker's dream customer. The only collateral the 34 year-old mother had was an entrepreneurial spirit. Banks do not tend to count on spirit. It is so hard to repo.

Besides, the Bostonian raising three kids on her own is the first to admit that her personal credit was "shot to hell." After a brief stint on AFDC, after years of working over and under the table, Dillard says, "I didn't see any light at the end of the tunnel." But the independent woman had a dream of starting her own business.

So for that matter did Kathleen Gaskin. An upholsterer ever since she worked for her father in Trinidad, Gaskin came to a crunch time when she was divorced with three daughters and an autistic son. Her son's school bus and her employer's inflexible hours collided: "I knew I had to be self-employed."

What these two women lacked was working capital. At least \$500 for Kathleen to get foam-cutting machine and staple gun. At least \$500 for Silvia to purchase a vacuum cleaner, supplies and business cards to promote the wonderful name of her new cleaning company, MAAD: Mothers Against All Dirt.

And what these two women found was Working Capital. They connected with the largest of the handful of programs in this country that are acting as banks for the bankless. In this case about 2,400 bankless women and men in 10 states.

Working Capital offers microcredit-loans between \$500 and \$5,000—to people, mostly women, through organizations in poor urban and rural communities. These are loans too small for banks to bother with and borrowers too risky for banks to gamble on.

The idea began in Bangladesh 20 years ago and spread to some of the poorest pockets of developing countries where \$2 can make all the difference. Now despite its thoroughly unsexy name, microcredit has become as much a movement as an economic development program.

Indeed on Jan. 30, Jeffrey Ashe, the former Berkeley free-speaker and former Peace Corpsman who founded Working Capital, was given one of the first-ever Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprises. On Feb. 2, the first Microcredit Summit is expected to bring 3,000 people from around the world to Washington, D.C., to launch a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest.

Like many of the overseas microcredit enterprises, Working Capital is not just a money lender. The heart of the nonprofit operation is community building through group lending.

Customers, as they are called, organize into small loan groups like the one that Silvia Dillard has dubbed SWIMM: Smart Women Independently Making Money. "They support each other, train each other, hold each other accountable," says Ashe, a tall gangly 55-year-old who helped bring the movement here in 1990.

SWIMMers, for instance, meet once a month and talk once a week. They help each other with everything from child-care tips to financial advice. Indeed, Ashe's wife, a psychologist, likes to compare it to group therapy; only instead of paying money, they're making it.

The members borrow money as a group and must repay it as a group. One deadbeat freezes everyone's credit. The mutual support also is peer pressure. As Dillard laughs, "I know, sooner or later, I'm going to see Kathleen in the supermarket."

This personal connection may be why Working Capital has only had to write off three percent of its loans to a population of borrowers the banks consider high risk. It may be why microenterprises are being seriously touted as a possibility for some women who will be coming-ready or -not-off the welfare rolls in the next few years.

Sometimes, a small loan and a strong support group is what's needed to bridge the gap between an idea and a business, between dependence and independence.

Today Silvia Dillard is paying off her first loan, restoring her credit and building up her roster of MAAD customers. Kathleen Gaskin is now on her fourth loan cycle, about to borrow \$2,500 to renovate the upholstery shop that supports her family.

They exude the confidence that comes from "being my own boss." And from having their own network.

For Jeffrey Ashe, Working Capital also says something about how you build community in a time when the safety net is unraveling and jobs are scarce:

"There's a lesson here about how we can get through the millennium and not just by surfing the Net. This is about old-fashioned face-to-face accountability, about trusting and supporting each other."

The "lesson" of microcredit is the real new math. It's thinking big about lending small.

Rotting fish pop up at Lake Dora

From Staff and Wire Reports

LAKE DORA, Fla. — Thousands of rotting fish popped up along the scenic shores of Lake Dora, with lakeshore residents complaining of the stench while state scientists tried to pin down the die-off's cause.

"I would call it a significant fish kill, but not a major one," Sam McKinney, regional fishery biologist with the Florida Game

and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said Monday. "There's a strong odor of rotting fish. Residents are complaining of the smell."

McKinney put the number of dead bass, crappie and catfish in the "tens of thousands."

McKinney said oxygen depletion brought on by several cool, cloudy days last week is the likely culprit, not any toxic substance introduced into the

lake. Fish kills often take place when organic substances in the water — like algae — die in cooler weather, and need a great deal of oxygen to decompose.

That change then depletes the amount of oxygen in a lake, pond, stream or river section, suffocating the fish.

McKinney said most of Lake Dora's fish died last week and sank to the bottom.

DEATHS

SHARON L. BRINDLEY
Sharon L. Brindley, 53, Lake Mary, died Monday, Jan. 27, 1997 at her residence. Born Sept. 23, 1943 in Buffalo, N.Y., she moved to Central Florida in 1984. She was a clerk at Med Advantage. She was Catholic.

Survivors include daughter, Jennifer Harmon, Chuluota; brother, Richard Ihlenfeld, Hamburg, N.Y.; sister, Sue Horbonaro, Tonawanda, N.Y. All Faiths Cremation Service, Caselberry, in charge of arrangements.

SARAH E. BUEHLER
Sarah E. Buehler, 97, Forrest Point Lane, Longwood, died Monday, Feb. 3, 1997 at Village on the Green, Longwood. Born April 11, 1899 in Delaware Co., Pa., she moved to Central Florida in 1984. She was a homemaker and a Presbyterian.

Survivors include daughters, Janet Donahue, Longwood, Margaret Andersen, Berwyn, Pa.; son, A. David Buehler, Savannah, Ga.; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Baldwin-Fairchild-Oaklawn Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

WILBUR DEAN CREASON
Wilbur "Bill" Dean Creason, 58, Acorn Drive, Longwood, died Sunday, Feb. 2, 1997 at Florida Hospital, Altamonte Springs. Born Nov. 2, 1938 in Weld County, Colo., he moved to Central Florida from West Virginia in 1986. He was a former driver for Mid-Florida Postal Service and Moser Trucking Company. He was Catholic, and a member of VFW 8207, Longwood, and Fleet Reserve, Sanford. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict and Viet Nam war.

Survivors include wife, Deborah; sons, William, Hedgeville, W.Va., David and Greg, both of Leesburg, Va., David Willis, Deltona, John

Willis, Lake Mary; daughter, Peggy Hands, Norfolk, Va.; mother, Marge Pleau, Woonsocket, R.I.; brothers, Larry, Tulare, Calif., Richard Pleau, Woonsocket, R.I.; sisters, Marge Bilfinger, Cumberland, R.I., Judy McKenna and Candy Louche, both of Woonsocket; ten grandchildren.

Baldwin-Fairchild-Oaklawn Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

JOHN J. DAVIES
John J. Davies, 73, Via Bonita, Sanford, died Sunday, Feb. 2, 1997 at Columbia Medical Center-Sanford. Born Dec. 5, 1923 in Brooklyn, N.Y., he moved to Central Florida in 1978. He was a branch manager. He was a member of St. Michael's Woods Presbyterian Church, Merchant Marines Club of Sanford, and International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors ISWBC. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Survivors include wife, Beverly B.; daughter, Donna Swingley, Chesapeake, Va.; sons, John Jr., Germany, Douglas, Micanopy; six grandchildren.

Baldwin-Fairchild-Oaklawn Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, Lake Mary, in charge of

arrangements.

CELESTINE G. HIPPOLYTE
Celestine G. Hippolyte, 90, Braddock Ave., Osteen, died Saturday, Jan. 31, 1997 at her residence. Born in Guyana, she moved to Central Florida from Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1994. She was a certified nurse's aid and a seamstress. She belonged to Marshall Seventh Day Adventist Church, Sanford.

Survivors include son, Roy R. Goring, Daytona Beach; one grandchild.

Deltona Memorial Funeral Home & Cemetery in charge of arrangements.

CAROLYN WEBBER
Carolyn Webber, 83, 1100 Wing Drive, Lake Mary, died Monday, Feb. 3, 1997 at her residence. Born March 30, 1913 in St. Paul, Minn., she moved to Central Florida in 1981. She was a fashion publicist and a member of Timacuan Country Club.

Survivors include husband, Saul; daughters, April, Tracy, N.M., Nancy Hopkins, Seattle, Wash.; brothers, Jack Rosenberg, Asbury Park, N.J., George Rosenberg, St. Paul, Minn.; one grandchild.

Baldwin-Fairchild-Oaklawn Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

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<p>15-Piece Family Feast \$15.99 Plus Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 pieces of chicken, mixed 3 sides 1 1/2 pint gravy 8 homemade buttermilk biscuits <p>Not valid with any other offer or discount. Good for a limited time.</p>	<p>25-Piece Family Bucket \$18.99 Plus Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 pieces of chicken, mixed <p>Not valid with any other offer or discount. Good for a limited time.</p>
<p>2-Piece Super Snack \$2.89 Plus Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 pieces of chicken, mixed 1 side dish of your choice 1 french substitution entree 1 homemade buttermilk biscuit <p>Not valid with any other offer or discount. Good for a limited time.</p>	<p>2-Piece Combo Meal \$2.99 Plus Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 side items 1 homemade buttermilk biscuit 30 oz. drink <p>Not valid with any other offer or discount. Good for a limited time.</p>

STATS & STANDINGS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUCO Baseball

□ Seminole Community College vs. Hillsborough Community College at Tampa, 3 p.m.

National Basketball Association

□ Indiana Pacers vs. Orlando Magic at Orlando Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Prep Boys' Basketball

□ Lake Brantley at Oak Ridge. Junior varsity, 6 p.m.; varsity, 7:30 p.m.

Prep Girls' Basketball

□ Lake Mary vs. Spruce Creek at Fort Orange. Junior varsity, 5:30 p.m.; varsity, 7 p.m.
□ Person-Taylor High School at Luther Christian School, varsity only, 5:30 p.m.

Prep Boys' Soccer

□ Class 6A-North I Regional Quarterfinals: Oviedo at Deltona, 7 p.m.
□ Class 6A-North II Regional Quarterfinals: Ocala-Forest vs. Lake Brantley at Tom Storey Field, 7 p.m.

Prep Girls' Soccer

□ Class 6A-North I Regional Quarterfinals: Seminole vs. Seabreeze at Daytona Beach Municipal Stadium, 7 p.m.
□ Class 6A-North I Regional Quarterfinals: Lake Brantley vs. DeLand at Spec Martin Stadium, 7 p.m.
□ Class 6A-North II Regional Quarterfinals: Ocala-Forest vs. Lake Mary at Don T. Reynolds Stadium, 7 p.m.

Recreation Softball

□ Sanford Women's Polar Bear League at Chase Park. Sunland Corporation vs. T's Angels, 6:30 p.m.; Eagles vs. She-Sevils, 7:30 p.m.; Dream Catchers vs. Sharks, 8:30 p.m.
□ Sanford Women's Polar Bear League at Pinewalk Park. Ritchey's vs. Sanford Magic, 7 p.m.; Lady Knights vs. Hopkins Meats, 8 p.m.

Team	W	L	OT	PTS
1) Tampa Bay	14	1	0	100
2) Orlando Magic	12	3	0	84
3) New York Knicks	11	4	0	78
4) Philadelphia 76ers	10	5	0	72
5) Washington Wizards	9	6	0	66
6) Boston Celtics	8	7	0	60
7) Charlotte Hornets	7	8	0	54
8) Atlanta Hawks	6	9	0	48
9) Miami Heat	5	10	0	42
10) Cleveland Cavaliers	4	11	0	36
11) Detroit Pistons	3	12	0	30
12) Indiana Pacers	2	13	0	24
13) Chicago Bulls	1	14	0	18
14) New Jersey Nets	0	15	0	12
15) San Antonio Spurs	0	16	0	6

Team	W	L	OT	PTS
1) Phoenix Suns	10	4	0	70
2) Utah Jazz	9	5	0	64
3) Portland Trail Blazers	8	6	0	58
4) Denver Nuggets	7	7	0	52
5) Dallas Mavericks	6	8	0	46
6) Houston Rockets	5	9	0	40
7) Sacramento Kings	4	10	0	34
8) Minnesota Timberwolves	3	11	0	28
9) Memphis Grizzlies	2	12	0	22
10) New Orleans Hornets	1	13	0	16
11) San Diego Clippers	0	14	0	10
12) Los Angeles Lakers	0	15	0	4

Team	W	L	OT	PTS
1) New York Yankees	15	0	0	150
2) St. Louis Cardinals	12	3	0	120
3) Boston Red Sox	10	5	0	100
4) Atlanta Braves	8	7	0	80
5) Los Angeles Dodgers	7	8	0	70
6) San Francisco Giants	6	9	0	60
7) Chicago Cubs	5	10	0	50
8) Pittsburgh Pirates	4	11	0	40
9) Cincinnati Reds	3	12	0	30
10) Philadelphia Phillies	2	13	0	20
11) Milwaukee Brewers	1	14	0	10
12) Texas Rangers	0	15	0	0

Team	W	L	OT	PTS
1) Los Angeles Angels	10	4	0	70
2) Anaheim Angels	9	5	0	64
3) Oakland Athletics	8	6	0	58
4) Seattle Mariners	7	7	0	52
5) Texas Rangers	6	8	0	46
6) California Angels	5	9	0	40
7) Boston Red Sox	4	10	0	34
8) New York Yankees	3	11	0	28
9) Toronto Blue Jays	2	12	0	22
10) Cleveland Indians	1	13	0	16
11) Detroit Tigers	0	14	0	10
12) Chicago White Sox	0	15	0	4

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1) Tampa Bay Rays	10	4	0	70
2) Florida Marlins	9	5	0	64
3) New York Yankees	8	6	0	58
4) Boston Red Sox	7	7	0	52
5) St. Louis Cardinals	6	8	0	46
6) Atlanta Braves	5	9	0	40
7) Los Angeles Dodgers	4	10	0	34
8) San Francisco Giants	3	11	0	28
9) Chicago Cubs	2	12	0	22
10) Pittsburgh Pirates	1	13	0	16
11) Cincinnati Reds	0	14	0	10
12) Philadelphia Phillies	0	15	0	4

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BLONDIE

by Chic Young



BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



THE BORN LOSER

by Art Sansom



PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



ECK & MEAK

by Howie Schneider



TUMBLEWEEDS

by T.K. Ryan



ARLO AND JANIS

by Jimmy Johnson



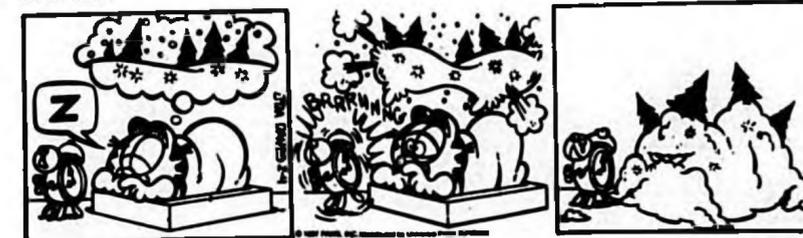
FRANK AND ERNEST

by Bob Thaves



GARFIELD

by Jim Davis



ROBOTMAN

by Jim Meddick



Is zero dietary fat a good idea?

DEAR DR. GOTT: With all the emphasis on a fat-free diet, I wonder if a diet completely devoid of fat would be harmful. Isn't some fat necessary for good health?

DEAR READER: Yes, it is. I believe that the current emphasis on lowering dietary fat stems from the enormous amount of research showing that Americans eat too much fat — especially the saturated variety from animal sources — and that U.S. adults are growing fatter decade by decade. Saturated fat often increases the level of blood cholesterol, leading in turn to heart attacks, strokes and other health problems.

On the other hand, some fat (preferably the unsaturated variety from plant sources, such as safflower oil or corn oil), as you suggested, is necessary for proper nutrition. The amount varies, depending on the weight, age and sex of the consumer.

Dietary fat gives us a feeling of satiety and well-being after a meal, it sources up food and makes it more palatable, and it is used by the body to manufacture hormones and other vital compounds.

Thus, a completely fat-free diet could be harmful, because it is not nutritionally balanced. We should all reduce dietary fat — but not completely to zero.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Cholesterol." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: You would help a group of senior ladies if you could answer a question for us. Is it a sin to masturbate? Many of my friends are either widowed or with husbands who are impotent, and we don't have the nerve to ask our priest. Perhaps you would know one who could answer this difficult question.

DEAR READER: With all due respect to the sensitivities of my religious readers, who may believe that masturbation is a sin, I can unequivocally state that sexual self-pleasuring is in no way physically harmful. I am not in a position to pass moral judgment, but from a medical standpoint, masturbation is a normal and natural human activity.

Actually, it may be preferable to many other forms of sexual expression because it is safe, avoids pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases — and, as Philip Roth concluded in his book "Portnoy's Complaint," you don't have to look your very best.

I believe that, under the circumstances you describe, masturbation is completely appropriate — especially for widows who continue to have sexual urges without the opportunity for

socially acceptable release.

I don't know of any ultimate authority you could ask about the sinful component of masturbation; this is, after all, a question of faith and one's relation to a Higher Power. Therefore, there is no definitive answer, in my opinion. The issue of sin is highly selective and varies considerably from religion to religion.

I am convinced that masturbation is a very personal matter. The important thing, to my mind, is not to spoil it by having some sort of man-made, inhibiting guilt. Most sex therapists would agree with this position.

So, please reassure your women's group that self-pleasuring is a medically acceptable method of sexual release and, when practiced in moderation, may actually enrich one's life rather than detracting from it.



MEDICINE

PETER GOTT, M.D.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Where to Find Sex Information." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to mention the title.

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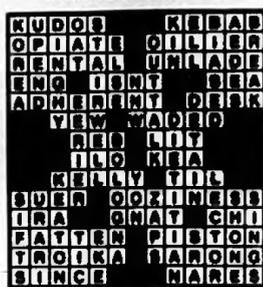
ACROSS

- 1 Actress Pitts
- 5 Cat on —
- 9 Hoop, pro
- 12 Rara —
- 13 Blink and sables
- 14 Fleur-de —
- 15 Zola heroine
- 16 Unwooded
- 18 Author Levin
- 19 Ship's tiller
- 20 Window-curtain material
- 21 One or the other
- 23 Al Capp character
- 24 Minor battle
- 27 JFK's slight
- 28 Rip
- 29 Fat
- 31 Famed inventor
- 33 Actress Periman
- 37 — Klippur

DOWN

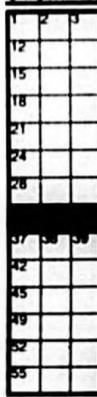
- 1 Sillicest
- 2 Gread
- 3 Singer Frank
- 4 Neighbor of Can.
- 6 Harshness
- 42 Legiate
- 44 Christmas decoration
- 45 Crossword (2 wds.)
- 46 Bourne of laughter
- 48 Agnus —
- 49 Grotesque carved figure
- 51 Irritate
- 52 Invariant
- 53 Fencing sword
- 54 — well that ends well
- 55 Oedipus —
- 56 Spoil
- 57 Russian no

Answer to Previous Puzzle



STUMPED?

Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones • We'll mail you 1-800-454-3636 ext. code 100



- 5 Closest to the stern
- 6 Toss
- 7 City in Utah
- 8 Mac — Jung
- 9 Dosa
- 10 Sign of the Zodiac
- 11 Declares positively
- 12 Aft's dog
- 13 Dross border
- 14 Muscular
- 15 Roman bronze
- 16 Component
- 17 Part of a clock
- 18 Sea eagle
- 19 Superlative suffix
- 20 Impetuously
- 21 Actress Parsons
- 22 Distinct
- 23 Aviation hero
- 24 Chuck —
- 25 Post-holiday sign (2 wds.)
- 26 Head
- 27 Gun grp.
- 28 Gear
- 29 Exaggerated production
- 30 In a sheltered place
- 31 Above (past)
- 32 Feed

WIN AT BRIDGE

Do you believe in astrology?

By Phillip Alder

On November 22, 1995, the Palm Beach Post switched the headlines above the bridge column and the horoscope. That was funny enough, but it got better when I read the entry for Leo. Part of it was: "Your mate will take you to a baseball game or another fun evening activity." Why would anyone suggest that an American would be going to a baseball game in late November?

Many suggestions in bridge columns — some of them mine — are daft too. See if you can spot the howler here.

I don't know in whose column this deal originally appeared. The author's analysis of the three-no-trump contract after a spade lead ran like this: There are three lines of play. Win trick

one in hand and play on clubs. Win trick one in hand and lead the heart king. Win trick one in the dummy and play a heart.

The writer claimed that the third plan is best, and if declarer wins trick two with the heart king, he should return to dummy with a club and lead a further heart up. Does anything strike you?

The analysis is accurate in saying that playing a heart from the dummy at trick two is optimum. It maximizes the chances in both hearts and clubs. However, if South wins the second trick with the heart king, he should finesse the club 10 at trick three. South is sure to win at least two spades, one heart, two diamonds and four clubs. Returning to the dummy to play another heart endangers the contract.

When writing a column, sometimes one is so engrossed in one's theme that one overlooks something much easier. The moral? Always count your tricks.

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North 08-04-97

♠ K 3
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A K J 3 2

West East
♠ Q J 10 9 6 ♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ 8 4 ♥ A 10 6 5
♦ 10 8 ♦ A K J 9 6
♣ Q 8 7 5 ♣ 4

South
♠ A 2
♥ K Q J 9
♦ A K 3 2
♣ 10 9 6

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT All pass

Opening lead: a Q

HOROSCOPE



Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1987

In the year ahead, you might find three new ways to make your finances more secure. These opportunities will be made possible by good friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The manner in which you achieve your objectives today will win the admiration of your peers, even though none will want to share their feelings. Aquarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and BARE to Astro-Graph, c/o the newspaper, P.O. Box 1750, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Friends will think that you are a delightful conversationalist today. You will share your knowledge without trying to impose your ideas. ANES (March 21-April 19) Even though you prefer to work alone, you might have more financial success if you share the work with others at this time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) When making decisions today, follow your instincts rather than listening to others. You will perceive facts clearly and use them imaginatively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your ability to organize will be your strongest asset today. If a project needs to be restructured, do not wait for others to take the lead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will be in a good position to contact people who are influential in social and commercial spheres. Make an effort to expand your network.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you use your imagination today, you can construct an arrangement which will improve conditions for everyone.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you believe strongly in a cause, you will have the ability to promote it effectively today. You will be especially persuasive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Try to remain aloof when negotiating a business deal today. This attitude will entice others to come to you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Two important interests can be advanced today if your intentions aren't too obvious to your opponents. Try not to tip your hand prematurely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Open both your heart and your purse today if there is someone who needs help. Your generosity will enhance your feeling of self-worth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Companions might think that you are unrealistic today, but you will pursue your goals in a practical way.

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ANNIE

by Leonard Starr

