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*Jan. 27, 2003, 12:07AM*

# Preparations under way for 2004 spectacle

By **RICHARD JUSTICE**

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SAN DIEGO -- After the sun had dipped into the Pacific Ocean a few miles west of Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday evening, Super Bowl XXXVII ended with familiar scenes of celebration and disappointment.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers watched the clock run out on their 48-21 victory over the Oakland Raiders and began an impromptu celebration of bear hugs and Gatorade showers. For a franchise that had never come close to a championship in its first 26 years of existence, it was an unimaginably sweet moment.

On the other sideline, the Raiders began the slow and disappointing walk into the offseason. Not only did they fail to win their first Super Bowl in 19 years, they lost to Jon Gruden -- the coach who left in a dispute with team owner Al Davis after last season.

Thus began the countdown to Super Bowl XXXVIII -- 369 days until America's biggest sporting event comes to Reliant Stadium.

Houston, you're on the clock.

"It's a chance for Houston to step out onto the world stage," said Robert Dale Morgan, president and CEO of Houston's Super Bowl host committee. "We in Houston have everything to do this event better than anybody's ever done it."

In the 29 years since Houston last hosted a Super Bowl, the National Football League's championship game has grown from one day of football to a 10-day festival that's as much about corporate hospitality, celebrity excess and tourism dollars as sport.

Mayor Lee Brown, who led a contingent of city officials to San Diego this weekend, toured facilities, attended events and saw the massive crowds that jammed the city's popular Gaslamp Quarter.

"Seeing this makes you enthusiastic about what we will do next year," Brown said. "We're looking at all the things San Diego has done, and we'll build upon to make it even better."

San Diego police estimated that crowds exceeded more than 100,000 Friday and Saturday night in and around downtown. By Saturday afternoon, there were shoulder-to-shoulder crowds and 90-minute waits

to get into downtown restaurants and bars.

One of the most popular exhibits, a sampling of San Diego restaurants called Taste of the NFL, drew huge crowds Saturday, as did concerts by AC/DC and other bands. At the cavernous NFL Super Store, customers waited in lengthy lines.

"If you're around a Super Bowl early in the week, you say, 'Hey, there's no one here,'" said Jim Steeg, the NFL's vice president for Super Bowl planning. "As the week goes on, it builds and builds."

Actor John Amos, CBS commentator Andy Rooney, boxing promoter Don King and football legend Paul Hornung were among the crowds visiting the San Diego Convention Center on Saturday.

Elsewhere around San Diego, rapper P. Diddy was one in a long list of celebrities hosting private parties.

University of Texas Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams, now a running back with the Miami Dolphins, returned to his hometown of San Diego to host a party at the Blue Tattoo.

E Street Alley, a popular San Diego nightspot, hosted the "EcoBowl," a \$170-a-ticket benefit for a Los Angeles-based pollution-education charity.

At the W Hotel, a makeshift beach was constructed for a party that attracted celebrities ranging from Trista Rehn of *The Bachelorette* fame to Deion Sanders.

Houston officials say that with a wide range of corporations entertaining clients and employees, Super Bowl weekend could have a long-term impact on Houston's economy.

"The people in charge of corporate relocation will look at the game and say, 'Hey, that looks like a pretty good place,'" said Richard Schloss, a San Diego public relations executive who worked on San Diego's Super Bowl host committee.

Texas Economic Development officials hope there will be a spillover to other parts of the state.

"We're going to get the word out that there are plenty of great pre- and post-destination stops in Texas," said Julie Chase, the marketing director of the tourism division, as she surveyed the scene.

By the end of this week, cleanup at Qualcomm Stadium will be complete, the corporate tents will be dismantled, and thousands will be planning for the 2004 version.

San Diego officials believe the Super Bowl will leave behind between \$150 million and \$300 million in local cash registers.

For the next year, the Super Bowl XXXVIII host committee will be in charge of training 7,000 volunteers and helping coordinate dozens of corporate parties, satellite events, security, transportation and the like.

Riding on their efforts is the image of a city that wants the world to know about its downtown renaissance, its arts and museum districts, and its neighborhoods, restaurants and spirit.

"Most folks don't know what Houston is like," Brown said. "Houston is a new city."

NFL officials invited Houston's host committee to spend a week in San Diego taking notes. They were sent to big events, such as the interactive NFL Experience, in which fans throw passes and play a variety of games. And they were sent to smaller functions, such as high school appearances and Habitat for Humanity projects.

"We wanted to make sure the Houston people saw the events so they'd understand what they were going to do," Steeg said. "We've got hotel people staying in the team hotels and the media hotels. They're living it. That's really important to come back and know what happened here and what can be done better.

"We conducted a number of behind-the-scenes tours. We gave them four tickets to every event. They're going to be all over the place. Then they can all go home and talk about how it all fits with Houston's Super Bowl," Steeg said.

San Diego coordinators warned the Houston group that every year the NFL adds more events -- and in doing so, more responsibility for the host city.

"What you're doing is preparing your city for an event in which you'll have 100,000 people visiting every day, and then on game day, you'll have 800 million people watching in 200 different countries," Schloss said.

Houston's expanded convention center, Reliant Center and Reliant Stadium will be the primary venues for Super Bowl XXXVIII, and officials are hoping a smooth week will attract future Super Bowls.

Because of the economic downturn and the possible war with Iraq, fewer corporations attended this year's Super Bowl, according to early estimates, and once they were in San Diego, they spent less.

Despite the cutbacks, the Super Bowl is still an opportunity like no other for a city.

"There really isn't anything we've seen out here that scares us from an event-management perspective," Morgan, the host committee president, said. "The NFL continues to ratchet up this event, both in terms of quality and quantity. It has been absolutely critical that many of our volunteer leaders and professional staff see it, feel it, touch it. There's no substitute for the actual experience."

Jan. 27, 2003, 5:54AM

# Weight of world on Bush address

## But bigger issue may be economy

By **BENNETT ROTH**

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WASHINGTON -- President Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday comes at a critical time as he tries to sell a skeptical public on his economic agenda and the prospects of war with Iraq.

White House officials say the nationally televised speech delivered before Congress will not include an outright declaration of war, though Bush intends to use it to justify the mobilization of American forces around Iraq.

The president "will provide the necessary context and explanation that only a commander-in-chief can deliver at this unique moment in history," said Dan Bartlett, Bush's chief communications adviser.

But with the nation's economy also struggling, the president will devote a large chunk of the prime-time speech to domestic issues.

Bush is expected to tout his \$670 billion tax cut plan, faith-based initiatives and a proposal to revamp Medicare to provide subsidized prescription drugs for seniors.

There has been some dissent in GOP ranks on Iraq and the tax cut proposal, but with Republicans now controlling both chambers of Congress, White House officials believe Bush will have more success this session in moving his agenda.

Recent polls, however, also suggest that as the president hits midterm, the public is souring on his job performance -- a sentiment sure to embolden Democratic opposition.

A CBS-New York Times poll published Friday found that almost half of Americans disapproved of Bush's handling of the economy, the highest negative rating he has received in that area since he took office. More than half of those polled also opposed the big-ticket item in his tax package -- eliminating the tax on stock dividends.

While surveys show Bush gets higher marks for his handling of foreign policy, he has slipped there, too, with 51 percent supporting his performance, according to an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll released last

week.

A year ago, as the nation continued to recover from the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes, Bush's approval rating on foreign policy stood at 63 percent, according to that survey.

Polls also show that a majority of Americans do not want to go to war with Iraq without the cooperation of the United Nations and are willing to give weapons inspectors more time.

Analysts say rising public disapproval of Bush's performance at home and abroad will place a greater burden on him to deliver a highly persuasive address Tuesday as millions of Americans watch on television.

"Given the potential for further recession and a fairly significant foreign policy event, it will not be enough to say he gave a solid, workmanlike speech," said Brian Gerber, a professor of political science at Texas Tech University. "He's got to better explain what he is trying to do in Iraq and with the U.S. economy."

Potentially complicating the president's ability to present a clear case against Iraq is that his speech comes a day after U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix is scheduled to give his assessment of whether Iraq has disarmed.

Indications so far are that Blix's report will be inconclusive and that he will ask for more time for weapons inspections -- a request that a number of the United States' European allies already say they want to accommodate.

The president also faces a different political environment than he did a year ago, when leaders of both parties united behind his war on terrorism and applauded his tough warnings to Iran, Iraq and North Korea -- countries he dubbed "the axis of evil."

When Bush looks out into the House chamber Tuesday, he likely will see a number of Democrats who have made it known they want his job -- including Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who last week slammed the president for being in "a rush to war."

All the potential Democratic candidates have blasted the president's tax plan, arguing that it heavily benefits the wealthy. But White House officials said they gave no thought to 2004 presidential politics when crafting the speech.

At the same time, they have made it clear that Bush is intent on avoiding the fate of his father, who lost his re-election bid because of perceptions he ignored the economy after the 1991 Gulf War victory.

"You've seen all these stories that go back and talk about how the president learned from his father about spending political capital," said a top White House adviser. "The president is not sitting idly by to watch

problems and issues emerge to where they can't be addressed."

The president's speechwriters and advisers began writing the speech in November. Karen Hughes, one of Bush's top White House aides before she returned to Texas last summer, was involved in drafting the speech.

Bush received the final draft more than a week ago. On Sunday, he attended church, jogged, then practiced the address with Hughes.

As with his previous speeches, the president's advisers say the address will focus on broad themes and not get into details.

Yet the fine print of proposals, such as prescription drugs for seniors, are likely to stir controversy in the weeks ahead. According to several reports, the president is considering a Medicare overhaul that encourages seniors to choose managed care and other private health plans for drug coverage.

Democrats, however, charge that such a proposal will force older people into less desirable health maintenance organizations. They say the government should directly pay for the drugs as part of the current fee-for-service plan.

Although Bush is not considered an eloquent speaker, experts say he has benefited from low expectations both during his campaign and presidency. As long as he made it through a speech with few gaffes or errors, analysts and the media often gave him passing grades.

But with two years of the presidency behind him and stakes higher at home and abroad, analysts say the public will judge this speech far more for its substance than style.

Jan. 27, 2003, 6:03AM

# Powell: U.S. can strike alone

## World leaders seek more time for Iraq

By **MARK LANDLER** and **ALAN COWELL**  
**New York Times**

DAVOS, Switzerland -- Secretary of State Colin L. Powell came close to dismissing a crucial U.N. report on Iraq weapons on Sunday, the eve of the report's publication, and said the United States would go to war against Iraq alone if its divided European allies would not join the fight.

While Powell promised that the Bush administration would study the findings of the report when it is submitted today, he indicated it would be useless to give the weapons inspectors more time.

Bringing the case for military action to a deeply skeptical audience of political, business and religious leaders at a conference in the Swiss Alps, Powell said Saddam Hussein had "repeatedly violated the trust of the United Nations, his people and his neighbors."

He also renewed an administration contention that Saddam had ties to al-Qaida terrorists.

His remarks at the conference, the annual World Economic Forum, deepened a sense of inevitability among people here about a conflict. Speaking after Powell, King Abdullah of Jordan said the prospects for a peaceful resolution were fading.

"We are a bit 'too little, too late' to see a diplomatic solution," said the king, whose land borders Iraq. "Let us hope that whatever happens between Iraq and the international community is as quick and painless as possible."

Though the United States had hoped to forge a consensus among its allies, Powell said, the lack of a coalition would not deter the Bush administration. "When we feel strongly about something, we will lead, we will act, even if others are not prepared to join us," he said.

By promising to study the report and consult with other members of the Security Council before acting, the secretary made a modest concession to the qualms of Europeans about what many here describe as Washington's stampede toward war.

But he also recited a litany of failures and unanswered questions in Iraq's cooperation with the inspectors,

who have been looking for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in Iraq for two months.

"To those who say, 'Why not give the inspection process more time?' I ask, 'How much more time does Iraq need to answer these questions?' " Powell said.

"We're in no great rush to judgment tomorrow or the day after, but clearly time is running out," he said. "We will not shrink from war if that is the only way to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction."

Powell's speech is part of a campaign by the White House, culminating in President Bush's State of the Union address on Tuesday, to rally public opinion at home and abroad.

While the secretary did not produce new evidence of Iraqi weapons, he insisted that the burden of proof was on Saddam, not the inspectors, to give an accounting of Baghdad's munitions.

European diplomats suggested that they would continue to press for more time for the inspectors. Speaking on the ABC News program *This Week*, Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said that if Hans Blix, the head of the chemical and biological weapons inspection team, asked the Security Council for more time when he submitted his report today, he should get it.

"I don't think that we are talking about an infinite amount of time," Solana said. "Time has been given to Saddam Hussein before. So we are talking about a question of weeks, perhaps months."

Speaking on French television, the French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, called for an extension of the inspections for "several weeks, or for a few months."

Asked for evidence to back up Powell's assertion that Saddam had "clear ties" to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, Andrew Card Jr., the White House chief of staff, told *Fox News Sunday* that the Iraqi leader "has had a history of a relationship with terrorist organizations in the past, and it would be horrible if his weapons of mass destruction got into the hands of terrorists."

Card was asked on another show, NBC's *Meet the Press*, about reports that the United States was prepared to use nuclear weapons if need be against Iraq. He answered: "Should Saddam Hussein have any thought that he would use a weapon of mass destruction, he should anticipate that the United States will use whatever means necessary to protect us and the world from a holocaust."

Powell argued that Security Council resolution 1441 placed the onus on Iraq to "come clean" by disclosing its weapons, rather than obliging the inspectors to root out arms in a country "the size of California."

"This is not about inspectors finding smoking guns," he said.

The British head of Amnesty International, Irene Khan, was applauded when she questioned whether the

Iraq threat "risks provoking a massive humanitarian and human rights catastrophe."

Powell said the United States was "sensitive to the plight of the Iraqi people, not only in case of conflict, but also right now."

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:46PM

# Legislators' priorities will determine cuts

## Ideas differ on what's wasteful, essential

By R.G. RATCLIFFE

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AUSTIN -- For conservatives like Gov. Rick Perry, the state's \$9.9 billion budget shortfall is nothing more than a bill come due on a decade of binge spending by the Legislature -- just some belt-tightening is needed.

"My priorities are clear. We will pursue fiscal discipline to keep government spending in check," he said at his inauguration last week.

While even conservative legislators say a balanced budget without a tax increase can be achieved only by cutting services, social activists argue that the budget shouldn't be balanced on the backs of the poor.

For the next five months, the debate over how to deal with the budget shortfall will become a question of whether one person's priority is another person's wasteful spending.

The solution is not as easy as cutting a \$114 billion budget, because the problem is not with the total budget. Cuts in the federal portion of the budget won't solve the problem. The shortfall is in the spending of \$61.5 billion in state tax dollars, known as general revenue.

And the magnitude of the problem is this: If the state's 80 general government agencies turned out the lights, locked the doors and completely shut down for the next two years, it would pay for a little more than a third of the shortfall.

If there were no governor, no attorney general, no comptroller, no Public Utility Commission, no Department of Insurance, no judiciary, no Legislature or any other general agency of state government, it would save \$3.5 billion in state spending.

Locally, belt-tightening may mean cuts in the \$6.3 billion the state spends in Harris County every year on items ranging from highway construction to public school operations and public assistance for the needy.

Conservatives argue, however, that runaway spending has surrounded a core government of essential services in the past decade.

The conservative math on the state budget is simple: State spending has grown 82 percent since 1992, while the state's population in the 1990s grew by 23 percent and the consumer price index, which measures inflation, rose by 27 percent.

"We truly did go back and look at the growth in state government. It was astronomical," said Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, co-chair of the Texas Conservative Coalition. "That was the first indicator that government was out of control."

Shapiro said there is nothing in the budget that cannot be fixed with a solid review of the necessity of programs and elimination of waste and fraud.

"We don't have a revenue problem in the state of Texas. We have a spending problem," Shapiro said.

Eva de Luna Castro of the Center for Public Policy Priorities said the underlying problem is not government growth. She said when compared with increases in personal income or the total state economy, Texas government spending has shrunk.

She said the problem is a recession coupled with an antiquated state tax system, a system whose problems were aggravated by the \$3 billion in tax cuts passed by then-Gov. George W. Bush.

"We don't see it as a spending problem. We see it as a revenue problem," she said.

While some savings may be obtained by eliminating a state agency here or there or cutting back at others, the real money is in just three portions of the budget: health and human services; public and higher education; and public safety and corrections. Those three areas account for 92 percent of current state spending.

State spending has increased 76 percent over the past decade, but that does not mean there has been an exploding state bureaucracy. Texas now has 229,950 state workers, a 3 percent increase over the number the state employed in 1990.

Former Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff, a Republican state senator from Mount Pleasant, said using the consumer price index to measure government growth is improper. He said health care costs easily outstrip consumer inflation and make up a large portion of the state's spending increases.

Ratliff said a large portion of state government money is spent on a variety of health services, from medical care for the poor to nursing homes for the elderly to services for the mentally disabled.

"We run one of the world's biggest geriatric wards in the state prison system," Ratliff said.

The driving forces of state spending since 1992 have been a 21 percent increase in public school

enrollment, a 25 percent increase in junior college enrollment, a 23 percent increase in the Medicaid caseload of health care for the poor and a jump in the state prison population from 50,900 in 1992 to 147,157 last year, according to the Legislative Budget Board.

The jump in public school enrollment and Medicaid caseloads reflects the dramatic rise in the state's Hispanic population over the past decade, a population that is mostly young and poor.

There are about 5,000 fewer Anglo students attending Texas public schools today than there were a decade ago, and the black public school population has grown by about 90,000 students. But there are almost 500,000 more Hispanic students in the state's schools today, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services reports that the number of Anglos receiving Medicaid grew by 30,000 between 1995 and 2002, and the number of blacks in the program declined by almost 20,000. But almost 250,000 more Hispanics enrolled in the state-sponsored health care program.

Thirty-one percent of the state's population was Hispanic in 2000, but Hispanics make up 42 percent of the student population and half the Medicaid enrollment.

The old legislative adage is that members should vote their districts. And few of the Republicans in control of the Legislature have districts much in need of social services for the poor.

More than two-thirds of the Republican lawmakers come from districts that are more than 60 percent Anglo. Almost all of the Republicans come from districts with family incomes above the statewide mean of \$45,861 a year -- with a fifth of the House Republicans in districts with family incomes of more than twice that.

"A lot of representatives who are on House Appropriations or Senate Finance (Committees) are going to have to do a lot of dual thinking of what's good for my constituents and what's for the state as a whole," said Castro. "At times, those are going to be at cross-purposes."

In an interview before the legislative session began, Perry said social service advocates don't need to worry about budget cuts and that Texas is "sitting in a great place relative to the other 49 states."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas ranks 50th in the nation in total per capita spending, 39th on education, 47th on highways and 41st on public welfare.

But Shapiro said Texans do not need to worry that cuts will be made thoughtlessly.

"I don't want anyone to get the idea that we're going to slash and burn," Shapiro said.

In human services, she said, lawmakers will try to decide whether some people are receiving services

who should not be. And in education, she said, classroom spending can be preserved while cutting things such as education service centers.

"Classrooms and the teachers are the sacred cows," Shapiro said.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, believes spending on children's health care and education now may determine whether they are productive citizens in the future. He fears how Republicans will define their priorities.

"It's easy to say, 'Whack off a leg.' I can make anything fit if I whack off an arm or a leg," Coleman said.

*Houston Chronicle reporter Amy Raskin and legislative intern Angie Smith contributed to this article.*

Jan. 27, 2003, 6:59AM

## Sitting in judgment

### Some jurors picked for Harris murder trial expressed potentially prejudicial sentiments

By HARVEY RICE

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One of the jurors in the Clara Harris murder trial made it clear during jury selection that Harris must be guilty of something, even if she was in a jealous rage when she rammed her husband with her luxury car and ran over him repeatedly.

It may seem odd to some that someone who expressed such a judgment would be allowed to sit on the jury, which resumes hearing testimony in state district court today, but jury consultants don't agree on that point.

"By that, they are saying she must pay a price," said Robert Gordon, jury consultant and director of the Wilmington Institute Network.

"That could only mean one thing," Gordon said. "The defense didn't have enough strikes to get off everybody that they wanted and the judge wouldn't strike them for cause."

Gordon was referring to the ability of attorneys to strike a number of potential jurors for any reason other than race or gender during jury selection.

Douglas Keene, an Austin trial consultant, has a different view. Keene said the juror might believe Harris was at least guilty of reckless driving, but that was no indication that the juror was inclined to convict her of murder.

"The defense might have decided that despite that statement, they would be a fair and impartial juror," said Houston jury consultant Richard Waites.

If the practitioners of the inexact science of jury picking did not always agree on particulars, they were unanimous that the Harris defense team had chosen an experienced and respected jury consultant.

Jury consultant Robert Hirschhorn, a Dallas-area attorney, has participated in many high-profile cases. He helped choose the jurors in the Branch Davidian case, where followers of cultist David Koresh were

accused of murder in the deaths of federal agents during a gunbattle near Waco. All the defendants were acquitted of murder charges.

The jury will decide whether to convict Harris of murder in the death of her orthodontist husband, David Harris. She is accused of striking him with her luxury sedan after discovering him with another woman at a Nassau Bay hotel July 24. Witnesses said she knocked him 25 feet, then ran over him several times as her stepdaughter sat screaming in the passenger seat.

Another potentially prejudicial sentiment expressed by four jurors and one alternate was that they could emotionally relate to Harris.

Gordon said the statements indicated the jurors would favor leniency because they would be inclined to "understand what it is to feel passion and rage through a relationship that is exploited through a breach of trust."

Keene said the expression was too vague to necessarily reflect bias. "It doesn't mean in any way they are prepared to cut her any slack for what she did," he said. "It does suggest the capacity potentially to see it as a crime of passion."

He found it more troubling that two jurors had said they believed it was a crime of passion, a core issue in their ultimate decision.

He assumed, however, that the court and attorneys had decided that the jurors could be impartial.

"Those jurors could be attractive to the defense," Gordon said. They could be more inclined to believe that the killing of David Harris wasn't premeditated.

Waites said prosecutors might have believed that the evidence was so overwhelming that they didn't need to challenge the jurors.

Four jurors and one alternate said they had read about the case more than five times, but none of the consultants believed that would significantly influence jurors. Gordon noted that publicity was so widespread that a jury picked in Boise, Idaho, would probably have been exposed to reports about the case.

Two jurors and both alternates said they knew someone who had been killed or murdered. Gordon said tragic loss of life has become so common that he doubted it would influence the jurors' decisions. Waites was reluctant to give much weight to any of the juror comments.

"The best way to predict how a juror is going to vote is to follow the case, see what they see, hear what they hear, and then compare notes to observations made during jury selection," he said.

The gender of jurors also could influence their decisions, but gender alone is never enough to indicate how a juror will ultimately vote, Waites and Keene said.

"We often attribute opinions and attitudes because of gender," Waites said. "But these attributes are seldom accurate."

Waites and Keene said women tended to be harsher in their judgment of other women, but that tendency was less important than their background and their view of the world.

Of the women, Waites said, "in the Harris case, they are going to be looking for information that would justify her committing this murder and judging whether her behavior was forgivable under the circumstances."

"The three men in the case will probably be more interested in looking at the husband's behavior and judging whether he deserved to be murdered as the result of his behavior or whether his murder is justified as the result of his alleged pattern of being unfaithful," he said.

Keene said the jurors would try to decide whether Harris' conduct was in any way understandable or reasonable. "Every woman on that jury has probably been betrayed by a partner," he said. "How they respond, generally speaking, is not to commit homicide."

He said the men were more likely to feel protective.

Keene said the largest obstacle to overcome would be the perception that Harris ignored the welfare of her stepdaughter. "Nobody is going to think it's reasonable to put a child through that," he said.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:39PM*

## **Police search for suspect in salon robbery**

This week's Crime Stoppers report involves the robbery of a woman as she left her business in southwest Houston.

The victim was leaving her hair and beauty salon, Salon Vendome, in the 1700 block of Post Oak, at about 6 p.m. Dec. 4 when a woman approached near the door and displayed a silver handgun. The robber took the business owner's jewelry and the cash from the register. She then fled on foot across the parking lot.

The robber is described as a white female, 40 to 45 years old, 5-foot-5-inches to 5-foot-8-inches tall, 110 to 125 pounds, with dirty blonde, medium-length, wavy hair. She was wearing a long, gold-colored parka with dark slacks.

Anyone with information should contact Laura Clarke at the HPD robbery division at 281-584-4769 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:43PM*

## **Noise bill hits sour note**

Welcome to the politics of noise.

In an effort to turn down the volume in unincorporated Harris County, a Houston lawmaker wants to squelch certain sounds.

A bill introduced by Democratic state Rep. Kevin Bailey would clamp down on barking dogs and booming car stereos, but allow the boom of fireworks, shooting ranges and stadium football games.

The distinction has less to do with noise and more to do with the influence of the lobby, Bailey said.

"We've exempted a couple of people, like fireworks people, who felt it was a backdoor way to prohibit them in the county," said Bailey, who introduced the legislation two years ago with fireworks controls. It never got out of committee.

"But those noises have not been the main concern," he said.

So, what about construction? Under Bailey's bill, which he modeled after the city of Houston's ordinance, it would be OK between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., as long as it wasn't any louder than a vacuum cleaner.

Air conditioners and airplane engines also would be exempt. And lawn mowers? Apparently neither air pollution concerns nor noise problems can silence them.

"The bill isn't near complete enough," said County Commissioner Steve Radack.

Radack said most noise complaints are the result of fireworks. He supports separate bills to ban the use of fireworks throughout the county, except during public fireworks displays.

**Dina Cappiello,**

**Environment beat**

## **Rookie follows in the footsteps of caring police officer**

The past has a strange way of catching up with officers in the line of police work.

Adrian Garcia, director of the mayor's Anti-Gang Office, recently came face to face with a family he met on his very first night on the streets as a 19-year-old Houston police officer in 1980.

Brian Bueno was just a baby then. His mother, Bea Gerard, had been attacked in an attempted purse snatching. She managed to fend off the crook and protect \$850 cash in her purse for her daughter's *quinceañera*. Twenty-three years later, that tot in diapers is a Houston police officer himself. Bueno, now 24, graduated at the top of his cadet class last month. Speaking at his graduation on the mayor's behalf was the very man who inspired him to become a police officer -- Garcia.

Garcia hadn't seen the family in 15 years, and at first did not recognize Bueno -- until he saw Bueno's beaming mother in the audience. "It was a real emotional moment -- it really brought back a lot of memories," Garcia said. "I never thought I'd be in this position -- see 23 years back in my career and see a kid becoming a police officer."

Garcia's first encounter with the family was the essence of "community policing" -- a common goal in law enforcement today, in which officers are encouraged to bond with the community instead of just rushing from call to call.

Bueno's mother had been mugged in the Heights a night or two earlier, and Garcia and his partner stopped by the house to see how she was faring after the scare. She had fought her attacker so hard as she walked home from a bus stop that she lost her shoes. She got away with her purse and cash intact, but "the officer gave me a good scolding and said, 'Don't ever do that again,' " she remembers today.

Garcia formed a friendship with the then-single mother, her infant son and the rest of her family. But over the years, Garcia lost touch with the family. Not until last month did he realize the baby from so long ago had become a man in uniform. Bueno is the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree and graduate from college.

"He exemplifies what we're looking for in the Police Department today. Back then, you could come in with a high school diploma -- that's what I did. Today, they're expecting at least 60 hours of college, but this kid comes in with his bachelor's," Garcia said.

And Garcia is proud of the boy he watched over so long ago. "I remember my hair looking just like that when I came out of the academy," he beamed, looking at Bueno's close cut.

**Peggy O'Hare, police beat**

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:44PM

# Arthur LeBlanc, 80, decorated veteran, community leader

By **EDWARD HEGSTROM**  
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Arthur James LeBlanc Sr., a World War II Purple Heart recipient who went on to form a Houston-area construction company, died Wednesday. He was 80.

Born in Port Arthur and raised in Fort Worth, LeBlanc entered the school now known as Texas A&M University in 1940. But his studies were cut short by the war.

He entered officer candidate school and served as a second lieutenant with the 491st Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 11th Armored Division in Germany, Belgium and Austria. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was injured when a sniper shot him, according to Ed Melson, a friend for more than half a century.

LeBlanc received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, according to his family.

"He was an outstanding soldier who was committed to his country and his community," Melson said.

After returning to graduate with an engineering degree from Texas A&M in 1947, LeBlanc joined a general contracting firm owned by his father, Earl A. LeBlanc Sr.

He later formed Lebco Constructors Inc., and served as its president and chief executive officer until his retirement in 1990. He and his wife, Ann, then moved to an 80-acre ranch in Brenham.

LeBlanc served as a trustee of the Spring Branch Independent School District and as a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, the Houston Livestock Show and many other groups. He was a member of the Lakeside Country Club, the Warwick Club and the Memorial Country Club.

In addition to his wife, LeBlanc is survived by sons Arthur Jr. and John G., and stepson Michael J. Harlan. He also is survived by two sisters, a brother, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and Peggy J. LeBlanc, the mother of his children.

Services were held Sunday in Brenham.

Services were held Sunday in Brenham.

## Deaths elsewhere

**Valery Brumel**, Russian high jumper, an Olympic champion and world record holder in Soviet times from 1961 to 1963, Jan. 26, after a long illness, in Moscow. In 1963 he cleared 7 feet, 5 3/4 inches, a record which stood until 1971. He was 60.

**Forrest "Woody" Hunt IV**, a member of the United States Davis Cup tennis team in 1991, Dec. 21, suicide, in Palos Verdes, Calif. He was 36.

**Marcel Jovine**, award-winning designer of toys and coins, and sculptor of racehorses, Jan. 20, in Greenwich, Conn. He was 81.

**Hisashi Shinto**, the first president of Japanese telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. -- who was forced to resign over a bribery scandal in the late 1980s -- Jan. 26, of pneumonia, in Tokyo. He was 92.

**David Skinner**, a thoracic surgeon and former chairman of surgery at the University of Chicago Hospitals and who guided the merger of New York Hospital and Presbyterian Hospital, Jan. 24, of a stroke, in New York. He was 67.

**Hugh Trevor-Roper**, historian who wrote *The Last Days of Hitler* but sullied his own reputation by incorrectly authenticating diaries said to have been the tyrant's, Jan. 26, of cancer, in London. He was 89.

**George Younger**, a Conservative Party lawmaker who served as defense secretary in the government of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Jan. 26, of cancer, in London. He was 71.

Jan. 26, 2003, 9:30PM

# Houston's International Scene

**By MAE GHALWASH**  
**Chronicle correspondent**

## **Pressure mounts in Saudi Arabia**

Increasing demographic pressures in Saudi Arabia and the sharp clash between its relationship with the United States and its ties with Muslim clerics will determine the stability of the kingdom, America's biggest oil supplier, in the next few years, a New York-based analyst said Friday.

Internally, Saudi Arabia is faced with aging rulers, dissatisfied youths and increasing discontent over the lack of distribution of power and wealth, Crispin Hawes, director of the Middle East Practice, Eurasia Group, said in Houston.

Age among the Saudi rulers is a big question. King Fahd, 81, handed over power to Crown Prince Abdullah in 1998 due to his debilitating illness. If succession goes according to tradition, Abdullah, who is in his late 70s will succeed Fahd, and Defense Minister Prince Sultan, who is in his mid-70s, will succeed Abdullah, Hawes said.

There is also increasing resentment over the lack of distribution of power and wealth, which is allotted to the ruling Al-Saud clan, their relations and tribes that they are friendly with, Hawes said. This leaves out a significant portion of the population, particularly in the eastern and western provinces, whose people are not of, or in favor with, the Al-Saud clan, he added.

Two-thirds of Saudi Arabia's population is under 40; every child-bearing woman has an average of six children. This coupled with the poverty and unemployment among the out-of-favor clans is breeding resentment, said Hawes, who conceded there are no official figures for poverty and unemployment rates.

Disenfranchised young men have demonstrated regularly in eastern towns, and possibly in some western towns, over the lack of distribution of power and wealth, lack of democracy, and also against the government's foreign policies, Hawes said, basing that on the accounts of frequent travelers to the kingdom.

Internationally, Saudi Arabia's deteriorating relationship with the United States will also affect its stability, Hawes said, since America is a significant trading partner and lends the Saudi regime military support.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Washington has been pushing Riyadh to adopt democratic policies in its belief that the lack of democracy pushed many Saudi youths to join Muslim fundamentalist groups. But Hawes points out that the Al-Saud monarchy is an absolute one, with no democratic institutions like a legislative body. Further, if the Al-Saud clan were to institute a constitutional monarchy as in England, this would mean holding elections "which they wouldn't win. They are extremely unpopular," Hawes said.

Hawes dismissed a Wednesday announcement that Saudi Arabia will call at an Arab summit in March for internal reform and increased political participation in Arab states as empty words solely aimed at pleasing the United States.

Most importantly, Hawes believes that Saudi Arabia's dependency on the United States and its ties with the Wahabi Muslim clerical establishment, from which it derives its legitimacy among the people -- are at last coming to a head. This clash was inevitable, Hawes said, because the West has always considered the Saudi's ties with the Wahabi clerics with suspicion, just as the Wahabi clerics have deemed Riyadh's ties with the West as evil.

### **Mexican bank opens quake account**

The Mexican bank Banorte has opened a special account in the United States to which donations can be made to help the victims of last week's earthquake in the state of Colima, the Mexican consul general in Houston said. The donations can be processed via electronic transfer to the bank using the following code: Banorte ABA: MENOMXMP.

Use the account name: Gobierno del Estado de Colima.

Account number: 00437016984.

For more information, call the Mexican Consulate at 713-271-6800.

### **International calendar:**

· **China:** The Chinese Community Center will celebrate the 2003 Chinese New Year Festival Saturday. The festivities will include dragon and lion dancers, martial arts performances, fortune tellers, Chinese games and entertainment for children and young people. Asian foods, arts, jewelry and plants will be for sale. The event will be at the community center at 5855 Sovereign Drive. Call 713-271-6100 for information.

· **Lebanon:** Ann Zwicker Kerr, author and widow of Malcolm Kerr, the president of the American University in Beirut who was assassinated in 1984 in Lebanon, will sign her books at a benefit for the AUB Alumni Association at 5 p.m. on Saturday at Borders, 3025 Kirby. The event will benefit the

chapter's scholarship fund. Reservations are required. Call 281-759-2269.

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:43PM

## News briefs

State

### **No sign of missing teens after week of searching**

GROVETON -- A week of searching has failed to locate two Houston-area teenagers missing at Lake Livingston since Jan. 19.

Trinity County Sheriff's police believe Melissa Mercer, 17, and her boyfriend, Kevin Young, 17, drowned during a boating excursion. Divers have been used in an attempt to recover their bodies.

The teens were at the lake vacationing with the Mercer family. Their open-bowed aluminum boat was recovered Jan. 20 with life jackets and oars still in it.

The search resumes today.

### **Drug case could cost county's doctor his job**

THROCKMORTON -- Some Throckmorton County residents are holding their breath these days, hoping drug and alcohol abuse allegations against Dr. Richard Hubner won't cost the physician his job.

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners placed Hubner, the only doctor in the rural North Texas county, on five years' probation last month after he was accused of drug and alcohol abuse. Similar allegations got Hubner fired from an Azle health clinic in Tarrant County in 2001, the Abilene Reporter-News reported Sunday.

Hubner, 54, denied he had done anything wrong but agreed to accept the board's discipline.

### **Former pastor faces child-porn charges**

WACO -- A former Methodist minister in Bosque County has been charged with possession of child pornography, accused of collecting and trading the illegal images on his church computer.

The Rev. James Ray Jones, a 56-year-old former pastor of First United Methodist Church in Clifton, was charged last week in Waco's federal court.

Jones was implicated in an FBI sting operation after agents said he sent images of child pornography to an undercover FBI agent he met in an Internet chat room.

FBI agents executed search warrants at the church parsonage in Clifton and at Jones' church office in March 2002 and seized evidence of child pornography from Jones' computers.

If convicted, Jones faces up to five years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000.

Area

### **Accidental shooting kills man attending party**

A southwest Houston man was fatally shot early Sunday by a friend showing a pistol to people at a party, police said.

Alejandro Rios, 20, was shot about 4:15 a.m. in the 5400 block of Beverly Hill. Rios, of the 5800 block of Valverde, later died at Ben Taub General Hospital after he was struck once in the head.

Police said a large amount of alcohol was served at the party that began Saturday afternoon. The victim's friend, believing the pistol was unloaded, pointed it at Rios and fired, HPD investigators said.

No charges had been filed by late Sunday.

### **House fire kills woman, hospitalizes husband**

A Jacinto City woman was killed in a house fire Sunday and her husband was hospitalized for smoke inhalation, officials said.

The fire was apparently ignited by a space heater about 5:20 p.m., fire officials said. The body of the woman was found in the charred remains of the home, located in the 1100 block of Oswego, after firefighters had doused the flames.

Authorities would not release the names of the victims Sunday night. The man was transported to East Houston Regional Hospital.

### **Accident leaves driver dead, passenger injured**

A one-car crash in northwest Houston early Sunday claimed the driver's life and sent a passenger to the hospital, police said.

The 1992 Cadillac DeVille was traveling north in the 2700 block of Brittmoore about 2 a.m. when the

driver lost control of the vehicle. The car left the roadway, struck a tree and flipped over, police said.

The driver was dead at the scene, and a passenger in the car was hospitalized with both legs broken. Harris County medical examiners had not identified the driver late Sunday.

The names of the victims were not immediately available.

## **HFD chief's vehicle involved in car crash**

In the second such accident involving a firefighter in as many days, a Houston fire chief's vehicle was struck by a car early Sunday.

The HFD chief was responding to an apartment fire about 3 a.m. when his vehicle was struck head-on at Parker and Jensen in northeast Houston. He wasn't injured, but the other driver was treated at Ben Taub General Hospital, officials said.

On Saturday, an HFD paramedic heading to an accident scene suffered several cracked vertebrae when a white Lexus struck her vehicle at Bellaire and Renwick. The force of the impact caused the HFD vehicle to flip over. The paramedic's injuries were not considered life-threatening, officials said at the time.

*From staff and wire reports*

Jan. 26, 2003, 6:25PM

# Time to review your holdings

By **AARON LUCCHETTI**  
**The Wall Street Journal**

Now hitting your mailbox with an unwelcome thud: the year-end mutual-fund statement.

Row after row, column after column, the report outlines in excruciating detail how at least the stock portion of your portfolio lost money during 2002. But in many performance reviews, some important facts are missing. Among them: how much you have actually made or lost since you put your first dollar into the account.

Long-term performance may sound like a central number that belongs in any account statement.

But count yourself lucky if you receive such information regularly.

For example, only about 10 percent of the financial-services companies that operate retirement plans tell investors in quarterly statements how much money they have made or lost during the life of the portfolio, according to a survey released last month by Dalbar, a Boston research firm.

About 55 percent of 401(k) providers show investors their personalized rate of return - a measure that takes into account fund performance as well as investor contributions and withdrawals, according to the survey.

But on many statements, those personalized figures are included only for the most recent quarter or year, not since the start of the account.

The upshot is that most investors have only a vague idea how well their retirement accounts have done over the long term. They can see that their account balance today totals, say, \$52,600, but it is hard to tell whether they have gotten to that point after investing \$40,000 that grew or by investing \$60,000 that shrank.

The long-term performance number is especially foggy for the bulk of investors who contribute money to their 401(k) retirement plans each pay period.

John Markese, president of the American Association of Individual Investors, says that it's "almost impossible for average investors to calculate how they're doing." That information is "critically

important" for people wanting to compare the performance of their current investments against that of competing funds or other savings options, he adds.

Don Lord, an investor in Jackson, La., who has invested in multiple retirement plans since the mid-1980s, couldn't agree more. "I've never seen a fund statement that really delineates how much you've lost or gained," he says. Because of that, Lord says he often just tosses his annual reports aside without looking at them. "I'd stop and figure it out myself if I had the time, but I'm too busy."

Of course, some experts say investors are better off looking forward than dwelling on the past, particularly when that past has been such a painful period for returns. "I don't think it's particularly important" for investors to know exactly how much money they have lost, says Richard Thaler, an economist at the University of Chicago. Rather, he says, investors should focus on long-term goals such as whether they are investing the right amounts in stocks, bonds and cash to live comfortably when they retire.

But apart from morbid curiosity with their results lately, people sometimes have a legitimate need to determine the long-term performance of their investment accounts, most often for tax reasons. Those holding investments outside tax-sheltered plans need to know the cost basis -- or what they originally paid for their investments -- to figure out whether they have capital gains or losses on fund shares they have sold. For taxable investments, knowing the cost basis can also be key to executing tax-savvy strategies such as matching highest-cost investments to lowest sale price to minimize capital gains.

Here is a rundown of useful information for gauging your long-term investment performance and how to get it.

**Cost Basis:** Even though this helpful measure doesn't appear on many performance statements, it's tracked by most fund firms. By knowing their cost basis, investors can compare what they put into an account with what they have now.

Fund firms publish varying amounts of information about cost basis though, depending on the type of investor.

So most taxable investors will find some data about cost basis in their fund statements, but it may not be comprehensive for the entire account. It is most often listed separately for each fund.

Then there are investors in tax-sheltered retirement accounts such as individual retirement accounts, 401(k), 403(b) or similar plans. For the millions of investors with funds in these plans, fund firms offer much less cost-basis data. That is because these investors don't have immediate tax concerns and therefore don't need to keep as close an eye on their cost basis.

Money withdrawn from these accounts will be taxed at ordinary income rates, no matter what the investor paid for them.

Investors who can't find cost-basis information on their statement can often get answers by calling a fund shareholder representative or checking the fund firm's Web site.

**Contributions and withdrawals:** Knowing the cost basis of one or two funds doesn't reveal what the long-term performance of an account has been. It is also essential to know how much money you have added and subtracted from the account and when those changes were made.

Pack-rat investors may be able to figure out where they stand by using past fund statements to tally each year's contributions. But a handful of large 401(k) providers such as Fidelity Investments and T. Rowe Price Associates show investors in statements how much money has been contributed to their retirement plan since the inception of the account. Still other firms such as Deutsche Bank's Scudder Investments and Charles Schwab Corp. show the same information in a line graph. Investors who have withdrawn money or taken loans from their retirement plans may have to track down that data elsewhere in the statement.

**Personalized account performance:** This sums up in one number how well your investments have done over some period. Expressed as a percentage, it takes into account not only fund performance and contributions, but also the effect of an investor switching between funds. So if this number is unsatisfying, you might have to share some of the blame with the mutual-fund manager.

A number of fund firms offer personalized results for investors' portfolios for the most recent period, usually over the past quarter or 12 months.

A handful, such as American Century Investments, Janus Capital Group's Janus Capital Management and T. Rowe Price, include personal-return calculations for longer periods, too.

Vanguard Group, the second-largest fund firm, after Fidelity, offers more information about personalized returns on its 401(k) Web site than in statements sent to shareholders. Specifically, the Web site provides investors' personal rate of return over the past one, three and five years, a longer-term view than the year-end statement that shows only a one-year return.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 6:22PM*

# **S&P's PowerPicks show solid returns**

**By JAMES K. GLASSMAN**  
**Washington Post**

The research team at Standard & Poor's concocted its first PowerPicks in 1997. Since then, these annual portfolios, announced in January and unchanged during the year, have returned 13.9 percent, compared with 10.7 percent for the benchmark S&P 500 index.

The 2003 list of 40 stocks, one each from S&P's sector analysts, includes this intriguing, diversified dozen:

FedEx Corp., package delivery; Nucor Corp., steel; P.F. Chang's China Bistro, restaurant chain; Eli Lilly, pharmaceuticals; Houston-based Nabors Industries, oil and gas drilling; Cisco Systems, technology infrastructure; Houston-based Sysco Corp., food distribution; Citigroup, finance; Toys R Us, retail; Precision Castparts, jet-engine parts; Corinthian Colleges, for-profit education; and Entergy, electric and gas utility.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 10:44PM*

# Retailers to offer music downloads in stores, on Web

## Associated Press

LOS ANGELES -- Six retail record store chains -- hurting from competition from CD burning, online music and large discount stores -- are teaming to offer consumers digital music downloads in their stores and over the Internet.

The stores have formed a joint venture called Echo that will provide technology and allow them to offer individual tracks for downloading to portable devices and computers.

The stores are Best Buy, Tower Records, Virgin Entertainment Group, Wherehouse Music, Hastings Entertainment Inc. and Trans World Entertainment Corp., operator of FYE, Strawberries and Coconuts stores.

"We're trying to make digital music work in a mass market way, for millions of people," said Dan Hart, chief executive of Echo. "That hasn't happened yet."

Last year, the major record labels formed their own, competing subscription-based online music services, but those legal alternatives to unauthorized file-swapping services such as Napster and Kazaa have yet to catch on with consumers.

The record labels have blamed the popularity of such illegal services for the decline in music sales in recent years.

The retail music stores also are suffering. Wherehouse Inc. recently filed for bankruptcy protection, citing illegal downloads as well as competition from discount stores such as Wal-Mart. Tower Records hopes to avoid bankruptcy by closing stores and dropping CD prices.

The Echo consortium members hope to leverage their existing relationships with customers and the record labels to package off-line and online music.

Individual retailers will decide how to use the technology and music provided by Echo, Hart said. For example, stores could offer digital music tracks on a handout CD, allowing customers to access some of them for free and charging a fee to listen to the rest. Portable players could come pre-loaded with music that customers could listen to for a fee.

Retailers also could allow customers to download tracks at in-store kiosks or over Internet sites, such as Radio Free Virgin.

Hart said he believes the Echo model can work where the recording industry-sponsored services have not.

"I think consumers will pay, but you have to provide the greater level of value," he said. "We're the traditional trading partner of the labels. We understand marketing and how to provide value to consumers."

On Friday, national magazine distributor Anderson Merchandisers bought the technology and some other assets of defunct Internet music company Liquid Audio. The company said it hopes to offer music through the Internet sites of retailers such as Wal-Mart, although no deals have yet been made.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 6:19PM*

# Tracking down college aid often hard for the neediest

**By MARK HELM**  
**Hearst News Service**

WASHINGTON -- When it comes to financial aid for college, those who need it the most -- and have the best chance of getting help -- are the least likely to know how to find assistance.

According to a recent Harris Poll, two-thirds of African-American and Hispanic parents said that they don't have enough information about how to pay for college. Only 44 percent of white parents said the same.

The survey also found that 60 percent of parents with incomes under \$50,000 said they need more information about how to pay for college, compared with only 37 percent of parents with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

Experts say that lack of knowledge leads many black, Hispanic and lower-income students to give up on their dreams of attending college.

"Many of these kids simply don't know how much help is available, so they assume they can't afford school," says Joyce Smith, executive director of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

According to the Harris Poll, one in four young adults who considered college but chose not to attend said that they would have been more likely to enroll if they had had better information about how to pay for school.

The poll also found that more than two-thirds of parents with incomes under \$25,000 could not identify basic sources of financial aid such as scholarships, grants or loans. It also revealed that many parents misjudge tuition costs by as much as 50 percent in either direction.

The telephone survey of 1,090 parents with college-aged children was conducted Sept. 3 through Oct. 6. Harris also surveyed 811 college-aged adults.

An education, even in public universities, is not cheap. The average cost of tuition, room and board for the 2002-2003 school year is \$9,663 at a public university and \$25,052 at a private institution, according

to the College Board, a nonprofit group representing the nation's colleges and universities.

Stephen Heyman, a spokesman for the Sallie Mae Fund in Washington, the philanthropic arm of the giant student loan company, recommends that students and parents interested in financial aid should speak with their child's high school guidance counselor, teachers and the financial aid office of any university their child is considering.

Parents and students also can call Sallie Mae Fund's toll-free number, 866-858-7166, which offers information on paying for college and financial aid in both English and Spanish.

For parents and students with Internet access, Heyman recommends these Web sites:

- [www.ed.gov/studentaid](http://www.ed.gov/studentaid).
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- [www.collegeispossible.com](http://www.collegeispossible.com).

Those planning to enroll this fall should take steps now to become eligible for help, Heyman says.

The first step for parents and students is submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. This is the form the government uses to determine eligibility for federal aid.

Colleges and universities also use the form to determine how much aid to award. A copy of the FAFSA is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

There are advantages to filing the FAFSA early, Heyman says. Many schools give out aid on a first-come, first-serve basis. "If you're late, you may miss out on some funds," he says.

Aid experts recommend that the FAFSA be filed before the end of February.

By filling out the form, students and their parents are eligible for the major federal sources of aid, including:

- Pell grants: Awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Pell Grants, like others, do not need to be paid back.
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant: Awarded to eligible undergraduate students based on financial need.
- Federal work study: Part-time employment for eligible students.

- Federal Perkins loans: Low-interest loans for eligible low-income students. The government pays the interest while the borrower is in school.
- Stafford loans: Low-interest loans issued by private lenders or directly through the federal government.
- Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students: Federal loans available to parents. Parents can borrow up to the full cost of college, minus any financial aid. The parent, not the student, is responsible for repaying the loan.

Along with federal aid, students should seek out scholarships, which, like grants, do not have to be repaid. Thousands of organizations offer scholarships, yet many of them go unclaimed. The scholarships are rarely advertised, so you have to look for them. You can search for scholarships for free at [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com) and [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

Jan. 26, 2003, 6:22PM

# Social Security changes slated

## Age for retirement increasing

By EILEEN ALT POWELL  
Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Allan Wikman knows the pluses and minuses of life on Social Security.

The 70-year-old retiree from Kingston, N.Y., has lived on his monthly benefit checks of about \$1,000 -- and the largesse of friends -- for the past eight years.

"I scratch to make ends meet," Wikman said. "I rent an apartment from a very accommodating landlady. I don't go to the movies. I don't drink anymore. I don't smoke anymore. I don't even buy books, but get them from the library. I've learned to do without."

Like Wikman, four in 10 of the nation's retirees count on Social Security checks for almost all of their monthly income, according to a recent study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington, D.C.

Despite its importance in underpinning American retirement, few workers pay much attention to Social Security.

This year, with a number of changes going into effect, it's a good time to take a fresh look at what the program can and can't do, experts say.

Starting in 2003, the age at which Americans qualify for full benefits will rise above 65 for the first time. That means Americans are expected to work longer.

Someone born in 1938 will have to reach 65 years and two months to receive benefits. The qualifying age gradually rises until it reaches 66 for people born between 1943 and 1954, and 67 for people born in 1960 or later.

In addition, higher-income Americans as well as many who are self-employed will see their Social Security taxes rise this year.

Earnings subject to tax will increase to \$87,000 from the current \$84,900. That will raise the maximum

tax paid by both employees and their employers to \$5,394. Self-employed people will pay both shares for a total of \$10,788.

Social Security beneficiaries -- some 32 million retirees, 7 million survivors of deceased workers and 7 million disabled workers and their families -- will get a 1.4 percent cost-of-living increase in their benefits. But some of that will be eaten up by an increase in the deduction for Medicare coverage.

The average retiree's check will rise to \$895 a month, or \$1,483 for a couple -- not a lot to live on, said Don Silver, author of *Baby Boomer Retirement*.

Those figures should be wake-up calls to workers, to make them understand that Social Security is a supplemental program and that they need to save more, he said.

"The problem is consumerism, a big inclination to spend and not to save," Silver said. "People seem to think it will work out like a television show, that it will all come together in the end. This is not television."

Still, Silver said, people should appreciate the importance of Social Security: "It's a life preserver. It will keep your head above water."

Wikman understands that.

"You can have bare subsistence living on Social Security," he said. "But if you don't have savings, you don't have choices."

Workers can find out what benefits they'll eventually qualify for by monitoring the Social Security statement they should get in the mail about three months before a birthday. Those who don't get their forms can ask for one at the Social Security Administration's Web site, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or by calling 800-772-1213.

Social Security Administration spokeswoman Carolyn Cheezum said workers should carefully check the earnings listed for each year they've worked.

"You want the numbers to be accurate because ultimately your Social Security benefit is based on your earnings," she said.

Workers next should look at their benefit estimates and "use them in your financial planning," she said.

The Social Security Administration estimates that the average worker can expect a retirement benefit that represents about 40 percent of his or her average lifetime earnings, leaving a big gap to fill with pensions and savings.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:22PM

## FOCUS: TECHNOLOGY

# Rural areas building their own broadband access

By **BRIAN BERGSTEIN**

**Associated Press**

If you ever wince after opening your cable bill, you're not going to like this: The good folks in Glasgow, Ky., pay \$19 a month for 70 cable channels, and for an additional \$25 they can get blazing fast Internet access.

How do they get prices nearly half the national average?

Because the city-owned electric utility provides cable TV and Internet access over wires that also monitor power usage in the town of 14,000. The utility isn't trying to profit from the service -- just recover its costs.

Utility superintendent William Ray estimates that since Glasgow began offering cable in 1989, \$32 million of residents' money has stayed in town that otherwise might have been vacuumed by giant telecommunications companies -- which often don't offer advanced services in rural areas like Glasgow anyway.

"It's like an armored car wrecking in the streets once a year and spreading money in the streets for people to grab for themselves," Ray says.

Frustrated with the high cost and slow pace of broadband deployment in much of the country, 511 publicly owned utilities now provide telecom services for residents, schools, city agencies and their internal operations, up nearly 14 percent from a year ago, according to the American Public Power Association.

Some utilities built networks from scratch. Others extended infrastructure they already had, such as fiber-optic lines and networking equipment needed to monitor power flow or remote substations.

Not surprisingly, big phone and cable companies hate this, and have fought with some success to block public gas, water and electric utilities from providing telecom services. Eleven states bar or restrict the practice, sometimes by imposing artificial costs on municipal telecoms so the prices they charge end up closer to what private companies offer.

But things may be looking up for municipal telecoms -- thanks to recent favorable court rulings, weakness in the private telecom industry and a technological breakthrough that lets data be transmitted over power lines.

"A very large number of communities across the country are beginning to realize this is like the history of electrification all over again, and if they don't help themselves, they're not going to get advanced communications services any time in the foreseeable future," said Jim Baller, an attorney who has represented municipal telecoms in several cases. "Recognition of that is forcing legislatures to take a second look -- even ones that had enacted barriers."

City-owned utilities -- which generally buy their cable programming from a cooperative in Kansas and connect to the Internet by leasing facilities from big data carriers -- don't have to be rivals of telecom companies.

For example, in Washington state, which prohibits utilities from selling retail telecom services, several public power providers are becoming "carriers' carriers" -- building fiber networks that private Internet and phone providers can lease.

But generally, private companies say municipal telecoms create unfair competition because they have no need to make profits or pay off debts quickly, have preferential access to digging streets and other "rights of way" and are owned by cities that have regulatory power over the industry.

"The mere existence of the competition is not really an issue for us," said Rob Stoddard, spokesman for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association. "The issue is more that the competitive playing field seems tilted in favor of municipalities."

The industry's arguments also stray into other realms.

In Palo Alto, Calif., where the public utility is considering spending \$50 million building fiber-optic connections to every home, a SBC Pacific Bell executive gave officials "MuniToons," a memo describing municipal telecoms as "folly."

Among its contentions: Municipal telecoms hurt a town's tax base and may violate the First Amendment by placing the distribution of media content under government ownership.

Baller, the utilities lawyer, believes nearly every sentence in MuniToons is "incorrect or misleading or a half-truth." Even SBC spokesman Kevin Belgrade said the document doesn't exactly reflect the company's position.

Richard Carlson, chairman of Palo Alto's utility advisory committee, wasn't swayed by Munitoons. Nevertheless, he worries that a civic fiber network might lose out to private competition or become

obsolete in a few years.

Ultimately, the municipal telecom fight boils down to two words: "any" and "entity."

The 1996 Telecommunications Act -- meant to usher the nation into the digital age -- said no state or city could prohibit "any entity" from providing "any" telecom service.

With that in mind, officials in Abilene, Texas, asked the Federal Communications Commission to let them wire their own broadband network despite a 1995 Texas law banning municipal telecoms.

But the FCC agreed with phone and cable companies that Congress wasn't absolutely clear whether it meant for utilities to be "entities" protected by the law. The agency declined to overrule Texas.

A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., let the decision stand.

Since then, a federal district court in Virginia and the Nebraska Supreme Court have seen things differently, ruling in favor of municipal telecoms. Most importantly, so has a federal appeals court in Missouri.

In hopes of getting clarity on the issue, Missouri's attorney general plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, municipal telecoms are finding new ways to offer broadband -- such as wireless antennas recently installed on water towers in Carthage, Mo. -- and soon could have another method.

Private electric companies are experimenting with a new technology that delivers data over existing power lines. So is the city-owned electric utility in Manassas, Va., which provides broadband to city departments but not residents.

"The interest in that is very high," said Ron Lunt, the American Public Power Association's telecom director. "It is a natural fit."

Jan. 26, 2003, 6:21PM

# Cut it out, send it in: Use of rebates climbs as spending dwindles

By **BILL HUSTED**  
Cox News Service

When it comes to drawing a crowd at the consumer electronics store, the bait is a rebate.

With money tight and spending down, manufacturers and retailers are increasingly turning to rebate coupons. While you'll find rebates for everything from cars to toothpaste, growth is especially noticeable in the consumer electronics market.

Maybe you've seen it for yourself. Just open an in-store flier for your favorite consumer electronics store, and you'll see dozens of offers.

Knowing how rebates work -- for the manufacturer, the retailer and the consumer -- can save you time, aggravation and, best of all, a few bucks.

At the top of the food chain, manufacturers use rebate coupons to boost consumer interest and induce retailers to give their product more shelf space. In the middle, retailers love rebate coupons because they bring potential customers into the store during tough times. Come in to use your \$100 rebate coupon for a computer, and before you're out of the store you've also purchased a digital camera. At the bottom of the chain, consumers get a price break.

It's no mystery why electronics rebates are more common now. It's all about thin wallets and the desire to save a buck.

Ken Bernhardt, a professor of marketing at Georgia State University, said the use of rebates is growing because of the faltering economy.

"In a down economy, consumers tend to become more price-sensitive," Bernhardt said. "One major advantage of a rebate is that it gives a discount to consumers who are price-sensitive without necessarily having to lower the price for the market as a whole."

## Jumping through hoops

As you might have guessed, not everyone uses the coupon. Only the persistent survive the process of following the complex procedures required. Even then, you may have other hoops to clear.

"You've got to hound the manufacturer and still you might not get your money," said Cliff Johnson of Roswell, Ga. Like many shoppers, he keeps his eyes out for rebate coupons. The last time he tried to redeem a rebate, it took calls and e-mail to the manufacturer to get his money.

"God forbid that you have to use the phone," he said, still shuddering from the experience. "You follow up and follow up and get a lot of excuses."

Consumers like Johnson worry about getting ripped off. But then, so do manufacturers, Bernhardt said. All that paperwork you have to send in is necessary, he said.

"Manufacturers have to protect themselves against fraud," he said. "If people could send in Xerox copies, they could send it in a million times. It's fraud protection rather than trying to cheat the consumer."

Clark Howard, an Atlanta radio talk show host and national authority on consumer affairs, isn't so sure. He's not a big fan of rebates. His Web site, [www.clarkhoward.com](http://www.clarkhoward.com), carries this warning: "Many rebate companies just don't pay out the money. Before you purchase any product tied into a rebate program, ask yourself if you would buy it regardless of the rebate. In other words, don't buy the cake for the icing."

It's easy to understand why managing a rebate program is an expensive and time-consuming task for manufacturers. Most wouldn't do it at all if they didn't have to.

"In a perfect world, where the products a manufacturers has to sell perfectly fit the demand, you probably wouldn't see rebates," said Jim Murphy, vice president of merchandizing for consumer electronics giant Philips Electronics.

## **Big-ticket deals**

Since times are tough now, you're likely to find high-ticket rebate coupons. Some rebates -- for computers, for instance -- can amount to \$100 or even \$200.

And there are some truly unbelievable deals out there. Atlanta-based Peachtree Software often uses a rebate offer that seems too good to be true.

In the trade, it's called a "net to zero" promotion. Boiled down to plain talk, it means that -- after using a coupon or several coupons -- you get the product free.

And you thought there was no such thing as a free lunch. There isn't. There are profits down the line for Peachtree Software. Kevin Thornton, director of channel sales for Peachtree, said the cost of the rebate is a marketing expense used to attract and keep customers.

The theory is that once a customer starts using Peachtree's accounting software, that person is more likely to buy the next version. And free is a powerful inducement.

The bigger the offer, the more likely the rebate coupon will be redeemed. But a surprising number of consumers don't bother, even with high-value rebates, Bernhardt said.

Companies count on that, too. One study by A.C. Nielsen found that 45 percent of all consumers don't redeem their rebate coupons. The study said the major reasons included consumers saying they're too busy and didn't want to take the time to do the paperwork. The loss of proofs of purchase was another major reason.

One example cited in the study makes it easy to see why consumers feel cynical about rebates:

"For example, Valvoline offered a \$2.40 rebate with the purchase of 12 quarts of motor oil. The proofs of purchase consisted of the emblems from the cardboard container housing the oil. However, removal of the emblems required great care, since cutting too deep would result in oil leaking out."

*Jan. 26, 2003, 6:26PM*

# 401(k) liability worries employers

**Washington Post**

How's your 401(k) plan doing? If you're like a lot of workers, you've been spending some time worrying about that question.

Well, your employer is probably worrying, too, according to a survey by benefits consultant Hewitt Associates.

Specifically, the employer may be worrying that you -- or someone -- will sue over your retirement plan's performance or any advice that company personnel might give you regarding your investments.

The survey of more than 200 companies shows that employers' top priority for 2003 will be "ensuring employees appreciate the 401(k) plan," followed by "seeking to reduce the risk of liability and exposure to lawsuits."

This nervousness isn't helping anybody, Hewitt experts said.

"Employers are exercising more caution than ever," consultant Lori Lucas said in a statement. When "extreme caution" causes employers to hesitate to help workers with retirement and investing decisions, "it's an issue," she said.

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:39PM

# Dinosaur tracks found by UTEP student

## Associated Press

SUNLAND PARK, N.M. -- Researchers are studying more than 500 dinosaur tracks believed to be 100 million years old that were discovered in Dona Ana County last summer.

The property at the base of Mount Cristo Rey -- where the tracks are located -- is owned by a private company seeking to expand its mining operation.

But the company president said he wants the tracks to be preserved where they sit.

Last summer Eric Kappus, a master's student at the University of Texas-El Paso, took off on his own while measuring rocks in the area. Kappus, 28, came across some indentations in the rock and quickly realized he had stumbled across a large bed of dinosaur tracks.

Now Kappus and university professors estimate there are more than 500 tracks in about six sites around the mountain.

"This is going to be a major site as far as dinosaurs are concerned," said William Cornell, Kappus' geology professor at UTEP.

Some of the sites are packed with so many tracks that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other, Cornell said.

The tracks are located on the 394-plus acres owned by American Eagle Brick Co., and President George Cudahy said he would "preserve and protect the tracks into perpetuity."

Cudahy said he intends to allow the scientists to continue their work of preserving, evaluating and perhaps expanding the site.

The discovery rewrites what scientists originally thought was the path of dinosaurs in the North American continent, said Lucas Spencer, the curator of paleontology at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, in Albuquerque.

Spencer, one of the scientists assisting Kappus, visited the site last month.

Tracks of dinosaurs from about the same age have been discovered close to Farmington in San Juan County. There are slightly older tracks about 300 miles to the east in Texas, UTEP's Cornell explained Friday, when he announced the discovery.

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:30PM

## U.S. Muslim leader's return stalled by INS

By **DON BABWIN**  
**Associated Press**

CHICAGO -- The president of a Chicago-area Muslim group said Sunday he still had not learned why immigration officials denied him permission to return to the United States after he visited his parents in Jordan.

Sabri Samirah, president of the United Muslim Americans Association in suburban Palos Hills, said he was returning to Chicago on Jan. 18 after a three-week visit to Jordan when officials at Ireland's Shannon Airport said he could not return to the United States.

He said they cited a fax from Brian Perryman, the Immigration and Naturalization Service director in Chicago, revoking his permission to leave the country.

"I am waiting for more details from the INS about why they decided to bar me from going back to my home, my family and my work," Samirah said from his parents' home in Jordan. "I am here in Jordan, and my hands are tied and I feel very powerless."

"They said he was a security risk, but they never explained what the risk is," said Manal El-Hrisse, spokeswoman for Samirah's political advocacy group.

The INS has not commented about Samirah's case but has said that people who have applied for but not received permanent residency -- even those with the "advanced parole" papers Samirah said he received to travel -- are not guaranteed re-entry into the United States.

Calls to the Chicago INS office on Sunday by the Associated Press went unanswered.

Samirah, 36, said Irish authorities held him in a cell overnight and told him he could either buy a return ticket to Jordan or remain in jail for days or weeks "until an Irish judge decides what to do with you."

Samirah said he had lived in the United States for 15 years and had not returned to Jordan since 1990, in part to give U.S. officials time to investigate him and determine that he was not a threat to the United States.

"Political groups that do not agree with my opinions started spreading rumors that I had links to illegal

groups," he said. "I am aware the INS and FBI investigated, and they found nothing because I have the cleanest of records."

He said his lawyers in Chicago were trying to persuade INS officials to let him return.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:34PM

# Park Service may privatize jobs

## Critics say resources could get short shrift in quest for savings

By **JULIE CART**  
**Los Angeles Times**

WASHINGTON -- As part of its push to privatize federal workers, the Bush administration has identified about 70 percent of full-time jobs in the National Park Service as potential candidates for replacement by private-sector employees.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who oversees the Park Service, has earmarked 11,807 of 16,470 full-time positions for possible privatization. They range from maintenance and secretarial jobs to archeologist and biologist positions.

Interior Department officials stressed, however, that the number of people replaced would not be nearly that high. Moreover, they said law enforcement personnel, managerial staff and most park rangers would keep their jobs.

But some of the people who have come to embody the institution's 86-year-old tradition of public service, as they greet visitors and lead them on nature walks, could be replaced by volunteers.

Critics fear that the outsourcing of federal positions, including the jobs of the Park Service's corps of scientists, could undermine protection of the nation's vast inventory of archeological and paleontological sites within parks and hand over the care of forests, seashores and wildlife to private companies not steeped in the Park Service culture of resource protection.

"This is about respect for professionals. It is about a recognition that people spend a lifetime learning their profession and how to resist pressures -- political or commercial -- in the public interest," said Roger Kennedy, who directed the Park Service during the Clinton administration.

"The public understands that parks are not parking lots -- they are places that require a high degree of professional skill to manage. Not just anyone can do it."

The potential cuts are part of the Bush administration's effort to identify as many as 850,000 federal jobs that could be performed by private-sector employees.

Park Service Director Fran Minella said she wants to maintain uniformed personnel in the parks as a "public face" to visitors. Still, some duties performed by rangers, such as nature walks, could be conducted by volunteers, Park Service officials said.

Interior Department officials say there is little likelihood that all of the jobs identified by Minella will be outsourced.

Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Scott Cameron said he anticipated that no more than 4 percent of the current workers would actually lose their jobs.

He said much of the changeover would occur as employees retire. Cameron estimated that about 20 percent of the Park Service staff will reach retirement age in the next five years.

The positions identified by Norton will be examined to determine if they can be eliminated or filled more cheaply and efficiently with nongovernmental contract employees.

Park Service employees would be given a chance to argue why they are better equipped to perform their jobs than private-sector workers.

Officials say the injection of free market-style competition would bring out the best in employees.

"This is a way to capture the benefits of competition to produce better performance and better value," Cameron said. "Competition makes for a much more exciting Lakers game than if only one team were on the court."

But critics say the responsibility of overseeing the country's 388 parks and monuments is too important to entrust to people with little or no preparation for working in the nation's park system.

"The Park Service is not a business enterprise," said Frank Buono, a former assistant superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park and a former manager of Mojave National Preserve.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and others charge that replacing Park Service scientists with "hired hands" would create a conflict of interest.

"There is a fundamental ideological binge that the free enterprise system will heal all wounds and solve all problems. Ask Enron about the efficiency of the unregulated private marketplace."

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:17PM*

# **Terrorism, Texas Tech episode place labs under microscope**

**By SCOTT SHANE**  
**Baltimore Sun**

For three decades, Dr. Thomas C. Butler pursued medical science with quiet dedication at Texas Tech University, treating patients, publishing research papers and occasionally flying off to India or East Africa to study diseases.

But only this month did he achieve fame. After Butler reported 30 vials containing plague bacteria missing, about 60 local, state and federal law enforcement agents swooped down on the medical school as word of the bioterrorism scare was broadcast worldwide.

When the scientist then admitted that he had, in fact, destroyed the samples, he was hauled off to jail in handcuffs, accused of lying initially to the FBI. He has been released on bail, but he has surrendered his passport and is required to stay home on electronic monitoring to await a federal grand jury hearing next month.

Colleagues have rallied around Butler, a white-haired 61-year-old with the kindly face of a television physician, insisting that he is no terrorist. They suspect he fibbed about the missing vials because he had not completed the paperwork required to document their destruction. They consider the FBI's reaction to be far out of proportion to the threat, even if the vials had disappeared.

"It scares the hell out of all of us," said Ted Warren Reid, a biochemist at Texas Tech who was preparing to collaborate with Butler on a study. "I think this guy is a typical absent-minded professor. You have 10 things going on at once and you forget something."

But security experts say the episode in Lubbock is only one sign of how terrorism is remaking the world of biological research. Scientists used to thinking of their work as life-saving must now consider whether a terrorist could turn it into a weapon.

Laboratories accustomed to the unlocked doors and open publications that promote scientific exchange now face voluminous paperwork, background checks and even censoring of sensitive journal papers.

"Many feel biology has lost its innocence now, just as physics lost its innocence with the development of the atomic bomb," said Joseph Henderson, a former Department of Energy safety official who studies

biosecurity at the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies.

Already, two new laws -- the USA Patriot Act and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act -- have imposed a dizzying array of new restrictions and reporting requirements on scientists whose work involves any of 62 pathogens listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as potential bioweapons.

The rules are being phased in, with many scheduled to take effect Feb. 7. But many scientists privately acknowledge that they have yet to read or understand the regulations, whose complexity rivals that of the tax code.

Universities can no longer employ citizens of seven countries associated with terrorism to work with the listed bacteria and viruses -- even if the employee is a permanent U.S. resident working in a mailroom shipping the organism. Other employees must undergo a "security risk assessment" by the Justice Department to weed out those with criminal records or ties to domestic or foreign terrorist groups.

Research organizations must register with the federal government, providing detailed safety plans and lists of people who will work with the dangerous agents. They must maintain detailed records of experiments with the pathogens and how the organisms were disposed of, reporting theft, loss or release of any of the listed germs.

"Will all these forms we have to fill out impede our ability to do research?" asks Dr. Michael Donnenberg, head of infectious diseases at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "It weighs into the question of whether to work with these agents."

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:15PM*

# Surveillance network would warn of bioterror attack

**By WILLIAM J. BROAD and JUDITH MILLER**  
**New York Times**

To secure early warning of a bioterror attack, the government is building a computerized network that will collect and analyze health data in eight major cities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to lead the multimillion-dollar surveillance effort, which officials expect to become the cornerstone of a national network to spot disease outbreaks by tracking data such as doctors' reports and emergency room visits.

Administration officials say the new eight-city disease control network will deal with the privacy issue directly. "We have to satisfy the legal constraints, and also people's concerns," an official said. Officials would not disclose the program's cost or which cities will be involved. But experts say Washington is likely to be one of the eight.

Such surveillance is possible because of an explosion in commercial medical databases that health authorities, with permission and under strict legal agreements, are starting to mine. The health network goes far beyond an environmental surveillance system, disclosed by the administration last week, that will sniff the air for dangerous germs.

The emerging health monitoring network, officials and experts say, will provide information that could save lives if terrorists strike with deadly germs such as smallpox or anthrax.

The disease center's initiative represents a sharp swing to civilian leadership in a field the military pioneered and once dominated. But even in civilian hands, the emerging network has raised concerns that such surveillance may violate individual medical privacy rights.

Experts say the prospect of war with Iraq, and the chance that Baghdad might retaliate with germ weapons, are accelerating the effort to expand and integrate scores of rudimentary disease surveillance systems being developed by cities, states and the federal government. But health experts argue that even if the United States never suffers another bioterror attack like the anthrax strikes in 2001, the emerging network can still help doctors better track, treat and prevent natural disease outbreaks.

Jan. 27, 2003, 7:12AM

# Disappointment turns into vandalism in Oakland

**Associated Press**

OAKLAND, Calif. - Rowdy crowds took to the streets after the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl defeat and left parts of the city strewn with broken glass, charred hulks of burned cars and a fast-food restaurant with nearly every window broken.

Police responded to the trouble Sunday night with rubber bullets, tear gas and huge squads of officers that sought to disperse the crowds. At least 25 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness, authorities said.

Hoping to avoid rioting, police had assigned hundreds of extra officers to work Sunday, but as crowds gathered after the Raiders' 48-21 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, trouble broke out.

About 10 vehicles were set on fire, and crowds broke the windows of at least one television news van, police and witnesses said. One group of young men set debris on fire in the middle of a street and then posed for news photographers. Rioters broke nearly every window at a McDonald's restaurant, which was also set on fire.

Tear gas wafted through the area, and some witnesses picked up rubber bullets fired by police. Three Oakland firefighters were treated for minor injuries after fans threw bottles and rocks at them, Battalion Chief James Williams said. Some fire trucks and other equipment also sustained damage, including cracked windshields and dents, Williams said.

Police closed off some streets as the trouble shifted through various areas of East Oakland. Eventually, things quieted down.

It was the second week in a row that violence happened after a Raiders game. The previous week, after the team advanced to the Super Bowl, crowds set fires, broke windows and threw rocks and bottles along International Boulevard, the same area hit after the championship game.

Some shop owners in the area closed at kickoff time in hopes of avoiding trouble.

At Q's Clothing, Nader Qutov, the owner's nephew, said he was closing early, although before the game he also hawked Raiders T-shirts to eager fans.

Jan. 27, 2003, 12:21AM

# Ballistic catalog for guns in California `impractical`

By **DON THOMPSON**  
**Associated Press**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- Two related California studies to be released this week conclude it is currently impractical to catalog the ballistic "fingerprints" of every firearm in the state.

Recording every firearm made and sold in the nation's most populous state could be overwhelming, according to an internal California Department of Justice report obtained last fall by the Associated Press.

Supporters of a proposed nationwide database fear that the report, combined with an independent review of it, will further undermine congressional support for a national firearms database inspired by last fall's Washington-area sniper attacks. The reports, along with a federal rebuttal, are to be submitted to state lawmakers.

Gun control supporters want the state to lead the way by passing legislation requiring manufacturers to provide a bullet "fingerprint" for every gun made and sold in California, which sells and produces more guns than any other state. Currently, Maryland and New York require ballistics be kept only on handguns.

California's initial study found the number of potential computer matches in the state "will be so large as to be impractical," that "a large proportion" of weapons couldn't be recorded, and that each gun's markings change with routine use and can be altered.

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer delayed the release of the state report while he submitted it for reviews by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and by independent ballistics expert Jan De Kinder of Belgium.

The ATF disputed much of the California report, saying that with systems being developed by the ATF and FBI, "large-scale ballistic comparison goes from an impossibility to a valuable investigative tool."

De Kinder, of Belgium's National Institute for Forensic Science, supported the state study and disputed the ATF's rebuttal.

Such databases hold promise, De Kinder concluded, but not without improvements in the current

technology.

His review will be included as an appendix in a report that Lockyer will send to state lawmakers, said spokeswoman Hallye Jordan.

Lockyer is expected to conclude that a statewide database for large-scale ballistic comparisons is not currently practical and to recommend more research and development.

Ballistic comparisons are widely used to match bullets to specific firearms, or to link bullets found at different crime scenes to the same weapon. Long before they had suspects in custody last fall in the Washington-area sniper attacks, investigators used such comparisons to conclude that bullets recovered in separate shootings came from a single rifle.

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:40PM

# U.S. security plan blends some jobs

## Shuffle stirs D.C.'s alphabet soup

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- The government's plan to protect America is such an alphabetical maze that even the cleverest evildoer might get lost.

For example, the plan calls for the CIAO section of the DOC to join the NCS and the NIPC section of the FBI, minus the CIOS, to come together in the new DHS.

Also being wrapped in: NISAC, EAO and FedCIRC.

Initial-happy Washington has always had a lot to chew on, and the new Department of Homeland Security is serving up even more, drawing together acronym-laden agencies all related to keeping people safe.

"It's just a hopeless jumble," says Paul Light, a Brookings Institution expert on the bureaucracy. "I do this for a living and I can barely keep up. In fact, I don't keep up."

The department officially came into being Friday. The alphabet soup is just coming to a simmer.

Eventually, the department will bring 22 agencies with some security-related functions and more than 170,000 civil servants together in the biggest government shuffle since the Department of Defense -- DOD -- opened for business in 1947.

Headed by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, the department will start out in a secure office complex in northwest Washington run by the Navy and located near the U.S. Naval Observatory, site of the vice president's official residence. It will need several months to become fully operational.

Along the way, it will eliminate a few of the alphabet-soup-nicknamed agencies that people have come to love and hate. But, like any government reorganization, it will probably end up adding more than it takes away.

INS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, is to disappear in March when its functions are

transferred and split to create the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"INS will not exist as INS," said Brian Roehrkasse, spokesman for DHS, as the department is already calling itself. In place of the INS, presumably BCIS.

Washington parlance is about saving time for busy bureaucrats, politicians and lobbyists, even if the resulting language does not make sense to anyone else.

But why should insiders bother saying Federal Law Enforcement Training Center when FLETC will do?

Some acronyms are well-known, even legendary. Almost everyone knows the FBI and CIA. "Clearly, it's easier to just say these letters than it is to say all those words," said Anthony Roselli, professor of education and languages at Merrimack College in Massachusetts. The CIA and FBI will remain separate agencies.

More common, however, is the maze.

CIAO is the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office of the Department of Commerce. It will be transferred into the new department March 1, along with the National Communications System (NCS), the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) of the FBI, the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC) and the Federal Computer Incident Response Center (FedCIRC).

EAO is the Energy Assurance Office. It's going to the new department, too.

But CIOS, the Computer Investigations and Operations Section of the FBI, is staying put.

Jan. 26, 2003, 9:27PM

# Downed plane's pilot had survived Columbine attack

**By P. SOLOMON BANDA**  
**Associated Press**

DENVER -- One of the victims in the deadly crash of two small planes over Denver was a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre.

Jonathan Ross Ladd had been a junior when two students at the school opened fire, killing 12 classmates, a teacher and themselves. Ladd, who had spoken publicly about the attack, had since taken flight lessons and developed a love of airplanes, his grandmother said.

On Friday, she said, Ladd was piloting a single-engine Cessna bound for Cheyenne, Wyo., with two friends aboard when the plane collided with a twin-engine Piper and both plummeted into a residential neighborhood. All five people in the two planes died.

"Flying is, was, his passion. It was his life, and we have to accept that," Ladd's grandmother, Connie Hull of Seattle, told KWGN-TV in Denver.

The Denver coroner identified the crash victims as Fred Greg White, 51, of Westminster; Leo Larson, 57, of Northglenn; Isaac Louis Murrow, 22, of Granby; and Curtis Paul Maxey, 22, and Ladd, 20, both of Littleton.

Brian Kilburn, director of operations at Key Lime Flight, said Ladd had received flight training and rented aircraft from the company before.

He was "basically a very thorough, very conscientious pilot," Kilburn said in Sunday's editions of The Denver Post.

Larson, identified as the owner of the other plane, was a certified commercial pilot and flight instructor.

Neither pilot had filed a flight plan, which was not required. However, both had been in contact with air traffic control, National Transportation Safety Board investigator Arnold Scott said.

NTSB spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said Sunday that one of the pilots had been warned to be on the

lookout for other planes in the area, but she said the warning was not specific enough to indicate a collision was imminent.

Peduzzi did not say which pilot was warned or how long before the collision the warning came.

Aviation officials said the Cessna 172 Skyhawk had taken off from Centennial Airport in suburban southeast Denver. The other plane, a twin-engine Piper Cheyenne II, had left Jefferson County Airport, northwest of Denver, bound for Centennial.

A witness said he saw the planes coming together and saw the Piper make a sharp bank at the very last second.

"Whether that is true or not, I don't know ... he looks like he made some evasive maneuver," Scott said.

The Cessna just missed a senior citizens' apartment building before slamming into a house and causing an explosion. The cabin of the Piper ended up in a yard a few feet from the home's back door. Six people on the ground, along with a firefighter, were injured.

Investigators had recovered most of the debris from the planes and planned to review radar and voice recordings and interview air traffic controllers at Denver International Airport to determine why the planes collided.

Denver Mayor Wellington Webb also planned to meet with Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta to discuss whether tighter flight restrictions should be enforced in the area, said mayoral spokesman Andrew Hudson.

According to residents of the area, about half a mile from the Denver Broncos' football stadium, there was another collision in same area in 1974 that sent two planes to the ground, killing four people.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:42PM*

# **West Bank, Gaza sealed as Israeli election nears**

## **Travel restricted even further after threats of violence**

**Associated Press**

JERUSALEM -- Israel locked down the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday ahead of its national election, after a large-scale military incursion into Gaza and warnings that Palestinians may try to disrupt the voting with violence.

About 26,500 police officers and soldiers were deploying to guard against Palestinian attacks during the voting Tuesday, police spokesman Gil Kleiman said. There were general warnings of attacks by Palestinians over the next 48 hours, but no more than usual, he said.

However, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israel's Cabinet on Sunday that Israel is in the midst of an "assault of terror," in terms of the scope of the warnings and attempts to carry out attacks.

Wrapping up his campaign in Haifa, the home of his main opponent, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he would try to set up a broad-based government after the election.

Israel imposed a blanket closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday afternoon, barring all Palestinians from entering Israel and confining most to their communities.

Israel has enforced stringent travel bans on Palestinians since the outbreak of fighting, but Sunday's restrictions, to be in effect until Wednesday, impeded movement even further.

The military said the Allenby Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank, and the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt would remain open.

Palestinians drew a connection between the Israeli election and a large-scale Israeli incursion into Gaza City early Sunday in which 12 Palestinian gunmen were killed and 67 wounded. Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said it was part of Sharon's re-election campaign.

The Gaza City raid began shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday and ended Sunday morning. After Israeli troops withdrew, about 30,000 Palestinians joined the funeral procession for the 12 gunmen killed in the fighting -- the highest death toll in Gaza in five months. Those killed included members of the security forces and various Palestinian militias.

It was the deepest Israeli penetration into the Palestinian city of 300,000 in more than two years of fighting. The raid came in response to the firing of crude, short-range Qassam rockets at the Israeli town of Sderot in the southern Negev Desert, near Gaza, on Friday.

"The Israelis will pay a heavy price for every drop of blood shed last night," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, told the crowd at the funeral. "Our battle will continue until we uproot this Zionist occupation from our holy land, no matter what the sacrifice."

The Israeli military said its forces "raided dozens of buildings used as weapon-producing workshops," destroying equipment. Soldiers also blew up two houses belonging to militants. However, five more Qassam rockets were fired at Israel on Sunday, causing no damage or injuries.

Also in Gaza, a 50-year-old Palestinian man was killed outside his home in the border town of Rafah by an Israeli tank shell, Palestinian security officials said. The Israeli military said soldiers opened fire on suspicious figures moving in a forbidden area near the Gaza-Egypt border.

In Cairo, where the Egyptian government has been trying to forge an agreement among Palestinian factions for an end to attacks against Israeli civilians, the Arab League issued a statement condemning the Israeli incursion and warning that failure of the international community to stop such actions "would increase the feelings of Arab anger and frustration."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a statement deploring the "ominous" escalating violence, criticizing Israeli operations "that place Palestinian civilians in harm's way" and Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians.

In Davos, Switzerland, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the world must work to install a Palestinian leadership that "will clamp down on terror," but he also told Israel that the Palestinians must have a real state, "not a phony state that's diced into a thousand different pieces," an apparent reference to Sharon's offer of a truncated, limited state sometime in the future.

Jan. 27, 2003, 12:15AM

## World briefs

### Two more arrested in Americans' shooting

KUWAIT CITY -- Kuwaiti authorities have arrested two more suspects in the shooting of two American businessmen near a U.S. military base, including the man who allegedly provided the assault rifle used in the ambush, a Western diplomatic source said Sunday. Tuesday's ambush on a road leading to Camp Doha, where thousands of U.S. troops are based ahead of a possible war against Iraq, killed 46-year-old Michael Rene Pouliot and seriously wounded David Caraway, 37.

### Communication sites hit in Iraq air raid

DOHA, Qatar -- Allied jets patrolling the southern no-fly zone over Iraq struck five communication relay sites Sunday after Iraqi aircraft "violated" the zone, the U.S. military said. The aircraft from the U.S.-British coalition used precision-guided weapons in the raid against sites that can be used to help target the allied patrols, the U.S. Central Command said in a statement on its Web site.

### Gunman wounds five at political gathering

GUATEMALA CITY -- A security guard opened fire with a shotgun Sunday at thousands of people gathered for a Guatemalan political convention, wounding five, police said. Police said they detained the guard, Isaias Caal Ichich, and were investigating the circumstances of the shooting, which occurred during the general assembly of the National Union of Hope party.

### Kuwait urges Saddam to resign, avoid war

CAIRO, Egypt -- Kuwait wants President Saddam Hussein to step down so war can be averted in neighboring Iraq, Kuwait's foreign minister said in comments reported Sunday. Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah also said his country, which borders Iraq to the south, is "obliged" by U.N. resolutions to allow U.S. forces to launch military action from its territory if a decision is made to go to war. Iraq's deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz, however, ruled out the possibility of going into exile.

### Prominent lawmaker dies in Britain at 71

LONDON -- George Younger, a Conservative Party lawmaker who served as defense secretary in the government of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, died Sunday, former colleagues said. He was 71. He served in the House of Commons and was both Scottish secretary and defense secretary before

becoming chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland. A spokesman for the bank said Younger died of cancer.

## **U.N. workers killed in Afghan shootout**

JALALABAD, Afghanistan -- Bandits ambushed two U.N. vehicles on a remote road in eastern Afghanistan Sunday, leading to a shootout with police that killed four people -- two of them Afghan U.N. employees. The shootout started after bandits seized the vehicles and took the U.N. workers captive, apparently to rob them. Police arrived at the scene and exchanged fire with the bandits. A police officer and a suspected bandit also were killed. Another suspected bandit was injured and arrested.

## **North Korea softens on help from South**

SEOUL, South Korea -- North Korea called for "national cooperation" with South Korea on Sunday as Seoul prepared to send special envoys to Pyongyang to help defuse tensions over the communist North's nuclear development. The North's acceptance of the envoys could signal an easing of its refusal to have outside help in ending the crisis, which Pyongyang has insisted is a matter between it and Washington. The United States, which supports Seoul's diplomatic efforts, has pushed for international intervention and reiterated that position Sunday by saying North Korea's nuclear program is a danger to Asia and the world.

*Houston Chronicle News Services*

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:30PM

# Aussie heat dooms Hingis

## Trailing 4-0, cool Capriati finds strength for Open rally

**Associated Press**

MELBOURNE, Australia -- Few people saw what might have been one of the key moments of Jennifer Capriati's stunning comeback victory over Martina Hingis for the Australian Open title.

After Capriati rebounded from a 4-0 deficit in the second set, saving four match points in the process, the players went to the training room for a 10-minute break from the 95-degree heat.

"We both were lying there, just packed with ice. It would have been the perfect sight," Hingis said.

Capriati said she was too tired to talk or change clothes, but felt more confident of winning.

Hingis, meanwhile, was thinking: "No way I've got to go back out there again."

She did but could win only two more games. Capriati triumphed 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2 on Saturday for her second straight Australian Open title and third championship in the last five Grand Slam events.

A year ago, Melbourne was the site of Capriati's breakthrough in a comeback that was years in the making. Saturday, she completed a record comeback for a women's Grand Slam tournament final by saving those four match points en route to victory.

The old record stood for more than 100 years.

In 1889, Blanche Bingley Hillyard saved three match points and beat Lena Rice 4-6, 8-6, 6-4 at Wimbledon. The last time even one was saved came at the 1962 French Open final, when Margaret Court beat Lesley Turner.

A year ago, Capriati beat Hingis 6-3, 6-4 for her first Grand Slam tournament championship.

Hingis has lost three straight Australian Open finals. Her last Grand Slam title came here in 1999.

She had one match point at 5-3 in the second set, two more at 6-5, and another at 7-6 in the tiebreaker. A

backhand winner by Capriati and three forehands sent long by Hingis erased them.

Capriati, 25, said her approach to each was "just to really go for it, and it paid off."

Hingis kicked herself later for not doing the same thing.

"I was hoping she was going to make a mistake," she said. "Next time I probably should take charge of it and just try to do something myself, but mentally and physically I wasn't up to it."

Leading 2-1 in the third set, "I didn't really believe in it any more," she added. "I knew I probably wouldn't last if I really needed to, so I just tried to walk through it."

She now has lost her last four matches against Capriati, although she has a 5-4 edge dating to 1997.

"I had a lot on my shoulders, just being the defending champion, trying to keep No. 1 status, and dealing with the conditions," said Capriati, who took over the top spot in the rankings this month after Lindsay Davenport was sidelined by knee surgery.

Before the break after the second set, the two players tried various ways to battle the heat.

"It was really hard to breathe. The air was just so thick. I would have to go back into the shade, or sit down, or something," Capriati said. "There were just really no easy points out there."

Once, she took refuge in an entry tunnel. Between points in the tiebreaker, when the players had been on court more than an hour, Hingis was putting an ice pack on her neck.

During a bathroom break in the second set, Capriati removed tape wrapped on her legs as a preventive step after she hurt her hip in the week before the open. The hip was fine, and removing the tight tape helped, she said.

"I've done lots of training, hard training," Capriati said. "I know that there's always something left in reserve, and I was just going to make myself go to the max."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:25PM

# Oklahoma State bursts thwart Tech

## Associated Press

LUBBOCK -- Dominating the first few minutes of each half against Texas Tech allowed No. 13 Oklahoma State to extend the nation's longest winning streak to 14 games.

Melvin Sanders was the man at the start of the game, and Victor Williams stepped up at the beginning of the second half of the Cowboys' 79-70 win Sunday.

"They just beat us badly in both situations," Texas Tech coach Bob Knight said. "And we couldn't come back from that. They played really well in those periods."

Sanders, who finished with 17 points, hit three straight 3-pointers in the game's first four minutes. Williams got seven of his 24 points in the first 2 1/2 minutes of the second half.

"Everybody steps up on any given night," Oklahoma State's Andre Williams said of the Cowboys' winning streak. "Anybody can score a bunch of points, and we need to keep that rolling to keep this rolling."

Oklahoma State (16-1, 5-0 Big 12) scored on seven of its first nine possessions in the second half and used a 14-0 run to take a 54-39 lead.

Many of the Cowboys' points came on fast breaks from turnovers and rebounds. The Cowboys outscored Tech 18-4 in fast-break points.

"We got a lot of baskets in transition today," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "If Bob were to be critical of his team, it might be in the fact that we beat them down the floor some and got some baskets."

Texas Tech (11-4, 1-3) used a 21-11 run to get within 65-64 with 3:13 remaining, but the Cowboys put together a 10-1 run to lead 75-65 with 31 seconds remaining. Tony Allen, who finished with 21 points, had two layups in the run.

Trailing by 11 points early in the second half, Tech had to claw its way back into the game.

"At the beginning of the second half, we dug ourselves a big hole," said Kasib Powell, who led Texas Tech with 26 points. "Then it took all of our energy to come back, and we couldn't get over the hump."

Andre Emmett, who finished with 23 points, scored seven straight points to lead Texas Tech's comeback. The Red Raiders also were aided by turnovers on five straight possessions by Oklahoma State in the game's closing minutes.

Powell and Emmett scored all but 21 of Tech's points.

"Anybody but a moron would want five guys that could score," Knight said.

The loss came in Knight's 1,100th career game and keeps him at 798 wins.

Texas Tech went more than five minutes without a field goal midway through the first half and trailed 26-16 with 6:38 remaining. But the Red Raiders went into halftime after scoring on 10 of their last 11 possessions and trailed 37-35.

"I told them at halftime that they were only two points better off than they were when the game started," Sutton said. "Emmett and Powell hurt us, but you look at the rest of their team, and they didn't score that many."

Texas Tech had won seven straight home games.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:33PM

# Kansas enters UT game seeking remedy

By JEROME SOLOMON

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LAWRENCE, Kan. -- Texas and Kansas probably couldn't enter their Big Monday matchup at Allen Fieldhouse from more diametrically opposite directions.

One team is riding high. The other one sounds desperate.

No. 4 Texas sports an eight-game winning streak, matching the longest of the Rick Barnes era. Currently sixth-ranked Kansas (the new polls come out today) has lost two consecutive games -- a disappointing defeat at unranked Colorado and an even more devastating loss to No. 1 Arizona, ending a 25-game home win streak.

After the Longhorns (13-2, 4-0 Big 12) dismantled No. 21 Missouri with ease on Saturday, Barnes talked about how pleased he is with his squad, particularly since it has not come close to peaking.

Following the Arizona debacle, in which his team surrendered a 20-point lead and lost by 17, Kansas coach Roy Williams was a bit melodramatic in describing the state of his Jayhawks.

"If we are competitive enough, then we will play again (tonight)," Williams said. "If we are not, then we will go belly up and may not win another one."

Not win another game? Things can't be that bad, can they?

Well, when you score 52 points in the first half on 65 percent shooting but have more turnovers (10) than field goals (nine) on 29 percent shooting in the second half, your initial thoughts are a bit confused.

"It's impossible to figure out, much less explain it," said Williams, whose team was 16-0 in the Big 12 last season. "It was a total breakdown, and it is hard to say, but the second half had to be my worst nightmare and at the same time it had to be the worst coaching job I have ever done in my entire life."

Hard to argue that, since the defeat was the Jayhawks' worst home loss in 14 years, dating to a loss to Missouri in Williams first season as a head coach (1988-89).

But the Jayhawks (13-5, 3-1) did plenty to make their coach's work irrelevant.

"You can't go to the free-throw line and stand up there and go 4-for-12," Williams said. "We can't go 8-for-24 from the 3-point line. We have got to shoot the ball in the hole or be tough enough to shoot the sucker in or don't shoot."

It won't get easier against the Longhorns, who pride themselves on making it tough on opponents to make shots. UT has held 10 of its 15 foes below 40 percent shooting.

Kansas hits half its shots (.499) and will look to win tonight's game with superb offensive play. In most years, execution of its offense is what makes KU one of the better teams in college basketball.

It would help if All-America guard Kirk Hinrich finds his shooting touch. The senior hit just nine of 30 shots in the Jayhawks' back-to-back losses.

UT will assign Royal Ivey, one of the Big 12's top defenders, to Hinrich.

"Our wings have played excellent defense all year," Barnes said. "Royal does so many things that people don't see. He is one of those guys that loves to guard and loves to make a contribution on the defensive end."

Kansas, which has less depth than most of the top teams in the country, is short-handed because of post Wayne Simien's shoulder injury. Rumors that Simien would return for tonight's game are just that. He is definitely out.

"He's not ready to play," Williams said. "When he does get to that point, we'll let everyone know about it."

Jeff Graves starts in Simien's stead and has been inconsistent. Worse yet, taking Graves off the bench leaves the Jayhawks with reserves Michael Lee, Bryant Nash, Jeff Hawkins and Moulaye Niang, who combine to average 10.0 points and 6.7 rebounds.

Texas tops that with just two reserve players. Sydmill Harris and Brian Boddicker score 15.4 points a game between them, and Boddicker and Jason Klotz cover the rebounding, grabbing a combined seven per game.

And Texas is even deeper with Deginald Erskin (7.1 points, 2.4 rebounds per game), who is listed as doubtful for tonight's contest because of a severely sprained ankle.

In a testament to its depth, Texas has outscored all but one of its opponents in the second half while shooting 50.2 percent from the floor to opponents' 36.8.

"Our guys don't have to worry about getting tired, because they know there's somebody over there

waiting to get in," Barnes said. "They can go all out and not worry about having to save anything."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:26PM

# UH women rally to end 3-game skid

By W.H. STICKNEY JR.

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It was well into the second half Sunday before the Houston Cougars finally came up with the right formula to end a season-high three-game losing streak.

A change in the starting lineup, with three regulars beginning the game on the bench, wasn't the answer against East Carolina, and UH trailed at halftime.

Chandi Jones had a good portion of the remedy, however, scoring 23 of her game-high 30 points in the second half in the Lady Cougars' 90-79 victory against the Lady Pirates at Hofheinz Pavilion.

Sophomore Shondra Bush added a career-high 26 points for UH, and the Lady Cougars turned up the defensive pressure after halftime.

"We have to come out strong from the jump in every game," said Bush. "We're going to run into tough opponents, and we can't afford to come out (lackadaisically) every game."

Houston (10-7, 2-3 Conference USA) outscored East Carolina 57-38 in the second half. The Lady Pirates (8-9, 0-4) suffered their fourth loss in five games. The Lady Cougars edged East Carolina 61-60 last year on the road.

On Sunday, UH led 29-22 midway through the first half after five consecutive points from Nicole Oliver. But the Cougars appeared to shift into neutral.

UH got only one field goal and two free throws over the final 9:15 and trailed 41-33 at halftime.

"We let up the last few minutes of the first half," said Oliver, who finished with 11 points and nine rebounds.

The Lady Pirates, who average only 5-9 in height, outscored the taller Lady Cougars inside 22-8 in the first half. And UH committed 16 first-half turnovers, resulting in 19 East Carolina points.

Instead of railing on what his team had done wrong in the first 20 minutes, UH coach Joe Curl said he issued "my shortest halftime speech since I've been a Cougar."

"I went in and told them what I thought we needed to do, but it wasn't up to me -- it was up to them -- if it was going to be," he said.

After leaving the locker room, Curl said he overheard the players talking among themselves "very positively."

In the second half, East Carolina led 48-41 following a three-point play by Jennifer Jackson, who led the Lady Pirates with 23 points. But following a media timeout with 15:46 left, the Cougars increased the intensity of their full-court trapping, and it began to pay dividends.

A steal by LaShinda Winters (nine points) resulted in Bush's fast-break layup, cutting East Carolina's lead to 48-46.

Jones' steal and fast-break layup four minutes later tied the score at 53. UH took the lead for good, 67-65, on Angela Curl's 3-pointer with 7:18 left.

UH slammed the door by making 11 of 14 free throws in the final 1:12.

"We've been struggling for the last few games," Jones said. "We just came out today with better intensity. I felt we could turn it around, and we got a win tonight."

Jones said UH's three-game losing streak contributed to the team's first-half woes on Sunday.

"After we (lost) three times, you kind of lose confidence," Jones said. "We're trying to build our confidence back up. So I think that's what made it kind of a slow start."

"But we talked as a team in the locker room, said that it wasn't over. And we came back in the second half, really focused our minds. That's how we came out with a win today."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:45PM

# Carter's return lifts Raptors

## Associated Press

TORONTO -- Vince Carter showed that his right knee feels fine, and the good news didn't come a minute too soon for the Toronto Raptors.

Playing in his first game since Dec. 8, Carter scored 22 points as Toronto defeated the Sacramento Kings 101-97 on Sunday to snap a five-game losing streak.

Carter, who missed 23 games because of a strained knee, scored Toronto's last six points on his 26th birthday.

"It was a very nice birthday present," Carter said. "It wasn't just a present for the team, it was a present for the fans. It was an opportunity to show that we can play with one of the best teams in the league, and show that when we get the majority of our guys back, we're a pretty good team ourselves."

After a two-handed dunk in the second quarter, Carter bent down to dust off his right knee.

"I was dusting the old stuff off and letting you know that my knee's OK," Carter said. "Actually, it was to let the doctors know, so that they could breathe easy."

Not everyone cheered Carter's return.

"I don't really care about Vince. We lost today. Who cares," said the Kings' Chris Webber, who had a triple double with 24 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists. "There's a lot of good players in the NBA. All I'm concerned about is the Kings."

Carter looked tentative in the opening minutes but scored 15 points in the second half. He finished 8-of-16 from the field in 23 minutes.

"He just had a great all-around game," Toronto's Jerome Williams said. "I'm just glad he was able to come in and not re-injure himself."

Carter was voted to start the All-Star Game by the fans, despite playing in only 10 games before Sunday. Before getting hurt in practice Dec. 10 -- two days after scoring 25 points in a loss to Portland -- Carter missed 10 other games with an injured left knee.

"We've been missing Vince for so long," Toronto's Alvin Williams said. "He really did a great job coming in."

Carter's fadeaway jumper gave the Raptors a 97-91 lead with 1:36 left, and his two free throws made it 99-94 with 17.7 seconds remaining.

Sacramento's Jim Jackson followed with a 3-pointer, but Carter made two free throws with 7.9 seconds left to give Toronto a four-point lead.

Mike Bibby scored 30 points to lead the Kings, who lost their second straight. Atlanta beat them 115-104 on Friday night.

"It's alarming," said Peja Stojakovic, who went 2-for-10 from the field for 10 points.

Jan. 27, 2003, 7:12AM

# Disappointment turns into vandalism in Oakland

**Associated Press**

OAKLAND, Calif. - Rowdy crowds took to the streets after the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl defeat and left parts of the city strewn with broken glass, charred hulks of burned cars and a fast-food restaurant with nearly every window broken.

Police responded to the trouble Sunday night with rubber bullets, tear gas and huge squads of officers that sought to disperse the crowds. At least 25 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness, authorities said.

Hoping to avoid rioting, police had assigned hundreds of extra officers to work Sunday, but as crowds gathered after the Raiders' 48-21 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, trouble broke out.

About 10 vehicles were set on fire, and crowds broke the windows of at least one television news van, police and witnesses said. One group of young men set debris on fire in the middle of a street and then posed for news photographers. Rioters broke nearly every window at a McDonald's restaurant, which was also set on fire.

Tear gas wafted through the area, and some witnesses picked up rubber bullets fired by police. Three Oakland firefighters were treated for minor injuries after fans threw bottles and rocks at them, Battalion Chief James Williams said. Some fire trucks and other equipment also sustained damage, including cracked windshields and dents, Williams said.

Police closed off some streets as the trouble shifted through various areas of East Oakland. Eventually, things quieted down.

It was the second week in a row that violence happened after a Raiders game. The previous week, after the team advanced to the Super Bowl, crowds set fires, broke windows and threw rocks and bottles along International Boulevard, the same area hit after the championship game.

Some shop owners in the area closed at kickoff time in hopes of avoiding trouble.

At Q's Clothing, Nader Qutov, the owner's nephew, said he was closing early, although before the game he also hawked Raiders T-shirts to eager fans.

Jan. 27, 2003, 1:00AM

# Pittman makes name for himself

## San Diego native packs big punch for Buccaneers

By JOHN McCLAIN

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SAN DIEGO -- Marcus Allen, Terrell Davis, Ricky Williams, Michael Pittman.

Michael Pittman?

Yes, Tampa Bay running back Michael Pittman is a San Diego native, just like Allen, Davis and Williams. Until Super Bowl XXXVII, Pittman never was mentioned in the same breath with Allen, who was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame; Davis, a former league MVP; and Williams, the NFL's leading rusher this season.

But after rushing for 124 yards in the Buccaneers' 48-21 conquest of Oakland on Sunday, Pittman will become part of San Diego's illustrious running-back lore.

"I've had to share the ball a lot of times in my career," said Pittman, who spent his first four seasons with Arizona before signing with Tampa Bay this season. "Sometimes you get frustrated when you have to do that, but I think I did a great job of running."

The Bucs' running game was mediocre this season. Mike Alstott had the only 100-yard game by a back until Sunday.

"I heard the boos in Tampa," Pittman said. "I tried to get better as the games wore on. I kept pushing. This was a brand new offense, and I knew it was going to take some time.

"We've been criticized a lot, but as the year went on, we got a lot better."

In his first season as head coach, Jon Gruden used three backs -- Pittman, Alstott and Aaron Stecker. But the Buccaneers still were 27th in rushing.

"We've been through the fires all year as far as running the ball," Pittman said. "Our game plan today was to run the ball and keep running the ball, and we did that.

"The line opened good holes for me. Those guys did a great job. I was being patient. I was waiting for the holes to open, and I was trying to find them and get through them. This was our best game on the ground, and we did it against a great defense."

Pittman, who carried 29 times, helped Tampa Bay control the ball and total 150 yards rushing.

"We believed we could win the game," he said. "I was kind of surprised we got such a big lead (34-3 in the third quarter). When we did, we kept pounding them."

"We wanted to run the ball to show we're not a one-dimensional offense. I think we proved that today."

Jan. 27, 2003, 1:08AM

## **Bucs' offense an unsolved mystery**

### **Raiders' defenders unable to figure out how Tampa Bay moved the ball so well**

**By CARLTON THOMPSON**  
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SAN DIEGO -- Tampa Bay's offense and Oakland's defense arrived at Qualcomm Stadium from different directions, but they might as well have been in the same boat.

Respect is hard to come by when you play second fiddle to a No. 1-ranked unit, and while the Bucs' offense no doubt earned a measure of respect around the country, the Raiders have no idea how Tampa Bay did it.

"If you look at their offense, it's nothing special," Raiders safety Rod Woodson said. "They don't have any speedsters. They don't have anyone who you really worry about. They don't really scare you. They're just consistent."

The Bucs consistently went up and down the field against the Raiders to the tune of 365 yards of total offense and 24 first downs in their 48-21 victory. It looked easy. They passed at will against a secondary playing soft coverage, and they ran the ball down the Raiders' throat for 150 yards.

Bucs running back Michael Pittman, who ran for 124 yards on 29 carries, was approaching his season high (90 yards) by halftime. The Raiders had the third-best rushing defense in the NFL during the regular season, but they were no match for a running game that typically has been one of the worst.

By the end of the game, as the Raiders waged a futile comeback attempt, their defense appeared to have run out of gas, and with good reason. Tampa Bay dominated the time-of-possession battle 37:14 to 22:46.

"We were on the field entirely too long," Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson said. "We didn't think (Pittman) would be able to do what he did. We felt that our defense was stopping the run pretty well, but for him to go over 100 yards is unheard of. Nobody on our team expected that. If you run the ball, you don't have to do much else. They were gashing us. They came up with big runs."

Bucs quarterback Brad Johnson meticulously picked apart the Raiders' secondary for 215 yards and two

touchdowns on 18-of-34 passing. Johnson spread the ball around to five different receivers, including Keyshawn Johnson, who led the Bucs with six catches, and Keenan McCardell, who caught both touchdowns.

Again, Rod Woodson was not overly impressed.

"Keyshawn likes to talk, and now he has a ring, so you know he's going to talk even more," he said. "But Keyshawn is not a great receiver. He's a good receiver, but he's not a great receiver. We didn't even double him.

"We were trying to match up in our nickel vs. their (spread formations), and that probably wasn't such a good idea.

"Maybe we should have stayed in our base defense a little more. Should've, could've, would've; it doesn't matter. Nobody on the Oakland Raiders played their best football game today.

"We didn't play the way we're capable of playing. I think a lot of people were looking for other people to make plays, and that's not our football team. Maybe it was a learning curve. Who knows? You never know when you're going to get back to the Super Bowl. I've been playing 16 years, and I only made it three times. You wish you could play your best football when you get to the Super Bowl, but somebody has to win, and somebody has to lose."

The veteran safety wasn't alone in his confusion. Defensive tackle John Parrella also was left dazed and at a loss as he tried to explain the Raiders' collapse.

"For whatever reason, things didn't go like we had planned," Parrella said. "I wish I had the answer, but if I had the answer, I probably wouldn't be sitting here talking about a loss."

*Jan. 26, 2003, 10:31PM*

# Singh soars to Phoenix win with 63

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle News Services**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. -- Vijay Singh thought a good final round would win the Phoenix Open. As it turned out, it took a great one.

Singh birdied five of the first six holes and shot an 8-under-par 63 on Sunday to win the event for the second time.

He finished at 23-under 261, three strokes ahead of John Huston.

Singh won this event in 1995, but that was in a playoff.

This time, he tied the tournament record for lowest final-round score, had the best finish by a PGA Tour winner since Jonathan Byrd's 63 at the 2002 Buick Challenge and strolled up to the 18th green knowing he had won.

"It was a dream start for me," Singh said. "You know, I birdied one and two and then birdied four, five, six. You do something like that when you're just one or two back to start, and you're definitely going to have good momentum."

The Fiji native had eight one-putt greens on the front side while shooting a 29, which would have tied the nine-hole record except for Chris DiMarco's 7-under 28 in the third round.

"When you're making putts and hitting it close, you can have a good score," Singh said. "That's what I did on the front side. I think that's what won the golf tournament."

This was the 12th tour win for Singh, the 2000 Masters champ. He also has 21 international wins.

It also was the tour's fifth straight win by an international player. Luke Donald and Singh started the string on the same weekend last season at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic and the Tour Championship. Ernie Els had two wins in Hawaii this year.

Singh won \$720,000, boosting him from eighth to second on the money list with \$990,929.

Huston bogeyed 17 and closed with a 67. Third-round leader Harrison Frazar struggled to a 69 and tied

for third at 265 with Robert Gamez (66), Retief Goosen (67) and Tim Petrovic (68).

Alex Cejka and Joe Durant finished five shots off the lead, followed by Phil Mickelson and Mike Weir at 267. Mickelson and Cejka carded 64s, but were too far back at the start to make a charge.

"I drove the ball very well today and made a lot of birdies," said Mickelson, the 1996 champion and the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 3. "Although it wasn't enough to seriously challenge any of the leaders, I was very pleased with the way I started to progress."

DiMarco went 15-under for the tournament -- only two shots worse than his winning 267 in 2002 -- but was eight shots behind in his title defense.

### **Webb wins record \$470,000**

-- Karrie Webb hasn't played tournament golf since November and hasn't practiced much either, but she showed no signs of rust Sunday.

Webb beat Annika Sorenstam and won the LPGA Skins Game in Wailea, Hawaii, taking 12 skins worth a record \$470,000.

"It's certainly a nice way to start the year, that's for sure," Webb said. "It certainly exceeded my expectations. I never expected to win that much money."

Webb captured the final 10 skins in recording her first victory in three Skins Game appearances. She picked up two skins worth \$50,000 by making an eight-foot birdie putt on the 518-yard No. 7 earlier in the round.

On an 80-degree day with barely any wind at Wailea Golf Club, Webb broke Laura Davies' record of \$340,000 set in 1996.

The Aussie sealed the victory on the par-3 No. 16 by sinking a 12-foot putt that gave her four skins worth \$160,000.

Sorenstam, the 2002 player of the year, finished second with three skins for \$70,000. Laura Diaz made \$60,000 for her three skins and Davies, the defending champion, was shut out.

### **Sorenstam unsure about competing with men**

-- Annika Sorenstam, offered an exemption to compete against the men on the PGA Tour, was vague when asked if she would play in the B.C. Open.

"I don't know anything about it," she said after finishing second in the LPGA Skins Game in Hawaii. "I told my agent I'm in Hawaii to play the Skins. We can talk about it when I get home."

Sorenstam said last week in Orlando, Fla., that she would relish the chance to play a PGA Tour event.

The B.C. Open offered her a spot Friday.

## **Chinese golfer tops Els**

-- Ernie Els lost the lead with a bogey on the last hole, and China's Zhang Lian-Wei made a three-foot birdie putt at No. 18 to win the Singapore Masters.

Els, coming off consecutive PGA Tour victories in Hawaii and a win at last year's season-ending Nedbank Challenge in South Africa, had three bogeys on the back nine in a round of 1-over 73 and finished at 9-under 279 at Laguna National Golf and Country Club.

Zhang, a self-taught golfer, shot a 2-under 70 for a 10-under 278 total and the biggest win of his career.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 10:31PM*

# All-Star Game iffy for Lemieux

## Associated Press

PITTSBURGH -- Mario Lemieux might miss the NHL All-Star Game because of a groin injury.

Lemieux, who has missed eight of the Pittsburgh Penguins' last nine games, does not plan on playing in Tuesday night's road game against the New York Islanders. He is expected to decide Wednesday if he will play Thursday in Washington.

"If I don't play (this week), it would be tough to play in the All-Star Game," Lemieux, 37, said.

The All-Star Game is Sunday in suburban Miami.

Lemieux, the NHL's leading scorer, has played only a few shifts since suffering a groin injury Jan. 7. He hasn't skated since spending a few minutes on the ice in practice Monday.

"It's taken a lot longer than I thought," Lemieux said. "It's frustrating. Every day you get up, and it's still there."

Jan. 27, 2003, 12:23AM

# Silver Blackened Buccaneers' defense turns tables on Raiders' offense

By CARLTON THOMPSON  
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SAN DIEGO -- The Raider Nation took over San Diego for the weekend, turning the streets silver and black before going home black and blue, not to mention humbled.

Raider Nation ... meet domination.

They came to Qualcomm Stadium with a strange sense of curiosity, begging to have the burning question answered: What would happen if the best offense in the NFL faced the best defense in the NFL in the Super Bowl?

Now we know. Bucs 48, Raiders 21 is what would happen. If the game had been on Fox, it might have been confused with one of those wacky shows like *Man vs. Beast*. On Sunday, the beast wore pewter.

Offensively, the Raiders typically have a predatory attitude, jumping on their opponent early in the battle and never letting up, but a split personality emerged in the opening minutes of Super Bowl XXXVII. The Raiders were presented with an opportunity to put an early touchdown on the scoreboard when cornerback Charles Woodson intercepted a pass from Bucs quarterback Brad Johnson on the first possession of the game.

Despite gaining possession at the Bucs' 36, the Raiders had to settle for a field goal, and by the time their offense finally showed signs of life, the game already was out of reach.

"Getting that early turnover was just the situation we were looking for to open the game," Raiders tackle Lincoln Kennedy said. "That was our chance to set the tempo, but to put it quite bluntly, we made a mess of it."

The Raiders averaged nearly 400 yards a game during the regular season but had just 62 at halftime and 269 for the game, most of which came in what amounted to garbage time. Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon, the NFL's Most Valuable Player, looked more like Rich Little in the biggest game of his career.

The 37-year-old quarterback completed 24 of 44 passes for 272 yards, but was sacked five times and threw five interceptions, three of which were returned for touchdowns.

"It's a shame to have an exhibition like this in a game of this magnitude," Gannon said. "Obviously, I made a lot of bad decisions. I don't know how else to explain it. All I can tell you is that you can't play like that and expect to win a game like this."

Gannon has a pair of future Hall of Fame receivers in Jerry Rice and Tim Brown, but neither touched the football in the first half. Less than five minutes remained in the third quarter when Rice caught the first of his five passes, and Brown had just one reception in the first Super Bowl appearance of his 15-year career.

Asked about how he fit into the Raiders' offensive game plan, Rice said: "I'm not going to sit here and say I wish I had more opportunities. I'm way beyond that. The bottom line is that we just didn't get it done. You come here to win, so you hate to end your season on this note, but that's the way it is. You have to stare at yourself in the mirror and know that you didn't get it done."

The Raiders' running game was virtually non-existent, totaling just 19 yards on 11 attempts. Gannon said the offensive game plan called for more of a commitment to the running game, but the Raiders had to switch gears after they fell behind so early. Tampa Bay led 20-3 at halftime and by as much as 31 late in the third quarter.

Obviously, the odds of a comeback were not very favorable against the most feared defense in the NFL.

"A comeback?" Bucs defensive tackle Warren Sapp asked rhetorically. "When we dig a hole, we're pretty good at putting you in it and putting dirt on top of it."

Players on both teams suggested Bucs coach Jon Gruden had a little something to do with the problems the Raiders had offensively. Gruden coached the Raiders for four years before moving to Tampa Bay, and he is very familiar with the Raiders' offensive personnel, their scheme and their terminology.

"As soon as we called our audibles, they were on them," Raiders guard Frank Middleton said. "It seemed at times like they were on our plays. Gruden gave them our playbook, and they did a good job with it, but we don't need to make excuses. They outplayed us. They just flat out got the best of us. We didn't bring our `A' game and if you're going to win the Super Bowl, you better bring your `A' game."

Jan. 27, 2003, 12:36AM

# Davis, Silver-and-Black mystique take severe punishment

By DALE ROBERTSON

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle

SAN DIEGO -- On Martin Gramatica's line-drive kickoff that followed Tampa Bay's second touchdown of the first half Sunday, giving the Buccaneers a prophetic 17-point lead, Oakland's return man Marcus Knight forgot something.

Nothing important. Just the football. As Knight began his cut up the field, he left it sitting on the grass, pretty much summing up a memorable Super Bowl XXXVII weekend that the Raiders, who were neither proud nor poised as Al Davis' mantra boasts, will try for years to forget.

The ball looked like a big brown dinosaur egg lying there. Perfect. Because Oakland's dinosaurs laid a whole nest full of them.

Knight sheepishly returned to claim his lost property, and no harm was done. But the Raider Nation had seen enough by then to suspect it would be forced to wave the white flag at day's end. The underdog pirates from Florida's Gulf Coast, in their first gig on the NFL's grandest stage after a history chock-full of comical misadventures, pilfered Oakland's badder-than-thou schtick.

Flat robbed the Raiders blind the Bucs did, scoring three touchdowns off interceptions in a 48-21 plundering to bury the mistakes of their oft-ridiculed past and make a farce of Oakland's vaunted mystique.

Pewter power? Believe it. *Skill* and crossbones? You got it. Jon Gruden a boy genius? The evidence as presented indicates as much. The 39-year-old self-described "grunt" supplanted John Madden, once a Raider, always a Raider, as the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl.

Madden got his after the 1976 season, which was also Tampa Bay's 0-14 inaugural season. Just a coincidence, of course.

"He came from heaven," Bucs owner Malcolm Glazer gushed about "Chucky" afterward, clutching the Lombardi Trophy, "and he brought us heaven."

Gruden's defection from the Raiders, whose long-in-coming resurgence had occurred on his watch, gave

the game a special cachet, but everybody in the organization he'd spurned, from Davis on down to the ball boys, wanted us to believe the anonymous Bill Callahan brought as much to the table as his former boss and mentor.

They thought they had snookered Tampa Bay, too, making the Bucs pay through the nose for Gruden's services by negotiating an \$8 million ransom and also receiving two first- and two second-round draft choices.

They were wrong. As Gruden showed in the Bucs' victory over Philadelphia -- a warning shot about their Super Bowl intentions if ever there was one -- he had plenty of right answers for the many hard questions the Raiders posed.

As a result, Tampa Bay's undersung offense wound up delivering a reasonable impersonation of Oakland's high-fallutin' offense after an early turnover put the Bucs behind 3-0. And Tampa Bay's deservedly lionized defense *impaled* the Oakland offense, outscoring it three touchdowns to two.

This first-ever No. 1 vs. No. 1 confrontation would become a Raiders conflagration.

Just burn, baby.

"If you're going to throw the ball against our defense," Gruden said smugly, "good luck."

Added Simeon Rice, who notched the first of Tampa Bay's five sacks: "They couldn't get on a roll because they couldn't stand the pressure. They weren't prepared for what our defense brings."

Who is?

Rich Gannon, a 37-year-old retread masquerading as a John Elway-esque figure, was made to walk the plank by a voracious Buccaneers pass rush and a larcenous secondary that proved just as lethal to the Raiders as it had to many lesser foes. Gannon had thrown but 10 interceptions in 418 regular-season attempts, yet Tampa Bay picked off half that many given only 44 opportunities.

A patch of understandably giddy overconfidence, plus predictably excessive caution, set in for Tampa Bay after Dwight Smith's first pick provided a 34-3 cushion, and the Raiders were able to superficially chip away at the staggering deficit. But they outsmarted themselves by thrice attempting -- and thrice failing -- to convert two-point conversions, although those gaffes eventually proved moot when Derrick Brooks lugged another errant Gannon ball into the Raiders' end zone for the clinching touchdown.

The fifth interception, Smith's second, served only to rub salt and pepper in the Silver-and-Black's myriad wounds.

At the time of the coin toss, players on Oakland's active roster owned 15 Super Bowl rings to zero for the Bucs. Bill Romanowski was trying to claim a record-tying fifth; Jerry Rice sought his fourth. At separate junctures, each had cast his lot with the Raiders thinking it was his best shot at a last hurrah.

Davis, for his part, believed collecting these celebrity codgers to go with the ones he had stashed would be the ticket to his salvation. For all of Al's crowing about the Raiders being the "team of the decades," they hadn't won anything in almost two decades, and his once-deserved reputation for football canniness was as faded as the Raven-turned-Raider Sam Adams is fat.

Davis had become just another doddering old fool who dressed in ridiculous retro clothes and lived to litigate. Maybe he'll sue the NFL today, seeking a Super Bowl replay.

Al endured a miserable weekend all around. Saturday, he received the inevitable news that Marcus Allen, whom he had disowned as an ingrate and a traitor to the Raiders' cause years ago, will enter the Hall of Fame next summer. Then Davis was awakened to the news Oakland's starting center, Barret Robbins of Houston, had suffered a mysterious wee-hours meltdown and wouldn't be permitted to play against the Bucs.

The way things turned out, Robbins was the lucky Raider.

Jan. 27, 2003, 7:12AM

# Disappointment turns into vandalism in Oakland

**Associated Press**

OAKLAND, Calif. - Rowdy crowds took to the streets after the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl defeat and left parts of the city strewn with broken glass, charred hulks of burned cars and a fast-food restaurant with nearly every window broken.

Police responded to the trouble Sunday night with rubber bullets, tear gas and huge squads of officers that sought to disperse the crowds. At least 25 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness, authorities said.

Hoping to avoid rioting, police had assigned hundreds of extra officers to work Sunday, but as crowds gathered after the Raiders' 48-21 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, trouble broke out.

About 10 vehicles were set on fire, and crowds broke the windows of at least one television news van, police and witnesses said. One group of young men set debris on fire in the middle of a street and then posed for news photographers. Rioters broke nearly every window at a McDonald's restaurant, which was also set on fire.

Tear gas wafted through the area, and some witnesses picked up rubber bullets fired by police. Three Oakland firefighters were treated for minor injuries after fans threw bottles and rocks at them, Battalion Chief James Williams said. Some fire trucks and other equipment also sustained damage, including cracked windshields and dents, Williams said.

Police closed off some streets as the trouble shifted through various areas of East Oakland. Eventually, things quieted down.

It was the second week in a row that violence happened after a Raiders game. The previous week, after the team advanced to the Super Bowl, crowds set fires, broke windows and threw rocks and bottles along International Boulevard, the same area hit after the championship game.

Some shop owners in the area closed at kickoff time in hopes of avoiding trouble.

At Q's Clothing, Nader Qutov, the owner's nephew, said he was closing early, although before the game he also hawked Raiders T-shirts to eager fans.

*Jan. 27, 2003, 1:00AM*

# **Pittman makes name for himself**

## **San Diego native packs big punch for Buccaneers**

**By JOHN McCLAIN**

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle**

SAN DIEGO -- Marcus Allen, Terrell Davis, Ricky Williams, Michael Pittman.

Michael Pittman?

Yes, Tampa Bay running back Michael Pittman is a San Diego native, just like Allen, Davis and Williams. Until Super Bowl XXXVII, Pittman never was mentioned in the same breath with Allen, who was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame; Davis, a former league MVP; and Williams, the NFL's leading rusher this season.

But after rushing for 124 yards in the Buccaneers' 48-21 conquest of Oakland on Sunday, Pittman will become part of San Diego's illustrious running-back lore.

"I've had to share the ball a lot of times in my career," said Pittman, who spent his first four seasons with Arizona before signing with Tampa Bay this season. "Sometimes you get frustrated when you have to do that, but I think I did a great job of running."

The Bucs' running game was mediocre this season. Mike Alstott had the only 100-yard game by a back until Sunday.

"I heard the boos in Tampa," Pittman said. "I tried to get better as the games wore on. I kept pushing. This was a brand new offense, and I knew it was going to take some time.

"We've been criticized a lot, but as the year went on, we got a lot better."

In his first season as head coach, Jon Gruden used three backs -- Pittman, Alstott and Aaron Stecker. But the Buccaneers still were 27th in rushing.

"We've been through the fires all year as far as running the ball," Pittman said. "Our game plan today was to run the ball and keep running the ball, and we did that.

"The line opened good holes for me. Those guys did a great job. I was being patient. I was waiting for the holes to open, and I was trying to find them and get through them. This was our best game on the ground, and we did it against a great defense."

Pittman, who carried 29 times, helped Tampa Bay control the ball and total 150 yards rushing.

"We believed we could win the game," he said. "I was kind of surprised we got such a big lead (34-3 in the third quarter). When we did, we kept pounding them."

"We wanted to run the ball to show we're not a one-dimensional offense. I think we proved that today."

Jan. 27, 2003, 1:08AM

## **Bucs' offense an unsolved mystery**

### **Raiders' defenders unable to figure out how Tampa Bay moved the ball so well**

**By CARLTON THOMPSON**  
**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle**

SAN DIEGO -- Tampa Bay's offense and Oakland's defense arrived at Qualcomm Stadium from different directions, but they might as well have been in the same boat.

Respect is hard to come by when you play second fiddle to a No. 1-ranked unit, and while the Bucs' offense no doubt earned a measure of respect around the country, the Raiders have no idea how Tampa Bay did it.

"If you look at their offense, it's nothing special," Raiders safety Rod Woodson said. "They don't have any speedsters. They don't have anyone who you really worry about. They don't really scare you. They're just consistent."

The Bucs consistently went up and down the field against the Raiders to the tune of 365 yards of total offense and 24 first downs in their 48-21 victory. It looked easy. They passed at will against a secondary playing soft coverage, and they ran the ball down the Raiders' throat for 150 yards.

Bucs running back Michael Pittman, who ran for 124 yards on 29 carries, was approaching his season high (90 yards) by halftime. The Raiders had the third-best rushing defense in the NFL during the regular season, but they were no match for a running game that typically has been one of the worst.

By the end of the game, as the Raiders waged a futile comeback attempt, their defense appeared to have run out of gas, and with good reason. Tampa Bay dominated the time-of-possession battle 37:14 to 22:46.

"We were on the field entirely too long," Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson said. "We didn't think (Pittman) would be able to do what he did. We felt that our defense was stopping the run pretty well, but for him to go over 100 yards is unheard of. Nobody on our team expected that. If you run the ball, you don't have to do much else. They were gashing us. They came up with big runs."

Bucs quarterback Brad Johnson meticulously picked apart the Raiders' secondary for 215 yards and two

touchdowns on 18-of-34 passing. Johnson spread the ball around to five different receivers, including Keyshawn Johnson, who led the Bucs with six catches, and Keenan McCardell, who caught both touchdowns.

Again, Rod Woodson was not overly impressed.

"Keyshawn likes to talk, and now he has a ring, so you know he's going to talk even more," he said. "But Keyshawn is not a great receiver. He's a good receiver, but he's not a great receiver. We didn't even double him.

"We were trying to match up in our nickel vs. their (spread formations), and that probably wasn't such a good idea.

"Maybe we should have stayed in our base defense a little more. Should've, could've, would've; it doesn't matter. Nobody on the Oakland Raiders played their best football game today.

"We didn't play the way we're capable of playing. I think a lot of people were looking for other people to make plays, and that's not our football team. Maybe it was a learning curve. Who knows? You never know when you're going to get back to the Super Bowl. I've been playing 16 years, and I only made it three times. You wish you could play your best football when you get to the Super Bowl, but somebody has to win, and somebody has to lose."

The veteran safety wasn't alone in his confusion. Defensive tackle John Parrella also was left dazed and at a loss as he tried to explain the Raiders' collapse.

"For whatever reason, things didn't go like we had planned," Parrella said. "I wish I had the answer, but if I had the answer, I probably wouldn't be sitting here talking about a loss."

*Jan. 27, 2003, 7:17AM*

# Humor, parody color Super Bowl ads

**By DAVID BARRON**

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Yao Ming and Yogi Berra: Only in America.

The Rockets' rookie center and the Yankees' Hall of Fame catcher were paired Sunday night in one of the more memorable ads during ABC's broadcast of Super Bowl XXXVII.

In the spot for Visa check cards, Yao attempts to write a check to purchase a cheesy replica of the Statue of Liberty from a New York souvenir shop that does not, alas, take checks. The shopkeeper replies, "Yo," and points to the "no checks" sign. The player replies, "Yao," pointing to himself.

After several repetitions of "Yo" and "Yao," the Rockets center walks out in frustration. And in walks Berra, who is greeted by "Yo" and replies "Yo-gi."

More than a hundred million people probably saw the ad air during the second quarter of Sunday's game, but Yao was not among them.

He did, however, join his Rockets teammates in Memphis, where the team flew after a game in Chicago, and watched about five minutes of the third quarter.

And, yes, he now knows who Yogi Berra is, although he's not yet familiar with Berra's famed penchant for massacring the English language.

"He told me, 'I am honored to work with Mr. Yogi,' " said Rockets broadcaster Bill Worrell. "He also said playing basketball is more fun than filming commercials."

Yao's appearance combined two elements -- humor and celebrity -- that dominated most of the day's advertising.

And, with Berra's unannounced appearance, it also included one of the few surprises that wasn't made public before the game.

Fans who voted online at ESPN's Web site selected Budweiser's parody of instant replay, with a zebra officiating a game between teams of Clydesdales, as their favorite spot of the first half. It received 32

percent of the vote to 18 percent for FedEx's *Cast Away* parody and 17 percent for Bud Light's clown advertisement.

Yao's ad for Visa was fourth with 14 percent of the vote.

In an unofficial Chronicle poll, favorites included Yao's ad, the FedEx parody, Reebok's hard-hitting Terry Tate: Office Linebacker, H&R Block fantasy of Willie Nelson being forced to shave his beard to raise money for back taxes and the Bud Light spot based around the assumption that women eventually resemble their mothers.

City Councilman Gabriel Vasquez, a former professor at the University of Houston, also liked the Osbourne family ad for Pepsi, in which Ozzy Osbourne dreams that his children have morphed into the Osmonds and his wife, Sharon, has been reincarnated as Florence Henderson.

"I liked George Foreman (for his George Foreman Grills), which I thought was very down to earth," Vasquez said. "The only ones I really didn't like were the Sierra Mist soft drink commercials, the Levi Strauss buffalo stampede and the Monster.com 18-wheeler."

Other busts, according to respondents, included Celine Dion's singing endorsement of the Chrysler Pacifica, Sony's electronics-crazed astronauts and HotJobs' singing job applicants.

Although most of the ads opted for humor, only a few actually made a memorable point about their product.

Anyone who watched Jackie Chan and Michael Jordan shill for Hanes, for example, likely will remember that Hanes underwear now comes without itch-inducing tags.

Cadillac's time-travel ad appeared to be a successful launch of three new vehicles, including the XLR convertible and the ESV sport utility vehicle, and the Terry Tate: Office Linebacker promo apparently will be the first of several appearances for that character.

ABC received an estimated \$2.1 million for a 30-second spot from some advertisers, although some -- including Gallery Furniture owner Jim McIngvale, who paid a little over \$2 million for pre-game, in-game and postgame ads to publicize the Tennis Masters Cup -- paid less.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 10:43PM*

# Game not Super, but HDTV football could be the wave of the future

**Associated Press**

The scorecard on ABC's take-a-look-into-the-future HDTV broadcast of Sunday's Super Bowl:

The high-definition picture? Good as the Buccaneers' game plan. The theater-like sound? Loud as the late-night celebrations on Florida's Gulf Coast. (Think John Madden yelling "B-o-o-m!" in six-channel surround sound.)

The game? Uh, not so good. Of course, that was out of the control of ABC, whose telecast of Tampa Bay's 48-21 win over Oakland was so much more technically advanced and esthetically pleasing than its first HDTV Super Bowl in 2000, it was almost like comparing black and white TV to color.

Or, contrasting the regular analog telecast seen Sunday by an estimated 130 million-plus viewers to the state-of-tomorrow's-art HDTV game available to about 1 million on 65 ABC digital stations and assorted cable systems.

Despite the relatively small size of the audience, the super-picture Super Bowl could mark the start of HDTV's passage from an expensive gadget owned only by technophiles to the de rigueur centerpiece of America's family rooms.

"My neighbors, who are unfamiliar with high definition said it was like looking through a window," said Ken Holsgrove, a visual imaging consultant from Detroit who moderates the Internet's most popular HDTV forum. "It was a very, very good effort. It's not perfect, but what is?"

Among those nearly perfect images Sunday that couldn't be seen on the traditional analog telecast:

Individual beads of sweat dripping off Warren Sapp's forehead. Gruesome slash marks on Mike Alstott's left arm and the calcium deposits on Raiders fullback Jon Ritchie's forehead that showed up in much-too-real clarity. Stubble on nearly every coach's chin. Single blades of grass flying off kicker Martin Gramatica's shoe.

With a mostly noncompetitive game, though, many HDTV viewers did what most Super Bowl watchers did: They paid more attention to the commercials, especially with the telecast in 5.1 Dolby digital sound for the first time.

The movie commercials were high def all the way, with subwoofer-rocking sound and stunning visual images. The others were mostly standard definition, which lessens their visual impact when displayed on an HDTV set's theater-like rectangular screen (too bad FedEx's clever "Cast Away" commercial wasn't in high def).

Many in the TV industry compare the slow but steady adoption of high definition that of color TV in the 1960s and 1970s, but the pace is picking up. According to the National Association of Broadcasters, consumers bought 2.7 digital sets last year, with sales projected to climb to 4 million this year.

TV retailers reported a big spike in sales during the week before the Super Bowl, when 11 percent of all big-screen set sales are traditionally made each year.

Cable is getting into the act, too. Only a handful of cable companies were HDTV-capable for the first two high-definition Super Bowls, on ABC in 2000 and CBS in 2001. Now, the 10 largest U.S. cable operators are rolling out HDTV boxes, with at least one cable company currently offering high definition in 62 of the top 100 U.S. markets.

The demand for HDTV sets and cable boxes is expected to increase when ESPN's HDTV channel goes on the air in March, with about 100 events annually in high-definition.

Other HDTV events this year are expected to include the NCAA Final Four, the Masters, NCAA football, U.S. Open tennis, major league baseball on ESPN, the Stanley Cup finals, plus three NFL games per week: ABC's Monday night game, ESPN's Sunday night game and at least one game per week on CBS. This season, the only high-definition NFL games were three AFC playoff games on CBS and the Super Bowl.

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:14PM*

# Super Bowl Statistics

## SCORING

**Oakland ... 3 0 6 12 -- 21**

**Tampa Bay ... 3 17 14 14 -- 48**

**FIRST QUARTER RAIDERS 3 ... BUCCANEERS 0 ... at 10:40**

FG S.Janikowski 40

**Drive ... 7 plays ... 14 yards ... 2:55**

**Key plays:** C.Woodson 12 interception return to Bucs 36; Gannon 9 pass to T.Brown on 3rd-and-2.

**RAIDERS 3 ... BUCCANEERS 3 ... at 7:51**

FG M.Gramatica 31

**Drive ... 9 plays ... 58 yards ... 2:49**

**Key plays:** B.Johnson 12 and 23 passes to Jurevicius; Pittman 23 run.

**SECOND QUARTER BUCCANEERS 6 ... RAIDERS 3 ... at 11:16**

FG Gramatica 43

**Drive ... 9 plays ... 26 yards ... 3:53**

**Key plays:** Jackson 9 interception return to Bucs 49; B.Johnson 11 and 9 passes to K.Johnson.

**BUCCANEERS 13 ... RAIDERS 3 ... at 6:24**

Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick)

**Drive ... 4 plays ... 27 yards ... 2:02**

**Key plays:** K.Williams 25 punt return to Raiders 27; Pittman 19 run.

**BUCCANEERS 20 ... RAIDERS 3 ... at 0:30**

McCardell 5 pass from B.Johnson (Gramatica kick)

**Drive ... 10 plays ... 77 yards ... 3:15**

**Key plays:** B.Johnson 16 pass to Alstott; B.Johnson 10 pass to K.Johnson; Alstott 3 run on 3rd-and-1.

**THIRD QUARTER BUCCANEERS 27 ... RAIDERS 3 ... at 5:30**

McCardell 8 pass from B.Johnson (Gramatica kick)

**Drive ... 14 plays ... 89 yards ... 7:52**

**Key plays:** B.Johnson 10 run on 3rd-and-3; B.Johnson 9 pass to K.Johnson; B.Johnson 11 and 33 passes to Jurevicius; B.Johnson 12 pass to Dilger.

**BUCCANEERS 34 ... RAIDERS 3 ... at 4:47**

D.Smith 44 interception return (Gramatica kick)

**BUCCANEERS 34 ... RAIDERS 9 ... at 2:14**

Porter 39 pass from Gannon (pass failed)

**Drive ... 8 plays ... 82 yards ... 2:33**

**Key plays:** Gannon 25 pass to Jolley; Quarles 6 pass interference penalty on 3rd-and-4.

**FOURTH QUARTER BUCCANEERS 34 ... RAIDERS 15 ... at 14:16**

E.Johnson 13 blocked punt return (pass failed)

**BUCCANEERS 34 ... RAIDERS 21 ... at 6:06**

J.Rice 48 pass from Gannon (pass failed)

**Drive ... 8 plays ... 78 yards ... 2:56**

**Key play:** Gannon 14 pass to Jolley on 3rd-and-7.

**BUCCANEERS 41 ... RAIDERS 21 ... at 1:18**

Brooks 44 interception return (Gramatica kick)

**BUCCANEERS 48 ... RAIDERS 21 ... at 0:02**

D.Smith 50 interception return (Gramatica kick)

**Time:** 3:50. **A:** 67,603.

## TEAM STATISTICS

PASSING

RUSHING

RECEIVING

PUNTING

PUNT RETURNS

KICKOFF RETURNS

INTERCEPTIONS

KICKING

DEFENSE

Jan. 27, 2003, 1:07AM

# Super Bowl Summary

Sapp happy

No Tampa Bay player was happier to win than defensive tackle **Warren Sapp**.

"I told (outside linebacker) **Derrick Brooks** when we left Tampa to come here that I had my Defensive Player of the Year award (1999), and he got his Defensive Player of the Year award this year, so now let's get something everybody can have," Sapp said. "We all get a replica of that Lombardi Trophy.

"It's unbelievable. We came in here focused, and we had a goal, and there was no way we weren't going to get the job done tonight. We're going to have a lot of fun because the whole world's going to know about this champion."

In good hands

Buccaneers free safety **Dexter Jackson**, who intercepted two passes in the first half, was voted the Most Valuable Player.

"They say safeties have good hands, and I've got good hands, as you can see," Jackson said.

Jackson's wife couldn't attend the game. She stayed at the team's hotel because she is 8 1/2 months pregnant.

"Yeah, she's back there watching right now," Jackson said. "I want to say, 'What's up, baby? I love you.'"

As the MVP, Jackson will get a Cadillac of his choice to drive around his wife and new baby.

Speed breaks

Buccaneers linebacker **Derrick Brooks** said teams can prepare for Tampa Bay's scheme, formations and the different looks its defense has to offer, but they can't prepare for the speed.

The Raiders didn't appear equipped to handle the speed of the Bucs' defense, but Oakland coach **Bill Callahan** insisted it wasn't because his team was caught off-guard.

"We see good speed in the AFC," Callahan said. "Everybody's got good speed. It wasn't the aspect of speed. It was the aspect of we didn't execute. We just didn't function the way we're capable of functioning on the offensive side of the ball. I was disappointed with that."

He's home now

Tampa Bay quarterback **Brad Johnson** never found happiness in Minnesota, where he rode the bench for most of his seven seasons. He had one spectacular season in Washington and then was dumped by owner **Daniel Snyder**, who preferred **Jeff George**.

Johnson signed with the Buccaneers in 2001 and, after one frustrating season (13 touchdown passes, 11 interceptions, he entered a different world.

That would be the world of **Jon Gruden**, one of the gurus of the West Coast offense. Under Gruden, Johnson was the NFC's highest-rated passer, and Sunday, he threw two touchdown passes and helped lead Tampa Bay to victory.

"Offensively we haven't been getting a lot of credit but the last eight or nine weeks and playoffs we have been scoring points," Johnson said. "It's the ultimate team game. Our defense has been playing awesome all year long like they did tonight. It's an incredible feeling. One time in your life to say that you are the best in the world. It doesn't last very long, but for one moment, it is incredible."

Gruden special

**Brad Johnson** was not shy about giving **Jon Gruden** credit for helping him have the best season of his career.

"You knew there was something special about him from day one," the Tampa Bay quarterback said of Gruden, who gave up the Oakland head coaching job to go to Tampa Bay. "He just wanted me to get excited about football. I always was, but he took me to another level. I wish we could keep playing through the month of February and March and get ready for minicamp. That is how much we love football, and that is how much we can improve. The guy is contagious, and I love coming to work and dealing with him every day and just learning from the guy. His attitude is one of the most positive I've ever been around."

Rice disappointed

Oakland receiver **Jerry Rice** was blowing off all talk about the Raiders' salary-cap situation and how it might affect his possible return for a third season in silver and black, but he spoke patiently about how much he regretted that teammate **Tim Brown** didn't earn a Super Bowl championship Sunday.

Rice has three rings from his days with the San Francisco 49ers, but he said he was on a mission to help

Brown get his first in 15 years.

"I really wanted this game for him out of the respect that I have for him and the friendship that we've developed," Rice said. "I know Tim; he's a fighter. He's a warrior, and he's going to bounce back."

Brown was held to one catch for nine yards.

Shock troop

Tampa Bay fullback **Mike Alstott** scored a touchdown to give him one in each of the Bucs' three playoff victories.

"I'm in shock right now," Alstott said. "This is all coming to me at once, and it's overwhelming. I feel like we won the game but still have to play next week. I can't believe we really are Super Bowl champs."

"I was just happy to get in the end zone and help the team win. My number usually gets called around the goal line."

Woodson bats .333

Oakland free safety **Rod Woodson** is 1-for-3 in Super Bowls. He won with the Ravens and lost with the Steelers and Raiders.

Woodson was asked if Tampa Bay coach **Jon Gruden's** familiarity with the Oakland defense made a difference in the game.

"We had the same inside track on their offense," he said. "Their defense played extremely well. Their front four's an aggressive group. They sit back in cover two (two-deep zone), and they'll blitz every now and then. They were getting to **Rich (Gannon)**, and when that happens, it's pretty tough."

Gannon set a Super Bowl record with five interceptions.

"No one individual player wins or loses championships," Woodson said. "We didn't do well in the first half. Then, we didn't play well in the first half of the second half. We let them drive down the field and score in the third quarter before we woke up all of a sudden."

-- **From staff reports**

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:02PM*

# Grading the game

## **BUCCANEERS**

### **QuarterbackB**

Brad Johnson overcame a slow start to throw two touchdown passes. After throwing an early interception, he was efficient and stayed away from mistakes.

### **Running backsB**

Michael Pittman picked the perfect time to have the third 100-yard game of his career. Mike Alstott scored a touchdown in his third consecutive playoff game.

### **ReceiversB**

Keenan McCardell made the most of his chances with two TD catches. Keyshawn Johnson made the short and intermediate receptions.

### **Offensive lineB+**

Led by G Cosey Coleman, the Bucs blew the Raiders off the line of scrimmage. It was their best performance this season run-blocking and pass-protecting.

### **Defensive lineA**

Ends Simeon Rice and Greg Spires dominated the Raiders' tackles. Rice registered two sacks. Tackles Warren Sapp and Chatric Darby clogged the middle.

### **LinebackersA**

The highly rated Derrick Brooks and the underrated Sheldon Quarles and Alshermond Singleton were exceptional against the run and pass.

### **SecondaryB+**

FS Dexter Jackson intercepted two passes. CB Dwight Smith returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

The Bucs allowed two touchdown passes.

## **CoachingA**

Jon Gruden and his staff did an exceptional job. Defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin deserves special recognition. Special teams were awful, though.

## **RAIDERS**

### **QuarterbackF**

Rich Gannon, the league's MVP, played his worst game of the season, throwing five interceptions. His two touchdown passes came after Oakland trailed 34-3.

### **Running backsF**

The Raiders don't have much of a running game when they are ahead. When they fell hopelessly behind, they were forced to abandon the run anyway.

### **ReceiversD+**

Tim Brown and Jerry Rice were shut down until Rice caught a late 48-yard touchdown pass. Jerry Porter also caught a touchdown pass.

### **Offensive lineF**

Although they are larger and more physical than most lines, the Raiders were stuffed by the Bucs' smaller, quicker and more tenacious defensive linemen.

### **Defensive lineD**

Across the board, they were stuffed on the running game, and they didn't create a lot of pressure on QB Brad Johnson.

### **LinebackersC+**

Bill Romanowski, Napoleon Harris and Eric Barton were all over the field. They made more plays than their teammates on defense.

### **SecondaryC**

CBs Charles Woodson and Tory James have been playing hurt for weeks. They didn't get beat down the field. Safeties Rod Woodson and Anthony Dorsett were average.

## **CoachingD**

Bill Callahan and his staff were outcoached in every area other than special teams, which ignited a Raiders comeback that fell short.

-- **JOHN McCLAIN**

*Jan. 26, 2003, 11:38PM*

# Super Bowl Key Play

## THE SITUATION

After Oakland struggled in the first half, the last thing the Raiders wanted to do was fall on their faces out of the chute to start the second half. Tampa Bay scored on its first possession to take a 27-3 lead, and all hope was lost for the Raiders after Dwight Smith intercepted a pass from Rich Gannon and returned it 44 yards for a touchdown. It was one of three interceptions the Bucs returned for scores.

## WHAT THEY WERE SAYING

"They gave me a three-deep look, and I was a little indecisive about whether I wanted to throw to Jerry Rice or Jerry Porter. I was a little late with my read, and I paid for it. It was a poor decision on my part."

**-- Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon**

"It was a dominating performance. Our defense shut down the best offense in football."

**-- Bucs cornerback Ronde Barber**

Jan. 26, 2003, 11:44PM

## Easy Pickings

# Tampa Bay has spring in their step

By **RICHARD JUSTICE**

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SAN DIEGO -- Their goal was simple. They wanted to be considered the best. The best ever. Period.

Mission accomplished? The Tampa Bay Buccaneers entered Super Bowl XXXVII as the NFL's top-ranked defense. Best in total defense. Fewest passing yards allowed. Fewest points allowed.

Their final challenge was attempting to shut down the NFL's top-ranked offense -- the first time a Super Bowl had matched the league's top-ranked offense against the top-ranked defense.

"We deserve to be considered the greatest of all time," linebacker Derrick Brooks said after Tampa Bay's smothering defense led the way in a 48-21 victory over the Oakland Raiders Sunday night.

Safety Dexter Jackson intercepted two first-half passes and was named the game's MVP. But the award could have gone to a long list of others, including cornerback Dwight Smith, who returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

When it was over, the Bucs said it was easier than they'd thought it might be.

And they knew before the game it might be easy.

"Our goal every week is to make a team one-dimensional," Bucs safety John Lynch said, "but the Raiders never tried to run the ball. They come right out and tell you they're going to throw the ball. When a team does that, we're pretty tough."

On Thursday, Bucs coach Jon Gruden jumped into practice and played quarterback against Tampa Bay's defense. He said the idea was not to reveal any particular tendencies as much as to show the fast tempo at which Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon attacks a defense.

"I think it was more fun for Jon than anything," Lynch said. "He actually completed a couple of passes and went down the field on us. But I think that was more because we were doubled over laughing."

Gruden had coached the Raiders from 1998 until 2001, so he knew the Tampa Bay opponent better than any opposing coach in Super Bowl history.

Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin tapped Gruden's brain in going over the Oakland personnel. Kiffin normally runs down each offensive player, but this week, he asked Gruden to do the honors.

"I know we still had to execute the stuff he told us," Brooks said, "but his insight definitely helped. It seemed like everything they ran we were prepared for. Some of the words Jon used in practice were the same words they used on the field."

Strategy may have helped, but Tampa Bay won because its defensive ends, Simeon Rice and Greg Spires, dominated the Oakland tackles. They won because Oakland rushed for just 19 yards. And they won because the Bucs intercepted a Super Bowl-record five passes.

Oakland did not gain more than one first down in any of its first 10 offensive possessions. The Raiders went 14 yards to put Sebastian Janikowski in position for a 40-yard field goal the first time they had the ball -- after a Brad Johnson interception.

After that, there was nothing. Oakland next nine possessions netted a total of 66 yards. They went six straight possessions without crossing midfield. By the time the Raiders had a decent offensive drive, it came in the third quarter when they trailed 34-3.

In winning a championship for the first time in their 27-season existence, the Bucs remembered a lot of bad days.

Brooks recalled an earlier game in San Diego when fans taunted the Bucs with a sign reading, "Yuccaneers."

Another referred to a former Bucs quarterback: "Trent Dilfer, rating 0.00."

"To come full circle is very nice," Brooks said. "This is a very special day."

Lynch said: "We knew unless the Raiders made some wholesale changes and went away from what they normally do, it was going to be tough. This is just unbelievable. You work all your career to get to this point. They can never take this away from us."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:20PM

## FOCUS: HERBAL PHARMACY

# Too much licorice can be health hazard

By **JOE GRAEDON** and **TERESA GRAEDON**  
King Features Syndicate

**Q:** My adult son eats large amounts of black licorice regularly. I have told him that eating large amounts of licorice can have a negative effect on his health. He tells me I'm crazy! I can't remember the particulars of what I read. Can you help?

**A:** If the candy he eats contains natural licorice for flavoring, he could be putting himself at risk for high blood pressure. Just a handful of black licorice on a regular basis can reduce the amount of potassium in the body and might lead to fluid retention, not to mention irregular heart rhythms. Other side effects such as muscle weakness and lowered libido might offer a more convincing argument that he should be moderate in his licorice consumption.

**Q:** I have arthritis in my hip. I take Advil for the pain, and it helps. Taking SAME also alleviates the pain, but my doctor is not familiar with SAME.

As I read the SAME package insert, it seems to be a substance that occurs naturally in the body. Is it just another fad? Besides reducing pain, it seems to be mood-altering, giving a slight euphoric cast to the day.

**A:** SAME, which is short for S-adenosyl-L-methionine, is indeed a naturally occurring compound. In Europe, this substance is prescribed for depression, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia and liver problems.

Preliminary research suggests that SAME might ease arthritis pain. Some studies show that it works as well for depression as old-fashioned drugs like amitriptyline.

If you continue with SAME, you should ask your doctor to check your homocysteine levels. This compound is a breakdown product of SAME and at high levels is a risk factor for heart disease. B vitamins (B-6, B-12 and folic acid) can help keep homocysteine under control.

**Q:** My husband lost his job and is under a tremendous amount of stress. The doctor prescribed Paxil to help with the anxiety, depression and sleep problems. The trouble is, he seems more nervous now than ever, and his sleeping problem is worse. In addition, he has a sweating problem that we think is related to Paxil.

When he stopped Paxil, he got so dizzy and nauseated he had to go back on the drug. I would prefer he take something natural. The only other drug he takes is Lipitor for cholesterol. Would St. John's wort work for anxiety and depression? What about hops and valerian for insomnia?

**A:** Antidepressants such as Paxil, Prozac and Zoloft can make some people jittery and give them insomnia. Excessive sweating can also be a problem.

St. John's wort helps some people with mild depression and should not interfere with sleep or sexual function. But this herb can interact with dozens of prescription medications, including antidepressants like Paxil. Cholesterol-lowering drugs (Lipitor or Zocor) might also be affected.

Valerian is a sedative herb. Both it and hops (an ingredient in beer) have traditionally been used for insomnia.

Joe Graedon is a pharmacologist. Teresa Graedon holds a doctorate in medical anthropology and is a nutrition expert. *The People's Pharmacy With Joe and Teresa Graedon* is a call-in show syndicated to many public-radio stations.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

## Author writes with a fresh perspective

By FRITZ LANHAM

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Colson Whitehead, author of *John Henry Days*, is by no stretch of the imagination himself "a steel drivin' man."

The 33-year-old novelist stands about 6 feet tall, but he's bone slender. As a kid he was a TV-watching, comic-book-reading, couch-hugging "geek," to use his word. He comes across as modest and thoughtful, smart, not overbearing. He has the habit, when pondering a question, of bringing the tips of his fingers up to his chin. Not only does he drive no steel, he doesn't drive a car.

That said, on the basis of two novels -- one a quasi-crime novel about elevator inspectors, the other a fictional riff on folklore hero John Henry -- Whitehead has emerged as an imposing presence on the American literary landscape, a young African-American writer distinguished by a fresh, quirky imagination.

*John Henry Days*, published in 2001, has been among the most-praised novels of the last five years -- the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times all named it to their "best of the year" list, and it was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Last year it earned its author a "genius" grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The best news for us is that Whitehead will be a part-time Houstonian, at least for two years. This spring and next he's a visiting professor in the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program.

The arrival of Whitehead, together with the recent hiring of journalist Ruben Martinez and husband-and-wife novelists Antonya Nelson and Robert Boswell, are part of a concerted effort by the highly regarded UH program to inject more youth and diversity into its teaching faculty.

Whitehead makes his big-venue Houston debut tonight when he reads at the Alley Theatre as part of the Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series. He'll be reading from *Colossus of New York*, a collection of essays due out next fall.

In an informal talk last week before about 30 people at Brazos Bookstore, and later in a telephone interview, Whitehead discussed his work and career. As the title of his new book suggests, he's a New Yorker, born there, raised there, rooted there, he explained. He and his wife are in the midst of buying a

house in Brooklyn.

He grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side, the second youngest of four children. His parents were executive recruiters, his upbringing solidly middle class. Sci-fi movies and Spider-Man comics were youthful preoccupations. Sports were not.

"I definitely got used to staying indoors and amusing myself," he said. He observes, for what it's worth, that most writers his age seem to have been big comic-book fans.

In the fifth grade he first came across the story of John Henry, the black railroad construction worker who may or may not have been a real person in the 1870s. In the most common version of the legend, John Henry got into a steel-driving contest with a steam drill. Man defeated machine, but John Henry dropped dead of his exertions.

Whitehead's class was shown a cartoon version of the story. It made a big impression.

"At that point I saw it as tragic," Whitehead said. "When he keeled over dead, in my memory of it, there was no feeling of redemption."

Twenty years later, when Whitehead began researching the folk tale, he discovered "there are many different interpretations. It depends on who is writing the song, who is singing it and who is receiving it."

After high school came Harvard University, where Whitehead majored in English and failed to gain admission to creative writing courses. He characterizes the short stories he was writing at the time as "crappy, self-indulgent little tales." But his reading ranged wide -- influences include Ishmael Reed and Ralph Ellison, Herman Melville and Thomas Pynchon.

In 1991, with degree in hand, he returned to New York, slept on his parents' couch for six months, then went to work for the Village Voice as an editorial assistant. This led to writing assignments for the weekly -- book, music and television reviews. For two years in the mid-1990s he wrote a twice-a-month television column. That left him time to write fiction, and he produced a first novel that has never seen the light of publication.

Whitehead described himself to one interviewer as an "omnivorous consumer of pop culture," and the latter obviously animates *John Henry Days*. The book oscillates between the birth and evolution of the John Henry legend -- an early expression of American pop culture -- and the misadventures of a young modern-day black writer named J. Sutter.

J. is a junketeer, a bottom-feeder in the journalistic food chain. He makes his living attending press functions organized by movie studios, record companies, clothing manufacturers and the like, where he's plied with free food, free drink and free stuff in the hope he'll whip out a few hundred words of puffery for some second-rate magazine or Web site. Junketeers like J. Hoover up free review copies of a book and

then laugh when they run into each other the next day selling them to a secondhand book dealer.

"Inveigler of invites" and "open bar opportunist," such is J. Sutter, and Whitehead's take on publicity, parasitism, and what historian Daniel Boorstin calls pseudo-events -- happenings that exist only to be reported -- is hilarious. In the novel, J. joins other jaded junketeers in Talcott, W.Va., putative site of John Henry's fatal scrap, to cover the festival organized around the unveiling of a new John Henry postage stamp.

"Updating an industrial age myth for the information age," is the way Whitehead described what he's up to in the book. John Henry did some of the lowest, dirtiest day labor of his era, J. Sutter of his. One used a literal shovel, the other a metaphorical shovel. It's a clever conceit.

*The Intuitionist*, Whitehead's earlier, 1998 novel, also puts the author's imaginative audacity on display. Whitehead happened to catch a segment on *20/20*, the television news show, about the dangers of malfunctioning escalators. That got him thinking about elevators, ubiquitous elements of the New York City urban landscape. "A lot of ideas have come as happy accidents," he said.

He had been reading detective fiction, trying to learn more about how to plot novels. Elevators and crime. It was, he admitted, "an absurd proposition, and I had to make it real." He threw himself into research.

The main character in the novel is Lila Mae Watson, the first black female elevator inspector in an unnamed New York-like city. An elevator falls, disastrously, shortly after Watson inspects it. While battling jealous white male colleagues in the Department of Elevator Inspectors, she must ferret out what went wrong and why.

Rationalism and mysticism, technology and race intertwine in the novel, which earned reviews almost as glowing as the *John Henry Days* notices.

Asked whether he feels an obligation, as an African-American writer, to address black-white relations, Whitehead avoided claiming any large mandates. "My first aim is to entertain myself and to work out the problems of myself," he said.

He's "trying to discover where I fit into the country," he said, and he assumes that in recording his own intellectual journeys he will speak to other people traveling similar paths.

His initial reaction to Houston seems positive. All big cities are similar in many ways, he said. Being comfortable in them involves finding the neighborhoods, the restaurants, the bars, the movie theaters you like. At the same time he makes it clear that New York will remain his principal home.

He's noncommittal about any commitment to UH beyond the two-semester arrangement. "We'll see what happens from there," he said. So far he likes teaching his two graduate-level classes, a fiction workshop

and a course in contemporary fiction.

As for how he'll get around town, the car-free author joked about "getting one of those Segways."

Meanwhile another novel is percolating in his head. This one deals with ... Band-Aids.

"Twenty years later I'm still spending too much time indoors and too much time to myself, thinking up strange ideas," Whitehead joked. "But it works for me, I guess."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:20PM

## OPERA REVIEW

# 'Thirteen Clocks' spins a fun fairy tale that begs for fine-tuning

By CHARLES WARD

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With the premiere of Christopher Theofanidis' *The Thirteen Clocks*, the University of Houston Moores School of Music took a major step in bolstering Houston's alternative opera scene.

Theofanidis, a Houstonian now teaching in New York and Baltimore, is winning fans with his imaginative, inviting music.

*The Thirteen Clocks* showed how through gripping solo scenes, a fundamental conservatism and a fabulously shimmering orchestral accompaniment that suggested there were a lot more players in the pit than the 28 that played Friday's premiere at the Moores Opera House.

Based on a fable by James Thurber, the great 20th-century American humorist, *The Thirteen Clocks* has all the elements of a classic fairy tale (plus plenty of themes from classic operas and operettas).

A prince disguised as a poor minstrel falls in love with a young woman he has never seen.

Saralinda lives with the evil Duke of Coffin Castle, who has caused time to stop so that the clocks of the castle always show 10 minutes to 5.

Everyone believes Saralinda is the Duke's niece but, actually, he stole her as a child and is planning to marry her on her 21st birthday.

So, he sends suitors on impossible tasks and, when they do not succeed, kills them for food for his geese.

The prince has to find a thousand jewels in "nine and ninety hours." Aided by a magical spirit, the Golux, he gets them from Hagga, a cursed woman who weeps jewels.

The prince wins -- a day before Saralinda's 21st birthday. The Duke is left alone to his fate.

The tale is entertaining and Friday's performance by the Moores Opera Center elicited periodic chuckles, especially at the Duke's ravings.

Key roles had strong portrayals. Carlos Monzon's slyly malevolent Duke was the most entertaining. John Weinel was the ardent Xingu/Zorn (the prince) with Christian Guajardo as Golux, Dawn M. Padula as Hagga and Elizabeth Hansen as Saralinda.

But *The Thirteen Clocks* seemed a work that has not reached its real potential -- undoubtedly because Theofanidis and librettist Peter Webster started on the project barely a year ago.

A Houston actor/stage director recently relocated to San Diego, Webster did an excellent job in fashioning Thurber's tale into an attractive, though talky, libretto.

But the transfer followed the outline of the story too literally. The tale needed radical surgery to produce the strong characters and vivid emotional entanglements that are so essential to opera. Only the Duke was multidimensional.

Yet, Thurber's story has the ingredients for a really meaty opera.

Hagga is a great tragic figure but she needed to tell her tale, not the Golux (in filling up the theatrically awkward journey to her house). Giving Hagga her story would have made her a great role and her already strong scene, which began with very luminous music, a knockout.

The story obviously engaged Theofanidis' imagination, but more intense interactions and deeper emotions could fire it further. It's hard to keep a piece moving when the text plods.

Perhaps that's why the music was so devoted to a single tonality for much of the evening. Though enhanced greatly by imaginative dissonant decorations and the impressive orchestration, the music was stuck on a single key to the point of boredom.

The score needed a few more moments like the late Act 2 mention of "love," when the music made a modulation that, in the context, sounded revolutionary.

The Moores Opera Center gave *The Thirteen Clocks* another of its strong stagings.

Thom Guthrie's unit set had a colorful backdrop with bold colors and big cartoonish shapes. Director Buck Ross moved the cast effectively (but in many scenes he needed to get the big table sticking out in the center of the stage out of the way). Conductor Peter Jacoby elicited a very effective accompaniment from the orchestra of UH students.

The final performance is at 7:30 tonight.

Charles Ward can receive e-mail at [charles.ward@chron.com](mailto:charles.ward@chron.com).

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

## MUSIC REVIEW

# Mariachi Vargas explores a proud musical tradition

By CHARLES WARD

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For many Anglos, mariachi means a band of strolling musicians that sounds better after a couple of tequilas in a Mexican restaurant.

For people from Mexico, mariachi is a proud musical tradition that the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán brought to the Houston Symphony in a dazzling pops program Saturday afternoon.

It hooked the audience from the start. The whoops, calls, sighs, smiles and, at the last encore, vociferous requests signaled that Mariachi Vargas was touching a deep cultural tradition the orchestra has seldom explored.

It's one that Carlos Miguel Prieto, the orchestra's newly named associate conductor, knows intimately. The concert was just as fascinating for seeing him play the crowd like a stand-up comic -- even cajoling, in Spanish, an extra-hyper round of applause for the symphony players themselves.

Formed in 1898 in Tecalitlán in the state of Jalisco, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán has codified the tradition, elevated its performance to the highest professional standards and taken mariachi into the world of high-powered, hyper-produced entertainment.

Saturday, Mariachi Vargas showed that mariachi music doesn't have to mean ill-tuned, sentimentally realized music. Mariachi trumpets can retain that distinctive airy sound and still be spot on the pitch.

The Vargas members were virtuoso players, steeped in a distinct style. With technical ease and personable stage presence, they delivered high-voltage yet deeply touching entertainment, strongly reinforced by the orchestra's constant accompaniment.

They cajoled the audience into participating -- singing *Que te ha dado esa mujer* (*What has that woman done for you*) to open the medley *Mexico Romantico*. In the encore *Por Amor*, violinist Estaban Sandoval proved that, regardless of the idiom, crooners are cream of the crop.

I don't know the repertoire but, from the audience's reaction, the arrangers had trawled well, and medleys

such as *Popurri Sones de Jalisco*, *Popurri de Pépe Guizar* and *Solo Veracruz es Bello* had hit after hit.

Prieto, music director of the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra and associate conductor of the Mexico City Philharmonic, enjoyed himself immensely -- even doing a choreographed twirl with the players. Yet, he didn't treat the concert as a throw-away pops event.

He opened with a fairly tough-sounding *Sensemayá* by Mexican Silvestre Revueltas, offered the charming orchestral Intermezzo from the zarzuela *La Boda de Luis Alonso* (*The Wedding of Luis Alonso*) by Spaniard Jerónimo Giménez and included the familiar *Huapango* by José Pablo Moncayo.

Crucially, too, Prieto insisted that all the orchestra work, including the accompaniments, be played crisply and intensely.

Supporters of the orchestra can only hope that, by bringing Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, the organization has made the first steps in reaching out to a crucial part of Houston's population.

Prieto will be an essential part of that effort.

Charles Ward can receive e-mail at [charles.ward@chron.com](mailto:charles.ward@chron.com).

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

## DANCE REVIEW

# Twyla Tharp program is a beautiful blend of inspiration, intensity

By MOLLY GLENTZER

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The feud between ballet and modern dance has been smoldering at least since Isadora Duncan performed barefoot in a Greek tunic in the early 20th century, but no choreographer in history has served both forms so well as Twyla Tharp.

Since putting ballet and modern dancers onstage together in *Deuce Coupe* in 1973, she has refined her vision so thoroughly, she now makes a virtuosic *fouetté* look like it was born to end in a caveman-inspired freeze.

As if that's not enough, her current program both blends and differentiates styles of dance. Friday at Jones Hall, the only Texas stop on Twyla Tharp Dance's tour, she juxtaposed a folksy romp (2001's *Westerly Round*), a waltzy classical ballet (*Even the King*, which premiered two weeks ago) and a fierce modern movement (2002's *Surfer at the River Styx*).

Tharp always challenges her dancers. These works also depicted challenges between characters. The battles surfaced wittily in the dancing itself. As the evening progressed, so did the intensity of the rivalries, from trivial to epic.

The tour de force, *Surfer at the River Styx*, was so riveting it gave me a sensory wipe-out. While Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* mimicked Greek tragedy across the street at the Alley Theater, here was another genius' take on that dramatic heritage. Tharp's diving-off point was Euripides' *Bacchae*, a myth about the dangers of hubris. (The cocky Theban king Pentheus is torn apart for challenging the god Dionysus.)

*Surfer* opened with a bacchanal like a Greek tragedy, built to a melodramatic crest and finished with a transcendent sacrifice. No mere retelling, it worked on levels that will inspire reams of academic analysis. Cliff's Notes version: the Pentheus character suggested Tharp's own modern upstart sensibilities, pitted against the Dionysian power of ballet.

Charlie Neshyba-Hodges, a compact fireball with boy-next-door charm, was the hero/victim in baggy pants, daring to usurp the sleekly clad, classically lined Matthew Dibble. Four dancers in midnight blue represented the river around the two men.

The blow-your-ears-back movement, awesomely performed, unleashed a battery of modern contrasts: snaky torsos, deep angular bends, yoga poses, a boxer's side-to-side dance, head wiggles and fast footwork. But the climax was a balletic frenzy: Dibble brewed a series of killer *fouettés* (one of ballet's hardest steps) and tornadic pirouettes. The upstart Neshyba-Hodges repeated them -- flexing his feet rebelliously -- before he was sent downriver, broken-limbed but lifted above the "waves." He reappeared in the Zen-like coda amid a chorus of heavenly creatures, with everyone now clad a la the Dionysian figure in an otherworldly gray. (Costume designer Santo Loquasto gave all three works elegant simplicity.)

"Junkman" percussionist Donald Knack's terrific recorded score created just the right propulsive tension. His instruments -- found objects -- yielded a sound with levity even when it was demonic. The coda's mesmerizing music was by David Kahne. Jennifer Tipton's lighting also pumped up the mood, throwing menacing shadows on the back wall.

*Westerly Round* was *Surfer's* opposite, set to violist Mark O'Connor's cheerful *Call of the Mockingbird*. Here was the most trivial rivalry, as three men (Neshyba-Hodges, Jason McDole and Dario Vaccaro) tried to win the attention of a perky girl (Emily Coates). Full of wow moments, the choreography paid homage to Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo* and *Oklahoma!* It also drew on classical ballet (some clowning a la *The Nutcracker's* Harlequin/Columbine dolls), jazz and even hip-hop acrobatics. This was classic, good-humored, try-anything Tharp.

*Even the King* featured Dibble as a romantic monarch who lost his ideal ballerina (Lynda Syng) to a flashy rival (Vacarro). This tidy little ballet stuck to its classical roots via Johann Strauss' *Emperor Waltz*. (Within Tharpian reason, of course; the costumes and throne were modern.)

A giddy rush of waltzing for Dibble and Syng and testosterone-charged leaps for Vacarro were highlights. Dibble, a Royal Ballet alumnus, danced dreamily and flexed his classical acting chops well. He even mimed a bit, pining like *Swan Lake's* Prince Siegfried. Syng was lovely *en pointe*, balancing grace and killer leg extensions. Two auxiliary couples nicely offset the main threesome. The women's costumes were a delight -- transparent flowered skirts with zigzag hems.

This cast has only been together five weeks. That showed in a few unison movements that weren't synchronized. But Tharp knows how to pick talent, and they give her -- and the audience -- their souls.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

## TV REVIEW

# Juggling 'other people's money'

## Court TV revisits Enron, WorldCom, corporate greed

By ANN HODGES

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle TV Critic

Enron leads the bad-guy lineup on *Mugshots*, with WorldCom alongside, when Court TV takes a hard look tonight at what happens when corporate officers mess with *Other People's Money*.

Even though you already know the sad story, this *Mugshots* is like a crash on the highway: You can't help gawking.

The story starts with a recap of Enron's astronomical rise and catastrophic fall, with particular attention paid to the roles of former chairman Ken Lay, former CEO Jeff Skilling, and former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow. Then it does the same with WorldCom and former WorldCom president/CEO Bernie Ebbers, the only one who speaks for himself here.

Ebbers, who was forced to resign, is now under SEC investigation, *Mugshots* reports, and WorldCom's former chief financial officer, Scott Sullivan, has been indicted on fraud and conspiracy charges. "It was the nearest thing to a legitimate Ponzi scheme that they've ever run down there," judges business journalist Chris Byron.

But, "The fraud at WorldCom, was simple stuff, a scratch pad and a guy ... compared to Picasso at Enron," says CNBC's David Farber.

*Mugshots* does not flinch from making judgments about the futures of the former officers of those companies. At Enron, the narrator says, "Fastow's hands appear to be the dirtiest, but the most controversial was Skilling."

Enron's "follow-the-money trail leads to Fastow, and the government's case there seems to be the strongest," former SEC prosecutor Christopher Bebel analyzes. Like WorldCom's Sullivan, Fastow has been charged and is out on bail. But Bebel doesn't stop there. He tells how cases can also be built against Lay and Skilling.

This opens with a news clip from last year's Enron bankruptcy auction, and it closes with Bebel's prediction that, "In all likelihood, (those responsible for these corporate disasters) are going to be stripped of their assets based on forfeiture proceedings. And they're going to be in prison, wearing an orange jumpsuit."

*Mugshots'* style and Scott Raybow's narration smack more of tabloid than documentary. But it's obvious the production team did its Houston homework.

Interviews with former Enron employees illustrate the personal cost, bitterness and disillusion. "I always said Ken Lay was pretty much the father figure in Enron, someone you could trust -- your grandfather," former tax accountant Troy Kosub laments.

Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane explains why Reliant Field was once called Enron Field. "Enron was by far the No. 1 corporate citizen in Houston and probably in all of Texas." It also gave money to help build the stadium.

Former Enron senior manager Brian Cruver (CBS' recent bust of a TV movie, *The Crooked E: The Unshredded Truth About Enron*, was based on his book) takes a drive by the high-priced Houston homes of Lay, Skilling and Fastow.

And Cruver takes a jab, too, at Sherron Watkins, the Enron employee who made Time's cover. "She blew her whistle within the soundproofed walls of Ken Lay's office," Cruver reminds. "We didn't hear about the memo until months later, after we'd been laid off. ... "

Houston Chronicle columnist Shelby Hodge also measures the impact on the city's social scene, where Lay and his wife, Linda, were prominent.

Along with investors, "the employees suffered the most," journalist Byron says.

"They made fools of us," declares Debbie Perrotta, a former executive assistant. "This company collapsed because of greed. Corporate greed."

"Enron is so complicated that it's very hard for a lot of people to explain it, much less understand it," CNBC's Farber says.

*Mugshots* doesn't add to what you probably know already about Enron, and I'm not sure it will help if you're muddled about it. But the story is still a gripper.

***Mugshots: Other People's Money, 9 tonight on Court TV. Grade: B-***

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

# Labeling leverage

## Agency seal sheds light on health supplements

By **MARTY RACINE**

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You eat fruits and vegetables.

You know good fat from bad, sunflower oil from safflower oil, high-density from low-density cholesterol.

But do you really know what you're getting in the vitamins and other supplements you're swallowing?

Half of Americans take dietary supplements, defined as vitamins, minerals, amino acids or botanicals but which may also overlap with enzymes, hormones and antioxidants. Some come in bottles with labels bearing the names of manufacturers we know and have come to trust. Others, however, are bought through the Internet or in various stores and are made by companies with unfamiliar names.

But a new labeling program for dietary supplements is designed to help consumers determine if what's on the label is really what's in the bottle.

It's called the Dietary Supplement Verification Program (DSVP), sanctioned by U.S. Pharmacopeia. The USP is an independent, not-for-profit organization used by the Food and Drug Administration as the nation's compendium to set public quality standards for medicines, supplements and other health-care products.

The DSVP, however, is not a cure-all for mislabeling. The program is voluntary, as is compliance with labeling guidelines under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994. To date, the FDA -- which defines supplements as food not medicine -- has confined its regulatory reach to manufacturing processes.

Neither does the DSVP test a supplement's overall safety or health claims. Those are the responsibility of the FDA. The DSVP is designed to assure consumers that a product:

Contains the amount of ingredients declared on the label;

Will dissolve effectively for absorption into the body;

Has been screened for harmful contaminants such as pesticides, bacteria and heavy metals;

Has been made using sanitary and well-controlled procedures.

Though it's just one more step toward uniformity of labeling, doctors and nutritionists applaud the move.

"I can only see that it would be beneficial to consumers so people know exactly what they're getting," says Harris County extension agent Jo Lynn Jennings, who teaches nutrition.

"I stand behind this USP (program) 100 percent," says Dr. Lewis Clarke of Clear Lake, a proponent of supplements, "because I'm looking for sources that are reliable. I want (patients) to get what they're paying for so that I can see the benefit clinically."

Dr. V. Srinivasan, who heads the DSVP, says it helps reputable supplement manufacturers to distinguish their product "from others who are not ethical."

In December, the DSVP label debuted on store shelves on bottles of Pharmavite's Nature Made Vitamin E. Up to 43 of the company's vitamin and mineral products are expected to go through the certification procedure.

Others are following, but it's too early to gauge how many of an estimated 600 supplement manufacturers in the United States will submit products for testing or to know how many products will bear the DSVP seal.

It's also probably premature to dismiss nonparticipating companies because many already sport "guarantees" on their labels and may have earned a GMP seal for good manufacturing processes awarded by the USP.

The USP's first compendia for pharmaceuticals and dietary supplements was published in 1820 and included only natural items such as camomile, ginger and valerian. Over time, as consumer sentiment dictated, it established standards for multivitamins, minerals and other supplements.

The DSVP was launched in 2002 under the guidance of volunteer experts representing science, academia, government and consumer organizations. Certified products display its seal, a green and gold circle with "Dietary Supplement Verified" imprinted around it, overlaid with a black and white USP oval.

Sales of supplements reach \$17 billion annually. Though the 1994 dietary supplement act found "a link between the ingestion of certain nutrients or dietary supplements and the prevention" of certain chronic diseases, their need, at least in large doses, remains a source of debate.

"The stance of the extension service is that it is preferable to get your nutrition from foods," Jennings says.

Yet she adds, "People are certainly taking supplements more than ever for added insurance. I think there's a lot of fear about the food supply, food being grown on soil that's depleted, food that's genetically altered."

Because drug companies cannot patent naturally occurring compounds, research on nutrients' potential has been relegated to grant studies and European testing. Still, supplements have begun to resonate with the stodgiest of medical associations. The American Heart Association even recommends omega 3 fatty acids, found in certain cold-water fish.

This, Clarke hopes, will alter the mind-set of conventional medicine.

"I don't want to deride M.D.s, but as one I can tell you that M.D.s are by and large worried about doing the right thing, and they don't deviate much from convention," said Clarke, who also has a Ph.D. in neurochemistry. "M.D.s generally have a rote protocol and follow the recommendations of their (medical) society. That's unfortunate, because there's a lot of patients we might be able to heal if we are really creative."

Supplementation is a creative act. "People are interested in taking care of their health," Srinivasan says, "because health-care costs are rising astronomically. Prevention is better than treatment."

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:20PM

# FNC signs Pat Sajak to host new weekend talk program

Copyright 2003 New York Daily News

*Wheel of Fortune* host Pat Sajak is spinning to the Fox News Channel.

Sajak, best known for the long-running game show, will be the host of a weekend talk program on the top-rated cable news channel.

The hourlong *Pat Sajak Weekend* will include interviews with celebrities and newsmakers, according to Fox.

"I've always looked to him as a guy who has tremendous abilities as a broadcaster," said Kevin Magee, vice president of programming at FNC. "He's very quick on his feet, very likable."

Magee said he contacted Sajak and found out he was a fan of the channel. They then worked out the new show's format.

"It's different for both of us, we recognized that," Magee said. "This is not what he's been doing for the past 20 years, and this is not what we've been doing for the past six years."

Fox's hiring of a game-show host for a prime-time program, albeit one on weekends, will give its detractors more ammunition in their Fox-is-not-news campaign.

Magee said he's not worried.

"I look at it this way," he said. "Mike Wallace was a game-show host. Hugh Downs was a game-show host. Walter Cronkite did a morning show with a puppet."

Sajak is no stranger to the talk format. In 1989, the former TV weatherman was hired as host of a CBS late-night show to go up against NBC's *Tonight*. However, hurt by CBS' then-weak track record in the time period, he never got an audience large enough to sustain the show. It was canceled after just more than over a year.

"I actually saw that show and was a fan of it," Magee said. "Instead of it working against my thinking, it

reinforced my thinking."

Jan. 26, 2003, 6:18PM

## On Two

The horror flick *Darkness Falls*, about a vengeful spirit tormenting the town that lynched her, scared up \$12.5 million in its opening weekend to debut as the No. 1 movie.

Last weekend's top movie, the comedy *Kangaroo Jack*, fell to second place with \$11.9 million.

The musical *Chicago* continued to climb the charts in narrower release. It expanded to 616 theaters, an increase of 59, and took in \$8.5 million to finish at No. 3, up from sixth place the previous weekend.

*Chicago* averaged an impressive \$13,721 a theater, compared with \$4,406 in 2,837 theaters for *Darkness Falls*.

With \$40.6 million already in the bank and solid Academy Awards prospects, *Chicago* is well poised to expand into wide release Feb. 7, days before the Oscar nominations come out.

George Clooney's directing debut *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* broke into the Top 10 in its first weekend of wide release after a limited debut in December to qualify for the Oscars.

*Darkness Falls* benefited from a slow weekend in which it was the only wide-release debut. It stars Emma Caulfield of TV's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* as a woman battling a ghost-hag that's slicing and dicing people in her town.

Horror movies typically do well in their first weekend as fans of the genre turn out in big numbers, but business tends to drop off steeply in subsequent weeks. With a tight \$11 million budget, though, *Darkness Falls* will turn a solid profit, said Tom Sherak, a partner at Revolution Studios,

The Top 10 movies Friday-Sunday, according to studio estimates, were:

1. *Darkness Falls*, \$12.5 million.
2. *Kangaroo Jack*, \$11.9 million.
3. *Chicago*, \$8.5 million.
4. *Just Married*, \$7.5 million.

5. *National Security*, \$7.4 million.
6. *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, \$6.9 million.
7. *Catch Me If You Can*, \$6.6 million.
8. *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, \$6 million.
9. *About Schmidt*, \$5.5 million.
10. *The Hours*, \$4 million.

For final box-office standings, see Thursday's Preview section.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo One spacecraft at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1977, the Vatican reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's ban on female priests.

## JOKES ON US

Two confirmed bachelors discussed their cooking abilities.

"I got a cookbook once," said one, "but I could never do anything with it."

"Too much fancy work in it, eh?" asked the other.

"You said it. Every one of the recipes began the same way: `Take a clean dish ... ' "

-- Submitted by **Walter E. Welsh**,

**Brookside Village**

Send your joke to [diane.cowen@chron.com](mailto:diane.cowen@chron.com) or to Diane Stephen Cowen, Houston Chronicle Features Department, P.O. Box 4260, Houston, TX 77210.

## LIGHT THE CANDLES

Musical conductor Skitch Henderson is 85. Singer Bobby "Blue" Bland is 73. Actor James Cromwell is 63. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 58. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 55. Actress Bridget Fonda is 39. Actor Alan Cumming is 38. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 35. Rock singer Mike Patton is 35. Rock musician Mark Trojanowski (Sister Hazel) is 33. Actor Josh Randall (*Ed*) is 31. Country singer Kevin Denney is 27.

## CALENDAR

**MUSIC PROGRAM AT ZOO:** Da Camera of Houston presents the Marian Anderson String Quartet at 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the Houston Zoo's Brown Education Center Auditorium. The chamber music program is part of the family series "Da Camera Goes to the Zoo!" The concert is free with paid admission to the zoo.

## IT'S FREE

**TAX HELP:** Free tax assistance will be offered noon-4 p.m. Tuesdays Feb. 6-April 15 at Bear Creek Community Center. Call 281-859-1566.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:21PM

## THEATER NOTE

### 'Lucky' premiere

The Masquerade Theatre will present the Houston premiere of *Lucky Stiff*, Feb. 14-March 8, at its theater, 1537 N. Shepherd.

Based on Michael Butterworth's *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, the zany murder mystery/farce centers on an unassuming English shoe salesman who will inherit \$6 million -- if he takes his recently murdered uncle on a weeklong vacation in Monte Carlo.

Produced off-Broadway in 1989, *Lucky Stiff* heralded a promising new team in librettist Lynn Ahrens and composer Stephen Flaherty -- a promise fulfilled in their later shows, including *Once on This Island* and the Tony-winning *Ragtime*.

Phillip Duggins directs the show, an addition to Masquerade's current season, replacing the previously announced revue *The Mad Show*.

For information, call 713-861-7045.

Jan. 26, 2003, 10:22PM

## Today on TV

Bridezillas

Fairy-tale weddings become nightmares.

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**7 p.m., Channel 26.**

Raymond

Ray (Ray Romano) discovers a sports radio broadcaster doesn't love him.

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**8 p.m., Channel 11.**

More Enron

A segment on *Mugshots*' "Other People's Money," includes a look at the work culture at Enron.

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**9 p.m., Court TV.**

Top talk

**Live With Regis and Kelly** begins Broadway Week; Dylan McDermott (9 a.m., Channel 13). **The View** welcomes co-host Nancy Travis, Jeff Daniels, Skeet Ulrich (10 a.m., Channel 13). On **Dr. Phil**, women seek help with the men who seem too connected with their mothers (3 p.m., Channel 2). **The Wayne Brady Show** features Jerry O'Connell, Margaret Cho, Jerome Bettis and mother Gladys (3 p.m., Channel 13). **The Tonight Show With Jay Leno** welcomes Heather Graham, Vivian Green (10:35 p.m., Channel 2). **Late Show With David Letterman** guests: Richard Gere, Chris Elliott (repeat, 10:35 p.m., Channel 11). **Jimmy Kimmel Live** welcomes co-host Snoop Dogg (11:05 p.m., Channel 13). **Charlie Rose** presents a tribute to Richard Harris, Roy Jenkins, Herb Ritts and Al Hirschfeld (midnight, Channel 8). **The Late Late Show With Craig Kilborn** features Patricia Heaton (12:05 a.m., Channel 11). **The Caroline Rhea Show** guest: Allison Janney (12:05 a.m., Channel 13).