

Minorities truly minority in extracurricular activities

Minority participation in such things as the Beta Club and cheerleading is low, and school districts are trying for equitable representation. Page 1B.



Cornerback quiet weapon

Richard Brothers is better than the statistics show. Page 1D.

Best and worst on television

Paul Johnson names TV's best and worst with 'Newt' n' 'Minnow' awards. Page 1E.

40% chance of rain
High 45, low 35
Details on 2A

Arkansas Gazette.

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In the News

■ **Adrian Lomax**, a Wisconsin prison inmate, complained in a letter to the *Milwaukee Journal* that his fellow prisoners were being turned into TV addicts. He said that most inmates spend their free time watching soap operas when they should be taking part in training programs to enable them to become productive members of society after they are released.

■ **Mary Beth Whitehead Gould**, 31, the surrogate mother whose unsuccessful legal fight to keep the child she agreed to bear for another couple for a \$10,000 fee sparked nationwide debate, disclosed in New York that she was pregnant by her second husband with her fifth child and was planning a 22-city promotional tour of a book she wrote on the so-called "Baby M" case.

■ **Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker**, who lost the PTL television ministry in a sex and money scandal, told reporters in Pineville, N.C., that they planned to return to television next week with a new program, which will be broadcast on a limited number of stations. They said the show would be "live" and carried from their home 15 miles south of Charlotte.

■ **Joe Steffan**, 24, of Fargo, N.D., a former midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis who says he was forced to resign two years ago after admitting his homosexuality, filed suit in federal court in Washington seeking his reinstatement.

■ **Judge Lewis Laue** of Alexandria, La., ordered a convicted burglar who carries the AIDS virus to stay home and refrain from sex for five years. The judge told *Angemey Englin*, 21, that he cannot leave his home except for employment or other necessary trips.

■ **Leona Helmsley**, 67, owner of a chain of luxury hotels, lost in New York another bid to toss out her indictment on federal charges of conspiracy, extortion, tax fraud and failure to pay \$1.2 million in income taxes. Helmsley, who also faces state charges, was ordered to face trial April 24.

■ **Phyllis Oakley**, State Department spokesman, said Thursday in Washington that authorities have a "pretty good" chance at determining who bombed Pan Am Flight 103 and that terrorists were behind the plot, although there is no evidence linking the Dec. 21 crash at Lockerbie, Scotland, to any person or group.

■ **Victor Hupman**, 36, and his wife Pat, 34, of Palo Alto, Calif., pleaded innocent to charges they taught their 17-year-old daughter **Stephanie** to use cocaine, including its highly addictive form called crack. The girl told authorities her father showed her how to cook powdered cocaine and smoke it in a pipe.

■ **Mayor Marion Barry** of Washington, D.C., saying he has been "tried, convicted and sentenced" by the media, denied using drugs after his repeated visits last week to a former city employee targeted by police in a drug investigation. The police discovered traces of cocaine in a ninth-floor room of the downtown Ramada Inn where Barry visited former city personnel worker Charles Lewis at least six times.

Simmons ruled competent to decide fate

By Cary Bradburn
GAZETTE STAFF

Ronald Gene Simmons is competent to decide if he wants to die, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Eisele said that Simmons "decided to commit murder in the first place. If he now decides to suffer the consequences of that action, the law will allow him to make that decision."

Simmons, 48, was convicted in May of killing two Russellville people and was sen-

tenced to die. He also is charged with killing 14 relatives at his home in Dover during the Christmas holidays a year ago and is scheduled to be tried Feb. 6.

Asserts desire to die

He has said repeatedly that he wants to die and doesn't want to appeal the death penalty.

His execution was postponed after a third party in the case, a church group, appealed. But Eisele said Thursday in a 19-page ruling that "evidence all points toward

[Simmons'] competence" to waive his right of appeal.

"The court finds that Mr. Simmons has the capacity to appreciate his position and to make a rational choice with respect to abandoning further litigation, and further finds that he is not suffering" from mental disease or defect, Eisele said.

A spokesman for the church group was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Eisele noted, however, that Simmons had not cooperated in psychiatric examinations in Springfield, Mo., and that psychiatrists

had been unable to form a conclusive opinion on Simmons' competency.

The judge appointed John Hall Jr., a Little Rock lawyer, to review the transcript of Simmons' trial in May and determine if any grounds exist to appeal.

On completing his review, Hall will report to the court and confer with Simmons. A hearing will then be held with Simmons present, and he will "be given the opportunity to make a knowing and intelligent

(See SIMMONS on Page 4A.)



A crew at Eaker Air Force Base, which survived the cuts, works on a B-52 Thursday.

Charities, juvenile center to receive use tax refunds

By Adam Weintraub
GAZETTE STAFF

Chancellor Judith Rogers has ordered that the first \$700,000 of unrefunded illegally collected Pulaski County use taxes go to charitable organizations.

Also, any money above that amount will help pay for a proposed county juvenile center.

In all, 42 groups and agencies were listed to receive awards from \$5,000 to \$50,000, or a propor-

tional share if the unclaimed sum is less than \$700,000.

Plans to appeal

The City of Little Rock plans to appeal the order. The city had asked that Rogers step down from the case. Little Rock also wanted unclaimed tax money be returned to the cities that would have received the tax revenue.

The state Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that the 1 percent tax on articles purchased outside the

state for use in the county was never properly approved, and should be returned. Voters approved a countywide sales tax in 1982, but the use tax that was supposed to go with it wasn't on the ballot, the court found.

About \$9 million in use taxes paid and interest is in the account to be refunded, but trustees expect that around half of it will go unclaimed because it was paid by

(See REFUNDS on Page 6A.)

Bowl blues: Tickets for sale

By Phoebe Wall
GAZETTE STAFF

Long-time Hog fan David Harkness of North Little Rock can't go to the Cotton Bowl after all.

Although his girlfriend gave him tickets for Christmas, he was fired from his job in mid-December and now they can't afford to make the trip.

The classified ads in the newspapers confirm that Harkness is not alone in having to sell bowl tickets. Interviews found that many were reluctantly abandoning the Razorbacks.

Harkness sold his two tickets to a father and son from Jonesboro. "When they came over to the house, the little boy thanked me twice and I said, 'Just catch a football,'" Harkness said. "I wished I could've went."

It took Standy York of Sherwood



Ron and Lisa Duke have two extra tickets.

86 bases on hit list

KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A special presidential panel Thursday recommended closing 31 major military installations and dozens of smaller sites, at a saving of \$700 million a year.

The recommendations, assembled by an independent commission that has met in secret since May, are likely to be approved by the Pentagon and Congress by April and lead to shutdowns starting in 1990.

In all, 86 bases, office and housing complexes and missile sites are scheduled to close by 1996, with 54 other installations scheduled to grow as they pick up missions and personnel from the shuttered bases. Five other facilities would be reduced in size.

The targets range from huge air bases employing thousands of uniformed and civilian workers on both coasts to tiny, moribund Nike defensive missile sites, as well as ammunition plants, depots and the military's map-making headquarters. About 13,000 military jobs and 5,000 civilian jobs will be lost.

Norton is largest

California's Norton Air Force Base, 59 miles east of Los Angeles, which employs 4,520 military personnel and 2,153 civilians, is the largest base earmarked for closing.

The Air Force would lose five major bases — the most of any service. The Navy would lose the least.

Commission chairmen David Edwards and Abraham Ribicoff said in their 88-page report, "The commission's recommendations will not degrade military effectiveness, and in most cases will improve it."

The commission's list drew praise from the chairmen of the

Arkansas is spared from cuts

By Stephen Steed
and Maria Henson
GAZETTE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville would expand rather than close under a recommendation by a special commission Thursday.

All Arkansas military bases and installations were excluded from a list of facilities proposed by the commission for closure. Moreover, to top the welcome news to Arkansas communities with military bases, the commission proposed adding 16 military em-

(See EAKER on Page 4A.)

congressional Armed Services committees. Georgia, the home state of Democrat Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, stands to lose just 21 jobs under the plan. Wisconsin, the home state of Democrat Rep. Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, will lose none.

Aspin called on his colleagues to approve the list, noting its pain appeared to be distributed equally by both geography and political party — 12 Democratic and 14

(See BASES on Page 4A.)

'Semi-active' status urged for Fort Dix

GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

FORT DIX, N.J. — From the famed Dough Boys of World War I to the draftees who fought reluctantly in the Vietnam War, Fort Dix has been the training ground for millions of American soldiers.

But, with the recommendation of a presidential commission Thursday, the 71-year-old Army base could be placed on "semi-active" status, becoming largely a facility for the weekend warriors of the National Guard and reserve units.

The cutback might be a disappointment to some nostalgic veterans, but is a potential economic disaster for southern New Jersey and for the thousands of civilians employed at the base, the second-largest basic training facility in the Army after Fort Jackson, S.C., local officials say.

"Fort Dix needs the nation to respond," said Vince Pesini, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1809, a union representing 3,000 civilian workers on the base. "We've received awards for turning out the best-trained soldiers in

the Army. When you have a track record like that, I think you have to take a long, hard look."

Fort Dix opened in 1917 as Camp Dix, a training area for World War I troops and named for Maj. Gen. John Adams Dix, a 19th century U.S. senator and governor of New York who was II under the U.S. ambassador to France and secretary of the treasury.

After training thousands of troops for World War I, the camp became a reception center for hundreds of thousands of men drafted for World War II under the Selective Service Act of 1939.

The men were assembled at the Burlington County base, trained, then shipped to Europe aboard transports sailing out of New York and Philadelphia.

After the war, the reception center became a separation center for millions of men returning from overseas, returning 1.2 million soldiers to civilian life.

During the Vietnam War, the base trained thousands more soldiers.

Give us a call

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