

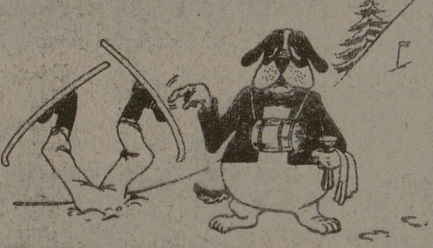
# World war hero dies at 74

United Press International  
NORFOLK, Va.—Vice Adm. William Ellis, former chief of staff for the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, died in a hospital Sunday night. He was 74.

Ellis, who served in World War II as a naval aviator and won the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Navy Cross for "extraordinary heroism," graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1930.

During the Korean War, he was commanding officer on the Badoeng Strait. Later, he was chief of staff to the commander, Carrier Division Six, and served in the Bureau of Naval Weapons.

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View from the top

staff photo by David Fisher

With lunch seating at a premium, Phil Morgan, left, and Sonny Parkman found a seat with a view in a second-floor window of the old library.

Morgan, a senior from Kingwood, and Parkman, a senior from Houston, are both mechanical engineering majors.

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# Big earners hold off buying: survey

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Consumers who have a large enough income to lead the economy out of recession are holding off buying big ticket items waiting for prices to come down further, a leading consumer survey shows.

"A large percentage of the nation's more affluent households are postponing purchases of big ticket items, including cars, on speculation that prices will come down," said Albert E. Sindlinger, who heads a widely followed consumer research firm based in Media, Pa.

"This new trend that we call 'reverse hedging' has come out of nowhere," Sindlinger said. "And it will keep a lid on any hopes for an economic recovery."

Sindlinger's confidence surveys, which base the replies on actual liquidity and job security, break the population into two segments he calls stockholders, those who own some stock, and non-stockholders. There is a wide gap between them.

More than 68 percent of the stockholders are confident about the economy and their own futures, compared to less than 20 percent of the nonstockholder group.

The non-stockholders, roughly two-thirds of the households in the country, are hurting badly. They've absorbed the bulk of unemployment and there are tremendous fears that

more jobs will be lost, he said. Despite government figures on inflation, they still feel the inflationary bite, he said. "Prices on necessities in the consumer price index — utilities, rent, services and medical care, for example — still are going up."

"Taxes haven't abated. Social Security and state and local taxes, especially property taxes, have gone through the roof," he said. This puts largely lower-income and blue-collar workers in a squeeze, he said.

The stockholder group, on the other hand, composed of the other one-third of households, is "a very distinct group. Not all are wealthy, but by and large it's an affluent, sophisticated, educated group, and generally includes the upper-income segment of the population," he said. These consumers have been relatively unharmed by the bad economy. "They're the only ones that have money to spend and if there is to be any consumer-led recovery it's going to come from this group," he said.

"But they're telling us that, contrary to the 70s when they bought to beat price increases, whether or not they needed an item, they're now postponing purchases waiting for prices to come down."

"They're playing a real waiting game, and it's going to prolong the slump at the retail level," Sindlinger said.

# Racial prejudice in federal courts?

United Press International  
RICHMOND — The Virginia NAACP wants an investigation into an assistant U.S. attorney's allegations that federal court sentencing is based on race, an official said.

Allegations two weeks ago by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Baugh should be investigated by Harrison Winter, chief judge of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, state NAACP executive director Jack Gravelly said Monday.

Baugh angered U.S. Judge D. Dortch Warriner during a Sept. 13 sentencing hearing for a former gold-and-silver dealer convicted of fraud and given a

10-year sentence. Baugh expressed concern about how white collar criminals were sentenced. He suggested to Warriner that "the color of the collar is not the key."

When Warriner asked if Baugh, who is black, was suggesting that the court sentenced on race, the assistant prosecutor said: "Yes, your honor."

Last week, Baugh was transferred off some of his cases in what a Justice Department spokesman said "could be construed as a disciplinary matter."

"There is a strong perception in the community that Baugh has done nothing wrong," Gravelly said.

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