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Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure.. Mar. 2/3 7:30/9:45...\$2.00
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A Boy Named Charlie Brown..... Mar. 3 3:00 PM\$2.00

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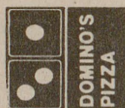
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WORLD & NATION

14

Thursday, March 1, 1990

Ortega calls halt to Contra attacks

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega declared a halt to attacks on the Contras Wednesday and called again on the United States to help dismantle the rebel force.

President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, who joined Ortega on Tuesday in asking the U.S.-backed Contras to put down their arms, praised his move as a step forward.

"The causes of civil war in Nicaragua have disappeared," Chamorro said at a news conference. "There is no reason for war."

She said the Contras, most of them based in neighboring Honduras, "must lay down their weapons and come home to work for the reconstruction of Nicaragua."

Ortega said in a statement that he ordered all offensive military operations against the Contras to halt. He said the United States should help pay for demobilizing and relocating the rebels.

Chamorro upset Ortega in an election on Sunday that he clearly expected to win and agreed to as part of a Central American plan for ending the war.

Demobilizing the Contras is the trickiest issue in transition talks that began Tuesday between Chamorro's 14-party coalition, the United National Opposition and the stunned Sandinistas, who have been in power for more than 10 years.

Sandinista officials say they cannot give up control of the armed forces and police as long as the 10,000-man Contra army is intact.

Chamorro made it clear she expects Ortega to keep his promise to turn over power and that her government plans to run the army and security forces.

"I'm the one who is going to give orders," said the silver-haired widow, who was chosen to run against Ortega because of her powerful symbolic

value.

The 1978 death of her husband, opposing publisher Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, touched off the revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza and put the Sandinistas in power.

She said the Sandinistas "have to turn over everything," including the armed forces — the traditional source of real power in Latin America.

"The minister of defense will be a civilian," she declared.

The current minister, Gen. Humberto Ortega, the president's brother, leads the Sandinista transition team. Chamorro's son-in-law and campaign manager, Antonio Lacayo, heads the United National Opposition team.

The transition talks are expected to be complex and delicate.

Ortega laid out tough Sandinista positions Tuesday before thousands of cheering party members.

Senate stops anti-abortion bill; author refuses to accept defeat

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A bill that would ban most abortions in Minnesota failed to get past a state Senate committee Wednesday, but the author refused to concede defeat.

The bill, which would prohibit abortions for "birth-control reasons," was drafted as model legislation by the National Right-To-Life Committee in the wake of last summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave states more leeway to restrict abortions.

"A bill is always alive as long as the session is on," said Democratic Sen. Gene Waldorf after his bill failed on a tie vote in the 16-member Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

"A bill has been resurrected before," Waldorf said. "Committee defeat is not the end of action on a bill."

The vote followed nearly seven hours of testimony from state and national leaders on both sides of the abortion debate.

Although Minnesota was long associated in national politics with the liberalism espoused by former Vice President Walter Mondale, an abortion rights supporter, it has been a stronghold of anti-abortion sentiment.

As the lawmakers debated, nearly 2,000 pro-choice activists chanting "Choice" exchanged taunts outside the Capitol with a small group of abortion foes shouting "Life." No arrests were made.

Proponents say the legislation would be the toughest enforceable anti-abortion measure in the nation, prohibiting an estimated 93 percent of the abortions performed in the state.

Court upholds state's death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — States may make the death penalty the only possible punishment for some murderers without violating the Constitution's ban on mandatory death sentences, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

By a 5-4 vote, the court upheld Pennsylvania's death penalty system despite "some mandatory aspects."

The decision removed a threat to similar laws in 13 other states: Texas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington.

Most states have death penalty laws, but many of them do not resemble the Pennsylvania scheme.

Past Supreme Court rulings have struck down state laws making death

the mandatory punishment for specific crimes, such as killing a police officer, or for specific offenders, such as prison inmates already serving life sentences when they commit murder.

Those decisions said the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment requires that sentencing judges or juries be allowed to consider aggravating and mitigating factors.

But Pennsylvania law says, "The verdict must be a sentence of death if the jury unanimously finds at least one aggravating circumstance ... and no mitigating circumstance."

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the court, said the law does not make death mandatory de-

spite its mandatory-sounding language.

He was joined by Justices Byron R. White, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony M. Kennedy.

"Death is not automatically imposed upon conviction for certain types of murder," Rehnquist said. "It is imposed only after a determination that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances present in the particular crime committed by a particular defendant, or that there are no such mitigating circumstances."

He added, "The constitutionality of a death penalty statute having some mandatory aspects is not a novel issue for this court."

Atlantis lifts off despite launch delays

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis aloft at last on a secret military mission after five launch delays orbited the globe Wednesday in public silence that NASA officials said meant all was well.

Atlantis blasted off with five military astronauts and a cargo believed to be a \$500 million satellite at 2:51 a.m., its 700-foot column of fire visible for hundreds of miles. It was NASA's sixth attempt at launching the 100-ton spaceship for the mission, one short a record for the most shuttle postponements.

"Thank goodness we can finally stop meeting like this," NASA administrator Richard Truly told the launch team after Atlantis rocketed into orbit. "It was a tough one to get off, but a great job."

Nothing was heard from Atlantis' all-military crew, and launch director Bob Sieck said "the crew was pretty quiet and very patient."

"The fact that we haven't heard anything indicates that it is going according to plan," added Bruce Buckingham, a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Lift-off, originally set for Feb. 15, almost was delayed a sixth time because of bad weather at Kennedy Space Center and an emergency abort sites.

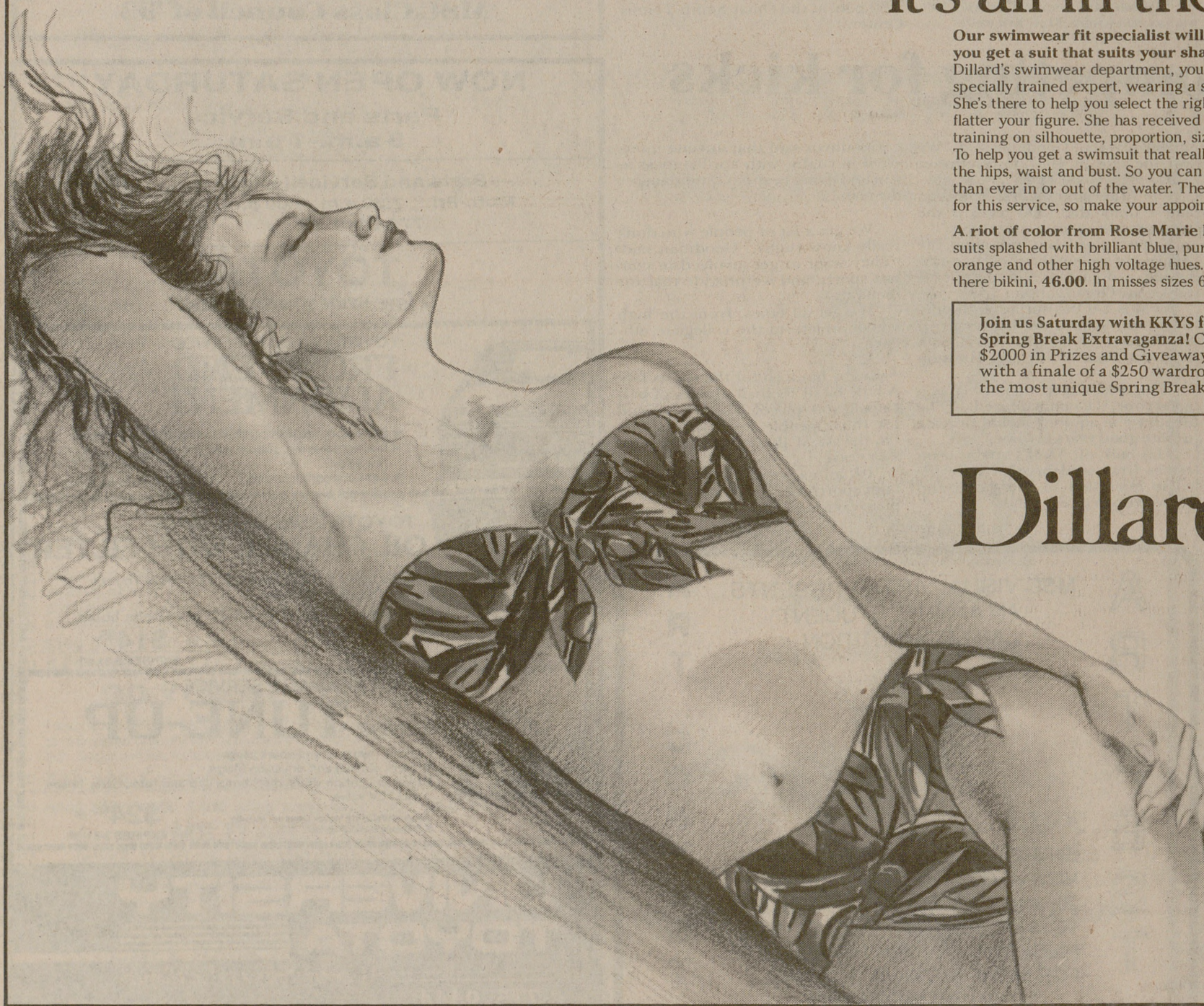
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Bill Vance

EXPERIENCE FOR THE BENCH

- **Prosecutor**
Ass't County/District Attorney, Brazos County: 1964-67
- **County Judge**
Brazos County
Administrative and Judicial Judge: 1967-78
- **Board Certified Trial Lawyer**
Board Certified—Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization: 1981
Private Practicing Attorney: 1979-
- **State Bar of Texas**
Member, Board of Directors, State Bar of Texas: 1986-89
Chairman, 8A Grievance Committee: 1985-86
Vice Chairman, Rules of Professional Responsibility Committee: 1989-1992
- **State Government Service**
Citizen Member, State Depository Board: 1982-85
Member, Finance Commission of Texas: 1985-86
- **Community Service**
President, Bryan-College Station Chapter of Commerce: 1988
Chairman, Brazos Valley Development Council: 1976-77
President, Texas Association of Regional Councils: 1977-78
Fund Drive Chairman, Bryan United Fruit: 1967
Organizer and Chairman, Brazos Valley MH-MR Board of Trustees: 1973-77
- **Education**
BA (Economics), Texas A&M University: 1961
JD, University of Texas Law School: 1967

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