

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

► **Nation**

Couple celebrates 80 years of love

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — For George and Gaynel Couron, love at first sight has lasted nearly 81 years.

The couple, who celebrate their 81st anniversary April 10, has the nation's longest-lasting marriage, according to Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a group offering programs to improve communication between spouses.

"That was the girl for me. I've had her for 80 years, soon to be 81," said Couron, who is 100. "I got the woman I wanted."

"I got the man I wanted," his 97-year-old wife added.

Fourteen children, 43 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren and at least 30 great-great-grandchildren later, Couron is surprised as anyone at his long life and his marriage.

"I could say we behaved ourselves, but that just wouldn't go down very well with some people," he said.

The couple lived independently until a few months ago. Although they are in relatively good health, Mrs. Couron suffered a mild stroke in December and one of their daughters stays at their home.

Nodding toward his hand, wrapped gently around his wife's, Couron said: "We've loved each other and, as you can see, this has been for 80 years."

Designated driver ignites passenger

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A woman upset over having to drive her drunken roommate home sprayed her friend with gasoline from a convenience store pump Sunday, then killed her by lighting the gas stream on fire, police said.

Nicole Dickens, 22, died after suffering third-degree burns over 98 percent of her body, said Joe Di-Laura, a spokesman for Wishard Memorial Hospital.

Her roommate, Sherrell Russell, 26, was arrested and held on suspicion of murder, Marion County Sheriff's Col. Scott Minier said.

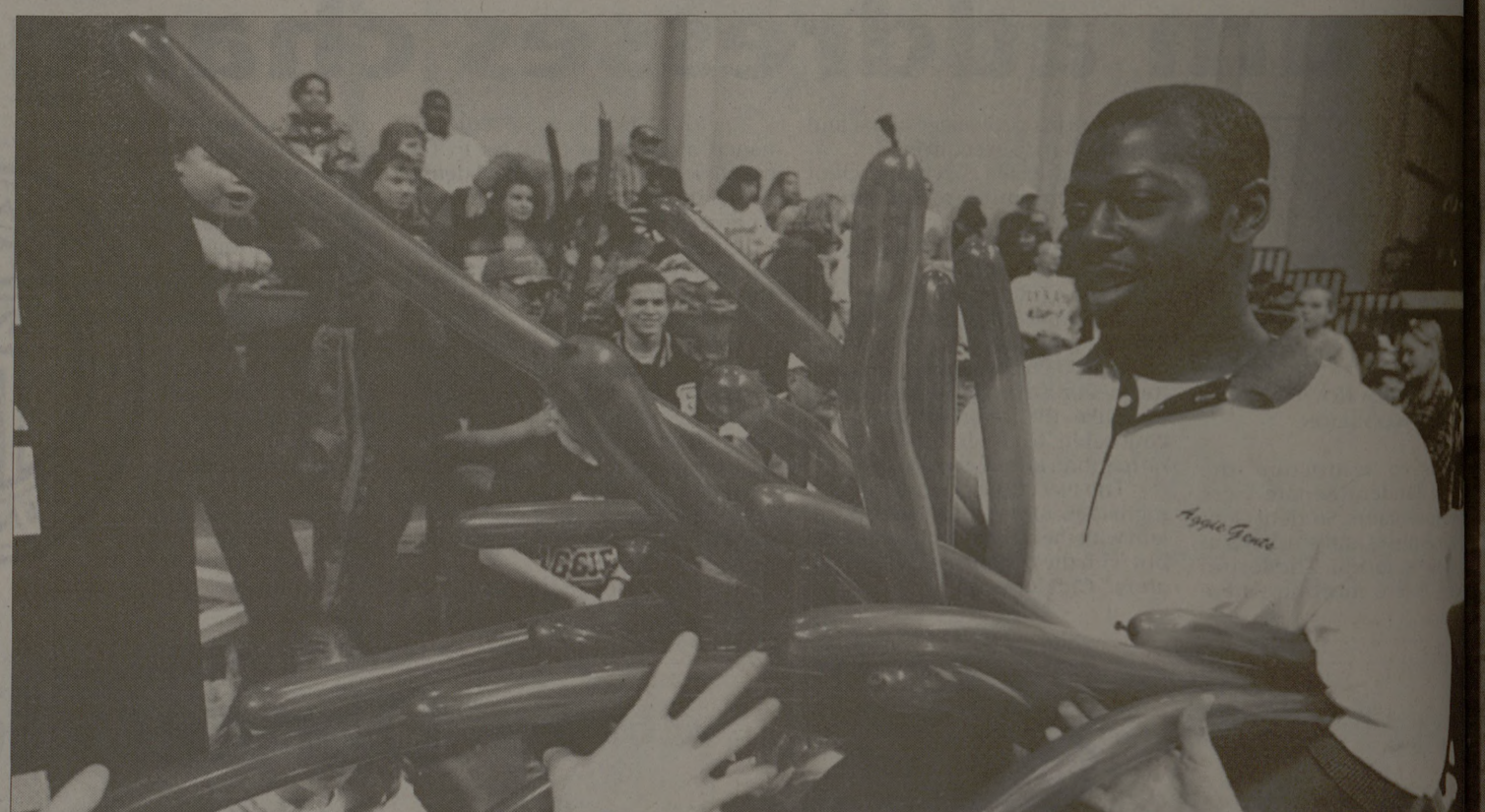
Russell was angry because her roommate was intoxicated and had refused to drive her own car, Minier said.

"The suspect is generally the passenger and she was upset that she was asked to drive," he said. "Her roommate apparently had had too much to drink."

About 4 a.m., Russell asked a store clerk to call a cab for Dickens because she did not want to drive her back to their apartment, Minier said.

But minutes later, as Russell filled up the car's gas tank, she aimed the pump at her roommate and ignited the stream of gas with a lighter, Minier said.

"It was basically like a flame-thrower, just a stream of fire," he said. Russell was treated for burns on her hands.



Pass the Balloon

Alvin Nelson III, a sophomore psychology major, gives out balloons at the women's basketball game against Colorado Saturday evening.

Rony Angkriwan, The Battalion

► **This day in history**

Today is Monday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 1997. There are 324 days left in the year.

In 1763, France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

In 1846, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormons, began an exodus to the west from Illinois.

In 1863, showman P.T. Barnum staged the wedding of General Tom Thumb and Mercy Lavinia Warren — both midgets — in New York City.

In 1893, comedian Jimmy Durante was born in New York City.

In 1933, the first singing telegram was introduced by the Postal Telegram Company in New York.

In 1942, the former French liner Normandie capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refit-

ted for the U.S. Navy.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

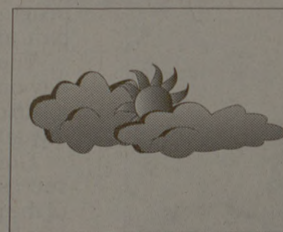
Ten years ago: Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told a House panel he favored network television advertisements for condoms because of the health threat posed by AIDS.

► **Today's birthdays**

Opera singer Leontyne Price is 70. Actor Robert Wagner is 67. Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice is 63. Singer Roberta Flack is 58. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 57. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 47. Actress Kathleen Beller is 42. Former presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos is 36.

► **Weather**

Today



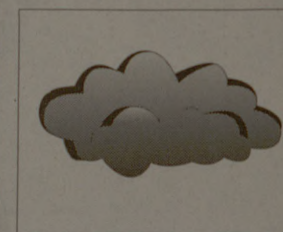
Decreasing clouds with light winds from the north.

Tonight



Partly cloudy with light winds.

Tomorrow



Increasing clouds with high winds from the north at 10-15 mph.

Highs & Lows

Today's Expected High: 62°F

Tonight's Expected High: 45°F

Tomorrow's Expected High: 55°F

Tomorrow's Expected Low: 50°F

Information courtesy of TAMU

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