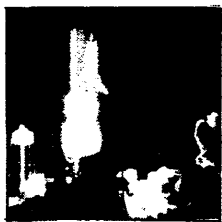


## Good Afternoon

### Shuttle in orbit



Discovery makes it on third attempt. Page A2

#### Pentagon defies House panel

WASHINGTON — Eight months after it won a bidding war, a Washington state firm has finally received an Air Force contract because of a decision by Pentagon leaders to defy a House committee.

The decision to award an initial \$3.8 million contract for a new bomb-loading forklift to Pacific Car and Foundry Inc. was finalized last week. The Air Force acted at the direction of Deputy Defense Secretary William H. Taft IV by using other funds within its budget, effectively bypassing a "hold" placed on the transfer of funds from another account imposed by the House Armed Services Committee.

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#### Reagan: South Africa integrating

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — President Reagan, nearing the end of his recuperation from cancer surgery, said in an interview Monday that the white minority rulers of South Africa "have eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country — the type of thing where hotels and restaurants and places of entertainment, and so forth, were segregated — that has all been eliminated."

The White House released transcripts of the interview Monday with WSB Radio in Atlanta.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes, asked whether the president believed that segregation had been eliminated in South Africa, said, "Not totally, no."

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#### Overtime ruling studied

WASHINGTON — The White House is considering supporting legislation to override a Supreme Court decision on overtime wages that could cost cities and counties billions of dollars annually, local officials say.

The White House on Monday gave 150 representatives from cities and counties nationwide a hearing on the matter, and promised a decision next month on the question of support.

At issue is a high court ruling saying municipalities can no longer give employees compensatory time off instead of paying overtime, as has been the practice in many places.

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#### Mercy killing trial to begin

Was it murder or mercy?

That's what a Pitt County jury may be asked to decide this week during the trial of Robert Andrew Jonas, a Moses Cone Memorial Hospital nurse charged with killing a newborn child two years ago at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Pitt District Attorney Tom Haigwood said Monday that he will prosecute Jonas for first-degree murder but will not seek the death penalty.

Jonas, who is on personal leave from Moses Cone since his indictment in April, was working as a neo-natal nurse in the delivery room at Pitt Memorial when Darlene Clara Peszko was pronounced dead a few hours after her birth on July 23, 1983.

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#### Local Weather



Partly cloudy Wednesday, high in the upper 80s. Page A2

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## Poverty rate off 1st time since '76

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's poverty rate dropped to 14.4 percent in 1984, down eight-tenths of a percentage point from a year earlier, the Census Bureau reported today. The number of Americans below the poverty level declined by 1.8 million, the first significant decline since 1976.

At the same time, real median family income rose 3.3 percent to \$26,430, the second increase in two years.

The drop in the poverty rate, from 15.2 percent in 1983, marked the first time it had fallen since 1976. The poverty threshold for a family of four last year was \$10,609.

Some decline had been widely anticipated both in and out of government, due to the improving economy. Even Robert Greenstein of the private Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a group often critical of the Reagan administration, had predicted a decline in poverty.

Other findings of the new study included:

- The poverty rate for whites dropped from 12.2 percent in 1983 to 11.5 percent in 1984, and the rate for blacks fell from 35.7 percent to 33.8 percent.

- The poverty rate among children under 18 declined from 22.2 percent in 1983 to 21.3 percent in 1984. The rate among peo-

ple aged 65 and over dropped 1.8 percentage points to 12.4 percent.

- Both the number of people below the poverty level and the poverty rate declined in the South and the West, while there were no significant changes in the Northeast and Midwest.

In 1983, poverty had edged up 0.2 percentage points to the 15.2 rate, a disappointment to administration officials who had hoped for a decline.

While critics denounced the fact that poverty went up in 1983 — contending it was a result of cuts in social programs — White House officials considered the small

increase a somewhat positive step.

In the 1980-82 period, poverty levels increased 1 percent or more annually.

The poverty rate edged back slightly between 1977 and 1978, when it eased back from 11.6 percent to 11.4 percent.

A decline in poverty rates this year sounds promising, Greenstein said, but, he cautioned, the drop is largely a function of the economy, with the poverty rate declining as unemployment dropped in the last year.

Now, he warned, the economy has

(See Poverty, A2)



Susie was Meadowbrook May Queen at 5

## Susie Q

Family princess,  
center of attention

By JERRY BLEDSOE  
Staff Writer

Things started going wrong in Susie Newsom's life from the beginning.

She was born on Christmas Eve, 1947, first child of Bob and Florence Newsom, delivered by her uncle, Dr. Fred Klenner, at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital in Reidsville, her mother's hometown.

Shortly after birth, Susie was discovered missing from her crib in the hospital nursery. A woman whose child had been born dead was stopped leaving the hospital carrying Susie. For the rest of Susie's stay in the hospital, her father kept a round-the-clock vigil at the nursery door.

Susie would get a lot of special attention in her life. She had a heart murmur, her uncle said, and he advised that she not be allowed to cry. For the first year of her life, her parents made frantic, sometimes heroic, efforts to keep her calm.

Despite her uncle's diagnosis, Susie developed into a healthy, active and precocious child. Family called her Susie Q to distinguish her from her aunt, Susie Sharp, for whom she'd been named.

Susie Sharp was Florence's older sister, a lawyer who became North Carolina's first female Superior Court judge before Susie Q turned 2. Susie Q couldn't understand how two Susies could be in one family, so she called her aunt Su-Su. The whole family picked it up.

When Susie was 4, her mother came home from her job as a teacher to find the housekeeper, Neely Davis, distraught and ready to quit. Susie was too much to handle, Neely said. She couldn't take her misbehavior anymore. Florence took Susie aside.

"I'm trying to be so bad that she'll quit and you'll stay home with me," Susie said.



Tom Lynch and Susie Sharp Newsom, center, were married June 6, 1970

Tom's friend Jerry Montgomery is at left; Susie's first cousin Nancy Miller Dunn, at right

## BITTER BLOOD A Genealogy of Murder

On June 3, Fritz Klenner and his cousin Susie Lynch died when a bomb in his Chevy Blazer exploded north of Greensboro. Her two sons also died after being poisoned and shot. Police wanted to charge Klenner with murdering Susie's mother, father and grandmother near Winston-Salem. Police also suspected he murdered two of her former in-laws in Kentucky. This is their story.

"I can't do that," her mother explained. "I've signed a contract. I can't quit."

"Oh, I didn't know you'd signed a contract," Susie said, promising to cause Neely no more drastic distress.

Susie's mother taught at Old Town High School. Her father was about to become the chief industrial engineer for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The family lived near Bethania, a historic Moravian settlement north of Winston-Salem. Their three-bedroom ranch house sat on 10 hilly acres with a fish pond, a big garden and lots of trees. Susie and her brother, Rob, nearly four years younger, grew up with ponies and dogs and plenty of room to romp.

Just a few miles away, near Old Town, their grandparents, Robert and Hattie Newsom — Paw-Paw and Nana — lived in their big country house. Susie loved to visit there. Nana doted on her, much as her father did, and Susie basked in Nana's attention.

Her father was conspicuously proud when, at 5, Susie was chosen Queen of the May at Meadowbrook Kindergarten. The picture of her made with her court that day became a treasured family memento.

At 6, Susie brought a scare to her family. A cousin, Nancy Miller, came down with polio. Susie had been at a birthday party with her earlier. Later, when Susie became listless, her parents took her to her uncle's clinic in Reidsville.

Dr. Klenner diagnosed polio and began injecting her with huge amounts of vitamin C. Her parents believed the treatments saved her life and kept her from suffering paralysis. Her mother always said the dis-

(Continued on Page A6)

## Nigeria coup leader claims Buhari ousted

The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — An army brigadier general announced on Nigeria Radio today that the military government of Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari had been toppled because it abused power and failed to implement needed economic reforms.

The general, who was identified as Joshua Dogonyaro, declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Lagos and all state capitals. He said the country's air and sea ports would be closed until further notice.

Nigeria's land borders have been closed since shortly after the Dec. 31, 1983, coup in which Buhari ousted the civilian government of President Shugu Shagari.

British Telecom in London said all telephone service to Nigeria had been suspended. It was impossible to obtain independent verification of the radio report.

Dogonyaro said in a broadcast monitored in the nearby Ivory



Buhari

Coast that the Supreme Military Council was being replaced because "the wishes and aspirations of the people as expressed in the media have been ignored."

The general, claiming to speak on behalf of the Nigerian military forces, said they had acted to replace the Buhari government because of "the slow pace of reform" in overcoming economic difficulties.

(See Nigeria, A4)

## Coliseum may alter policy on cookies, cash up front

By TAFT WIREBACK  
Staff Writer

Rock star Prince wanted royal trappings including 45,000 chrysanthemums and carnations, four large bags of Nacho Doritos, two dozen chocolate chip cookies without nuts and a small container of Orville Reddendenbacher popcorn.

The musical group Police got \$2,332 in protection from Greensboro security guards. REO Speedwagon raced around in a rented limousine for \$920. Country crooner Hank Williams Jr. needed a \$45 piano tuning and \$40 worth of towels.

When entertainers play the Greensboro Coliseum, their wishes often have been answered with cash advances from the building's vault. More significantly, before many hit their first note on stage, they'd walked away with \$10,000 or more of their fee for performing.

To get the cash, their promoters had only to scrawl a signature on a small receipt.

Receipts in the city's accounting department show that in the last fiscal year, checks totaling more than \$830,000 have been written on the coliseum's promoter account for upcoming concerts.

Although some promoters drew six or seven cash advances against performances artists had yet to give, coliseum officials say the practice is not a problem.

"As long as you control the disbursements of cash until the time the act is brought to your building and put on stage, there's not a lot of risk," said coliseum business manager John P. Rascoe.

However, Rascoe said he and other coliseum officials are rethinking the cash advance practice and plan changes soon.

The 25-year-old public facility's financial policies are being retooled in the wake of a critical April 1984 internal audit that led to the resignation of former coliseum director James F. Oshust this month.

The 16,000-seat Greensboro Coliseum's cash controls stand in stark contrast to those of the local arena's nearest major competitor, the 12,000-seat Charlotte Coliseum.

The Charlotte facility, by policy, does not make advance payments to entertainers, who are paid only after they have given their performances.

"Nobody can touch or advance that money until the show goes on because, in essence, the money belongs to the people who bought the tickets," said the Charlotte Coliseum's office manager, Lea Etta Snider.

(See Coliseum, A4)