

Here are the stories of four special triumphs:

'NOW SHE'S MY FAVORITE'

Once-failing student now has college scholarship

For her entire freshman year at Ely High School in Pompano Beach, Delora Walker went to school only 30 times.

"You counted 150 [skipped] days?" she asked teacher Karl Weaver Jr., incredulous, shaking her head. "Man..."

During one nine-week semester that year, Delora came home with straight F's. Now, the college-bound senior just ended her last high school year with mostly A's and B's.

"Back then I didn't feel school was for me," said Delora, 18. "I

PLEASE SEE GRADUATION, 3E



CANDACE BARBOT / Miami Herald Staff

TURNED LIFE AROUND: Delora Walker, who graduated this week from Ely High School in Pompano Beach, has been offered two basketball scholarships.

percent have average or above intelligence.

"When people think of the 'at-risk' student, they think of someone who is not academically inclined, but that is not so," said Annie Smith, supervisor of Dade schools' dropout prevention programs. "We have just as many children who may be academically able to succeed, but have other types of problems that impede them from succeeding in school."

Lack of interest, unhappy school experiences and family or personal problems top the list of reasons why kids drop out, according to a Dade report.

"A lot of these kids are plain bored," said Mark Thomas, coordinator of Broward schools'

PLEASE SEE AT RISK, 3E

In a seminar Hollander recently conducted for family businesses, an older man complained that he had no successors, though he had two children. His son, he said, was not interested.

"I asked him, 'Have you thought of your daughter? Have you asked her?'" Hollander

PLEASE SEE BUSINESS, 2E

FUNDAMENTALISM

The Glory and the Power: Fundamentalisms Observed, a three-part PBS series that examines Christian, Jewish and Islamic fundamentalists, starts Monday on WPBT-Channel 2. See story, 5E.

Miami Herald / June 12, 1992 / p. 1E

Yugoslavia's war rooted in history

Q. What are the problems causing war in Yugoslavia?

Melissa Sanchez, Miami

A. Located in southeastern Europe, Yugoslavia — originally known as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes — was formed in 1918 as a collection of six republics populated by several nationally distinct groups. About 85 percent of its people belong to one of six groups: Serbs, Croats, Bosnian Muslims, Slovenes, Macedonians or Montenegrins. The predominant non-Slavic ethnic groups are Albanians and Hungarians.

The country was occupied by Germany and its allies during World War II. After the war, the country became Com-

munist, although it maintained an independence from Soviet rule.

But the Communists lost their monopoly on power in Yugoslavia in 1990. Many Croats and Slovenes desired independence from Yugoslavia, protesting that the national government took away too much of their income. The Croats and Slovenes also objected to the domination of the government by the Serbs, and the growing influence of Serbia, the republic of the Serbs, over the other republics.

In early 1991, the fragile alliance fell apart when the republics of Croatia and Slovenia officially announced their independence. When the national government opposed the declaration, a bloody civil war erupted, with the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia on one side; Serbia and the tiny Montenegro on the other. Some Serbs living in southern Croatia also have called for their territories to become part of Serbia.

So far, fighting has led to the loss of more than 5,000 lives, with thousands wounded and historic cities left in ruins. Another result is the largest exodus of European refugees since World War II.

Here's another interesting fact about the war: Until now, the 7th-Century Croatian seaport of Dubrovnik was one of only two European cities to escape the ravages of war throughout the centuries. Sadly, the damage to Dubrovnik has left Carcassonne in southwest France as the only city with that distinction.

SOURCE: Miami Herald Library and World Book 1992 Edition.

For dogs, 'Arf!' covers any subject

Q. Why can't animals speak the way humans can?

A. Allison Rose, 6, Pembroke Pines
Animals can't form words for one simple reason: They don't have a higher speech center in the brain, says Coconut Grove veterinarian Mike Marmesh. Although all animals have a functioning larynx and vocal cords, Fido and Kitty haven't learned to get their brains into the act.

So how do you explain Polly the parrot's human-like speech? Birds don't really talk, Marmesh says, but some have learned to mimic sounds heard in their environment. Some birds also have developed the ability to control their voice boxes better than other animals. So much for the expression "bird-brain."

Some people, however, have been determined to get their dogs to talk. Long before Alexander Graham Bell

PLEASE SEE HOTLINE, 2E



YOUR KIDS' QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEWS

Wondering about what's behind the headlines? Kids (or parents) can call TeleHerald anytime from a touchtone phone: 373-4636 in Dade or 527-4636 in Broward.

For instructions, enter the daily access code - 37 - then press 5437 (KIDS). Questions will be answered as space permits in Kids' Hotline every other Friday in Living & Learning.

it's that simple, Mr. President. But, hey, by then, guy, you and your \$100,000-a-photo supporters will be long gone and won't have to worry

HELEN JORDAN
Miami

Justice's blindfold too tight?

To The Editor:

It was incredible, Broward Circuit Judge Barry Goldstein's unilateral decision to reverse a jury verdict from "not guilty" to "guilty." This action may be legally permissible, but to jurors, who are required to serve in the interest of justice and good government, it is a travesty and an obvious waste of their time. Why bother to call citizens in to serve on a jury, and disrupt their lives, if a single judge can reverse any verdict upon which they agree?

We have been told that "justice is blind." I am beginning to understand why. It makes one wonder why the judge in the L.A. police beating trial did not reverse that verdict. Was the blindfold too tight?

MACK H. HOLCOMB
Hialeah



Miami Herald / June 13, 1992 / p. 22A

Serbs fight for their lives

To The Editor:

Re James McCartney's June 9 Viewpoints Page column, *U.S. fumbles away NATO leadership*, and his ignorant comparison of Serbian aggression to Iraqi aggression:

Yugoslavia has allowed the separation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Today the Serbs who reside in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia are fighting for their lives. They are defending themselves against forces that wish to oust them from their homes and murder them. One example is the 41 Serbian children in Croatia who were murdered recently by forces seeking independence.

Senseless annihilation of Serbs is occurring in Yugoslavia, and the American press totally ignores it. My information is from people in Yugoslavia today who live in fear for their lives. They do not deserve to be falsely portrayed to the world by uninformed journalists who receive their information from their own imaginations.

VASO MIRKOVIC
North Miami

★ ★ ★

Serbia was the West's best Balkan ally against Nazi Germany, while Croatia was a Nazi independent state.

The European Community countries, the Vatican, and the United States have recognized Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia. With this action, they have become responsible for the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

MIGUEL FONSECA
Hialeah

Retest older drivers

To The Editor:

I just read the May 31 Herald article about David Canete, the 12-year-old Coconut Creek Elementary School student who was killed by a hit-and-run driver. This appears to be yet another in a string of tragedies involving infirm older drivers who refuse to give up their "right" to drive.

The Legislature must propose legislation for retesting older drivers. Legislators finally must have the political courage to address a problem that they have lacked the boldness to face. They must stand up to older Floridians and force them to admit the truth: If they have lost the skills to drive, they should stop driving.

LEONARD KESSLER
Hollywood

We could all make a case for the institutions that we represent. The Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami is the county's oldest museum. As such, it has a permanent collection that probably would be difficult to purchase in today's art market. So the nucleus of a collection is there. The university also has designated a site on its master plan for a new museum, so there's no problem with land costs. And that site is right in front of Metrorail's University Station, so it is accessible.

What we need now is that brave soul to write the first check for \$1 million or more. Then and only then can that person ask others to join in.

It's an exciting prospect.

DIANE STAR HELLER
President, Friends of Art,
Lowe Art Museum
Coral Gables

Down with tax plan

To The Editor:

If the governor's tax plan should be passed, it will bankrupt Florida. It will keep out the tourists, burden the locals, and discourage business! There is no way that the state will receive all the money collected by taxing services, thus making every service provider a tax collector.

Send the governor back to Washington — he will feel more at home.

JIM ROWE
Tavernier

LETTERS GUIDE

The Herald welcomes your views on any public issue.

We routinely condense letters, and we correct errors of fact, spelling, and punctuation.

We publish only original mail addressed to us. And, to ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one published letter every 60 days.

Letters must bear the writer's signature and printed or typed name, full address, and telephone number. Send to:

The Readers' Forum
The Miami Herald
1 Herald Plaza
Miami, FL 33132-1693

By FAX:

The Readers' Forum
In Broward: 527-8955
In Dade: 376-8950
In Palm Beach: 848-3314.

Look, but don't touch

ANXIOUS AND angry urban dwellers who take responsibility for safe neighborhoods also must bear responsibility for doing it the right way. They must work in concert with police departments, not replace them.

An overly ambitious Neighborhood Crime Watch group in North Dade got a good talking to the other day after members chased down and collared their first mugger — an armed mugger at that.

Metro police officers implored the group to tone down its tactics and to be the eyes and ears, not the muscle, of the department. The officers are right.

Fearful of crime and frustrated by it, more residents will seek to help ensure their own security. That's laudable up to a point, and that point demands regulation by the police departments that sanction such volunteer groups. The rights and safety of law-abiding citizens and, yes, even suspects, must be paramount. In no way should the police have to police the very residents who want to help with policing.

Maintaining the delicate balance in these relationships is made more imperative as

Miami Herald / June 6, 1992 / p. 20A

Action against Serbia

THE DEVASTATION of historic Sarajevo and the related bloodletting across Bosnia and Herzegovina have begun to provoke fantasies of an international military solution to Yugoslavia's civil war. It's hard to blame those who are so inclined. The sheer brutality of Serbian forces — which recently massacred hungry civilians on a Sarajevo bread line, apparently out of simple viciousness — seems to mock all hope of a negotiated peace.

Talk is spreading of a decisive military intervention by a United Nations coalition modeled on Operation Desert Storm. The reasoning goes something like this: The ruthless Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, won't be moved by sanctions. In fact, global isolation may tempt him into widening the conflict. Inevitable as such talk is, it's premature and could be dangerous.

Under belated U.S. pressure, the U.N. Security Council has tightened economic sanctions on Serbia. The resolution apparently was meant to remind the world of similar language once directed at Saddam Hussein. Because Serbia's borders are likely to be porous — and its forces far less disciplined than Iraq's — speculation about impending military action flew quickly.

Yet just as immediate was the reaction

CRIME WATCH GOES TOO FAR

police presence and response are stretched beyond capacity in many areas. Understandably, communities are turning to any legal means necessary to achieve security. Residents with the financial means, like those in South Coconut Grove, can pay for an off-duty police officer to patrol the streets. Others agree to tax themselves for barricades.

Residents of less means make do with municipal or county police services, which are not always up to par. Still, that does not prevent anyone from pitching in to enhance police effectiveness.

In North Miami Beach, some residents are receiving parking enforcement training. They will be able to issue citations to able-bodied drivers who park in spaces for the disabled. Again, the police department has made clear that these residents are under its supervision and that they must conduct themselves accordingly. Good.

These and other volunteers must be a help, not a liability, to the police.

ECONOMIC, NOT MILITARY

of ordinary Serbs. Within hours, tens of thousands of war-weary residents of Belgrade took to the streets demanding that Mr. Milosevic step down. Though he refused, the incident spoke volumes about the potential force of economic sanctions in a country that — unlike Iraq — is accustomed to relative prosperity.

As recently happened in Peru, international economic pressure *can* turn the heads of rational governments. Sanctions sometimes fail, or work too slowly, in such realms as Baghdad and Port-au-Prince, where massive starvation never disturbs official sleep. But where industry and markets claim even an unequal share of national power, economic sanctions can quickly unsettle the *status quo*.

That must have a chance to happen in Belgrade. It apparently is already beginning. Western governments now realize that sterner measures should have been taken months ago, when they might have saved many lives and cities. But they must not make up for their fatal tardiness by a potentially more destructive rush into war.



Nancy and

This is a two

To The Editor:

Because Dan Quayle has ca and two-parent-family values, I I of two-parent families. In her au Davis, pulls no punches on her Ronald Reagan.

I am astounded by her fort ships, promiscuity, and drugs. T attractive offer. But then her fat ture in Japan, which he no doubt

Pass bills to compete

To The Editor:

It was interesting to read in the M 29 Herald about President Bush's a to defense workers and others possib affected by the end of the Cold Wa This includes military personn some Pentagon civilians, and work in industries with defense contracts

I have nothing against helping the people, but there is another group th might eagerly move to Mr. Bush's si if he would support a couple of bills S 190 and HR 303/HR 3164 — ne being held up in Congress.

These bills would correct a 19 Century decision that a person w draws military retirement pay and eligible for compensation for serv

Outlaw death penalty

To The Editor:

The recent execution of Nollie I Martin points up again the strange f cination that Floridians and much the nation have with the death pe alty. Yet this unseemly urge to exec people is barbaric. It is a perversi that our state and nation should di vow by outlawing the death penalty

Does it deter capital crime or a other crime? Certainly not to a noticeable degree. While we seem relish executions, no other Weste democracy allows them. Every exe tion harms the fabric of our count Let's outlaw the death penalty.

HARVEY C. HOLLAND
West Palm Beach

Origins of Animosity in Yugoslavia

The article titled "Milosevic's Land Grab" [op-ed, May 25] by Jeri Laber and Ivana Nizich, the executive director and a research associate for Helsinki Watch, offers numerous one-sided assertions indifferent to history. According to the article, the current civil war in Yugoslavia is not the result of spontaneous, age-old ethnic hostilities repressed for decades during the communist rule. The Laber-Nizich tandem says the old tensions were stirred up "by Serbia's irresponsible, power-mad leader Slobodan Milosevic." Unfortunately, it is not that simple.

The Serb-Croat animosities existed even before World War I and reached a climax in World War II in the concentration camps of the Jasenovac complex, where more than 700,000 Serbs, Jews and Romes died because of their ethnic, racial or religious origins. Unfortunately, Tito's Yugoslavia never provided an adequate punishment of war criminals, something that all other World War II victors did regarding their own Nazi collaborators. In Tito's Yugoslavia it was not politically correct to discuss Croatia's World War II record. Following Tito's death and the collapse of the authority of the Yugoslav Communist Party, the Serbs sought belated justice.

The Serbs might well have settled for a simple apology and a joint condemnation of genocide to discourage any future occurrences. Sadly, nothing came from the Croatian leadership or the Croatian Catholic Church, which was heavily implicated in a number of cases.

More important are the questions of secure existence of the Serbian minority in Croatia, and the former Yugoslavia's internal administrative borders, drawn strictly for Tito's government's convenience. Nearly 3 million Serbs were kept outside Serbia by these borders. The Serbs wished to discuss border changes, but the Croats refused and the Bosnian-Herzegovinian leaders, encouraged by the European Community and the U.S. positions on the question, also refused. It is ironic if not tragic that the United States, the EC and all those dead-set anticommunists defend so loyally the borders defined by a discredited communist renegade with only his own goals in mind.

The Laber-Nizich duet sees the threat to the Serbian minority in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as "exaggerated." This may be a good time for those who doubt the threat to reread "The Bridge on the Drina," Ivo

Andric's Nobel prize-winning work, and also to visit the American National Archives in Suitland, where one may learn about some of the World War II activities of the Croatian Ustashas and the 13th German SS Bosnian-Muslim division called "Hanjar." If Laber and Nizich still consider the Serbian fears "exaggerated," it may be wise for them to reexamine their own impartiality.

Finally, the Kosovo problem cannot be resolved unilaterally and by outside forces, in spite of the Helsinki Watch's often one-sided reports depicting the Kosovo Albanians as the only injured party. Where was the Helsinki Watch when the Kosovo Albanians, at the pinnacle of their autonomous rule, forced thousands of intimidated and brutalized Serbian families out of their homes? If that too is an "exaggeration," why have more than 200,000 Serbs from Kosovo resettled in Serbia? What Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo need to do is talk to each other and find a way to live there together in peace.

—Michael Mennard

The writer, who was born in Yugoslavia, is a retired Foreign Service officer.