

THURSDAY

Covering a mural

Author's work is no more Metro/Region, 1B

FinalFOUR

These Cats stack up well against '94 crew; NCAA rings and the Bibbys; dad has three

Page 1D

Prep hoops

S. Arizona's best chosen by coaches Sports, 7D

Focus on Indians



Exhibit on Southwestern tribes, 1900-20 Account, 1C

The Arizona Daily Star

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Dawn patrol



As a saguaro stands silent sentry duty in the desert below, Comet Hale-Bopp streaks toward the sunrise. This view was from a spot about 20 miles south of Tucson. The viewing's good in the evening, too. Comet guide, Page 2A.

39 are found dead in Calif. mansion

Young men are apparent suicides

— The bodies of at least 39 young men in matching dark pants and tennis shoes were found yesterday after an apparent mass suicide in a million-dollar mansion occupied by a quasi-religious group of computer enthusiasts. The men, all white and about 18 to 24 years old, were lying on their backs on roofs, mattresses and beds with their hands at their sides, said San Diego County sheriff's Cmdr. Alan Palmer. There was no sign of survivors, he said. Palmer said the cause of death was not immediately known, and there were no suicide notes found or any indication of a motive in what may be the largest mass suicide on U.S. soil this century. Real estate agent Scott Warren showed the house last week and was greeted by about 20 people, both men and women, who referred to the computer-filled mansion as "our temple," said his employer, Bob Dyson. "Everybody was met at each door. Shoes had to be taken off, and they were invited to wear surgical booties or socks," said Dyson, whose agency had trouble showing the rented home because of all the activity there. Several rooms contained computers where members told Warren they were developing World Wide Web pages. "They kept referring to the temple as very self-sufficient and how proud they were," Dyson said, adding the tenants were staying for free. "It was very clean and neat. A lot of bunk beds, and they referred to each other as brother and sister." The owner, Sam Koutchevafahsi, also admitted having trouble selling, according to neighbor Arnie Kapan, who said he joked in late October: "I can't sell it, I'm renting to a bunch of monks." Two deputies searched the partial home yesterday afternoon after an anonymous caller told them to "check on the welfare of the residents." A deputy entered

See BODIES, Page 3A

\$5.2 billion Ariz. budget is approved with tax cut

By Shaun McKinnon
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — If you're an average Arizonan, your taxes are going down, your child's schools can expect a little extra money and you'll need to keep an eye out for 41 more highway patrol officers. If you're a state employee, you're in for a pay raise this fall. And you thought budgets were boring. The Legislature adopted a \$5.2 billion spending plan yesterday, one that preserves a Republican-backed agreement with Gov. Fife Symington, who is expected to sign the package into law today. The budget deal includes a \$110 million tax cut, \$50 million in new money for public school maintenance and operation, a \$44 million pay raise for state workers and, yes, money for those highway patrol officers — \$3 million. It also allocates \$239 million for the University of Arizona, an increase of \$6.2 million from the current year's operating budget. The UA had sought \$8.5 million —

See BUDGET, Page 3A

At this late stage, it's a mind game



Mental trainer Jeff Janssen helps UA athletes establish mental routines for success.

To keep rolling, Cats urged to remain positive

By Doug Kretz
The Arizona Daily Star

Now it is all about momentum. Not just getting in gear — but staying in gear. Not just rolling — but steamrolling. Not just persevering — but prevailing. Momentum, that intangible but indisputable force that sustains forward motion, is the mantra of the moment for the University of Arizona basketball team on this Final Four weekend in Indianapolis. The Wildcats and their coach, Lute Olson, have built momentum from scratch in the NCAA tournament after a disappointing regular season. It began with a come-from-behind victory over lowly South Alabama in the first round of tournament play. It picked up steam with a second-round win over College of Charleston. It hit full power with an upset triumph over mighty Kansas and endured through a nerve-racking overtime defeat of treacherous Providence. The job now is to sustain this precious momentum for two more games. Just how to do that is the talk of Tucson today. It's on the minds of everyone from the casual fan to the UA's staff "mental coach," to Tucson's Kerri Strug — the now-legendary Olympic gymnast who knows a thing or two about the magic of momentum. "Adrenaline and attitude have a lot to do with it," said Strug, who dazzled sports fans of every stripe last July in Atlanta when she nailed a near-perfect vault in spite of a severely sprained ankle. Her performance secured an Olympic gold medal for the U.S.

See MOMENTUM, Page 12A

Judge suggests plea deal in Symington case

By Howard Fischer
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — A federal judge, suggesting an alternative to trial, told attorneys in Gov. Fife Symington's criminal case yesterday that they should consider the possibility of a plea bargain. Judge Roger Strand said he recognizes that in high-profile cases like this, both sides are loath to even discuss the possibility lest something leak out. However, the judge said precautions can be taken to prevent disclosure, and he said he would

consider closed-door meetings with both sides to facilitate matters. Assistant U.S. Attorney David Schnitzer said he would not comment on this specific case. He said, though, that his office always is willing to "consider any resolution that is in the interest of justice." Symington continued to insist that there will be no deal and that no efforts have been made by his attorney, John Dowd, to approach federal prosecutors. The governor said he is counting on the trial to clear his name. Whether that stance holds as the May 11 trial

date approaches remains to be seen. Officials at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix say that 80 to 90 percent of all criminal cases ultimately end in a plea deal. In the governor's case, though, a deal carries a burden beyond any punishment agreed to with prosecutors. If convicted of even one felony, state law requires Symington to forfeit his office. Strand's comments came during a hearing yesterday to discuss technical matters concerning the upcoming trial, ranging from screening jurors

See PLEA, Page 3A

Tomorrow in the Star

Glass people amass

Glass artists, collectors, curators and enthusiasts are coming here for the 27th Annual Glass Art Society conference.



Easter art

Children learn how to color Easter eggs by using colorful foods, including coffee.

Pilgrims trace wrong path, experts say

JERUSALEM (AP) — Tens of thousands of pilgrims walk the Via Dolorosa every year around Easter week, carrying wooden crosses and singing hymns as they retrace Jesus' path to crucifixion. Some Bible scholars now say the pilgrims have been going the wrong way. The Via Dolorosa has been determined by an accident of history,

said Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a Dominican priest, who recently published an article on the subject in Bible Review, a Washington-based magazine. The traditional Via Dolorosa, a stone path running through the walled Old City from east to west. But Murphy O'Connor, whose study is based in part on work by other scholars, says the real route

Jesus took went from west to east — and never touched the Via Dolorosa.

Many pilgrims touring the Old City during Easter Week took the news in stride. "I have traveled a few thousand miles, and if I'm off by a couple of feet, that's OK by me," said Allen Bowers, 66, a retiree

See JERUSALEM, Page 12A

WEATHER

Bad hair day. Sunny with a few afternoon clouds, breezy and warmer. Winds increasing to between 15 and 25 mph by this afternoon. Look for a high near 80, a low in the upper 40s. Details on Page 15A.

INDEX

Account . . . 14C Horoscope . . . 3C
Bridge . . . 4C Money . . . 810B
Classified . . . 3C15+
Comics . . . 3C Dallasites . . . 12A
Comment . . . 15A
Crosswords . . . 3C Sports . . . 1100
Dear Abby . . . 4C TV Listings . . . 7C

