

SUNDAY

Tailored learning

Language school lets you set the pace

Moneyplus, 1F



Nothing to do?

Page after page of summer activities

Accent, 1E

Swimming granny

Warm and fuzzy moments are best

Sports, 1C

The Arizona Daily Star

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Parseghian family's genetic plight drives UA scientist

By Jane Erickson
The Arizona Daily Star

Like any gene hunter, UA biochemist William Garver would love to be the first to find the gene that has been the focus of his work for the past 18 months.

But it is more than the usual passion for discovery that spurs Garver to identify the gene that causes the rare disorder that killed a 9-year-old Tucson boy last month.

Garver knows Michael Parseghian, a high-energy child who smiled through the disease called Niemann-Pick Type C. He died just four days before his 10th

birthday.

And Garver knows Michael's two younger sisters — Marcia, 8, and Christa, 6 — who also are afflicted with the degenerative disease that stems from an inherited inability to metabolize cholesterol.

The resulting spleen, liver and neurologic damage usually kills young victims within 10 years of their diagnosis.

And so it is for the children that Garver is hurrying along the DNA path that will lead him to the gene and a possible cure.

"I love science, but I've never been driven like this," Garver said last week. "I have two daughters, 4

years old and 4 months old. And every morning I wake up and I look at my little girls and I say to myself, 'How would I feel, what would I do, if it were them?'"

His answer is the same every morning: Go into the lab and find the gene. After working out on Saturdays. After going to church on Sundays. Go back into the lab and keep looking.

Michael died March 22, a Saturday. For 10 hours the next day, Garver worked through his grief by processing pieces of DNA in his lab at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

There he collaborates with pediatrician-geni-

sts Randy Heidenreich and Robert Erickson. The three are with the UA Children's Research Center and are among just 15 groups around the world who are hunting down the gene dubbed NPC.

Heidenreich, who is leading the UA effort while Erickson is on sabbatical, said he, too, is motivated "as a scientist and as the father of two children. The thought of losing one is more than I can take."

The UA team is "very close" to finding the gene, Garver and Heidenreich said last week, although scientists with the National Institutes of Health are said

See PARSEGHIAN, Page 12A

Clark Peak 1 year later

A whitetail deer, right, peeks from amid signs of new growth at passers-by on a dirt road on Mount Graham; wildlife staff officer Genice Froelich, below, checks some of the damage wrought by the Clark Peak fire last year that charred nearly 7,000 acres. Officials, environmentalists and residents all have their own ideas about what happened and how to prevent such a disaster again. Page 1B.



Photos by Benjie Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star



Tomorrow in the Star

Point, shoot, toss

Disposable cameras are great in a pinch and in wet environments. Plus, they actually produce good-quality photos, such as the one on the right.



Seeing the light

Bisbee's "open-air asylum" ambience makes it Arizona's most enlightened community, according to a national publication.

Swath cut in '92 by L.A. riots still a soul-gripping reminder

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From the black and Hispanic neighborhoods of South Central, north through Koreatown to Hollywood, the skyline along Vermont Avenue resembles a gap-toothed smile.

Block after block, rows of buildings are punctuated by vacant lots where stores and other businesses once stood. Even so, it's a busy street, often jammed with commuters hurrying to and from mid-city jobs.

Nearly five years ago, Vermont was a thoroughfare for traffic of a different sort — gunmen, arsonists and looters who torched buildings and terrorized residents.

The worst riots in modern U.S. history began a few blocks west, when outnumbered police were faced down by a crowd angered by the acquittals of four white policemen accused in the beating of black motorist Rodney King.

Shown over and over on television, the videotaped beating had overheated race

relations in the city. The acquittals pushed them to the flash point.

When police withdrew from the intersection of Florence and Normandie, the crowd turned into a mob, dragging motorists from their cars and beating them in the streets.

Similar scenes erupted across Los Angeles almost simultaneously that late afternoon of April 29, 1992.

When it ended three days later, 55 people were dead and more than 2,000 injured. About 1,100 buildings had been damaged or destroyed by fire, with property damage estimated at \$1 billion.

And, perhaps worst of all, the racial rift dividing Los Angeles — and America as a whole — was wider than ever.

Cutting across the city's racial and ethnic mix, Vermont Avenue became a key cor-

See RIOT, Page 14A

Fife's woes may predate his election

Bank pressed him in '90

By Howard Fletcher
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Gov. Fife Symington may have been financially insolvent even before he was elected the first time.

Documents obtained yesterday by Capitol Media Services show that the governor was being pressed in September 1990 by Valley National Bank to make payments on a note.

The governor then urged his mother to invest in a Scottsdale shopping plaza partnership — a move that would enable Symington to get his own money out and pay some money to the bank.

The question of when Symington was legally insolvent is crucial to the governor's creditors, who are trying to recover some of

their money. Someone who is insolvent cannot transfer assets, even if the person has not yet filed for bankruptcy. Instead, those assets belong to creditors.

Some documents also suggest that Martha Symington's \$700,000 infusion into the Scottsdale Seville partnership may not have been a true investment bid, instead, a way to get money to her financially strapped son.

If that is the case, she may not have been entitled to the \$500,000 she got when the partnership's interests were sold. The money may belong to the governor's creditors.

And if it was truly a legitimate investment, she may have gotten a bad deal; Symington had offered to

See FIFE, Page 11A

Presidents' Summit pays helpers homage

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WASHINGTON — With a huge splash of television coverage, the nation this weekend will celebrate an American tradition that has few dissenters — helping one's neighbor.

At the Presidents' Summit on America's Future being held in Philadelphia, President Clinton and his predecessors will join for a gathering that represents decades of White House efforts to tap into the energy of community self-help.

Among the past presidents who will speak and help remove graffiti in a run-down neighborhood, Jimmy Carter has turned volun-

teerism into his career. George Bush gave awards to volunteers every week of his presidency. Ronald Reagan, whose wife Nancy will be his stand-in for the gathering, made self-help a theme of his speeches.

But not until now has a sitting president staged such a harmonious convergence on the subject. With the help of conference chairman Colin Powell, the retired general who is arguably the most popular leader in the country, the issue has grabbed the news media and spurred a rash of good feeling.

It is far from certain how much

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 15A

Getting ready to dance



Dancers Daniel Martinez, 17, and Amanda Cardona, 15, both of Taos, N.M., share a quiet moment before yesterday's Fiesta de San Geronimo in the Tucson International Fiesta Conference that ends today.

David Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

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Even mourned

Supervisor John Even, who died Friday afternoon of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at his home, is described by friends as being upbeat to the end. Page 11A.



WEATHER

Sunny splendor. Today is expected to be sunny and warmer. Looks for a high in the mid-80s and a low in the mid-50s. Yesterday's high was 77 and the low was 52. Details on Page 17A.