

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## In Brief

### Van Gogh painting sells for record price

LONDON — One of Vincent Van Gogh's best-known paintings, the dazzling yellow "Sunflowers" in a vase, was sold Monday for \$39.85 million, more than doubling the highest price ever paid for a painting at auction.

The still-life by the Dutch artist was bought by an anonymous foreign collector, said Peter Rose, chief spokesman at Christie's auction house.

The final bid was 22.5 million pounds (\$36.2 million dollars) and there was a commission of 10 percent of the bid price charged to the buyer by the auctioneer.

Christie's had valued the 98-year-old Impressionist masterpiece at more than \$16 million.

The picture, painted in January 1889, is one of six featuring sunflowers.

The painting was bought in Paris in 1934 by the Beatty family, which made a fortune in mining. It was sold by executors of the estate of Helen Chester Beatty, who died in 1986.

### Pakistan shoots down Afghan warplane

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani jet fighters shot down an intruding Afghan warplane today after it penetrated 10 miles into Pakistani territory in an area where scores of people have been killed by Afghan air attacks, officials said.

A Ministry of Defense spokesman, who declined to be identified further, said Pakistani air force fighters shot the plane down near the border town of Parachinar.

Border officials, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Afghan air force plane was shot down by two American-made F-16 jet fighters. The Pakistani jets hit the Afghan plane with a missile, the officials said.

Military patrols were searching for the wreckage of the plane, but it was not clear if the debris had fallen in Pakistani or Afghan territory, the Defense Ministry spokesman said.

## Security shake-up in the Soviet Union Marines to guard U.S. Embassy in Moscow

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps, cooperating with the State Department, said Monday it has agreed to replace all 28 security guards at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow with other Marines as a special precaution.

The move follows the disclosure that two former guards are suspected of repeatedly allowing Soviet agents in the embassy late at night in what has been called a critical breach of security.

Meanwhile, Pentagon sources said Col. Arnold Bracy, one of the former guards suspected of espionage, was reduced in rank from sergeant for fraternization with a woman while in Moscow.

The sources, who asked not to be named, previously disclosed both Bracy and Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree became involved with Soviet women who worked at the embassy.

The sources said Bracy's reduction in rank came last August, but it did not attract any special attention until investigators began probing Lonetree's activities earlier this year.

The Marine Corps stressed none of the guards currently posted in Moscow is suspected of wrongdoing. But it said in a joint statement with the State Department it would replace all guards sometime in April.

"This measure is precautionary in nature and is intended to facilitate an investigation of the security program at the U.S. Embassy," the statement added.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Dakley said the men withdrawn from Moscow would eventually be transferred to guard duties at other embassies. She said she knew of no plans for special screening or training for the Marines who would replace the guards now in Moscow.

The Marine Corps said the guards would be transferred to the headquarters of their parent command at the Marine



## Security switch

base at Quantico, Va., where Bracy and Lonetree are being held.

The State Department said last week it had launched a wide-ranging probe of security procedures in Moscow along with a new "damage assessment," following the arrest of Bracy, 21, of New York City.

Bracy was arrested two weeks ago and transferred to Quantico on March 24. He is being held in confinement pending a pretrial investigation and the placement of formal charges.

Last Friday, however, the crops said Bracy's arrest and the continuing military investigation had prompted the lodging of five new charges against Lonetree, bringing the number of counts he faces to 24.

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Thatcher calls for human rights, Afghanistan withdrawal

MOSCOW — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher challenged Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Monday to produce deeds that match his words about seeking better relations abroad and providing greater freedom at home.

Thatcher took Gorbachev to task specifically on human rights and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"We will reach our judgments not on intentions or on promises but on deeds and on results," she said.

Her attitudes are an important consideration for Gorbachev because Britain has its own nuclear arsenal and she has given strong support to U.S. defense policies.

Thatcher, who spoke at a state banquet in the Grand Kremlin Palace, restated her support of President Rea-

gan's research project for a space-based defense system, commonly called "Star Wars," which the Soviets condemn.

Of human rights, she said: "The extent to which you, the Soviet government, meet the commitments which you have freely undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act will determine how far other countries and other peoples have confidence in the undertakings which

you give on, for instance, arms control."

About Afghanistan, she said: "The Soviet Union's readiness to withdraw their armies from Afghanistan with the shortest possible delay so that the Afghan people can exercise their right to self-determination will have a crucial part not only in the future of Afghanistan but in deciding how others see you and whether they trust or fear you, and make their plans accordingly."

## Storms take toll on Nebraska livestock

Recent storms have taken a toll on Nebraska livestock, particularly calves, and agriculture officials said Monday more deaths are likely.

The weekend storm was the second in a week in some cattle-producing areas in the state. The storms hit in the midst of spring calving season, when young calves and cows are most vulnerable.

Some calves died during the storms, ag officials said. Others weakened by the weather are more susceptible to diseases and may not gain weight as quickly as normal, officials said.

"We've had a double shot compared with eastern areas (of Nebraska)," Custer County Extension Agent Bill Pedersen said. "It's bad, bad, double bad."

He estimated that the storms would be responsible for the deaths of more than 20 per-

cent of the calves in Custer County. About 2,000 died in the last two storms and another 2,000 to 3,000 may die later of storm-related problems, he said.

That means a loss of \$500,000 to \$1 million for his county alone, Pedersen said. That estimate doesn't include secondary losses such as fences, damaged equipment or soil erosion.

Windchills fell to about 25 below, he said, and low temperatures were in the single digits. "That, to baby calves, is a killer itself," Pedersen said.

Buffalo County Extension Agent Bob Scriven said one cattleman reported 80 percent loss of calves. Another found 12 living calves out of an estimated 200.

Several officials said further calf losses could come from scours, pneumonia and other diseases.

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## U.S. currency takes historic plunge Dollar sends markets into dive

NEW YORK — A historic plunge in the dollar's value put a scare into bull markets around the world Monday as investors worried about an unrestrained decline in the U.S. currency and the outside chance of a trade war.

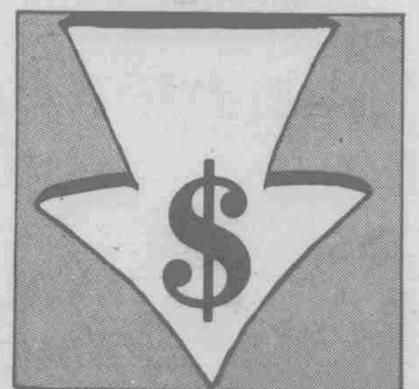
The prices of stocks and bonds plunged in Tokyo, London and New York in reaction to the dollar's fall. The U.S. currency hit its lowest point against the Japanese yen since modern exchange rates were established in the late 1940s.

Traders said they were worried in part by President Reagan's plan to impose prohibitive tariffs on up to \$300 million worth of Japanese electronic goods to force Japanese into compliance with a trade agreement on computer chips.

"I think it's a very, very dangerous situation. Nobody can stop this movement (of the falling dollar), not even the Federal Reserve, market momentum is so strong," said Iida Toshihiko, senior yen dealer for Westpac Banking Corp.

The dollar skidded to a low of 144.70 yen in Tokyo Monday before finishing the day at 146.20 yen, still well below Friday's late rate.

Stock traders, already nervous over the



huge run-up in stock prices since the beginning of 1987, reacted to the frenzy in the currency market by selling stocks.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks plunged more than 80 points early in Monday's session and ended up down 57.39 points to 2,278.41 at the close of the New York Stock Exchange. Earlier, Tokyo's stock market suffered its second-largest single-day loss in history, led downward by stocks in companies that rely heavily on exports.