

Death toll rises to 16 in Tennessee retirement home fire/7A

Star Tribune

NEWSPAPER OF THE TWAIN CITIES

MINNEAPOLIS EDITION
★ Minneapolis 175th held after allegedly killing burglar/1B

Ceausescu, wife are executed

Washington Post
Bucharest, Romania
State television reported that deposed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, had been executed by a firing squad Monday for genocide and other crimes against the state after being tried by a military tribunal.

Ceausescu and his wife, who was deputy prime minister and his second-in-command, also were found guilty of trying to flee the country in an attempt to raise \$1 billion in foreign bank accounts and of raising Romania's economy. They were also convicted of "usurping the power of the state" and of organizing military action that caused large-scale destruction of property.

The report said a videotape of the execution would be shown late night on television. A tape of the Ceausescus being brought before a military tribunal was broadcast on Romanian television after midnight, but it did not show their execution.

The tape, the first of Ceausescus to be broadcast since the new government announced his capture on Saturday, showed the deposed dictator being led from an elevator or with his wife, having his blood pressure checked by a doctor and then facing a tribunal. Ceausescu looked angry, tense, and his wife had her arms outstretched as if she were pleading.

Ceausescu and his wife escaped by helicopter from the roof of the Communist Party's Central Committee building in Bucharest as demonstrators were rushing to catch them. Their son, Nicu, and daughter, Zsuzsanna, were paraded before TV viewers after being arrested over the weekend.

The new National Salvation Front government had announced over the weekend.
Romania continued on page 10A

At last! A title!

Vikings beat Bengals for division championship

The Minnesota Vikings won their first NFC Central Division title since 1960 Monday night with a dominating performance, beating the Cincinnati Bengals 28-21. Rich Karlis kicked five field goals and Chris Doleman led the defense, which caused five turnovers and sacked Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason six times.

The Vikings' win knocked Green Bay out of contention for the title. The Packers had the Vikings at 104 but were 5-3 in the division compared with 6-2 for Minnesota.



Staff Photo by Jeff Whelan
Matt Henningsen, a backup tight end, caught a touchdown reception from quarterback Wade Wilson that set the Vikings' winning drive.

Karlis had five first-half field goals, and Wade Wilson threw for 264 yards in the first half, as the Vikings took a 22-7 halftime lead. The Vikings then let the defense take over in the second half, but it was almost a fatal mistake. Esiason brought the Bengals back in the third period and closed the score to 22-21. The Vikings came back with a 10-play drive added by 27 yards in penalties against Cincinnati to put the game away on Wilson's 1-yard TD pass to backup tight end Brent Novotny with 4:17

left. Novotny, who had three receptions all year for 10 yards, made a diving catch in the corner over Leon Butler.

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THE LATIMER LEGACY

Outgoing mayor inspired St. Paul

By Richard Merysh
Staff Writer
The bearded and boisterous labor lawyer had been St. Paul mayor only a few months when he headed with the business crowd at the St. Paul Athletic Club to discuss the sorry state of downtown.



Staff Photo by Brian Peterson

Early in the meeting, a city banker expressed doubts that St. Paul could recover. George Latimer, the 41-year-old rookie mayor, cut him off cold.

Outgoing Mayor George Latimer says he worked to give the people of St. Paul a higher opinion of themselves and their city.

decades ahead. His gift for the leadership and the measure of how he fit the power of his personality took St. Paul well beyond

er distinguish him from the 38 mayors before him.

At his very best, Latimer was the man who was the right man for the times," said Dick Brooker, a friend and former aide.

Still, as a time when St. Paul seemed

"It was the right man for the times," said Dick Brooker, a friend and former aide.

Latimer continued on page 11A

Former Twins manager Billy Martin dies in crash

From News Services
Binghamton, N.Y.
Billy Martin, whose fiery and light-bulb baseball career included stints as player, coach and manager of the Minnesota Twins, was killed Monday in a traffic accident, officials said. He was 61.

The driver of the truck, William Ready of Detroit, was charged with manslaughter.
Martin continued on page 6A

Almanac

Tuesday, December 26, 1989
26th day of the year
Sunshine: 7:05 a.m. - 4:57 p.m.
High and low: 30. Wind from the south at 6 to 12 miles per hour.
Comets: 436 Occultans 118
Movies: 108 TV Radio: 65
Comets later: 24
Disturbance: 372-4262
Chromatid: 372-4263
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Reflections on the decade

The Star Tribune begins publication today of a series of articles searching for the decade's highlights and the nation during the 1980s. In stories throughout the paper, we'll examine the trends and the lives of the decade, and sometimes we'll take an irreverent look at the last ten years.



The series begins with an overview of the 1980s on page 25. A look at four women who changed the work force during the 1980s appears on page 18. And the last-est section features a letter to the person who missed the decade and threats for knowledge of everything that happened.

Next week the series will continue with articles looking ahead to the 1990s.

U.S. asks Vatican to hand over Noriega

Refuge called 'inappropriate'

Washington, D.C.
Bush administration officials told the Vatican Monday that it would be "totally inappropriate" for the Holy See to grant Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega temporary refuge in the director of the paper based in Panama City. They suggested that the best solution would be to attempt to walk him to the door.

"It would like to have Mr. Noriega in order to return him to the United States for trial," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said in Panama when asked what the administration thought about the fact that Noriega was seeking asylum from the Vatican.

"At this point, the diplomats and the lawyers have taken over, and they are working on the problem. Our objective was, if we could, to capture Mr. Noriega and return him to the United States for trial. That is our objective."

Noriega entered the Vatican diplomatic mission in Panama City Sunday after fleeing capture by U.S. troops during the two-day assault on his headquarters and a \$1 million bounty put on his head by President Bush.

Panama continued on page 10A

■ A Richfield soldier returns with a Purple Heart from Panama. Page 1B.

CHINA STORIES

1989

Chinese try to manipulate system they can't change

Last of three articles.
By Wendy S. Tai
Staff Writer

It set with Shen, an elderly professor from Nanjing, in the corridor of the train to Shanghai. It was 6 a.m. and everyone else was asleep. I drank cold tea and watched the land go by as the sun, like a ripe persimmon, rose in the mist.

"Isn't it beautiful?" I said.
"Yes," Shen said, but then pointed down to the papers, cans and bits of meat scattered across the tracks. "Look how polluted it is. We all say, 'Don't quit. Don't quit. Somebody does it anyway.'"

I repeated the explanation—or excuse—that I had heard so often.
China continued on page 16A