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SPORTS FINAL

25 CENTS

Smoking lamp is snuffed for passengers on most flights

By Bert Roughton Jr.

Staff Writer You feel the urge.

You've been stuck on the runway in Atlanta 45 minutes. It's raining cats and dogs in Miami. You're already late for the most important job interview in your life. Four rows up, a baby is screeching just loud enough to drown out that funny noise in the engine.

You want this bird to take off so you can fire one up. Sorry, if you want a Camel, you'll have to walk a mile back to the

As of 12:01 this morning, smoking has been banned on all airline flights of two hours or less. That's about 80 percent of the 17,300 daily domestic flights by the major

That means two hours according to flight times printed in the Official Airline so delays don't count, no matter how much they whiten your knuckles.

This is no joke. If you ignore the flight attendant's warnings and continue puffing away, you may be met at the arrival gate by some FBI agents. You may have to pay a fine of a thousand bucks.

Flight attendents will tell passengers when flights are to be smoke-free while they're telling them about the life vests, emergency exits, oxygen masks, etc.

While the new regulation, which was enacted by Congress in December, may have non-smokers breathing easier, smokers are fuming.

Jan Harris, a business analyst at Arby's,

says smoking helps her cope with the bumps and grinds of flying. "I'm a nervous flier," she said. "I'm not much of a drinker, so I smoke."

Without her cigarettes, what will she do the next time she's tossed around in her

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Senator backs Eaves' defense of payment

He thought \$8,000 was loan, Langford testifies

> By Gail Epstein Staff Writer

Backing a contention of A. Reginald Eaves' defense, state Sen. Arthur Langford testified Friday that he believed an \$8,000 payment from an FBI undercover agent to Eaves was a loan.

Langford, one of 11 witnesses called by the defense as its case began Friday, also testified that he assumed the FBI agent wanted to invest the money in a fledgling housemoving business in which Langford and Eaves were partners.

Eaves, who never repaid the \$8,000, gave the same account in secret recordings played for the jury earlier during his federal ex trial. He is expected to testify Monday afternoon.

Eaves, a suspended Fulton County commissioner, is charged with accepting \$43,000 in cash for his assistance with two rezoning cases. He received \$38,000 of the money from undercover FBI Agent Clifford Cormany, who posed as developer Steve Hawkins during a nearly four-year FBI investigation into alleged public corruption.

Earlier in the trial, Cormany testified that Eaves took an \$8,000 payoff for his vote to rezone a south Fulton land tract. On the secret recordings, Eaves referred to the payment as a loan and said he never repaid it because he thought Cormany wanted to invest the money in the house-moving venture. But Cormany testified that he never committed to investing the money.

Langford testified that Eaves told him the \$8,000 was a loan from Cormany and Albert Johnson, former clerk to the Fulton County Commission. Langford said Cormany and Johnson both indicated they wanted to invest in the project,

See EAVES, Page 8A.



JOHNNY CRAWFORD/Staff Collen Holden (left) cradles a piglet as Dean Williams to get some hands-on training at 'Farm Day' for schoolchildren at Decatur High's football field Friday. strokes its back and Jennifer Williams chucks its chin

'Farm Day' cultivates students' curiosity

By Betsy White Staff Writer

Staring at the cow's enormous, sagging udder, first-grader Vondi Humphrey was puzzled. "How do y'all get the milk out of there?" he asked.

It was the Georgia Farm Bureau's first-ever "Farm Day" for schoolchildren, and the 1,400 elementary students from Decatur schools learned some surprising things as they trooped around the Decatur High football field Friday and talked to farmers about the animals and crops they'd brought.

Like many of the students, 10-yearold Astral Gartrell said she was most startled by the magnitude of the animals. At only half Astral's age, the dairy cow that was brought to Decatur for the day

weighed 1,400 pounds — about 20 times

as much as many fifth-graders. Astral, who grew up in Decatur and had never visited a farm, petted a cow or seen a soybean until Friday, said she was "amazed" by what she saw and learned. She discovered she likes pigs -"they feel kind of bristly, but nice" and that soybeans look more like pea gravel than string beans.

As the five football-sized piglets rooted around their pen, students shyly crept up to watch. But when one of the critters let out a squeal or was hoisted up by extension agent Mike Welborn for the students to pet, the students jumped back in alarm.

"When you try to pet them, they start squealing really loud," explained John Florence, who said his overriding impression of the event was being scared by the pigs. He expected the pigs to be "pinker" and to have less hair, he said.

The event, tied to the new "Agriculture in the Classroom" curriculum being used in about 120 of Georgia's 186 school systems, was more than a daylong petting zoo. During their tour of six agricultural stations, students learned about the mechanics and economic importance of farming.

"I think this is valuable," said Trent Williams, 16, a Covington farm boy who took the day off from school to tell city kids about chickens. "Most people who live in the city don't know about agriculture, and I think people ought to know where their food comes from."

IRS rescinds tax-exempt status of PTL

Donations still deductible while ruling is appealed

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Internal Revenue Service revoked PTL's taxexempt status Friday on the grounds that Jim Bakker operated it mostly to make money, not to minister.

If the ruling is upheld, PTL contributors no longer could deduct donations on their income tax returns. It also could mean PTL is liable for \$61 million to \$82 million in back corporate income taxes and penalties.

The IRS said past contributions by PTL supporters are fully deductible.

PTL plans to appeal to the U.S. Court of Claims in Washington, and while it does, contributions of up to \$1,000 a person a year remain deductible. A PTL spokesman in South Carolina said officials

there were not surprised by the decision but were concerned "about the psychological impact." The IRS claims PTL owes more than \$55 million

in taxes from June 1983 to June 1987, the month PTL filed for protection from creditors because of \$72 million in debts, not counting the IRS claim.

The announcement by the IRS office in Atlanta follows a federal appeals court ruling Wednesday dissolving a preliminary injunction that had prevented the IRS from revoking the tax-exempt status.

"We felt the organization has not operated within the guidelines ... in its original charter," Les Witmer, a spokesman for the IRS regional office, said

"We are working hard to help people understand this rather complex situation and to reassure them that this is not as dire as it sounds," said Dave West. PTL public relations director.

PTL officials, who are trying to reorganize the ministry in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Columbia, have said the tax-exempt status is essential to PTL's survival because it depends on tax-deductible contributions. PTL has a Christian theme park and a cable television network based in Fort Mill.

PTL has applied for a new tax-exempt charter and hopes to be without the status of a non-profit

See PTL, Page 19A

Dome rises over controversy

Rising costs, lack of a baseball team are throwing. a curve at St. Petersburg's plan to finish stadium

By Jennie Hess Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. Across St. Petersburg's sparse skyline looms a steel and concrete skeleton, framework for this coastal city's \$85 million domed stadium and the focus of a controversy that

has divided the Tampa Bay area. Built to help brighten the city's downtown landscape and revive interest in the area, the 43,000-seat Florida Suncoast Dome is trying to sell itself as Florida's answer to bigleague baseball.

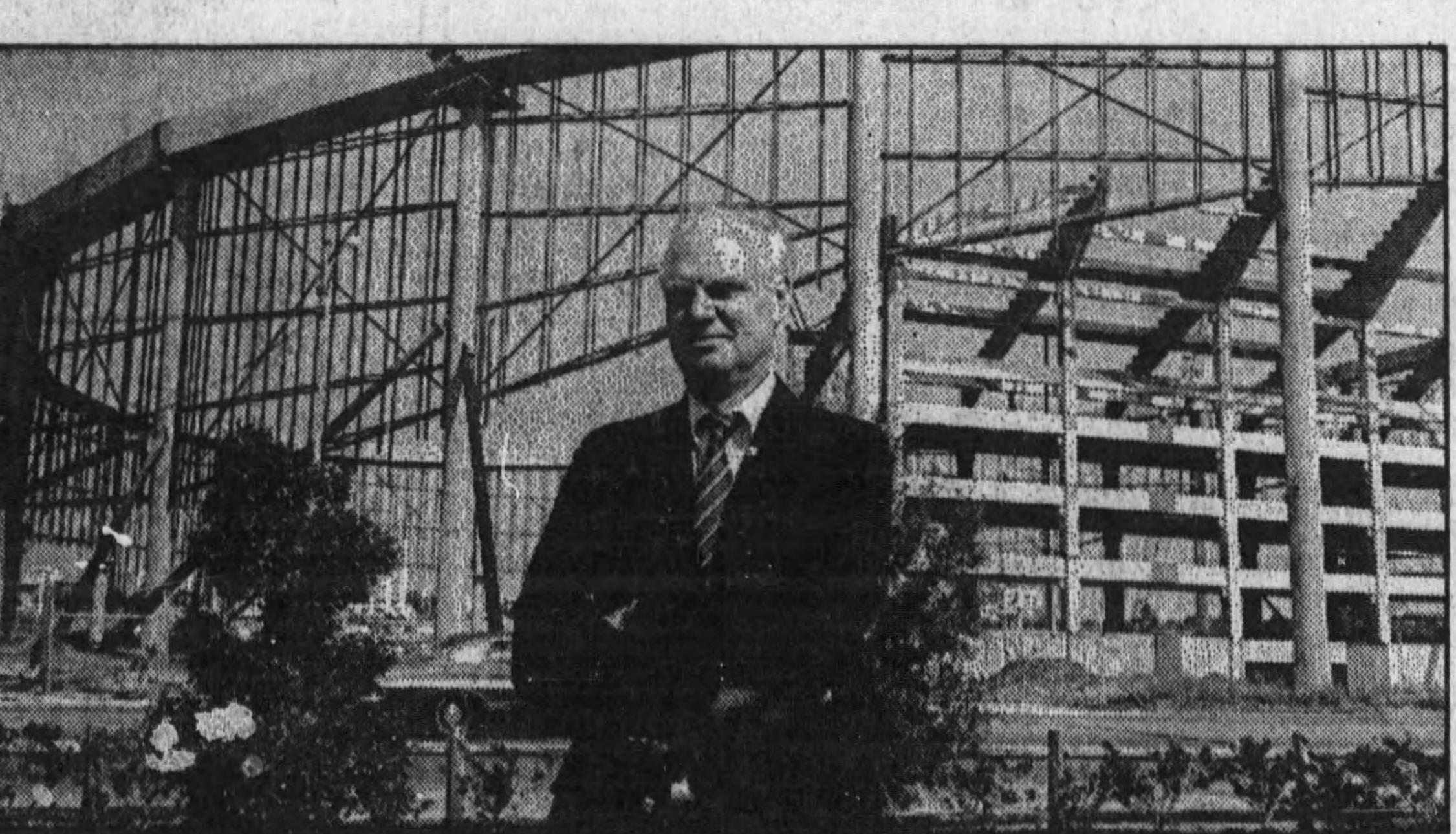
With only a year and a half to go until completion, however, the sta-

dium is mired in political and financial problems, and dome offi-cials have yet to find a baseball

Stadium plans depict a sunny, climate-controlled facility capped with white Teflon-coated fiberglass. Movable stands can convert the stadium for events ranging from baseball to tennis.

What the facility has been unable to do is convert a large number of skeptics. More than half of St. Petersburg's voters polled by a Tampa newspaper said they opposed build-

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JENNIE HESS/Staff

Bill Bunker, executive director of the Pinel-

stands outside the city's unfinished baseball las Sports Authority in St. Petersburg, Fla., stadium, which he calls a 'miracle.'

Ala. governor seeks extradition of Calif. sports agent to 'protect our athletes'

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Convinced he must "protect our athletes," Alabama Governor Guy Hunt on Friday signed an extradition warrant for Los Angeles-based sports agent Lloyd Bloom, who has failed to respond to three misdemeanor charges stemming from payments to two former University of Alabama basketball

players.

Hunt signed the warrant at the request of Alabama Attorney General Don Siegelman, who had vowed Bloom would be "brought back in handcuffs," when the agent did not

appear for a March 16 arraignment. Hunt is asking California authorities to arrest Bloom and send him to Alabama to face charges that he and associate Norby

s violated the state's deceptive trade practices act, committed commercial bribery, and tampered with a sports contest.

Bloom's attorney, M.L. Trope, said Friday night that Bloom intends to "subject himself to jurisdiction of Alabama. They are wasting the taxpayers' money with this extradition. It isn't an issue."

Bloom and Walters were indicted Feb. 2

by a Tuscaloosa County grand jury stemming from their payments last year to Alabama basketball player Derrick McKey, and on March 14 for payments to McKey's teammate, Terry Coner. Their trial is scheduled May 9 and a pretrial hearing, postponed Thursday at Walters' request, will be held Wednesday

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INSIDE TODAY

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Five easy teases

A new musical-comedy review 'Big Hair (and Other Teases)' is a goofy spoof about pet peeves. Leisure Guide

Clearing and warm

Skies are expected to clear today, but there's still a chance of thundershowers. High in the mid-Details, 1E.

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Agent

From Page 1A

in Tuscaloosa.

"We will not tolerate continued illegal interference with the student athlete in Alabama and their scholarship obligations to our colleges and universities," Hunt said. "It is imperative we protect our athletes and at the same time the good name of our schools."

Walters appeared for the March 16 arraignment and entered a not guilty plea to all three charges.

Bloom failed to appear. Assistant Attorney General Donald Valeska said he would "track Bloom to all ends of the world."

Trope, a former agent, initially challenged whether the state of Alabama could extradite Bloom from California on misdemeanor charges.

Valeska said at that time the state would appeal to California Gov. George Deukmejian to enhance the extradition procedure. Valeska also said that if California did not act on extradition, then-Gov. Hunt would seek extradition in Illinois, where Bloom and Walters are facing possible indictment on federal charges involving payments to more than 50 college athletes nationwide.

Trope relented, and Valeska said he has a letter from the attorney assuring the state Bloom would appear no later than April 26. Bloom also failed to enter a written plea, Valeska said.

Bloom could not be reached for comment Friday. Wednesday, Trope said Bloom could not financially afford two trips to Alabama, and that Bloom would await the outcome of Walters' pretrial motions "before making a decision." He did not clarify a response on whether Bloom intended to appear for the trial.

"We did have an agreement or so we thought," said Larry Childers, an aide to Siegelman. "I am told that on a couple of occasions he had a chance to show and did not. He failed to honor the agreement he had with the state. We had no alternative other than to pursue extradition."

Bloom and former associate
Norby Walters both were indicted
Feb. 2 by a Tuscaloosa County
grand jury on misdemeanor charges
stemming from a contract they
signed with Alabama center Derrick
McKey during the 1986-87 season, a
violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules.

McKey, the 1986-87 SEC Player of the Year as a junior, had to forfeit his senior season and the school had to return \$250,000 in rev-

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Califoria-based sports agent Lloyd Bloom.

enues it won during the 1987 NCAA basketball tournament. McKey then entered the National Basketball As-

sociation draft and now plays for the Seattle SuperSonics.

Siegleman said the grand jury subsequently returned additional indictments against Walters and Bloom on the same charges involving Terry Coner, an all-conference guard at Alabama. Coner was a senior and did not lose his eligibility. He was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks, but did not make the team.

On March 1, a Lee County jury convicted former Atlanta sports agent Jim Abernethy of tampering with a sports contest by signing Auburn University football player Kevin Porter to a contract before his senior season. Abernethy, acquitted on two other charges, was sentenced to the maximum of a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. He is appealing the conviction.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.







