By Robert Sullivan, Agence France-Presse

A year ago, Chris Antley was a race away from the Triple Crown. Heavy drinking, a battle with drugs and a bout with depression led to a violent, bloody end. 1C

TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA

By Shawn Baldwin, AP

Wednesday, December 20, 2000

Newsline

■ News ■ Money ■ Sports ■ Life

■ Nasdaq hits low for the year

Dow Jones industrial average drops 61.05 points to 10,584.37; Nasdaq index dives 112.81 to 2511.71; 30-year Treasury bond yield rises to 5.47%. 1, 4B.

▸ USA TODAY Internet 100 falls 4.36 to 94.40. 4B.

▸ Japan's Nikkei index is down 169 points, 1.2%, to 13,963 early today. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index falls 273 points, 1.8%, to 14,915.

Airline death linked to heart ailment

Forensics expert says combination of heart problem, marijuana and onboard brawl might have killed Jonathan Burton on Southwest Airlines flight. 3A.

'Old-fashioned' winter is forecast

Warm winters of recent are sent packing by forecasters who say that plenty of cold and snowy weather will be moving back in. 4A.

So far, so good this flu season

A brutal influenza season compounded by a lack of vaccines hasn't materialized. For one, vaccine supplies have actually increased. A better life, 6D.

By Michael Schwarz, USA TODAY

College bowl games begin

The bowl-game season starts tonight with Mobile Alabama Bowl. LaDainian Tomlinson, above, leads Texas Christian against Southern Mississippi. 3C.

■ Today's debate: Online shopping

In USA TODAY's opinion, "Buy online at your own risk. FTC limited in effort to rein in e-tailers that fail to keep promises." 12A.

▸ "Unfortunately for naysaying pundits, online retailing overall is quite healthy," Elaine Rubin says. 12A.

■ Money: Your name here

Corporate naming rights are no longer relegated to football stadiums. Roads and parks are fair game. 1B.

▸ Retailers seeing red over a lack of green? The holiday shopping season is fizzling. 1B.

■ Sports: Ohlmeyer leaving 'MNF'?

Monday Night Football producer Don Ohlmeyer might step down soon. Rudy Martzke column. 3C.

■ Life: Home for Christmas, by golly

The family house awaits. A long drive, a nervous co-pilot and a blinding snow can't keep USA TODAY's Craig Wilson from getting there. 1D.

▸ If you thought this was a bad year for movies, you're not alone. Film critics are saying that 2000 could be the worst such year since 1930. 1, 4D.

By John O. Buckley

Movie guide for the holidays

Reviews of upcoming films, including the Tom Hanks movie *Cast Away*. Plus, critics make their Oscar predictions. All in a special four-day holiday edition Friday.

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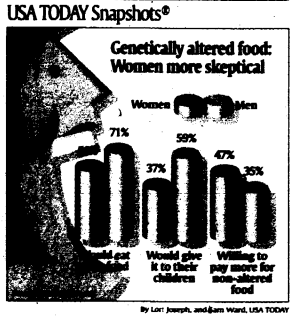

By Lori Joseph, and Sam Ward, USA TODAY

Crossword	9D
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Lotteries	13C
Marketplace Today	8-9D
State-by-state	7A
Stocks	4-10B

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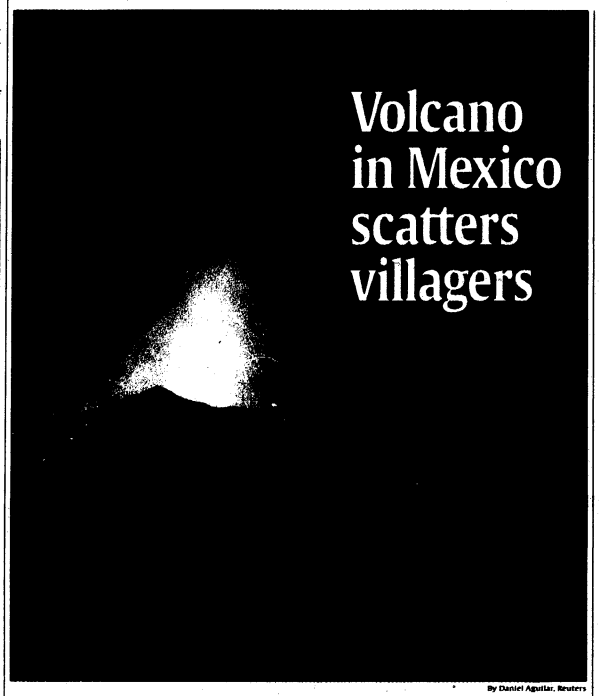
Fed signals future rate cut; Bush, Gore meet

- Slow growth troubling to policymakers, 1-2B
- Clinton to Bush: 'Do what you think is right,' 2A
- Bush to name Agriculture, Commerce, Housing posts, 8A

By Gary Hershorn, Reuters

Get-together: Vice President Gore escorts President-elect Bush into his residence Tuesday in Washington.



Volcano in Mexico scatters villagers

By Daniel Aguilar, Reuters

Town on "maximum alert": The Popocatepetl volcano spews smoke and ash Tuesday from a village 45 miles southeast of Mexico City. About 50,000 people live in the volcano's shadow. Story, 10A.

Sudan's 'lost boys' find new homes, lives across the USA

Refugees haunted by memories eager for fresh start

By Charisse Jones
USA TODAY

In the year that they ate leaves, Emmanuel was 4. The civil war in Sudan had come to his home in Kongor, scattering its people. He fled, carrying his baby sister in his arms, and never saw his parents again.

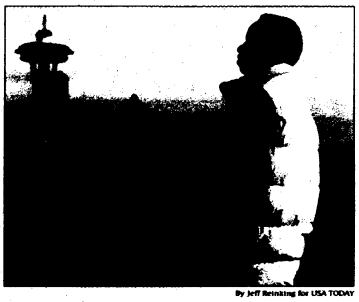
That was when the wandering began. It was 1987, and Emmanuel became one of the "lost boys" — the name given to the thousands of Sudanese children orphaned by warfare who spent much of their childhood wandering eastern Africa and living in refugee camps.

For years, Emmanuel remembers, hunger, fear and uncertainty made it difficult to sleep.

But in early November, he finally rested. Emmanuel, 17, arrived in Seattle on Nov. 6, one of the first of roughly 3,600 Sudanese children and young adults who will move from a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya, to 11 cities in the United States over the next year.

Among them are as many as 500 children ages 10-17, the largest number of orphaned refugee children to be resettled in this country since the mid-1990s, refugee advocates say. The children will be placed with foster parents, in group homes, or independent living arrangements when that is deemed appropriate.

Though many of the children know that their parents are dead, some are unsure what happened to their families. Because there is a possibility that some could be reunited with their parents, the children are not eligible for adoption, says Panos Moumtzis, the U.S. spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



By Jeff Reinking for USA TODAY

A new world in Seattle: Emmanuel, 17, is among the first of 3,600 Sudanese children and young adults who will move from a refugee camp in Kenya to 11 U.S. cities over the next year.

Cover story

Most of the children living in the Kakuma camp since 1992 had been "waiting there for 8½ years for peace to return to the Sudan so they are able to go home," says Molly Daggett, a social worker with Lutheran Social Services in Seattle. "That day has never come. That's why there was such advocacy for these kids, to find them permanent homes."

Joint efforts by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the State Department and other refugee advocates led to the resettlement of those who could not go back to Sudan, where war still rages, and who were not allowed to live permanently in Kenya.

Nine agencies, including two authorized by the

Please see COVER STORY next page ▸

Rules to protect medical privacy

Patients will gain more power over personal data

By Julie Appleby
USA TODAY

Employers, marketers and even doctors face new limits on what they can learn about patients' medical histories under sweeping privacy regulations to be issued today by the Clinton administration.

The rules come in response to growing concern that private medical information is increasingly available and is being used to sell products, screen job candidates or affect employment.

The rules, which must be put into place within two years, say:

▸ Patients must give permission to release medical information. When patients first sign up for health coverage or visit a doctor, they'll be asked to sign consent for routine use of records, such as billing or medical treatment. They must give special permission for non-routine uses, such as employers seeking information on job candidates or product marketers seeking lists of patients with specific conditions.

▸ Patients must be told how their information is being used and by whom.

▸ For the first time, residents of all 50 states will be able to view, copy and amend their records.

▸ Health plans, hospitals, employers or doctors that violate the rules face penalties, including up to $250,000 fines and 10-year prison terms for selling information that is supposed to be private.

"I think this is the biggest privacy victory we've had in decades," said Janlori Goldman of the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University.

Without seeing the final version of the rules, health industry groups said Tuesday that they are not opposed to confidentiality regulations but are waiting to see how the new rules will be interpreted.

"Many of our members already have their own confidentiality policies in place," said Kristen Stewart of the American Association of Health Plans. "I think it's too early to say if our members will be able to live with these rules."

For example, the one-time consent needed for routine care doesn't seem burdensome, Stewart says, but still raises questions: "What do you do if someone refuses to sign the consent? That puts a physician in a tough position when trying to treat a patient."

After proposing the rules last year, the Department of Health and Human Services received more than 50,000 comments, both from privacy advocates who said the rules wouldn't go far enough and from industry groups that said they would be too costly and complex.

Complying with the rules could cost the health care system $17.6 billion over 10 years, according to government projections. But those costs will be offset by savings of $29.9 billion under companion rules issued earlier this year that streamline billing procedures.

The privacy rules cover all medical records. Doctors have wide discretion to determine what health information to include when sending patient records to other doctors or hospitals. Police and other law enforcement officials still can get records fairly easily.

"We think we've struck the right balance," says Melissa Skolfield, spokeswoman for Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. "We've tried to give patients the broadest protections we could while still creating a system that's logical and understandable."

The regulations, part of a flurry of rules that the Clinton administration is issuing in its final days, mark the first time the federal government has said who can view medical records and what they can use them for. States are free to pass stricter regulations.

The rules do not allow individual patients to sue over privacy violations, but patients can file complaints with the Department of Health and Human Services. In announcing the regulations today, President Clinton is expected to urge Congress to pass laws allowing individuals to sue.

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