

rising prices pushed the Clinton administration isn't keeping up on energy issues. Others argued that a moratorium would hinder highway programs. 19A.

### Charges of election fraud in Peru

As tallying continues, President Alberto Fujimori inches closer to 50% majority he needs to avoid runoff while claims of tampering emerge, including that names of other candidates were taken off ballots. 8A.

### Vermont's prisoners staying longer

Across the USA, time served behind bars has been inching up. But in Vermont, it's been soaring. A marketing textbook led to the changes, where the "customer" is the public and the "product" is the inmate. Regardless, citizens don't believe it. 6A.

### S. Carolina torn over Confederate flag

As state legislators begin deciding the fate of the beloved and despised stars and bars, the debate isn't so much about whether to remove it from atop the Capitol but where it should go. 3A.

### Entrepreneurs shaking up campuses

Reversing a widely flaunted ban, Harvard College voted Tuesday to allow students to conduct businesses in dorms. Ethical questions are cropping up on campuses as more students launch Internet ventures, like the professor who wanted to work for two students. 1B.

### Today's debate: TV programs' content

In USA TODAY's opinion, "Vulgar content on TV rises, despite industry vows and V-chip." 28A.

► The simple fact is that there is no substitute for the active involvement of parents in their children's lives," Solveig Singleton says. 28A.

### Money: Accountability over staffing

Companies are sending managers to special seminars intended to teach them how to keep their employees from jumping ship in such a tight labor market. But critics say that the company, not the manager, should be held accountable. 1B.

► Computers are helping companies be more productive. Which in turn is confounding economists. For example, Gallo of Sonoma winery is able to make a better bottle of wine and then charge more for it. Is that inflation? 3B.

### Sports: ABC ready for some Limbaugh?

Calling himself a "football animal," Rush Limbaugh is interested in a job on ABC's *Monday Night Football*; he says ABC is interested in him, too. 12C.

► Tampa works to get Keyshawn Johnson. NFL 1C.

### Life: Sleep woes linked to blood pressure

People with sleep apnea could be at greater risk of having high blood pressure, a study says. The more they stop breathing during sleep, the more likely they are to have hypertension. 1D.

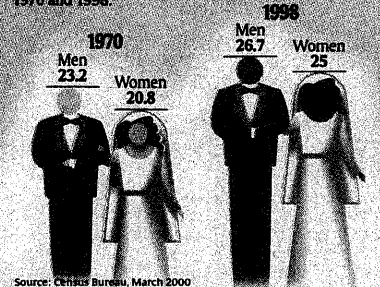
► Netscape ups the ante in the browser battle with Microsoft. Consider it a work in progress. Review. 3D.

By John O. Buckley

### USA TODAY Snapshots®

#### Waiting on weddings

Couples are marrying later. The median age of men and women who tied the knot for the first time in 1970 and 1998:



By Hilary Wasson and Sam Ward, USA TODAY



Crossword 11D  
Editorial/Opinion 28-29A  
Lotteries 15C  
Marketplace Today 11D  
State-by-state 26A  
Stocks 4,6,8,10-12B

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## The prescription medicines are far safer than any over-the-counter remedy, but drug firms want them to stay restricted

By Dennis Cauchon  
USA TODAY

Claritin, the world's top-selling allergy drug, is sold over the counter in most industrialized countries. A month's supply costs \$13 in Australia and \$17 in Canada.

But in the United States, where Claritin is the most heavily advertised drug, it is sold only to people carrying a doctor's prescription. A month's supply costs an average of \$62.

As a result, U.S. consumers and insurers pay at least \$1.3 billion extra a year for the antihistamine, plus another \$1.3 billion for doctors' visits to get prescriptions, a USA TODAY investigation found.

### Cover story

And because most cost-conscious Americans treat their allergies with cheaper, over-the-counter products such as Benadryl, which causes sedation, about 600 people a year lose their lives in car accidents that might have been prevented, USA TODAY estimates.

Low prices and over-the-counter access have turned a new generation of safer, non-sedating antihistamines — Claritin, Allegra and Zyrtec — into the primary allergy treatment in every industrialized nation except the United States.

In this country, most allergy sufferers still rely on Benadryl and other over-the-counter drugs developed a half-century ago. The recommended doses of these older antihistamines cause sedation that is the equivalent of being legally drunk, according to numerous studies in Europe and the USA. The old antihistamines have been documented by government agencies as an important cause of fatal automobile, bus and plane crashes. Studies have also shown that the same drugs impair

Continued on 4A►

Take a prescription drug... **Allegra**... **Zyrtec**... **Claritin**... **Ask your doctor**... **Enjoy the world around you.**

1-800-ALLEGRA www.allegra.com

When allergies are a nightmare... **Zyrtec**... **once-a-day ZYRTEC starts working**... **ask your doctor or pharmacist**

Claritin, Allegra, Zyrtec: Costly prescription drugs, inexpensive over-the-counter alternatives. (Highlighted areas photographically enhanced.)

## Bush proposes \$42B in aid to

By Jill Lawrence  
USA TODAY

CLEVELAND — George W. Bush unveiled a \$42 billion "New Prosperity Initiative" Tuesday to help low-income Americans buy health insurance and homes.

"America is wealthier than it ever has been, yet in this plenty, there is need," he told an audience in a working-class neighborhood.

The GOP presidential candidate and Texas governor has long sounded themes of upward mobility, particularly through education, but Tuesday's speech was the first time he addressed the problem of the nation's 44 million people without health insurance. He proposed a five-year, \$39.6 billion plan that he said would help 18 million

of them buy medical coverage. "Make no mistake about it: In my administration, low-income Americans will have access to high-quality health care," he declared.

The heart of the plan, modeled on a bipartisan bill pending in Congress, is a health tax credit for low-income families and individuals. Bush also outlined two housing proposals: a grant program costing \$1 billion over five years to help low-income, first-time home buyers make down payments; and \$1 billion in tax credits over five years for banks to match savings up to \$300 a year in new Individual Development Accounts to finance homes, education or businesses.

And Bush would allow low-income people who get federal rent subsidies to receive a year's

worth of subsidy payment on a Texas ranks states by some including the p insured, and Bice has been e Vice President responded to I depicting him a health care and of future federal "He cannot p proposals, since ceded the a nearly a trillion paign said, refe year, \$483 billi Bush aides s pose a packag and that his pro framework of a

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