

To pay for 387.7 million in spending funded completely with cash, Gilmore scoured his own proposal as well as the budget amendments of the House and Senate to come up with savings of 193.6 million. The critical component is 118 million identified as rate adjustments made for group insurance policies offered through the Virginia Retirement System.

He also targeted 194.5 million in unspecified cuts, including all the cuts he had proposed in December and then some, leaving an ending surplus of only 400,000 from a budget of nearly 50 billion.

The example leaves in place all the cuts he had made in the budget he proposed in December and, in some cases, digs deeper.

"This is just one example. There are lots of ways you could do this if you want to and do it without debt," Gilmore said.

The message in his example to the Senate

See Gilmore Page A12

planes involved — 24 — was much larger than in previous missions over northern and southern Iraq in recent years.

Iraq said nine people were injured in the attack.

The Pentagon said five targets were struck, including long-range surveillance radars and associated facilities that Iraq has used more frequently over the past six weeks to coordinate its defenses against U.S. and British patrols. The radars allow Iraq to make better use of its surface-to-air missiles.

The U.S. Central Command said that Iraq recently increased its use of anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air mis-

See Sites Page A12

struck outside Baghdad. Iraq said the attack injured nine people.

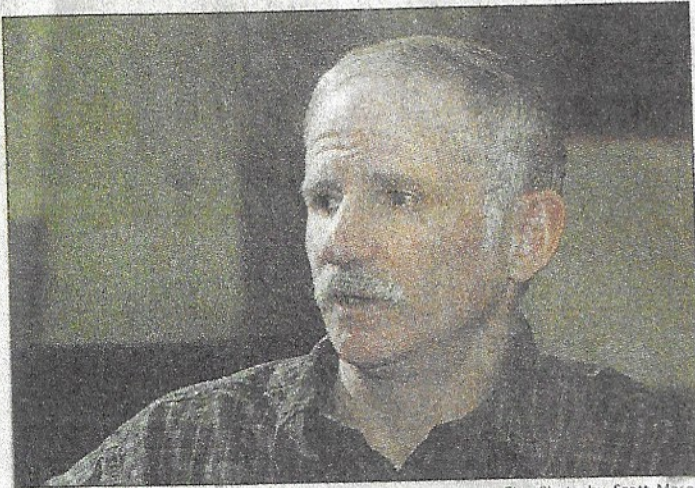
Sirens started wailing at about 9 p.m., followed soon after by explosions from anti-aircraft weaponry from the southern and western outskirts of the city of more than 5 million people.

Some residents of the capital — which has not heard air raid sirens for nearly two years — huddled together in fear in their houses. Others, however, braved the danger to watch the sky.

"How many times do they destroy what they themselves said they have already de-

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WINCHESTER STAR 2/17/01



Star Photo by Scott Mason

John Gavitt works with the WildAid organization to teach foreign countries how to protect their wildlife.

Life on the Edge

John Gavitt's Love of Nature Inspires Him to Protect Wildlife

By KELLY CUPP
The Winchester Star

Trekking through unknown territory in the Cambodian rain forest while looking for signs of poachers and illegal logging operations is part of an ordinary day for one Frederick County man.

John Gavitt is out to help the earth's environment, one country at a time.

Most people recognize the local environment as a couple of trees on the corner or the local farm, but not Gavitt. The environment serves as his inspiration for a life spent enforcing laws that protect wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement division, Gavitt spent numerous years as an un-

Who Inspires Us?

This story is part of a continuing series about people who have made life better in the Winchester area.

See Nature Page A7

Colleges Try To Tighten Gender Gap

By THOMAS J. SHEERAN
Associated Press Writer

OVERLIN, Ohio — The Oberlin College student walked into her first art history class of the spring semester and did a quick head count: two men and 20 women.

Too bad, thought Meg Spearman, a senior from Philadelphia. "The classes with more guys are more verbal," she said.

The dearth of men gets noticed outside class, too — there aren't many guys around to date, she said.

Oberlin, a historically liberal institution that pioneered coeducation with its founding in 1833, now finds itself — like other small colleges around the country — discussing how to keep men interested in the school.

Fifty-nine percent of Oberlin's 2,905 students are women at a time when many colleges believe a close male-female ratio can create a livelier intellectual atmosphere and make a school more attractive socially to high school students who are thinking of applying.

Harry Dawe, associate director of admissions at Oberlin, fueled the discussion last fall when he organized a national forum called "Are Our Boys at Risk?"

In an era when recruiting of racial minorities and women is commonplace, Dawe calls the idea of affirmative action for men "the issue that dare not speak its name."

The growing percentage of women at the nation's colleges and universities isn't a recent phenomenon: Women have outnumbered men on U.S. campuses since 1978. Women now make up 55 percent of college enrollment — about 6.8 million women to 5.5 million men.

See Colleges Page A9

dercover agent in the Northwest and about six years as an officer of the United Nations, traveling to countries explaining the importance of preservation.

"It's been a nice career," he said recently.

After a brief retirement, Gavitt is back in action with WildAid, a non-governmental organization that provides funding and training to foreign countries for wildlife protection.

Gavitt, 52, grew up in Virginia, attended Virginia Tech where he earned a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife. After graduation, Gavitt said he became interested in the law enforcement aspect of wildlife protection.

"I saw how devastating poaching can be on wildlife. I thought it would be more interesting going after people," than studying biology, he said.

The law enforcement side of preservation also appealed to Gavitt because he could find out what makes people tick. Operating undercover offered Gavitt a chance to talk with criminals and discover why they poach.

His undercover work began when he was stationed in Iowa as a field agent. Gavitt said he was asked by the special operations division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to join that division. He subsequently transferred to Oregon and worked undercover as a fish dealer who bought and sold illegal fish.

His next assignment, as a business manager for a taxidermist in Colorado, netted about 50 people in a three-year sting operation.



John Gavitt, center, poses for a photo with the rangers he helped train in Bokor National Park in Cambodia.

Gavitt's protection work expanded to other countries. From 1990 to 1995, Gavitt was employed by the United Nations as part of the international treaty CITIS (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

During this time, Gavitt saw how other countries dealt with poaching and other illegal activities against the environment. He said he spent a lot of time looking at records, uncovering violations to the treaty, and then enforcing the treaty — using the threat of embarrassment to the country in violation.

After retiring from government work, Gavitt moved to Frederick County. His retirement didn't last, though. Gavitt said he wanted to get back into the field and avoid the administrative side of preservation enforcement from which he had retired.

habitats," according to WildAid's Web site.

The organization also trains international park and forest rangers in how to combat poaching, illegal logging, and how to restore populations of wild animals.

Gavitt said he was attracted to WildAid because "it sees a problem and doesn't study it to death. They want to meld their program with the government's," he said. "(WildAid) tries to focus on places people forget about."

Gavitt's first assignment with WildAid was to help rangers from Bokor National Park in Cambodia learn strategies for protecting the park.

The main problem in Cambodia, which is the same in most Third World countries, is poverty, he noted. The majority of the human population surrounding the park lives in poverty, which causes people to

won't be anything left to poach," he said.

For example, while in Bokor National Park, Gavitt should have seen a multitude of tigers and tiger tracks, he said. Instead, he found only one set of tracks because the tiger has been hunted to near extinction.

At the current rate the tiger is being hunted in Asia, it will be extinct in the near future, Gavitt said. He added that in Asian culture, every part of a tiger's body is sold. A tiger kill equals what a farmer makes in a year, because people have no other means of income.

To help lower poverty levels surrounding Bokor National Park, Gavitt said, the rangers receive training from WildAid on how to educate local residents on new sources of income, such as mushroom and better chicken farming.

Gavitt explained that WildAid has to provide an alternative source of revenue for the local residents so they won't use the park for their livelihood. This way, he said, people will help protect the park and not hurt the animals and habitats.

"People want help, but they don't want gangbusters . . . you need to work with them."

One of the problems faced by the government-trained Cambodian rangers, Gavitt pointed out, is that many of the illegal logging operations are spearheaded by the military. This, Gavitt said, is one of the many problems faced by WildAid — corruption runs high in undeveloped countries.

Gavitt said that because of the threat of corruption WildAid doesn't dole out money

As for Gavitt's position with WildAid, he provides advice and training to the rangers with the hope of instilling "what a professional law enforcement officer can add to an organization," he said.

He said the rangers need to learn techniques on how to break up a poaching ring and locate illegal logging operations. In addition, the Cambodian rangers were given map-reading lessons and GPS lessons.

After classroom work, Gavitt said the rangers are broken into groups for forest field training. This is the most dangerous part of the training, Gavitt said. "It's life on the edge to a certain degree. You leave your comfort zone."

During his last trip to Bokor National Park, Gavitt's group helped destroy several illegal logging operations within the park boundaries. However, during training classes, Gavitt said

he could hear chattering in the park.

Gavitt's wildlife efforts aren't limited.

He cautioned rangers should be environmentally iss. "The environment eventually get to need to be cogn countries' problem.

Climatic change in the United States destruction of the Gavitt surmised, the migratory birds. In addition, pollution is causing havoc sphere. "We aren't it yet.

"You want to difference in you sometimes what pressing."

On the www.wild

We Need Your Help

Who inspires you? That question has prompted this new series in The Winchester Star. And we'd like for you to contribute to that series. Please tell us about the people who have motivated you — for you and for those who live in the Winchester area.

Send a brief letter describing your inspiration.

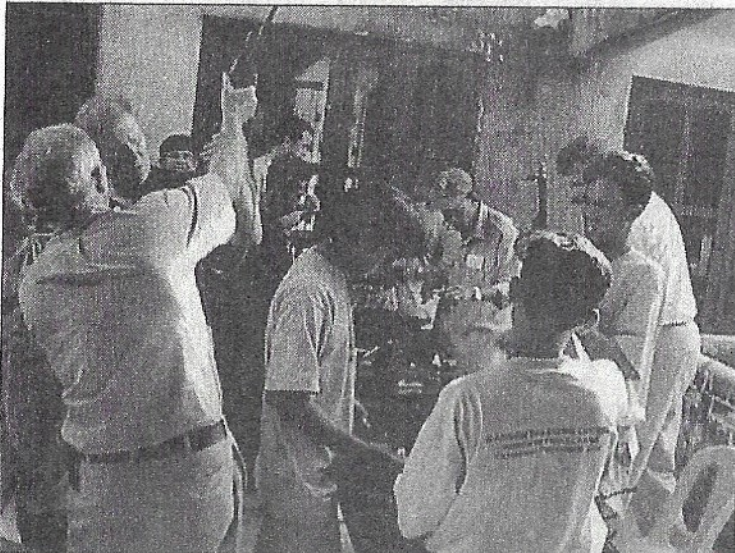
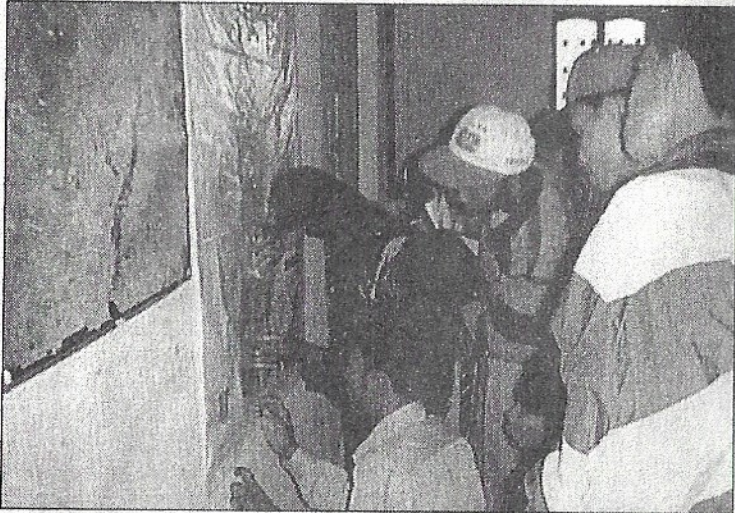
"People Who Inspire Us" The Winchester Star 2 N. Kent St. Winchester, Va. 22601

Or send an e-mail to us at:

news@winchesterstar.com

All submissions should include your name, address, and telephone number, and your e-mail address.

Who Inspires Us?



Photos courtesy of John Gavitt

Before they may track down poachers and illegal logging operations, Cambodian park rangers must go through extensive training, including (clockwise from top left): learning to read maps; practicing arrest procedures; and learning the correct way to handle firearms.



Operating undercover offered Gavitt a chance to talk with criminals and discover why they poach.

His undercover work began when he was stationed in Iowa as a field agent. Gavitt said he was asked by the special operations division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to join that division. He subsequently transferred to Oregon and worked undercover as a fish dealer who bought and sold illegal fish.

His next assignment, as a business manager for a taxidermist in Colorado, netted about 50 people in a three-year sting operation.

Gavitt's respect and love for the outdoors and the creatures living outdoors prompted his worldwide travels. "I love being outdoors. That love grew into a wish to protect what we have left."

During this time, Gavitt saw how other countries dealt with poaching and other illegal activities against the environment. He said he spent a lot of time looking at records, uncovering violations to the treaty, and then enforcing the treaty — using the threat of embarrassment to the country in violation.

After retiring from government work, Gavitt moved to Frederick County. His retirement didn't last, though. Gavitt said he wanted to get back into the field and avoid the administrative side of preservation enforcement from which he had retired.

To satisfy his desire for fieldwork, Gavitt said he discovered WildAid.

WildAid is a small organization that provides "assistance and builds long-term protection for wild animals and their

to WildAid because "it sees a problem and doesn't study it to death. They want to meld their program with the government's," he said. "(WildAid) tries to focus on places people forget about."

Gavitt's first assignment with WildAid was to help rangers from Bokor National Park in Cambodia learn strategies for protecting the park.

The main problem in Cambodia, which is the same in most Third World countries, is poverty, he noted. The majority of the human population surrounding the park live in poverty, which causes people to do things they ordinarily wouldn't have to do to survive, such as poaching, he noted.

"It's an issue that's happening worldwide. (Poaching's) a never-ending spiral. There will be an end point (when there

people will help protect the park and not hurt the animals and habitats.

"People want help, but they don't want gangbusters... you need to work with them."

One of the problems faced by the government-trained Cambodian rangers, Gavitt pointed out, is that many of the illegal logging operations are spearheaded by the military. This, Gavitt said, is one of the many problems faced by WildAid — corruption runs high in undeveloped countries.

Gavitt said that because of the threat of corruption WildAid doesn't dole out money and leave.

Instead, the organization helps implement programs and later returns to monitor the results. If the program isn't run correctly, WildAid stops funding, Gavitt explained.

That question has prompted me in The Winchester Star. And we'd like for you to contribute to Please tell us about the people who matter — for you and for those who live in the area.

Send a brief letter describing your inspiration.

"People Who Inspire Us"
The Winchester Star

2 N. Kent St.

Winchester, Va. 22601

Or send an e-mail to us at:

news@winchesterstar.com

All submissions should involve people lived, in the local area. Please include your address, and telephone number — or your e-mail address — with your submission.

We will write a story about selected people whose thoughts about these people may be helpful.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this continuing project.

Bokor National Park Was Once a Bustling Resort

By KELLY CUPP

The Winchester Star

When most people talk about an overseas adventure, they mean lounging at an island resort or exploring ancient castles.

For John Gavitt of Frederick County, spending time abroad means chasing poachers through rain forests and explaining the finer points of preservation law enforcement to foreign park rangers.

Gavitt is a member of the private organization WildAid. WildAid sends money and trainers to countries, such as Cambodia, to train that country's government to protect wildlife resources from illegal practices — such as poaching and logging in national parks.

Gavitt is in the process of helping rangers in the Bokor Na-

and destroy harmful practices within the park.

Bokor was established, by Royal decree, as a national park Nov. 1, 1993, a WildAid report states.

Bokor National Park is comprised of 140,000 hectares and straddles three provinces — Kampot, Kompong Speu, and Kompong Som, according to a WildAid report, with the elevations in the park ranging from 30 to 1079 meters above sea level.

Gavitt said the park's terrain varies from mountains to grass fields to rain forests. The park used to be home to a bustling resort community, he added.

"Prior to the Khmer Rouge period (the Khmer Rouge took over the park in the late 1970s), there was a small town with a European style church, pagoda, hospital, royal summer residence and several other buildings," the re-

Gavitt noticed Khmer Rouge's r. He said there were ing a casino, that with only the wa

At one point, a population of before the Khmer

"There are n have been killed

However, Ga there is hope in tional Park for tourists.

According to from other countries while 1,654 Cambodians Ca the park.

"These stations are impressive the road that enters (Bokor Na-

