

Former top regulator says Keating waged campaign to discredit him

By WILLIAM M. WELCH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former regulator Edwin Gray says financier Charles H. Keating Jr. waged a campaign to discredit him after he moved to curb risky financial practices at Lincoln Savings and Loan Association.

The former Federal Home Loan Bank Board chief told the Senate Ethics Committee Monday that Keating's campaign followed "years of private threats and public vilification" aimed at easing federal thrift regulation.

Gray was resuming testimony today before committee, which is investigating charges that five senators improperly pressured regulators to ease scrutiny of Lincoln Savings.

The Irvine, Calif., institution's \$2 billion collapse has been the most spectacular in the thrift industry.

Gray read a 13-page opening statement Monday that recalled how the easing of federal controls in the

1980s fueled the savings and loan crisis.

Gray has previously accused Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., of offering him a "quid pro quo" deal on behalf of Keating when senators met with him to discuss Lincoln on April 2, 1987 — a charge DeConcini denies.

Also under investigation are Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the only Republican, and Democrats John Glenn of Ohio, Alan Cranston of California and Donald Riegle of Michigan.

Riegle, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, did not attend the meeting with Gray. But Gray referred the lawmakers to San Francisco-based regulators investigating Lincoln, and Riegle was on hand for that meeting a week later.

Gray described Keating's Lincoln S&L as "a cash cow," able to use federally insured deposits to buy and sell stocks, participate in leveraged buyouts, build and run hotels, operate real estate ventures and engage in other risky, direct equity

investments.

Gray said that when he issued such risky investments, Keating responded by mobilizing pressure from Congress, the Reagan administration and the news media.

"In 1986, it became clear that Mr. Keating was conducting a campaign through his employees, agents and sympathizers to create the impression with the media and other influence molders that I was feuding with him," Gray said.

"Actually, I've never met him or even seen him in person," Gray said. "But we began hearing, and then reading, that I was somehow conducting a 'vendetta' against Lincoln," Gray said. "... My senior staff and I believed that the alleged Gray 'vendetta' was intended to be used by Keating as a basis for fighting the thrift regulators in the future."

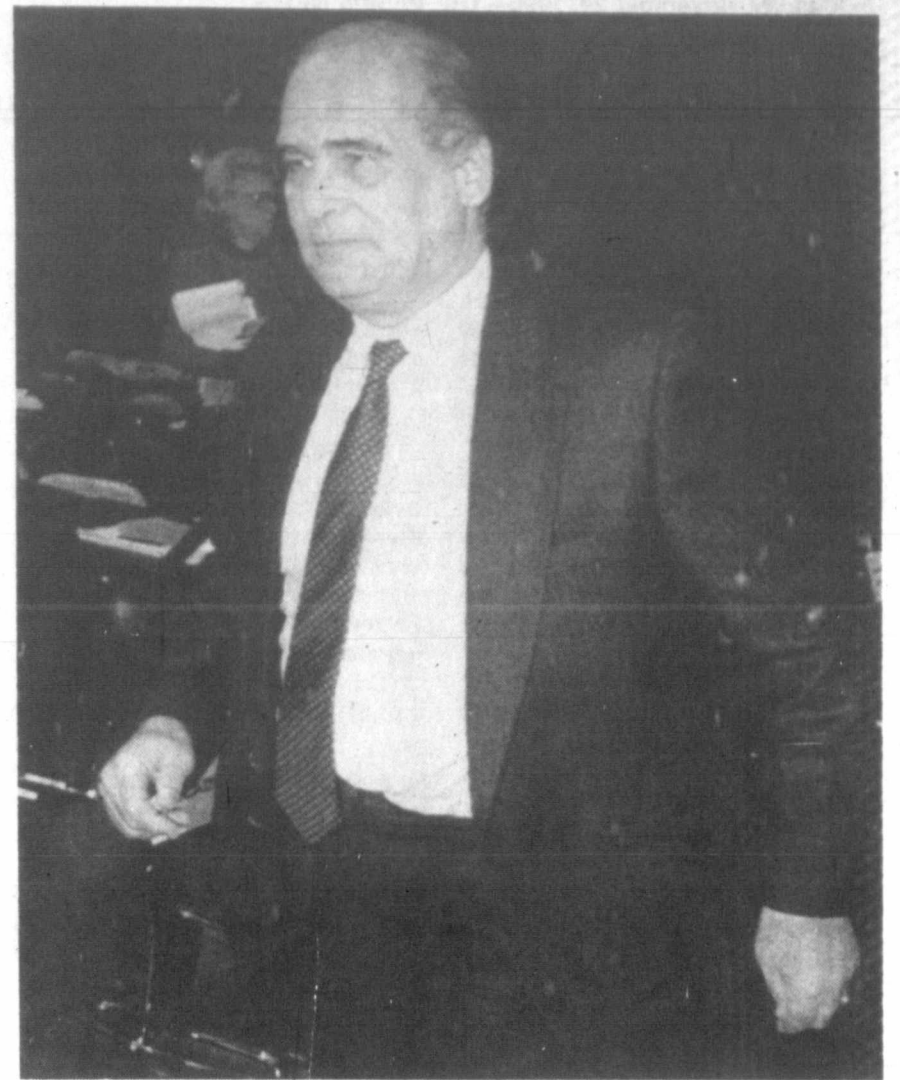
Gray said Keating at one point tried to hire him as a way of removing him from the regulatory post. He

said newspaper stories raising ethical questions about his expenses were part of "a pattern of pressures meant to discredit me and derail the effort to achieve S&L reform."

Gray said the meetings in April 1987 at which the lawmakers intervened on Keating's behalf "capped years of private threats and public vilification designed not just to change particular decisions by the bank board but to render us unable to carry out our central responsibilities."

Gray described Keating as lobbying heavily to block application of the bank board's limits on risky investments, and to try to scuttle them with "a powerful show of force in Congress."

"Largely as a result of the Keating effort, more than half the members of the House signed a resolution intended to cause me and my colleagues to back down in the face of this demonstration of power. We didn't. The direct investment regulation stood," he said.



Former top thrift regulator Edwin Gray

Historical mysteries — or what COULD you see by dawn's early light?

By RICK HAMPSON
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Did Thomas Jefferson father a child by one of his slaves? Did Old Hickory's wife already have an old man? And, say, what COULD you see by the dawn's early light?

Historians — professional know-it-alls who usually save questions for students — admit to a few intriguing doubts of their own in the December issue of American Heritage.

The magazine asked American historians to name the one mystery in U.S. history each would like

solved. Walter Lord wonders what Francis Scott Key saw the morning he wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the War of 1812.

Key was forced to observe the British bombardment of Fort Mchenry in Baltimore Harbor from a flag-of-truce boat eight miles away. He later said he composed the song's lyrics at dawn, when the sight of the flag assured him the attack had been repelled.

But that was unlikely, Lord suggests. Although the fort's regular flag might have been visible from eight miles, the night's rain would have forced the use of a lighter,

smaller "storm flag" that probably could not have been seen through smoke and rain in early light.

Lord argues that it's more likely Key saw an ensign flag raised by the victorious Americans over the fort's guns — a flag that a British officer saw raised around 9 a.m., not dawn.

Key however, "knew that dawn is a more magic hour than 9 a.m.," Lord writes. "It was time to resort to a little poetic license."

Another historian, Charles O'Neill, wonders if the space shuttle Challenger was sent aloft despite less than optimal temperatures because the White House wanted a

dramatic background for President Reagan's 1986 State of the Union address, originally scheduled for the night of the launch.

He writes: "By examination of White House logs or otherwise, I'd like it clearly proven or disproven whether word ... went to (NASA officials), bidding those in charge not to be too finicky — given the upcoming address — about getting the Challenger into the air, cold weather or no cold weather."

Several historians — uncomfortable, perhaps, with the mantle of ignorance — suggest solutions to their own mysteries.

Thomas Fleming believes that Jefferson did not father the mulatto boy who looked like him. The slave woman, Sally Hemmings, was the illegitimate daughter of Jefferson's father-in-law, and her children probably were fathered by Jefferson's nephew, he says. Fleming suspects Jefferson never denied the charge publicly to protect his family.

Despite denials by Andrew Jackson's supporters, biographer Robert Remini says it appears Jackson and his wife, Rachel, married sometime between October 1790 and January 1791 — about three years before a court dissolved Rachel's first marriage and the couple "officially"

married. Some questions lack even a suggested answer.

What happened to Sen. Huey Long's "de-duct" box, which was filled with a million dollars in campaign contributions and disappeared after his assassination in 1935? — Ken Burns, producer of PBS documentary "The Civil War."

Why did Secretary of War Edwin Stanton refuse President Lincoln the military escort he'd requested on the day he was assassinated? And why did he dissuade Gen. Ulysses Grant from joining Lincoln at Ford's Theater that night? — Jacques Barzun, Columbia University.

Taking a break



(AP Laserphoto)

Denver firefighters take a break Monday as others continue to battle a fire in a fuel storage tank at Denver's Stapleton Airport. The fire, which started Sunday morning, is expected to burn until Wednesday.

Another victory for equal rights: Men may now wear artificial hair in prison

By W. DALE NELSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Score one more victory for equal rights: no longer do federal prisons discriminate against men in deciding whether prisoners may wear wigs.

Under a Bureau of Prisons regulation that took effect Nov. 1, inmates of both sexes are banned from donning hairpieces unless they get medical authorization from the warden.

It was one of countless changes that have been made in federal laws and regulations to bring about equal treatment of the sexes or to eliminate what is perceived as sexist language.

Bureau officials say hairpieces are outlawed to prevent their use as disguises or to conceal contraband.

The previous regulation read: "51.3 Hairpieces. (a) A female inmate may wear a wig or hairpiece. (b) A male inmate may not wear an artificial hairpiece."

In its notice printing the new regulation in the Federal Register, the bureau said the change was intended "to provide for the security, good order, and discipline of the institution, and to apply this provision equally to male and female inmates."

Occasionally, as in the wig rule,

such changes do away with discrimination against men. For the most part, however, they are designed to assure equal rights for women.

For instance, old rules of the Veterans' Administration, now the Department of Veterans' Affairs, presumed that a female veteran could be the dependent of a male veteran, but not the other way around.

VA spokesman Don Smith said this has been changed as part of an effort that "goes way back."

"For the most part, VA considers that in the last decade or decade and a half it has eliminated just about everything that would suggest that there is a difference in benefits or services depending on sex," Smith said.

Some distinctions remain, in law if not in federal regulations and practice.

There is, for example, a law still on the books that calls for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to train Indian boys as farmers and industrial workers, and Indian girls as assistant matrons.

Indian Affairs spokesman Tommy Garrett, however, said that this and similar distinctions "have been removed in an administrative sense over the years" or superseded by later laws.

Phineas Indritz, a Washington lawyer who has filed briefs with the Supreme Court in landmark sex discrimination cases, said, "There have been a large number of substantive changes eliminating distinctions in law, but there are still a goodly number left."

The law on training of Indian children was one of many that would have been repealed by legislation introduced in the last session of Congress, but not acted on.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a sponsor of the legislation, said some of the laws were archaic or obsolete and others had already been negated by agency action or court decisions.

One that is of continuing applicability bars women from combat roles in the military. Another requires young men, but not young women, to register under Selective Service.

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Freebie flights could result in damaging fare war

By DIRK BEVERIDGE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Airlines offering two tickets for the price of one may be setting the stage for what could escalate into a damaging fare war. But analysts say the carriers can minimize risks if they limit freebie flights.

"Things like this tend to spread like wildfire," said Raymond E. Neidl, an airline analyst with Dillon Read & Co. Inc. "If they can control the number of seats with black-out periods, then the damage can be controlled."

The latest gimmick for filling seats comes as airlines have been hit

hard by rising fuel costs brought on by the Persian Gulf crisis and a downturn in the economy that has kept demand for air travel sluggish.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in August and oil prices spiraled upward, airlines initiated three sets of fare increases that totaled about 15 percent.

But now, most if not all of the airlines are fighting for passengers through limited promotions that offer two seats for the price of one for some flights. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, although many are good for trips through the end of February.

Travel agents caution that the free flights are hard to get and

blackout periods are in effect during the holidays' heaviest travel days. Travelers should be extremely flexible about arrival and departure dates if they want to get the fares.

"They're few and far between," said William Cooper, president of Adventure Travels in Pompano Beach, Fla. "You're talking about coming into the Christmas season. If you're going out of here on December 21st, it's almost impossible to get a seat."

For example, someone wanting to get the bargain rates around Christmas might end up flying at an odd hour on Christmas Day itself, he said.

Cooper pointed out that the free-

bies weren't offered until many travelers had already booked their holiday trips. Anyone who already has tickets would have to determine whether it would be worth taking a penalty by changing reservations and going for the free flights, he said.

The freebies have caused some confusion among travelers who often get the false impression that lots of seats are available under any airline promotion. Cooper said one of his agents spent three to four hours trying to get a customer a cheap seat last week, to no avail.

Two of the larger, healthier carriers, American and United, fired some of the early rounds in the battle, which could eventually hurt the

weaker carriers if things get out of control, analysts said. In the early stages of the promotion, airlines were offering \$25 tickets for companions of people who flew at full price.

It soon became a free companion ticket.

As an example of how quickly airlines respond to cheaper fares offered by a competitor, Continental had separate advertisements appearing in two New York City newspapers one day last week, with one offering a companion ticket for \$25 and the other offering it for free.

The airline's cheap-fare strategy had been shifted too quickly for the outdated ad to be replaced by the new one, a spokesman said.

An all-out fare war could prompt more restructuring in the industry like the job cuts and asset sales that have followed the recent runup in fuel costs. In one of the most dramatic moves so far, Pan Am Corp. agreed to sell United Airlines five prized London routes for \$400 million.

"The stronger guys have more staying power," Neidl said.

Thomas Canning, an airline analyst with Standard & Poor's, does not foresee the cheap seats having any major impact on the industry.

"As in all of these things, the seats are limited," he said. "It's going to have some effect. I don't think it will be disastrous."

MCA seeks to allay fears, head off Japan-bashing

By E. SCOTT RECKARD
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Industry analysts say MCA Inc. — the entertainment giant that gave the world "E.T." and "Jaws" — is so well run that its new Japanese owners will allow creative control to remain in American hands.

In the biggest Japanese purchase ever of a U.S. company, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. struck a \$6.6 billion deal for MCA on Monday.

The Japanese maker of videocassette recorders, televisions and stereos under such brand names as Panasonic, Technics and Quasar got a company that produces hit TV shows such as "Murder, She Wrote" and "Major Dad," records artists such as Elton John and Guns N' Roses and owns many of the biggest movies of all time.

MCA became the fourth major Hollywood studio to come under foreign control, raising fears that responsibility for the financing and political content of American entertainment is falling increasingly into non-American hands.

In a statement Monday, Matsushita indicated its awareness of American fears of Japanese investment and sought to allay them by promising to leave MCA's management intact and allow the company's direction to be determined at home.

Analysts and MCA executives said the public is unlikely to see much of a difference in movie theaters, on CD players or TV screen. "They bought it precisely because of management," said Jeff Logsdon of Seidler Amdec Securities Inc. "It doesn't help them to interfere in the creative process."

"I don't think Matsushita made a major investment in a company that's doing very well to try to change what it's doing," said MCA's movie chief, Tom Pollock.

Still, the deal has brought skepticism and criticism.

Record producer Quincy Jones said he was worried that the country was selling off its heritage.

In Japan, the nationally circu-

lated Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported that Matsushita pushed to close the deal before Dec. 7, the 49th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, to avoid public relations problems.

Concerns were expressed in Japanese newspapers of an anti-Japanese backlash in the United States. Backlashes followed Japanese purchases of Columbia Pictures, Rockefeller Plaza in New York and Pebble Beach in California.

Skepticism arose at a news conference in Japan on Monday when Matsushita President Akio Tanii was asked if he would object to MCA making a "Japan-bashing" film or one critical of Emperor Hirohito's role in World War II.

"Something like that shouldn't emerge," said Tanii, looking agitated. "Filmmakers must create films that are inspirational, that will be enjoyable for everybody. I can't even imagine a case like that."

To silence criticism that arose during negotiations, Matsushita said it will sell MCA's Curry Co. subsidiary, which operates restaurants, hotels and other services in Yosemite National Park.

Matsushita will also spin off MCA's WWOR-TV in the New York area into a separate company owned by MCA shareholders. Foreign companies are not allowed to own domestic TV stations.

Japan's Sony Corp. bought Columbia Pictures Entertainment last year, Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti bought MGM-UA Communications last month and Rupert Murdoch's Australia-based News Corp. has owned 20th Century Fox since 1985.

Like the \$5 billion Sony-Columbia deal, the MCA-Matsushita merger blends Hollywood "software" — movies, TV shows and recordings — with Japanese hardware in an effort to exploit the huge world demand for both types of product.

MCA, which began 65 years ago as a booking agent for jazz bands, has grown to become a colossus of films (Universal Pic-

tures' "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," "Jaws" and "Back to the Future"), records (Reba McEntire, Bobby Brown, George Strait) and television. Attendance at its Universal Studios theme parks in Florida and California is exceeded only by Disney's.

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Astronaut's son promotes space trading cards

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Move over, Jose Canseco. Shove aside, Barry Bonds. Make room for Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee.

The booming trading card market, already crowded with baseball, hockey, football, basketball, bowling and golf cards, has a new contender: astronaut cards.

They are the idea of Ed White III, whose father was one of three astronauts who died in the launchpad fire of the Apollo 1 spacecraft in 1967. The others were Grissom and Chaffee.

White has paid tribute to the three Apollo astronauts in series No. 1 of SpaceShots, which he bills as The Trading Cards of The Future. He says the cards are drawing the attention of card collectors and space buffs.

"We're advertising in several space-oriented publications with a mail-in form and a toll-free telephone number," said White, who lives in Houston. He was on Mississippi's Gulf Coast to visit relatives.

White said he was a baseball card and coin collector in the 1960s, and when he read a newspaper column about three years ago describing the value of old cards, he pulled his collection out of the attic.

"I was surprised," White said. "The baseball card collection was worth five times the coin collection."

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Supreme Court refuses to block hike in 'baby' Bell access rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court Monday rejected an appeal by a Texas telephone company that accused one of the so-called baby Bell phone companies of trying to drive it out of business.

The court, without comment, refused to block Southwestern Bell from increasing access rates charged to the Texas company from \$5,000 to about \$77,000 a month.

The Texas firm, DFW Metro Line Services, offers customers a flat rate for calls between Dallas and Fort Worth.

DFW uses telephone lines leased from Southwestern Bell. The regional Bell company told DFW in June 1989 it must pay about \$77,000 a month to lease the lines.

Southwestern Bell said it had been charging DFW only \$5,000 a month in the mistaken belief that DFW provided its customers with a paging service only. But DFW said Southwestern's real motive was to drive the Texas company out of business and eliminate a competitor.

A federal judge refused DFW's request for an order that would bar Southwestern from increasing the access rates pending the outcome of DFW's lawsuit against the baby Bell company.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last May also refused to issue an injunction blocking the rate increase.

The appeals court said DFW failed to show it would suffer irreparable injury from the rate hike. The appeals court said that if DFW loses customers or even is forced out of business, it ultimately still could prevail in its suit against Southwestern and recover any losses it suffered.

"The lost goodwill of a business operated over a short period of time is usually compensable in money damages," the appeals court said.

The nation's nuclear power industry Monday lost a Supreme Court effort to scuttle anticipated federal rules for the training of nuclear plant workers.

The justices, over one dissenting vote, let stand a federal appeals court ruling that forces the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue such binding rules.

Only Justice Byron R. White voted to hear arguments in the case. Four votes are needed to grant such review.

The appeals court said Congress intended to have binding rules imposed when it enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The law requires "regulations or other appropriate commission regulatory guidance" for training nuclear power plant workers.

But lawyers for the nuclear power industry contend the commission complied with the 1982 law when it issued a "policy statement" in 1985 endorsing the industry's self-improvement safety program.

The dispute has its roots in the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

A presidential commission appointed to investigate the accident concluded, among other things, that inadequate training of nuclear plant employees increased the risk of future accidents.

The nuclear industry created an independent organization to bring about self-improvement. According to the Nuclear Management and Resources Council, comprising all utilities holding operating or construction permits for nuclear plants, the industry spent "hundreds of millions of dollars to expand and refine ... (the) training and accreditation program."

A coalition of groups sued the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1986, seeking to have binding rules imposed on the nuclear industry's training efforts. The industry's Nuclear Management and Resources Council was allowed to intervene as a defendant.

In other action, Texas death row inmate Betty Lou Beets, convicted of killing her husband so she could collect pension and insurance benefits, lost a Supreme Court appeal Monday.

The court let stand rulings that Mrs. Beets properly was sentenced.

What does she want?



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

These white-faced cows, their tails all crooked just alike, seem to be staring at the photographer and wondering what she is doing on their territory recently. The cows were peacefully grazing out in a field near Alanreed in the mild fall weather.

Experts predict good season for Christmas trees

DALLAS (AP) — Christmas tree farmers are expecting a booming business this holiday season.

State agricultural officials project that about 400,000 Christmas trees worth about \$8 million probably will be harvested for the holiday.

That's an increase of 44 percent from the harvest of 278,000 last year and an increase of 74 percent from the 230,000 trees harvested in 1988, when drought and floods killed or stunted thousands of trees.

"It's looking real good," said Jim Chandler, an extension forester at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Overton.

"We've had plenty of moisture this year. Now, we need a little cool weather to get everybody in the festive spirit."

About half the trees are sold at choose-and-cut farms such as the one operated by

Helen Arneson's family.

The Arnesons have been in business for 10 years and this is the first year they expect to see their six-acre tree farm in Palo Pinto County turn a profit.

Christmas trees are grown on about 4,750 acres statewide, said Al Buehring of the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association.

"Our family has always loved picking out Christmas trees. We thought it would be fun," said Mrs. Arneson, who works days as a realtor. Her husband works in Dallas for the U.S. Interior Department.

Raising Christmas trees is hard work, but the payoff can be solid, Chandler said. An investment of \$2,500 or more per acre for four or five years can produce a return of up to \$1,000 an acre each year.

The two varieties of Texas-grown Christmas trees are Virginia pine in East Texas and Afghan

pine in western and Central Texas.

But the most popular varieties nationally are Scotch pine, spruce and fir, which thrive in northern climates.

Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin dominate the U.S. market, Chandler said.

But Texas tree farmers rely on their ingenuity to compete.

For example, The Strangeland Tree & Berry Farm in Franklin County offers a petting zoo for children. Manager Janet Johnson said the zoo includes baby calves, goats, pigs, turkeys and rabbits.

"It's a family outing," said Kerry Kutch, a marketing specialist with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"They can take a picnic lunch and go take a day in the country. A lot of farms jazz it up. Some of them have hayrides, some have Santa Claus and hot cider."

Gun-wielding inventor marketing his new fire ant-fighting machine

BEAUMONT (AP) — As efficient as it is, it will take more than Charles Evans' revolutionary new fire ant-fighting machine to rid the state of the pest, researchers say.

Evans' weapon resembles a combination grass trimmer and flamethrower.

At the top of a yard-long tube, a canister of propane feeds a chamber. Hoses lead to a pair of tanks he wears on his back like a scuba diver. The bottom end of the tube is a spear point that exhales heated, vaporous death.

In a recent demonstration, Evans stabbed the spear point through the hard outer crust of the mound, deep into the soft earth beneath. He fingered the trigger and the deadly vapor of the insecticide resmethrin surged through the colony's maze of tunnels and chambers.

He plunged one hand into what had moments before been a seething mass of tiny, but strong stingers and jaws.

"Those that aren't dead soon will be," he said.

Evans, 61, has been working on his ant-killing system for nine years and hopes soon to have it in commercial production, he said.

Entomologists who have tested the system confirm that it works as

Evans says it does, but cautioned that no one treatment system is the whole answer to the fire ant problem.

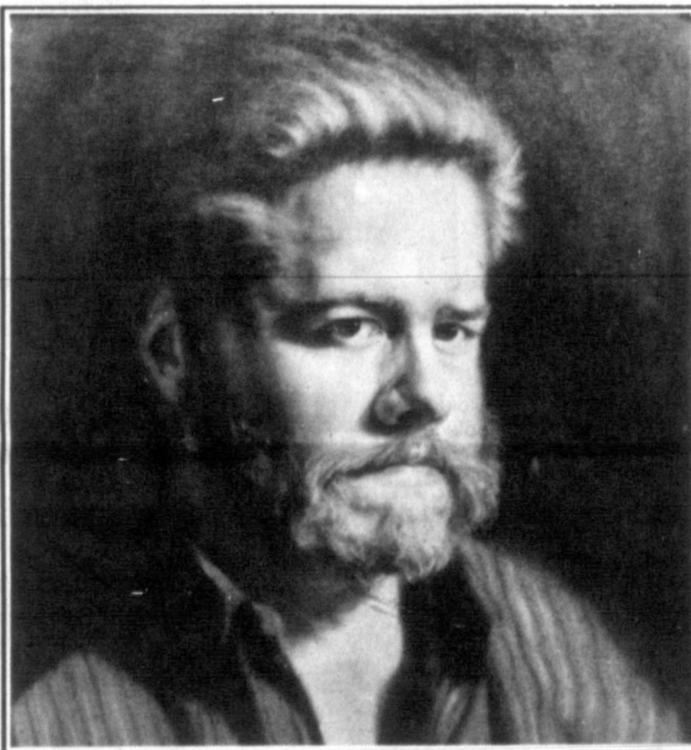
The researchers estimated that a worker could destroy as many as 30 ant mounds an hour using Evans' gun.

But some farms and ranches are infested with many thousands of mounds, they noted, and treating each mound individually wouldn't be practical.

Further, fire ants in some areas have developed super colonies that may have more than 100 queens. Queens are the only ants that lay eggs and, unless the queen is killed, the ant colony will live on.

Fire ants in single-queen colonies are territorial and will develop about 60 to 150 mounds per acre. Multi-queen mounds are more tolerant of each other and sometimes have 200 to 600 mounds to the acre, Texas A&M University entomologist Bart Drees said.

Drees and other fire ant experts recommend the use of fire ant baits in most agricultural applications. Baits are chemicals mixed with food that worker ants pick up and take back to the mounds. Baits are quick and easy to spread, but don't kill ants right away.



Grant Johnson

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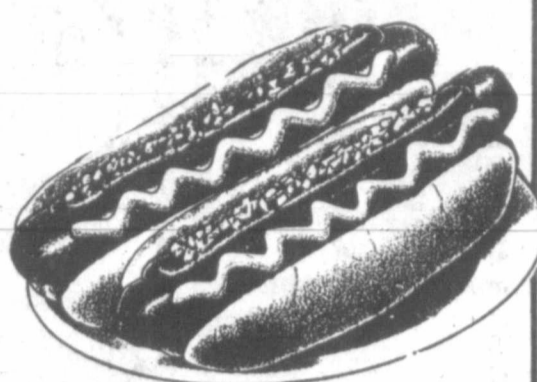
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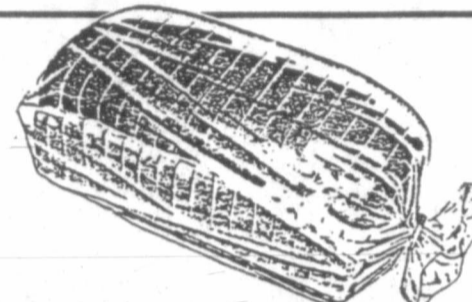
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Lifestyles



Panhandle Bird Watch

by Jan Elston

Last year we read a very interesting book, *Connie Hager, The Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher*, by Karen McCracken. Because Connie was such an avid birdwatcher, she and her husband, Jack Hager, moved to Rockport so she could study the birds which came to the Texas Gulf Coast and the Rio Grande Valley. That area is considered one of the ten best birding "Hot Spots" in North America, and Connie went birding every day—sometimes twice a day. She kept very detailed and accurate records of her findings, as she studied nesting sites and migratory patterns. She did ornithological studies and kept a "morgue" of bird skins, to use for study and giving programs. She was considered one of the leading authorities of birds in Texas, and one of the outstanding birdwatchers in the world. People came from many parts of the world to go birding with her, and to learn about the huge variety of birds which are seen in south Texas. If you'll look at the "credits" in the front of your Field Guide (particularly if your book is several years old), you'll probably see Connie Hager's name listed as one of the consultants or advisors.

Two of her friends who were also interested in more advanced ornithological studies often brought in "D.O.R.'s"—the dead birds they found "Dead On the Roadway." (Incidentally, it is now illegal to have most dead birds in your possession, except for birds which you are licensed to kill during the allowable hunting season; but it was permissible, at that time.)

A few weeks after we had finished reading that book, we were driving along a dual highway, when I saw a D.O.R. on the shoulder of the road. It was on its back, and its

feet were sticking up in the air, and since I couldn't identify it from the quick glance I got as we passed it, we decided to go back to look at it more closely. As is often the case, the crossover wasn't very close; so it took quite a while to get back to where I had seen that dead bird. We had a piece of barbed wire we'd picked up at the farm, so my husband used that to touch the D.O.R.; then he came back to the car, grinning. The "D.O.R." was an artificial bird which had probably been used in a flower arrangement or a centerpiece!

We usually don't stop to look at the D.O.R.'s we see; but we do look as we drive past, to see what that might be. A few we've seen this year have been a Pheasant, a Turkey Vulture, a Barn Owl, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, and the bird which we'll focus on in today's article, a Lark Bunting.



Lark Bunting

These sparrow-sized birds are most often seen in flocks—sometimes in huge flocks containing hundreds of Lark Buntings, and are usually seen in the Panhandle during the fall, winter and spring.

Because the most common "flash pattern," or fieldmarks of the males are quickly identifiable, you'll usually recognize them easily by their spectacular coloration of jet-black with vivid white wing patches. Females and immatures (and the adult males during part of the year) look most like House Sparrows, but the Buntings have white wing patches.

You'll usually see flocks of Lark Buntings at the side of the road, then as they scatter over to the fence, their white wing patches become more obvious.

Because these birds are so gregarious, it is unusual to see just one Lark Bunting; however, on an extremely cold day last winter, there was one Lark Bunting which came to the water we had put out in our yard. (This is a good time to remind you that you'll attract more birds to your yard if you'll keep fresh water out for them.)

If you'll watch any time you pass a dead bird at the side of the highway, or look along the road when you stop to change drivers, you may see some interesting D.O.R.'s.

Have you seen the excellent collection of bird books at Lovett Library? They have several shelves containing all kinds of Field Guides, plus books about specific birds, such as song birds, hawks, water birds, and game birds.

One useful book, written by Edward A. Kutac, is *Texas Birds—Where They Are and How to Find Them*, which lists separate areas in Texas and tells which birds you could expect to see in each area, and gives detailed information about how to get to each suggested birding location.

Cinderella's slipper won't fit



Erin Fruge', left, Glennette Goode and Angie Long prepare to take drastic measures in order to make the lost slipper fit. Fruge' and Long portray the step-sisters, and Goode plays the stepmother in Pampa Civic Ballet's production of *Cinderella*. The familiar fairy tale will be performed in the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. The production this year marks the 19th year for Pampa Civic Ballet, founded by Jeanne Willingham, who continues as artistic director for the ballet company. (Special photo)

Reader says adopted children need details about their heritage and medical history

DEAR ABBY: I am outraged by the letter signed "Closed Chapter," the woman who, at age 16, gave up her child for adoption 20 years ago because it was such a terrible "disgrace" to be pregnant and unmarried. Now she says her worst "nightmare" has come true, because her child is trying to locate her. (That foolish woman is still hiding.)

My heart ached when I gave up a 5-day-old daughter 19 years ago. I made that painful decision because I was poor, unmarried and wanted more for my baby than I could give her at my tender age of 15.

Unlike "Closed Chapter," my parents were not "understanding and loving," and I had no grandmother living in another state to take me in for a few years so I could graduate from high school.

Abby, it is my ultimate dream — not my "most horrible nightmare" — that the child I gave away will want to meet me one day. I have kept my file at the adoption agency current to make her search easier should she want to find me. I want her to know that she has a whole new family waiting to accept her with open arms.

I am all for the Right to Privacy Act, which protects the identities of those involved in private adoptions, but Abby, 20 years have passed since "Closed Chapter" gave up her child for adoption. Her child is an adult now, and it's time "Closed Chapter" stopped thinking of herself and



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

started considering her daughter's need to know something about her heritage and medical history.

There are far too many "Closed Chapters" in this world.

OPEN BOOK

DEAR OPENBOOK: The overwhelming number of letters I received from my readers caused me to make a partial turnaround on this one. I now realize that the adoptee has a right to know all the facts concerning his or her birth family, and the opportunity to meet them should be made available if all parties are willing. The secrecy that shrouded adoption is no longer necessary now that society has come to understand that "illegitimate pregnancy" is not an unforgivable crime.

DEAR ABBY: I was frustrated by the letter from the retired schoolteacher who advocated the publishing of the names of parents of juvenile lawbreakers, and I was angered by your apparent agreement.

A few years ago when my son was 16, he took up smoking. I repeatedly warned him that he could not afford the habit and sooner or later he would be tempted to steal a pack of cigarettes.

Well, on his 17th birthday, he was caught shoplifting. He went to court, did 12 hours of community service and made restitution. Since then, he has never been in any kind of trouble.

So what would be gained by labeling a 16-year-old kid a thief, or putting our names in the paper as irresponsible parents? And what about families with more than one son or daughter? Wouldn't the siblings suffer unnecessarily?

Would the retired teacher print the names of the parents of the 8-year-old who stole a Popsicle from the supermarket? Where would you draw the line?

Please, Abby, don't be so glib in your responses. The law protecting the identity of juvenile lawbreakers is a good one and should remain on the books.

MINNESOTA MOM

Simple tips help avoid holiday hazards

Advice for avoiding holiday fire and theft hazard from Dynamark, the security system franchisor:

Never use real candles on live trees, since trees dry out quickly in heated houses. Menorah candles should never be left unattended while burning. If you choose an artificial tree, keep in mind that plastic ones should have a fire-retardant label from Underwriters Laboratories or a similar testing agency.

Metal trees require extra care if used with electrical decorations, since frayed insulation, loose connections or broken sockets can result in deadly shock. Make sure that the lights you use outdoors are designed for external use, and never put them up while standing in water or snow.

If you're away for the holiday, leave a radio on, tuned to a talk show. Turn down the ringer on your phone so constant ringing

won't alert a potential burglar that you're not home. Make sure that cartons for expensive holiday gifts are hauled away before you leave. Leave a car parked in the driveway, and arrange to have the driveway shoveled if it snows during your absence.

Cancel newspaper, milk and mail deliveries. Have some indoor lights and radios connected to timers. Ask your local police to periodically check your home.

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Today's Crossword Puzzle

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Computer term
- 5 Racket string material
- 8 Side issues
- 12 De --- by law
- 13 Greek letter
- 14 Nota —
- 15 Iridescent jewel
- 16 Belonging to us
- 17 Emit coherent light
- 18 LP speed
- 19 Different
- 21 Type of liquor
- 22 Acrobatic feat
- 24 Stares at
- 26 Rocky Mountain park
- 28 Sen. —
- 29 Gold (Sp.)
- 30 Stale

- 31 Common level
- 32 Kind of fuel
- 33 Caribbean island nation
- 35 Vowed
- 38 Veranda
- 39 Author — Nin
- 41 Possess
- 42 Actor MacDonald —
- 46 Acquire
- 47 Actor James —
- 49 Large vehicle
- 50 Give out sparingly
- 51 Metric unit
- 52 Many oz.
- 53 Temporary breather
- 54 Hissing sound
- 55 Language suffix
- 56 Sioux Indian

Answer to Previous Puzzle

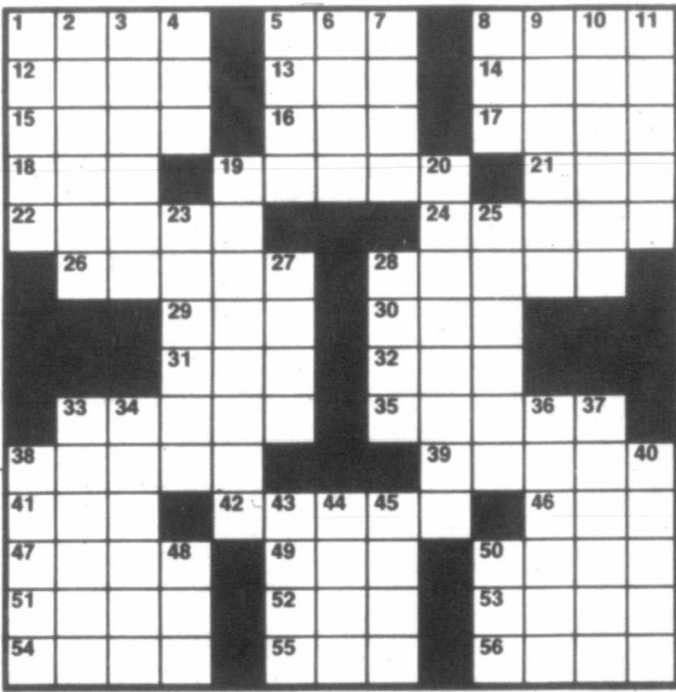
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ZILCH LIME
ASYLUM BIGEYE
PENURY REASON
SEX RIO VATS
ADAMITE
ZEBRA PLY MME
AROUND ECLAIR
NOWISE ROASTS
ESS OWL ONSET
ANILINE
LIST EBB MUS
BLASTS ACCEPT
SILENT RIALTO
ATAT ONTOP
    
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DOWN

- 1 Tennis player — Borg
- 2 Young urban professional
- 3 Hobos

- 4 Wiggly fish
- 5 Cave (poet.)
- 6 No
- 7 Ripped
- 8 Barrel (abbr.)
- 9 Annually
- 10 Came after
- 11 Looks
- 19 Of musical drama
- 20 — bed
- 23 Ideal place
- 25 Protege
- 27 Spore cases
- 28 Fireplace fuel
- 33 Aloha State
- 34 Archives
- 36 Stew
- 37 Metal decoration
- 38 Pieces of hair
- 40 Stone monument
- 43 Competent
- 44 Creates friction
- 45 Existence
- 48 Negatives
- 50 Unclaimed mail dept.



27

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GEECH



By Jerry Bittle

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

EEL & MEEK



By Howie Schneider

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A financial opportunity might develop for you at this time that will give you a chance to add to your earnings. You may need this to help placate your present extravagant urges. Sagittarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Fortunately, you may have Lady Luck looking out for you today in areas where you'll have rather pronounced shortcomings. Her endowments should keep you on the plus side of the column.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You'll substantially reduce the effectiveness of your plans if you try to implement them piecemeal today. In order to succeed, uniform effort is a must.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Financial aspects are trending in your favor today and if you apply yourself properly, profitable results are possible. Don't waste any opportunities.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Something fortuitous might develop for you today, but it's best not to discuss it with others. A resentful onlooker may try to interfere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your feelings might be wounded today when you learn of something another said behind your back. You can disarm this person's sneaky offensive by responding with kindness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Conditions are a trifle uncertain today and just when you feel you're out on the limb alone, someone may do something nice for you that will revive your faith in the human race.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Although frustrating conditions and self-doubts may nibble at you today, you'll handle a large issue that is personally important to you remarkably effectively. Keep your eye on the prize.

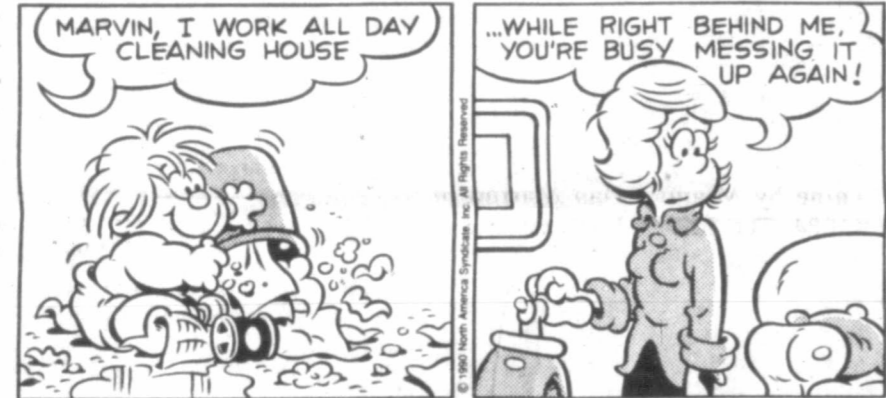
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) People performing special tasks or assignments for you today must be given encouragement as well as clear-cut instructions. An absence of either could cause problems.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It's not likely you'll do too much about an advantageous development offered you today, because you might get involved prematurely with an ineffective ally. Be careful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you're negotiating an agreement with another today, be certain you have all the facts at your disposal and, just to be safe, double check those already in your inventory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Usually you have rather good powers of concentration, but today your mind might not be on your work. Try to get a competent helpmate to serve as back-up.

MARVIN



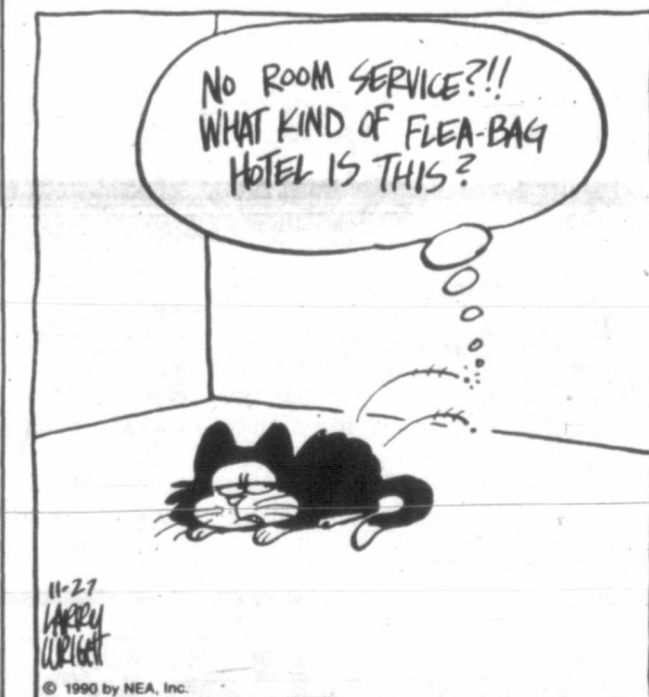
By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE



By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE



By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP



By Dave Graue

SNAFU



By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



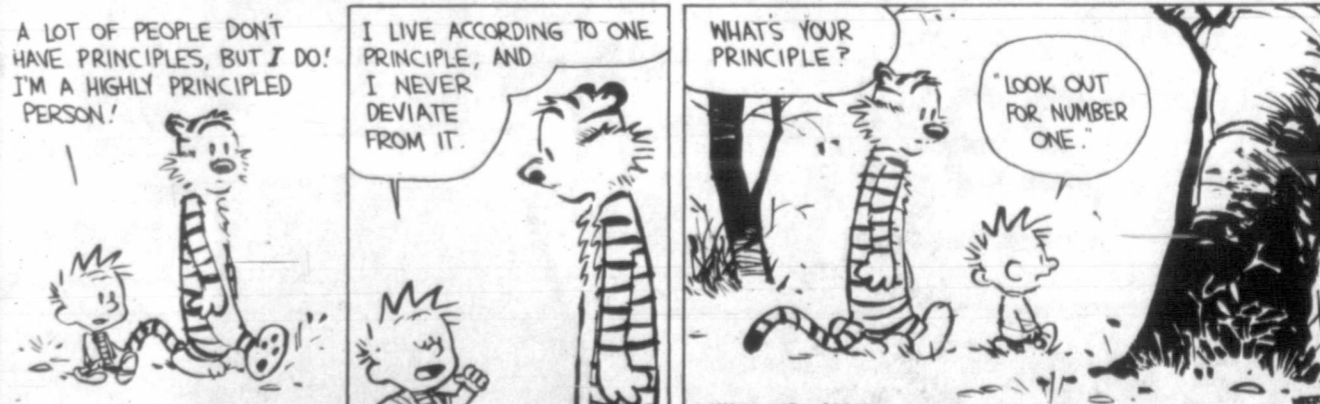
By Bil Keane

WINTHROP



By Dick Cavalli

CALVIN AND HOBBS



By Bill Watterson

THE BORN LOSER



By Art Sansom

FRANK AND ERNEST



By Bob Thaves

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD



By Jim Davis

Look at this picture



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Members of Troop 414 Cub Scout pack, calling themselves "The Bears," show some of the Associated Press Laserphotos they looked at during a recent tour of The Pampa News offices. Led by den mother Debbie Smith, the Cub Scouts were given a tour by News Editor Dee Dee Laramore.

Asians enter TV market with Vietnam news show

FORT WORTH (AP) — A television company that will broadcast in Vietnamese has been formed in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and its owners say they hope to expand across the nation.

Vietnam Vision will present news in the Dallas-Fort Worth area from a Vietnamese viewpoint. The company also will help refugees adjust to American culture, owners say.

Ultimately, the company is seeking to develop a national network of independent television programs that cater to a population frequently ignored by mainstream media, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

Some media experts say the program is opening a door to the electronic media that's been closed to minorities.

"The grassroots of the democratization of mass media has started," said Anantha Babbili, chairman of Texas Christian University's journalism department.

"This is just a small piece of the evidence that the technology is starting to open up to the neglected groups."

Vietnam Vision is a spinoff of a

Safe sex shop blends humor with education

By MICHAEL C. BUELOW
Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — AIDS is no laughing matter at the Safer Sex Boutique, but the unique shop offers such lighthearted gifts as condom-shaped candy and boxer shorts adorned with smiling condom cartoons that glow in the dark.

Shoppers also can buy earrings and key chains that discreetly store condoms inside, or use a computer that calculates a person's likelihood of exposure to AIDS.

The unusual store, open this holiday season, is a commercial experiment to market both silly and serious products that promote safe sex and draw attention to the needs of those who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"This is designed to talk about and promote safer sex by making it more fun and exciting," said Dave Rompa, executive director of the AIDS Support Network in Madison, an advocacy group that helped develop the business.

"Some stores will have a safe-sex corner or cute little condom section, but there's never been a whole store devoted to it," he said.

Since the boutique opened Nov. 5, it has drawn about 2,000 people — both shoppers and the simply curious — ranging from teenagers and their parents to divorcees returning to the dating scene, Rompa said.

In addition to shelves of books, magazines and videotapes about the dangers of AIDS and ways to minimize exposure, the store sells cards containing condoms, comic books promoting and explaining their use, and T-shirts urging contraceptive use because it's "condom sense."

There are also pink-and-black boxer shorts dotted with pictures of smiling condoms that glow in the dark.

"Condom-shaped chocolate mints and glow-in-the-dark condoms are also big sellers," Rompa said.

The store was funded through donations and fund raising by the support group, Rompa said. Many of the products were donated by manufacturers and merchants throughout the United States, Great Britain and Canada, he said.

Rompa declined to say how much money the store has earned. It is staffed by volunteers and all profits are returned to the group.

The shop will close Dec. 31, but Rompa said the group seeks more funding and hopes to reopen next year.

Supreme Court lets stand New York City ban against begging for money in subways

By RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court Monday let stand New York City's ban on poor and homeless people begging for money in the city's subways.

The justices, without comment, rejected arguments that the city's ban on "begging and panhandling" throughout the subway system violates free-speech rights.

Monday's action carries no direct impact for other cities with similar policies. The action, merely a denial of review, sets no national legal precedent.

The high court in 1980 ruled that the free-speech protections of the Constitution's First Amendment extend to people who go door-to-door soliciting money for charities.

But the justices never have ruled that soliciting for one's own needs is constitutionally protected.

That is just what a federal judge in New York ruled last January. U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand struck down the ban imposed by the city's transit authority. "While often disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic, begging is unmistakably informative and persuasive speech," he ruled.

Sand said the transit authority could limit where and when begging is allowed and regulate beggars' conduct, but could not impose a flat ban.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Sand's ruling by a 2-1 vote in May and reinstated the ban on begging.

"Even if begging and panhandling constitute protected expressive conduct, which is in serious doubt, we hold that the regulation at issue ... is not in violation of the First Amendment," the appeals court wrote.

The Supreme Court also Monday refused to consider curtailing dramatically the power of federal courts to review criminal defendants' state court convictions.

The justices, without comment, turned away a Florida case in which prosecutors asked them to bar most convicted defendants from going into federal court with claims that their so-called Miranda rights were violated.

In its famous Miranda vs. Arizona decision in 1966, the high court said criminal suspects in police custody may not be interrogated unless told of their rights to remain silent, to have a lawyer's help, and to have a lawyer appointed for them if they cannot afford one.

Confessions or other evidence obtained in violation of the Miranda ruling, which was based on the Constitu-

tion's Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination, cannot be used at trial.

In other action, the Supreme Court refused to kill an affirmative action program in Florida aimed at awarding more public works contracts to businesses run by minorities and women.

The court, without comment, rejected an appeal by companies that said the Tampa-area program is unconstitutional because it condones reverse discrimination against white men.

The affirmative action program was adopted in 1984 by Hillsborough County, Fla. The county set a goal of awarding 25 percent of the value of all annual construction contracts to businesses owned by women and minorities, primarily blacks and Hispanics.

The program, in effect, calls for county officials to favor contractors who have lined up companies run by minorities and women as subcontractors.

If the contractor submitting the low bid on a project has met the county's affirmative action goals, that company is likely to win the contract.

The low bidder may lose the contract if it fails to convince officials it has at least made a good-faith effort to meet those goals.

After a group of white-owned construction companies sued, a federal judge in 1989 ruled the program was unconstitutional and barred the county from enforcing it.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overruled the judge last August and reinstated the program. The appeals court said the program, at least on its face, does not violate equal-protection guarantees.

But the appeals court did not throw out the suit, but instead sent it back for a trial at which the white-owned companies will have a chance to prove their allegations.

The appeals court said the Hillsborough plan appears to be significantly different from a so-called set-aside program adopted by Richmond, Va., that was overturned by the Supreme Court last year.

The Richmond plan established a quota that required 30 percent of the value of annual public works contracts to be awarded to minority businesses.

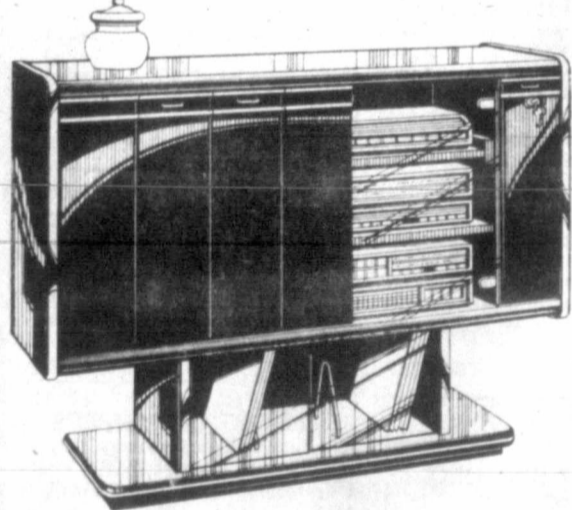
In striking down that plan, the high court said local governments must narrowly tailor affirmative action plans to remedy proven past bias.

The 11th Circuit court said Hillsborough County acted only after a six-year, wholly voluntary plan failed to do enough to help minorities and women in the building industry.

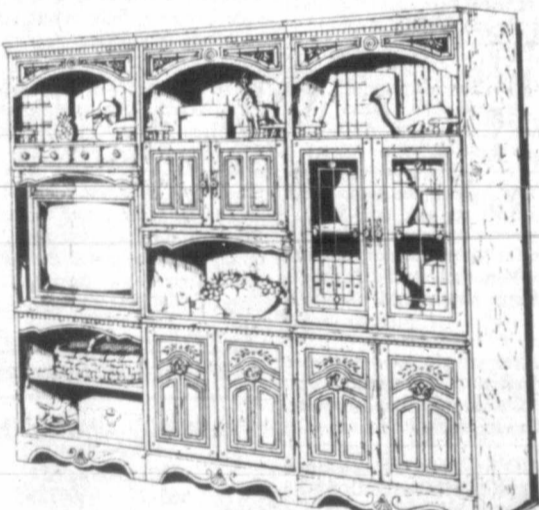
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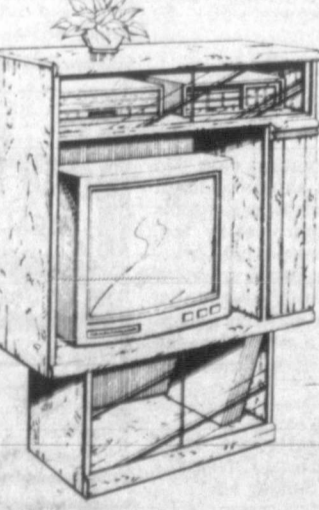
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QUALITY AND A GOOD LOOKING OAK FINISH will make you want to buy this handsome Pedestal Wall Unit. BUT WHAT WILL CONVINCE YOU TO BUY IS THE PRICE! ~~\$979~~ FOR THIS SALE ONLY! FOR JUST **\$189⁵⁰**

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Credit Terms

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