

American forces on the move

By SIDNEY S. FEINGOLD
Associated Press Writer

President Bush put out the welcome mat today for Jordan's King Hussein, who is acting as go-between in a U.S.-Iraqi showdown that now includes a threat of suicide raids on U.S. warships and an Iraqi peace bid to its archfoe, Iran. After strong words Wednesday, both sides later eased up slightly in

the war of nerves that has followed Iraq's military takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, said Iraq is ready to negotiate with U.S. officials and would not initiate a war against the United States.

However, he added if the Americans "have come to initiate a war here, I think they will be sorry . . .

because they will lose that war." He was interviewed on ABC's "Nightline" program.

Aziz said Iraq has no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia, where perhaps 20,000 U.S. troops already have been dispatched to counter any further Iraqi seizure of the huge oil reserves in the Persian Gulf. Bangladesh said Wednesday it would send soldiers to join Egyptian, Syrian and Moroccan

soldiers forming a multinational force with American GIs to protect the Saudi kingdom.

The U.S. Navy is also at the forefront of a maritime barricade of Iraq, aided by British, West German and Australian vessels.

Bush told a military gathering at the Pentagon on Wednesday that "no one should doubt our staying power" in confronting Iraqi expansionism. The American way of life is imperiled by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's growing control of Persian Gulf oil, he said.

The aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy and its eight-ship battle group left Norfolk, Va., for the crisis area Wednesday, and Pentagon officials said aircraft leaving soon would include F-117A Stealth fighters. The U.S. Navy already has massed 27 ships, including

three carriers, in the gulf, the nearby Arabian Sea and the Red Sea.

Hope that diplomacy still could resolve the crisis centered today on Hussein, who flew his own plane to Washington on Tuesday and was said to be carrying a private message from Saddam to Bush.

Bush also is expected to press the king to bottle up Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba to Iraq.



Capt. Robert Kolterman of Philadelphia, Pa., inspects a long line of M-1 tanks on a rail head at the Port of Savannah, Ga., to be loaded soon on Navy ships, shown in the background, headed for the Persian Gulf and its mideast conflict.



Marie Ellison, above, decorates the mailbox at her home in Mt. Carmel, Ohio, Tuesday as a reminder that her son, Michael, 22, will be among U.S. military personnel in Saudi Arabia. Below, a sign at a business in Ft. Campbell, Ky., expresses good wishes to a military convoy leaving the base.



Army Sgt. First Class George Baker gets a kiss from his wife Julie as he and other soldiers prepare to depart Fort Rucker, Ala., Wednesday. An undisclosed number of soldiers left the base on an apparent mission to the Persian Gulf.

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U.S. women soldiers give Saudi men culture shock

By **DANA KENNEDY**
Associated Press Writer

The women among the 50,000 American soldiers in Saudi Arabia are likely to be a disturbing if not threatening presence in a culture where women cannot drive, vote, sit in a theater with a man or even show their face and hair.

The Saudi kingdom has the most conservative and rigid Islamic way of life of all the Arab countries. Most Westerners there are employees of Western companies who are kept isolated from the rest of the country.

U.S. women soldiers said Wednesday that Saudi men react with dismay and occasional hostility when they see them doing such non-combat jobs as repairing airplanes and driving trucks or, in at least one case, giving orders to men.

"I don't think they disagree with what we're doing," said a Victoria, Va., sergeant, whose name was withheld in keeping with the media ground rules. "I think they're more like shocked: 'There's an American woman. She's doing what men are doing.'"

The U.S. troops may pose a significant outside influence that may be hard to control.

"It's a breaking of the hermetic seal that's surrounded Saudi Arabia since it was founded in the 1920s," said Richard Bulliet, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Columbia University. "What happens to the Saudi foot soldier whose world view of women is quasi-human, when he sees a woman making an arrest?"

The U.S. buildup includes women truck drivers, communications specialists, technicians and aircraft crew chiefs. The Pentagon would not give specific numbers.

Some experts warned against allowing American troops much access to the average Saudi, who

lives in a culture where one recent topic of conversation was whether beheadings should be televised. (So far, they have not been.)

"It would be a big mistake if our soldiers were allowed to mix too much," said Lenore Martin, a fellow at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

"We really have to see our forces separate because the stability of the government is involved. One of the main reasons the Saudis haven't given us bases before is the fear of being too closely Westernized in order to protect the fundamentalist regime and way of life."

Though Saudi men cannot drink alcohol and must adhere to a rigid dress code, among other regulations, it is Saudi women who live an especially restricted life.

When women go outside, their clothing must cover almost all of their bodies and faces. Women must use separate beaches and theaters. They are allowed an education but can attend only segregated classes. Saudi wives cannot ask for divorces and are strictly limited in their right to own property.

"American troops are totally incompatible with the way of life in Saudi Arabia," said Bulliet. "I have no idea who's going to get disgusted first — the Americans with Saudi behavior or the Saudis with the Americans."

The Virginia sergeant, an F-15 fighter ground crew chief, said that Saudi men stop work and stare when she tells crewmen what to do. She said that Saudi men reacted so strongly when another ground crew woman peeled off her shirt to work in a T-shirt underneath that a U.S. sergeant told her to put it back on.

"They got very emotional about that," the sergeant said. "They made a lot of physical movements. I think they asked the sergeant to make her put her shirt back on."

Administration may seek oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas

By **RITA BEAMISH**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration wants to use the Persian Gulf crisis — and resulting gasoline price increases — to push for oil drilling in an Alaskan wildlife refuge and other environmentally sensitive areas.

"Once Congress gets back, the (Interior) Department and others will try to make a strong case for Congress to act in allowing exploration of the coastal plain" of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, said Tom DeRocco, chief of public affairs for the Minerals Management Service.

The White House also hopes the Mideast turmoil and increasing gas prices will galvanize public opinion for exploration and drilling in some offshore areas.

"Now that people are having to pay higher prices at the gas pump, there's a heightened awareness of the issue," said Steven Goldstein, chief spokesman for the Interior Department.

However, President Bush will not alter his June decision to

block new drilling off most of California, Southern Florida, Washington and Oregon, officials said. That decision barred offshore oil activity in those areas for at least a decade.

Energy Secretary James Watkins said Wednesday the United States could use stepped-up oil production and conservation to replace up to 90 percent of the oil supplies lost because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Half the saving would come if Americans accept conservation measures that, for example, would require them to keep tires properly inflated and drive within the speed limit, he said. Increased oil production could require compromises on the environment, Watkins added.

The oil industry has pushed for years to open the northeastern Alaska refuge's 1.5-million-acre coastal stretch to drilling, in hopes that it contains huge deposits of oil and gas.

Environmentalists see the refuge as a crucial test of Bush's commitment following his pledge to be an "environmental presi-

dent." They say the refuge is a national treasure with a complete spectrum of arctic ecosystems, including a home for polar bears, millions of birds, and a calving area for the Porcupine Caribou herd.

Bush has long wanted oil exploration in the Alaska refuge, but Congress decreed in 1980 that it must give permission before any drilling can occur.

Ben Beach of the Wilderness Society said the Middle East crisis likely will help the Bush administration counter public opposition to oil development.

"Politically it makes it easier for them" to push for exploration, Beach said.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan — in a meeting with White House Chief of Staff John Sununu's deputy, Andy Card — got the go-ahead to start the drumbeat toward opening the Alaska refuge, said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The administration also is interested in moving ahead with exploration in other states that

have been protected by congressional moratoriums, said Goldstein of the Interior Department.

That could include areas offshore in North Carolina, Bristol Bay, Alaska, South Carolina and other coastal regions. Goldstein said the administration wants to see stepped-up oil production off Santa Barbara County, Calif., where drilling already is underway.

But the administration is not likely to invoke powers that allow the federal government to override local decisions when it is deemed in the national interest, said Goldstein.

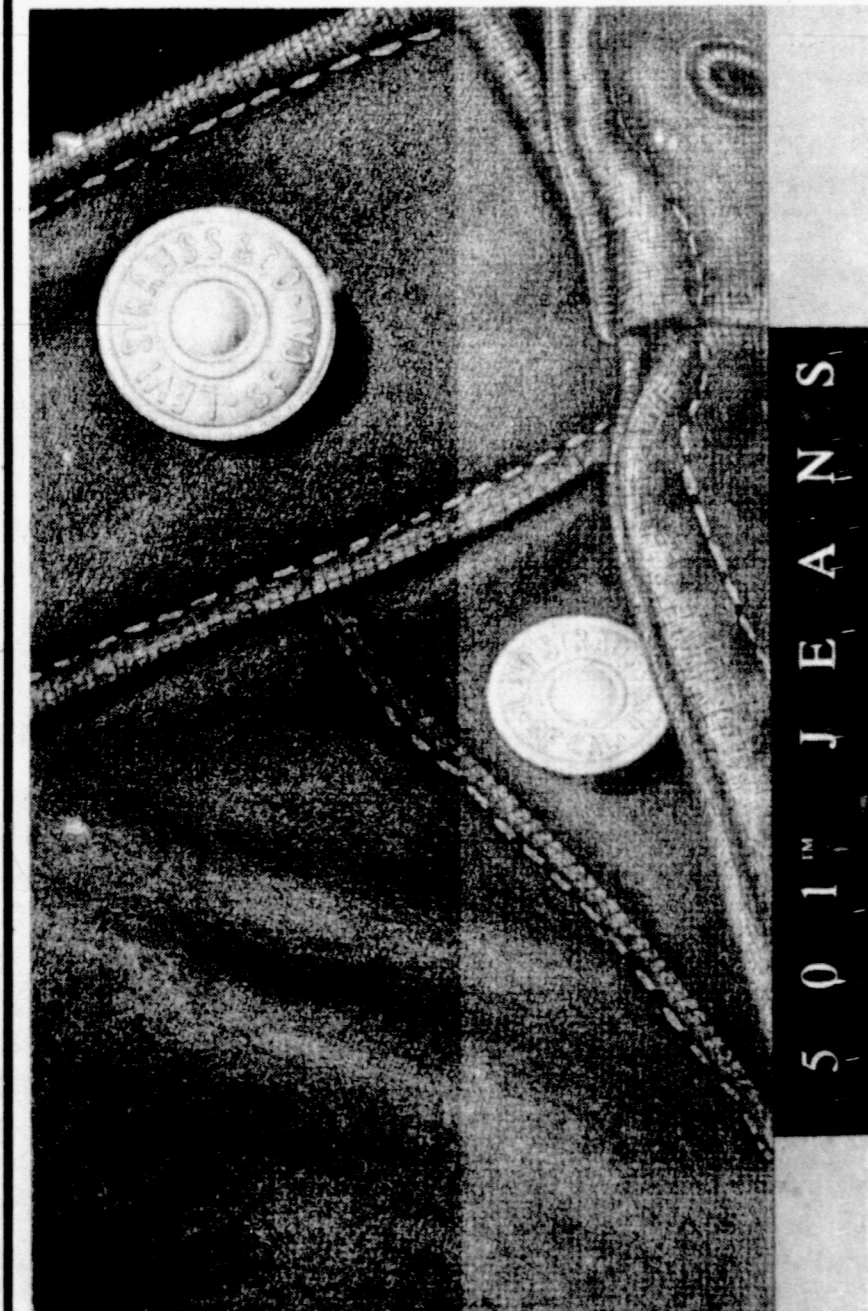
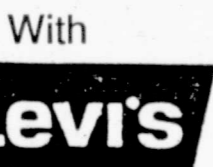
Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, announced as Congress left for its August recess that he will urge passage of legislation to open the way for exploring the Alaska wildlife refuge.

That bill had languished in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill last year in Alaska's Prince William Sound left the coastline and wildlife covered with black muck.

Lawmakers' return from summer recess in mid-September.

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U.S. intervention in Gulf is sparking little protest

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's streets and campuses, which rang with protest in the era of Vietnam, are quiet as the Bush administration challenges Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf. They may or may not stay that way.

From Washington to San Francisco, protest demonstrations have been few and poorly attended since the United States sent troops to Saudi Arabia in response to Saddam's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Summer school is winding up at the nation's colleges and universities, and most students are away, but even for summer the response has been notably calm.

One reason is that Americans view Saddam as a villain, whereas many thought the United States overreached in its bombing of North Vietnam, according to experts who have observed anti-war movements both from within and from without.

"Here is a case where there is an absolute clear aggressor in people's minds," said Neil Smelser, a professor of sociology at the University of California in Berkeley who studies social movements of political protest.

An Associated Press poll conducted last week showed 64 percent approval for the use of U.S. troops to defend Saudi Arabia

against possible Iraqi attack. This could change, said Smelser, who was teaching at Berkeley during the Vietnam war when the campus was the scene of violent demonstrations.

"It's a delicate thing," he said. "If there is the slightest move that could be interpreted by our own people that we are overstepping or making an illegitimate move, it is very easy to see the possibility of the kind of protest that has been seen in Vietnam and Central America arising."

Todd Gitlin, a sociology department colleague of Smelser who was a leader of the militant Students for a Democratic Society during the Southeast Asian war, said he would not be surprised if there were protests when students return next month.

However, Gitlin said, "The only scenario in which I could imagine protest of the Vietnam magnitude would be one in which a great deal of damage is done to American forces and people don't feel that the intervention is legitimate."

"There is not a lot of love lost for Saddam Hussein," he added. "I think many people on the left who are suspicious of American intervention ... don't like Saddam Hussein. They don't like what he did."

Doctors: Margarine isn't so great for cholesterol

BOSTON (AP) — Cholesterol-conscious people have long been saying, "Hold the butter." Now a study suggests they should spread the margarine sparingly too.

The study found that hardened vegetable fat, a primary ingredient of margarine and shortening, raises cholesterol in the blood. It might even be worse than saturated fat, the long-recognized demon in the war on unhealthy eating.

Experts cautioned that margarine is still a healthier choice than butter. However, the new research contradicts the widely held belief that the vegetable fats that margarine contains are harmless to the heart.

The study raises questions about trans fatty acids, which make margarine and shortening hard so they can be used for baking, frying and spreading. About a quarter of the fat in a typical stick of margarine is trans fatty acids.

While such fats can occur naturally, most are made when food companies add hydrogen to polyunsaturated and monounsaturated vegetable oils. Food labels list these as hydrogenated oils.

Because these fats make up only 2 percent to 4 percent of a typical American diet, they probably have small impact on most people's cholesterol levels.

However, Dr. Scott Grundy, a top cholesterol expert at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, said the public should insist that the food industry find a way to eliminate trans fatty acids from margarine.

"Industry will say there is not enough to hurt people, but this paper points out that this is a contributing factor," he said. "It should not be ignored."

The study found that unlike saturated fat, trans fatty acids have a double-barreled harmful effect: They increase the bloodstream's supply of low-density lipoprotein, or LDL, the "bad cholesterol" that

contributes to fatty buildups in the arteries. And they lower levels of high-density lipoprotein, or HDL, the "good cholesterol" that protects the body from cholesterol's harmful effects.

Grundy called this "a combination of detrimental effects that is particularly worrisome."

Dr. Edward A. Emken of the U.S. Department of Agriculture research service in Peoria, Ill., said the study should be repeated to check the effects of lower doses of the fat. But he said the research "has implications in terms of the U.S. diet, and it certainly shouldn't be taken lightly."

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ACROSS

- 1 Cotton fabric
- 5 Shook
- 12 Pig meat
- 13 Printing for the blind
- 14 Window covering
- 15 Magic lamp owner
- 16 Member of the clergy
- 18 Advanced in years
- 19 Theater sign (abbr.)
- 20 Eagle
- 22 Singer
- 26 Grafted, in heraldry
- 28 Naval addr.
- 32 Boring tool
- 34 Mountain peak
- 35 Eternally

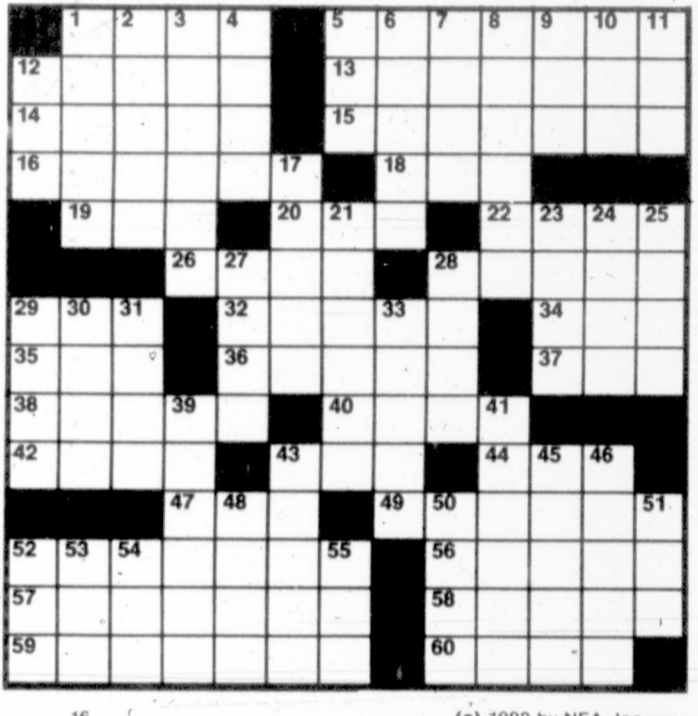
DOWN

- 1 Becomes boring
- 2 More slippery
- 3 Marilyn —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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- 4 The King —
- 5 Basketball league (abbr.)
- 6 Modern fabric
- 7 Idol
- 8 Auction participant
- 9 College deg. (abbr.)
- 10 Actor
- 11 Lion's home
- 12 UK broadcaster
- 17 Constellation
- 21 Entertain
- 23 Type of pasta
- 24 Image
- 25 Rowing tools
- 27 Back of the neck
- 28 Columnist — Bombeck
- 29 Length measures
- 30 Soccer star
- 31 Vocal
- 33 Select group
- 39 Tear into shreds
- 41 German POW camp
- 43 Fragment
- 45 Apart
- 46 Narrow shelf
- 48 Toll
- 50 Entertainer — McEntire
- 51 Actress Sandra —
- 52 Small
- 53 Doctrine
- 54 Mao tung
- 55 Danger color



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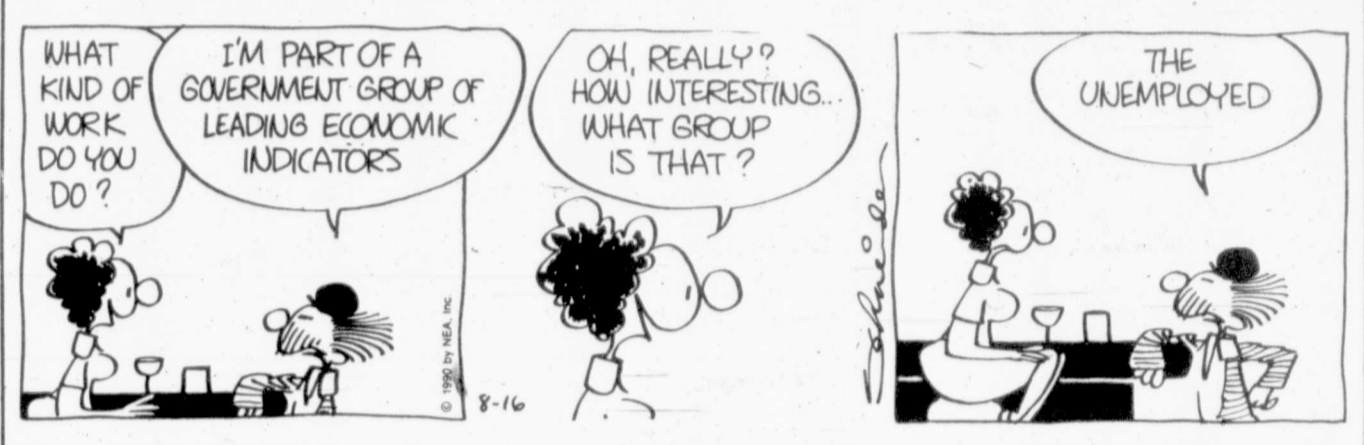
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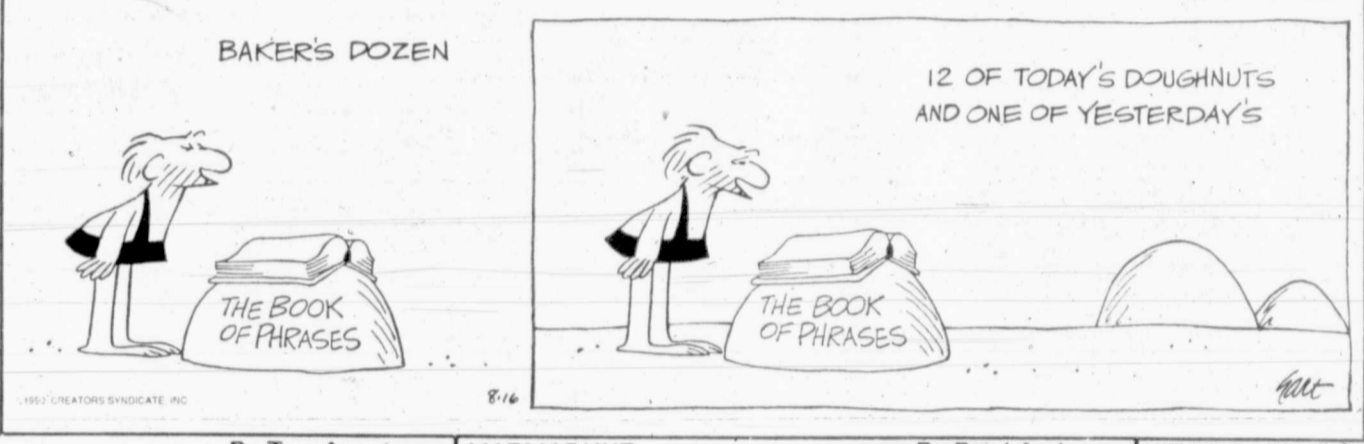
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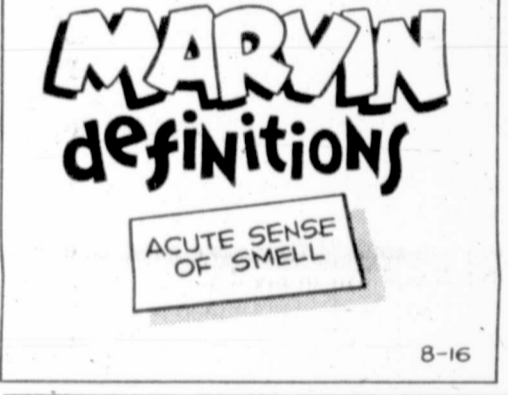
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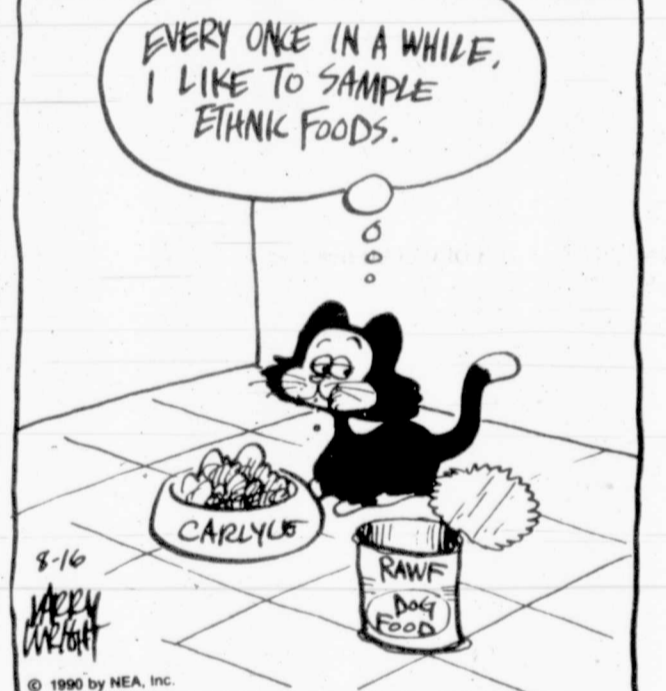
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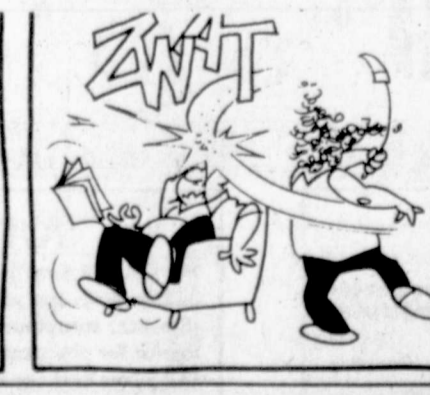
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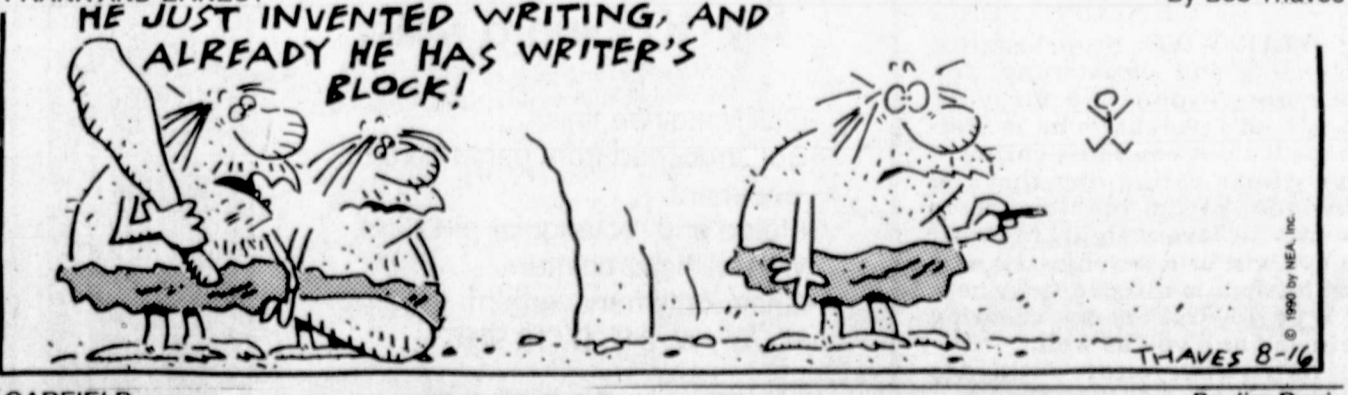
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Temperance group continues the battle

BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) - No longer hatchet-wielding prohibitionists, the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union nevertheless is still battling the bottle.

But instead of busting up saloons, the 500 delegates at the group's 116th annual convention have set their sights on the classroom, hoping to steer youngsters away from booze as well as drugs and alcohol.

"We believe in teaching children not to start drinking. Then someday we'll be able to sit back and watch legalized prohibition," said its president, Rachel Kelly of Portland, Me. The four-day convention opened Wednesday.

The union, which claims to be the world's oldest and largest Christian women's group with 150,000 members in the United States and 350,000 abroad, also campaigns against abortion and pornography and establishes missionaries.

Its members are in their mid-50s on average, and many are educators. On joining they must sign an oath that they will not drink or

smoke. Men can join only as honorary members.

Founded in 1874, the Evanston, Ill.-based union helped hasten passage of the 18th Amendment in 1919. Its members stormed speakeasies with hatchets until Prohibition was repealed in 1933.

Nowadays, Kelly said, "We do things quietly. We don't march. We don't shout. We don't pound Bibles."

WCTU spokesman Michael Vitucci said Prohibition failed because "it had no reason."

In the 1920s, many people were not educated about why they should avoid alcohol. But now, auto accidents, drug abuse and crime linked to drinking have sobered up many people to the benefits of abstinence, Vitucci said.

"These are very intelligent women who realize that the alcohol industry has a great stranglehold on this nation," Vitucci said.

"The WCTU believes that today with education ... our youth will hopefully place a self-prohibition on these substances."

The group has for years pressed Congress to ban alcohol advertisements on television and to raise federal taxes on alcohol. The alcohol industry has had "a free ride long enough," said WCTU vice president Merry Lee Christy.

The group publishes books and pamphlets for teen-agers and adults. Its literature is used to teach the young, from kindergarten to the U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Military Academy, about the damage that alcohol can cause.

Children can join its Loyal Temperance Legion and teen-agers can say no to alcohol in its Youth Temperance Council.

"We have fun like everyone else. We just don't drink," said Rodney Perry, a 17-year-old delegate from Milton.

At this convention, the opening banquet featured chicken and rice pilaf. There was no cocktail hour.

"Our happy hour starts when we sit down to eat," said Doris Christy, West Virginia chapter president.

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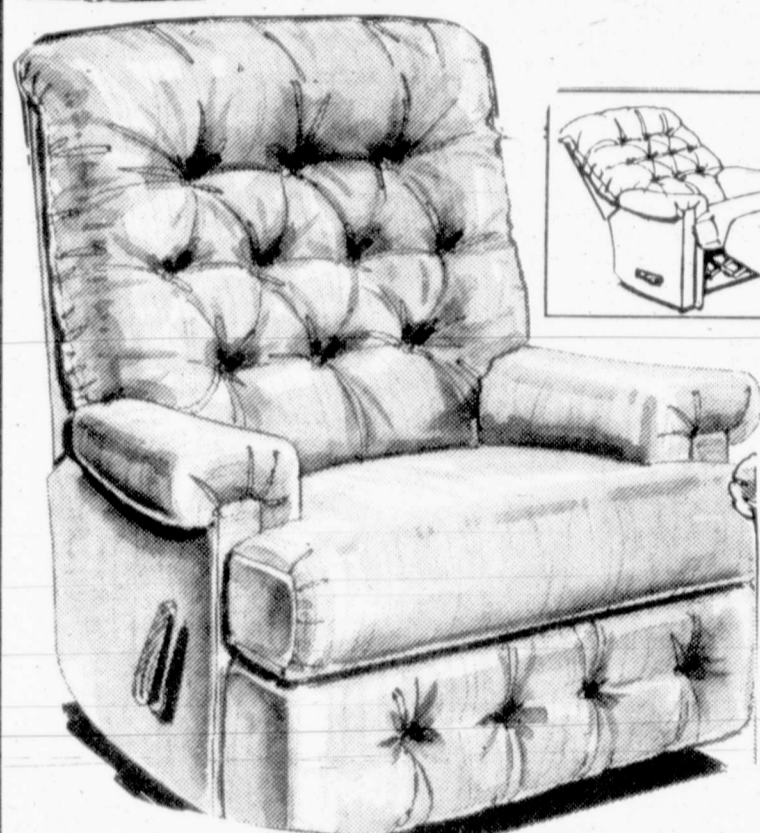
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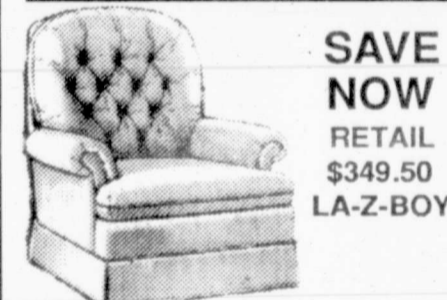


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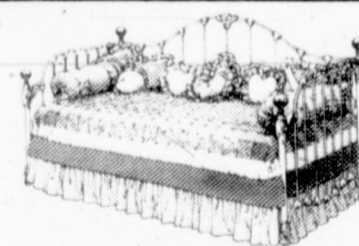
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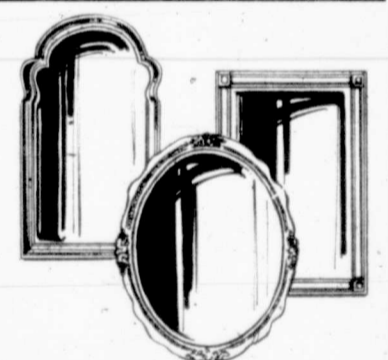
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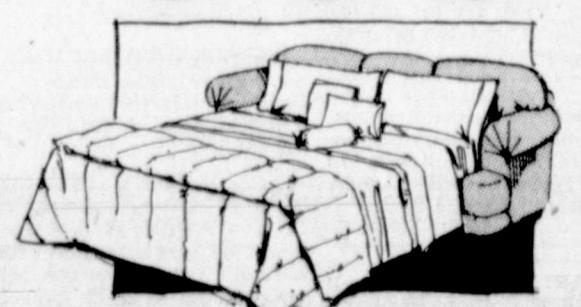
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