

Authorities question pathologist's methods

By CHIP BROWN
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK (AP) — Even prosecutors sometimes wondered about Dr. Ralph Erdmann's bizarre work habits — after all he once lost a head. But they still used the pathologist's testimony to send people to prison, some to death row.

Erdmann's recent indictment on charges of falsifying an autopsy and accusations that he performs "made-to-order" autopsies for police have defense attorneys scrambling to see whether his work led to false convictions. "You are going to hear Dr. Erdmann's name a lot in the future," said Steven Losch, attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund-Capital Punishment Project in New York. "I know I will be looking into as many capital murder cases involving Dr. Erdmann as possible."

Losch said he will review at least 23 of Erdmann's cases in 41 counties.

On Friday, Losch won the right to exhume the body of 72-year-old murder victim Hilton Merriman, claiming Erdmann botched the autopsy.

In the hearing on their request, Erdmann

invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination 200 times in response to questions about the autopsy.

In the motion to exhume Merriman's body, former Dallas County assistant medical examiner Linda Norton was quoted as saying Erdmann routinely performs "made-to-order autopsies that support a police version of a story."

Ms. Norton said some of Erdmann's findings are "so wrong as to be an insult to the intelligence of an average human being."

Erdmann, 65, was indicted in February by a Hockley County grand jury on charges of falsifying an autopsy on a 41-year-old man. A few weeks later, he resigned his \$140,000-a-year job performing autopsies for Lubbock County, saying he was overworked.

Erdmann said he performed an autopsy on the 41-year-old man in which he weighed the man's spleen. But family members noted the spleen had been removed several years before.

The state then indicted Erdmann on charges he billed the county \$650 for the autopsy, which it said he never performed. An investigation showed the body was never cut open.

Erdmann, who faces 20 years in prison if

convicted, said he simply erred by not sending the county the correct documents.

"I tried to apologize, but they wouldn't let me. I made a mistake," he said.

For years, defense attorneys and prosecutors have had reservations about the doctor, who showed up in Childress, Texas, in 1981 and began a service performing autopsies two years later.

"Some of his work habits are strange," said Randall County District Attorney Randy Sherrod, who has used Erdmann as a witness in several murder cases. "He doesn't know his left from his right. He'll take his 13-year-old child to an autopsy. He has a fascination with carrying around body parts and storing some in his refrigerator."

But Sherrod added, "I have never seen a case where Dr. Erdmann did anything illegal to deceive a judge or jury. There is no evidence to show Dr. Erdmann sent innocent people to the penitentiary."

Lubbock County District Attorney Travis Ware also stands by Erdmann, saying the doctor is being attacked by vengeful defense attorneys.

Erdmann's predicament has been compli-

cated by the revelation that his wife, Joan, received at least \$17,000 over the past two years for bone and tissue from bodies examined by Erdmann, according to records obtained by Millard Farmer, Losch's co-attorney with the Legal Defense Fund project.

Check stubs from Allo Materials, a bone distribution company, show Mrs. Erdmann received \$200 for every human corpse supplied for bone and skin donations by her husband's county office.

"I would say that might suggest a conflict of interest," Farmer said.

Allo Materials president Stan Leffew has said there is nothing improper about the payments.

Sgt. Snow Robertson of the Odessa Police Department is still confused as to how Erdmann lost the head of a suspected murder victim.

Erdmann said he had removed the head from the body and sent it to Austin to have it reconstructed by a forensic artist, Robertson told The Dallas Morning News.

"The people in Austin said they never got it," he said. "The head is lost. Nobody ever finds the bullet wound, or the proper cause of death and the guy walks on a murder charge."

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Ranchers OK purchase of Gray Ranch by Ted Turner

ANIMAS, N.M. (AP) — Some ranchers in southwestern New Mexico say selling the vast, pristine Gray Ranch to television mogul Ted Turner would help the area.

The 500-square-mile ranch in New Mexico's boot heel has sifted through a number of hands over the years, prompting a lively debate among locals as to whether it should be publicly or privately owned.

The Gray Ranch, an expanse of grassland noted for its biodiversity, including endangered species and more than 700 types of plants, was born out of the Diamond A Ranch. The Diamond A was once owned by George Hearst, a California mining magnate and son of publisher William Randolph Hearst.

In the early 1950s, Kern County Land and Cattle Co. named 321,000 acres of the Diamond A as the Gray Ranch and sold it to the Victorio Land and Cattle Co. Victorio, in turn, sold the ranch to American Breco, an international operation run by Mexican businessman Pablo Brener.

The Nature Conservancy — one of the world's biggest land-protection organizations — bought the ranch in 1989 for about \$18 million from Brener's Gray Land and Cattle Co., a subsidiary of American Breco.

The idea was to buy the land then trade or sell it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Parts would be used for recreation, while other parts would be protected, the Conservancy said at the time.

But a deal with the federal government fell through, leaving the Conservancy straining under the financial weight of the ranch.

Turner recently said he was interested in buying it and raising buffalo. So the property stands poised to leap back to where it originated — a private, working ranch.

"I think it's a good thing to sell it into private hands," said rancher William Hurt, whose property borders the Gray Ranch for about 25 miles.

Selling the Gray to an independent puts the ranch farther from the government's grasp, said Ladd Pendleton, a cattle rancher who owns about 16,000 acres near Gray Ranch.

If the land ended up in government hands, Hidalgo County would lose out on property taxes, which ranchers said would hurt the area.

"If the land goes to the government we lose all valuation," said Olivia Ramirez, Hidalgo County assessor.

Since The Nature Conservancy took over in 1989, it has consistently reduced the number of cattle on the ranch, Ramirez said.

"Removing cattle reduces the level of tax," said Lana Dixon, spokeswoman for the state Department of Agriculture. "Livestock operations are very important to rural communities."

She said the county could get a good valuation if buffalo were raised for business.

"We would be very pleased to see the ranch go back into private ownership," said Lynette Klump, who has owned a ranch bordering the Gray Ranch for 25 to 30 years. "Even Ted Turner is better than the Conservancy."

And the fact that Turner might bring his wife, actress Jane Fonda, to the property has its appeal, too.

"I'm excited about Turner and his new bride. It might bring some interest to the area," said Pendleton.

Hurt said he is a bit leery of the bison Turner might put on the ranch. "The buffalo are a large concern. They tear up fences, and there are a lot of environmental concerns. ... They do a lot of trampling," he said.

And he said he would worry about diseases buffalo might bring to the area, and the possibility of the cattle becoming infected.

At the car wash



Members of YES - Youth Enrichment Services - wash vehicles in downtown Miami Sunday afternoon. Jodi Lunsford hoses down a truck while Wesley Stribling, right, prepares to wash. Watching far right is customer Jennie Fields.

Texas City refinery fire injures four

TEXAS CITY (AP) — A 36-year-old man remains in fair condition today with burns from one of several fires at adjacent Texas City petrochemical plants.

Fires erupted Sunday at the Amoco Oil Co. refinery, Union Carbide and Enron Corp. Three other men were injured.

Brenda Placette, a spokeswoman for Mainland Hospital Center, said Amoco contract worker Sam Kirk was burned as he was driving past the plant. He was transferred to the University of Texas Medical

Branch in Galveston for burn treatment.

Three others were treated and released late Sunday: James Sanderson, who was driving by the plant; and Amoco workers Joe McCoy and Joe Rubio.

Authorities said they received reports of flames spreading across floodwaters at the Amoco refinery at 6:17 p.m. Union Carbide's fire was reported about a half-hour later.

Company firefighters extinguished the Amoco blaze about 20

to 40 minutes after it erupted, and Texas City and plant firefighters extinguished the others by 11 p.m.

Texas City police said several nearby businesses and residences had been evacuated briefly.

Tom White, chairman of Enron Power Corp., said two gas-metering stations on Union Carbide property erupted into flames.

Enron spokeswoman L. Diane Bazelides said workers shut off the gas supply and were trying to blow gas from the lines to the metering stations.

She was unsure whether the Enron fire was related to the Amoco fire, but said they may have been ignited by lightning.

White said he believed the blazes started at the Amoco refinery and snaked out to the adjacent plants.

Daren Beardo, public affairs adviser for Amoco, said a hydrocarbon substance from the Amoco refinery ignited, causing a fire that burned on top of floodwaters.

The fires raged over streets inside the plant and over a parking lot outside the plant, he said.

Cuban held in dismemberment murder

HOUSTON (AP) — A 36-year-old fence maker was charged with capital murder Sunday in the slaying and dismemberment of Cecelia Reyes.

Gerardo Ruz Marquez, a Cuban national who lived in the U.S. about 14 years, was being held without bond on Sunday, a Houston Police Department spokeswoman said.

A highway crew last week found Mrs. Reyes' mutilated torso and right arm stuffed in a cardboard furniture box.

Shortly after his arrest on Friday, Marquez led police to the woman's missing head, left arm and legs, about a mile from where her dismembered body had been recovered, homicide Sgt. Mike Peters said.

The body parts found Friday were in two taped cardboard boxes, in a ditch. "It appears to be a situation of where he was enamored with her

and — according to some of the other people who work over there at the Fiesta Mart where she was employed — it was not like she ignored him, but she was very happily married, she was expecting a child in fact," police spokesman Robert Hurst said.

Mrs. Reyes was last seen the night of March 26, when she left her job at the Fiesta Beverage Mart for the short drive home.

Investigators believe the suspect either kidnapped Mrs. Reyes or lured her to his apartment and murdered her there that night, Hurst said.

About 1:30 p.m. the next day, highway workers found her torso in a cardboard box along a service road. The remains had been placed in a plastic garbage bag and wrapped in a blue blanket and the box tied with twine.

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This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

J. Alan Brzys
Managing Editor

Opinion

A global effort to pick pockets

Taxpayers soon could be paying for yet another form of international welfare. The United Nations is holding a conference over the next five weeks to discuss subsidies for curbing potential pollution threats in Third-World countries. Top on the agenda is the alleged global-warming threat.

So far the Bush administration has blunted the international action, which is called Agenda 21 (for 21st century), despite pressure from Western European nations (whose taxpayers also would help pick up the tab). The U.N. discussions are part of global preparations for a meeting of 170 nations this June in Rio de Janeiro.

Yes, pollution is a problem. But we must not let radical environmentalism take the place of socialism as the primary threat to liberty across the world. One major problem is that environmentalist doomsayers show a distressing disdain for the facts. On global warming, for example, they continue to ignore several studies that suggest there is no such thing. One Massachusetts Institute of Technology study looked at sea water temperatures over 130 years and found "no appreciable difference" between 1856 and 1986.

The doomsayers also say, "We can't be too careful," that we should take drastic action to preclude disaster, however remote. Well, anyone can come up with dire science fiction scenarios that "must be" thwarted with billions of taxpayers' dollars. But we must live in the real world. And haven't environmentalists heard about the suffering of citizens burdened by already-high taxation?

Whatever problems Third-World countries might have with pollution, they must solve themselves. Aid from the United States, Europe, and Japan would only hurt such countries by bolstering central governments at the expense of personal liberty. Foreign countries need to find their own proper mix of minimal government, industrial growth, and a clean environment.

As *The New York Times* reported, Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore, the primary environmentalist doomsayer in Congress, insisted before the U.N. conference that "new and additional" amounts of U.S. taxpayers' money must be spent to clean up pollution in the Third World. The Senate's Democratic leadership appointed Sen. Gore to represent the Senate at the U.N. conference; he will do the same at the Rio conference. He also ran for president in 1988, and he could do so again.

So we have a divergence of opinion here. The Democrats are embracing Sen. Gore's doomsaying, fleecing-the-taxpayers approach to the environment. The Bush administration, unless it pulls another famous compromise, is being more careful. Bush should be even more clear about what he intends to do. Standing before the U.N. conference and the June conference in Rio, he should repudiate the environmentalist doomsaying. Give voters a clear choice on this issue.

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Perot for president?

SAN ANTONIO - Presidentially speaking, it's been an odd year, but if billionaire H. Ross Perot gets into the race, it soon will be odder yet. Is this guy serious? Deep in the heart of Texas, some very savvy folks are taking him seriously indeed.

I came to San Antonio to make a little talk to the annual meeting of Texas publishers. As a rule publishers are a sober lot, not given to wild flights of fancy. To my amazement, most of them were looking upon a Perot candidacy as a real possibility.

Let me say, straight off, if Perot runs, he won't win. There's not going to be any President H. Ross Perot, not this time, anyhow. Forget it. But if he can get his electors on the ballots of all 50 states, this upstart tycoon could profoundly affect the outcome.

Perot won't win for reasons both political and constitutional. These are powerful reasons.

Here in Texas, Perot is the stuff of legends. Abroad in the land, he's nobody. Money can buy TV commercials, and commercials will buy recognition, but name recognition in itself is not enough. Voters will need to know something about H. Ross Perot besides his wealth, and what do we know?

Most of us don't even know what the "H" stands for. We know the year he was born (1930), but not the day or month. His eight lines in *Who's Who in America* tell us that he is "married," but to whom he does not say. Is he thin-skinned? Hot-tempered? Any bimbo in his bed? In the world of high finance he may be the cat's whiskers. In politics he ranks below a freshman in the House.

Money is the mother's milk of politics, and



James J. Kilpatrick

Perot has it by the tankful. Reportedly he is prepared to spend \$100 million of his own pocket change to publicize his candidacy. OK, it's a free country. But his critics will shout it from the rooftops: There's no sale at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. that says "House for Sale."

True, some wealthy men have surmounted the handicap of great wealth. Jay Rockefeller did it as governor and senator in West Virginia. In Wisconsin, Herb Kohl spent \$7.5 million of his own money to buy his way into the Senate. The Kennedy clan provides other examples, but nothing has come along on the Texas scale of H. Ross Perot.

A campaign stays alive on money, but it moves on the backs of volunteers who weep with sorrow when their guy loses and cry with joy when he wins. It's a personal thing. You can't buy devotion as if you were buying stock.

Constitutional obstacles stand in his way. The people do not elect a president. Electors elect a president, state by state, winner take all. Perot must first get his electors on the ballot, and every state

has its own rules.

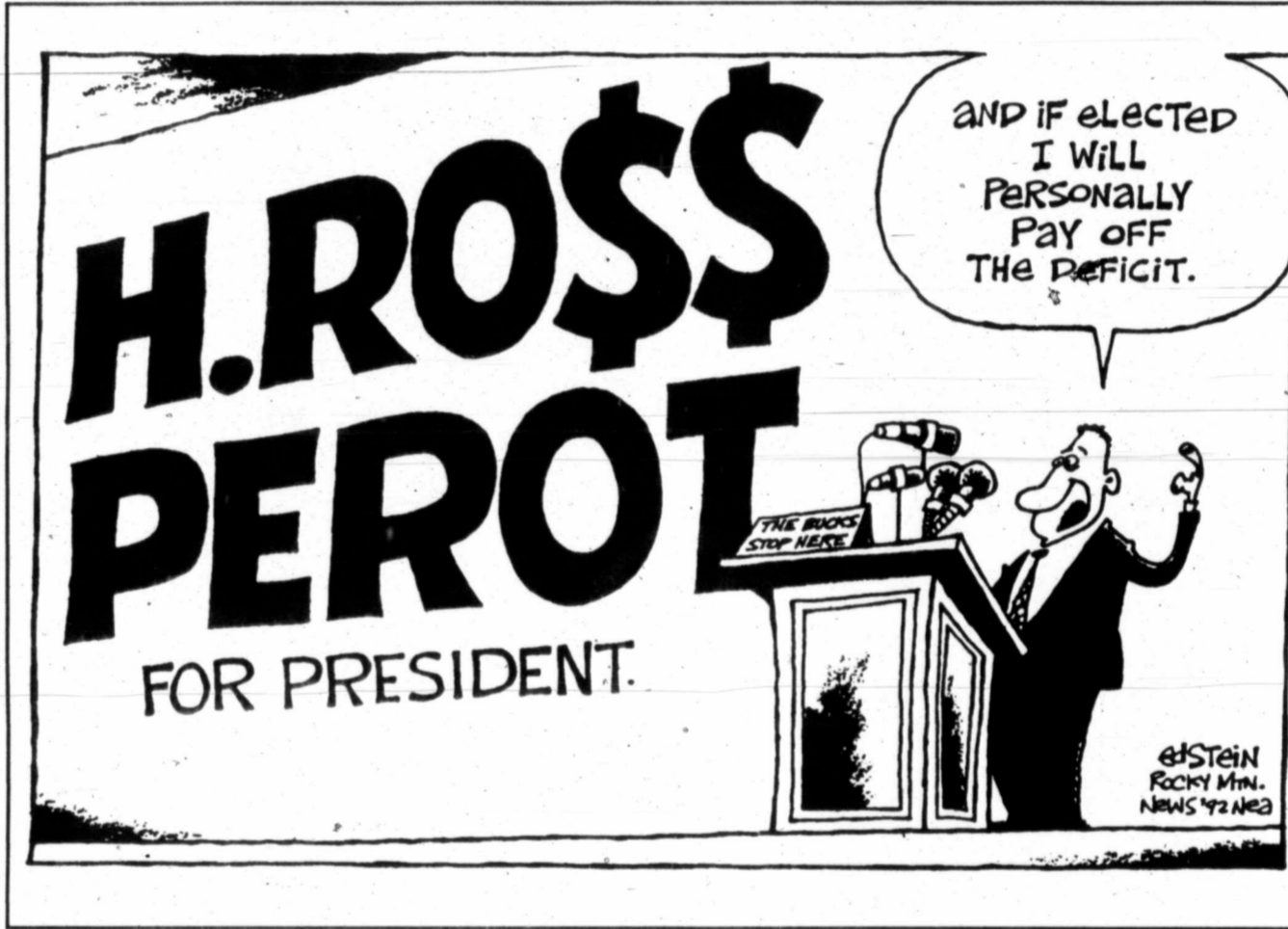
Washington requires only 200 signatures on a petition. Minnesota demands 2,000, Nebraska 2,500, Alabama and Kentucky 4,000. In Louisiana, Perot must provide a statement "in not more than three words of the political principle that he represents." Filing deadlines begin in Texas in May.

Perot's fortune could hire hands to perform these ministerial tasks. What then? Does he campaign as others do? Is Perot ready to press the flesh at old folks' homes? From what we know of his public positions - he opposed Desert Storm, he favors abortion rights, he opposes free trade with Mexico - the fellow seems to be 60-40 Democrat/Republican. He has a lot of talking to do.

The publishers I talked to in Texas felt that Perot would pull votes equally from both George Bush and Bill Clinton. He would be a one-man spoiling gang. Not since George Wallace in 1968 has any third-party or independent candidate won any electoral votes of his own. Before him was Strom Thurmond (1948), Bob LaFollette (1924) and Theodore Roosevelt (1912).

Perot could not carry a single state as an independent, but given the pervasive political discontent, he might well roll up an impressive vote. Many Republicans are unhappy with Bush. Many Democrats are uneasy with Clinton.

I come back to this: The gentleman is an amateur at a game played by professionals. Even if he ran a flawless campaign, a campaign with no foot-in-mouth blunders, he wouldn't ride into the White House. But he could do this: he could royally mess things up for everybody else.



Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 6, the 97th day of 1992. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on April 6, 1892, author, journalist and world traveler Lowell Thomas, who introduced the world to the exploits of British officer T.E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia"), was born in Woodington, Ohio.

On this date:

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorer Robert Edwin Peary became the first person to lead an expedition to the North Pole.

In 1917, 75 years ago, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1963, the United States and Britain signed an agreement under which the Americans would sell Polaris A3 missiles to the British.

In 1965, the United States launched the Early Bird communications satellite.

The invisible man

The 1 percent of Americans who ranch or farm are remembered only during election years and then mostly with limp handshakes, hot air and IOUs.

Very few dirt farmers and cow men even try to make themselves heard anymore.

Lee Pitts tries. Editor of *Livestock Market Digest*, Lee tries to crossbreed their language and ours. Sometimes he does good.

Lee wrote the other day to tell me about an old-time we both know well.

He lives in what they call a "rest home" now, hibernating in the winter of his life.

Like the home he did not want to leave, time and the seasons have left him faded, crumbling and neglected.

Not even insurance salesmen come around anymore. He is growing old and old is not popular these days.

He was a cool dude in his day. He had told his nurses about the night he dressed up in his \$12 suit and splashed on some Palmer's toilet water and cruised in his '21 Model-T to pick up the girl of his dreams to go dancing.



Paul Harvey

He has told them many times. He can barely see through his thick glasses anymore but that's OK - he's seen it all anyway. He can remember when a dollar was still worth a quarter and when the service charge bought service. He remembers when merchandise outlasted the payments and horsepower was two words and the powder room was outside.

He likes to tell anybody who will listen about "the good old days." "I could buy a pound of steak for a dime in the good old days." But...

He worked half a day on a Samson tractor to earn that dime.

He shuffles with a cane, has brown spots on his

hands and a shock of thinning gray hair. But this remarkable man made the transition from a 12-party hand-cranked phone to the age of computers.

From wringer washers and 2-cent stamps and one-room schools and horse-drawn buggies to the A-bomb, the microwave and the moon.

He gets grumpy sometimes. He keeps missing his mouth with his toothbrush. It's the arthritis.

He would be first to tell you that not all antiques are priceless and not all old folks are saints.

He owned a 20-gallon still during Prohibition. But he was among the uniformed abroad when the victory train rolled through town after the war.

And now his lifetime belongings fit in the dresser by his bed, and even he is tucked away out of sight of the rest of us.

One of the many now-invisible men who taught the world to farm, found a cure for polio, built our interstates and our trestles and our dams and, with blood, sweat and tears, nourished our nation to greatness.

Now he is at the golden age when he finally knows most of the answers...

And nobody asks him the questions.

Here's to your health - and mine

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" has a true ring of nobility, but for 35 million Americans with no medical coverage, the phrase has an empty resonance.

Health care ranks near the bottom of the totem pole of priorities for two of the nation's most prominent Republican politicians - George Bush and Pat Buchanan. To both men, access to health care is a function of citizens' ability to pay for it; not the obligation of their government to insure it.

That's why so many Americans die needlessly. They cannot afford minimum health care. No estimates are available on the thousands of Americans who die each year because they cannot afford health care or it is not available to them. That's because proper health care is as much prevention as it is cure and treatment.

If the presidential election were held tomorrow and health care were a premium issue, Democrat Bill Clinton probably would win. That's because Americans strenuously prefer his health plan to George Bush's. (Pat Buchanan's health care plan was summed up by one analysis with three words: "Don't get sick.")

If the voters of Illinois "do the right thing" in this year's election, they will send the first black woman to the Senate. For Democratic candidate Carol Moseley Braun, health care is more than a top priority. It is a reality check.

Braun's mother is an amputee in a nursing home, and her mother's experience has sensitized



Chuck Stone

Braun to the imperative for a national health care plan. She will be one more eloquently articulate voice for those poor families to whom George Bush's \$3,750 health-care tax credit is almost laughable. What good will a tax credit be to a family earning \$10,000 (the poverty cutoff) or less when it cannot afford to pay the doctor to get the credit?

If this nation in the 18th century constitutionally guaranteed freedom of speech, religion and assembly, a fair trial and reasonable bail, doesn't a maturing of our humanitarian values in the 20th century mandate a modern interpretation of what the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" means?

The right to life and the pursuit of happiness is not remotely facilitated when a sick person is too poor to enjoy either one.

We've come a long way since the days when any discussion of a national health care plan evoked banshee cries of "socialized medicine."

When 14 percent of any nation's people cannot enjoy the toast, "Here's to your health," then the nation violates the constitutional trust its citizens have accorded it.

America and South Africa are now the only two major industrialized nations without any kind of national health care plan.

Clinton's health care plan requiring employers to fund health care for workers to pay into a government fund covering the uninsured is vastly superior to Bush's tax credit plan.

But health care is still a back burner issue. When Speaker of the House Tom Foley responded to Bush's State of the Union Address, he mentioned health care almost as a casual afterthought, even though the dramatic upset victory in Pennsylvania by Democrat Harris Wofford, who ran on this issue in a U.S. Senate race, had telegraphed the deep distress of voters.

Democratic populist Jerry Brown may be tapping even more deeply than Clinton into that lode-stone of disquietude; he has offered a bold plan for national health insurance.

One swallow doesn't make a spring, and health care alone cannot nominate Jerry Brown. But when you cannot afford to take your child to a doctor, Jerry Brown does take on an aura of President Dr. Feelgood, something that Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown - of the tailored suits and custom-made shirts - has difficulty understanding.

Lifestyles

Victims of abuse cost Texas society

A Presidential proclamation in 1983 declared April as child abuse prevention month. Since then, the National Committee for the prevention of Child Abuse along with thousands of concerned citizens and groups have made its a yearly effort. In Gray County, the Child Protective Services Board and Texas Agricultural Extension Service are again joining hands in positive parenting educational activities in an effort to help prevent child abuse.

Many Texas children are vulnerable to conditions which add stress to their families and which prevent healthy environments for their growth and development. While child abuse is not restricted to any particular group, it is seen more frequently in families where parents are troubled by alcoholism, drug abuse, marital strife, low self-esteem, and joblessness.

The stereotype of the child abuser is a male authority figure - the child's father or stepfather, or the mother's boyfriend. However, the alleged abuser in Texas is more likely to be female, married and in nearly half of reported cases, the natural mother of the child, while a smaller percentage (about 10 percent) are stepparents.

The cost to Texas society is tremendous. When abused children begin to enter adolescence, they are more likely than others to exhibit self-destructive, antisocial behaviors. They may run away, drop out of school, abuse drugs and alcohol, or commit a crime. When abused



Homemakers' News
Donna Brauchi

and troubled children become parents, they tend to perpetuate self-destructive conditions with their own children.

Individuals can personally help to prevent child abuse: (1) They can improve their parenting knowledge, skills, and practices; (2) They can report suspected cases of abuse; (3) They can work as a volunteer or counselor in programs designed to prevent abuse; (4) They can serve as foster parents; (5) They can financially support prevention programs. In addition, Texas citizens can work with policy makers to ensure that all families in need of basic life support receive adequate food, shelter, health care, and opportunities for employment thereby reducing the risks for child abuse.

Children are receiving additional public attention during this week, April 5-11, which is designated as the "Week of the Young Child." "Young Children: Their Future in Our Hands" is the theme for 1992 and draws attention to society's responsi-

bility in providing the foundation from success in school and in later life. The early childhood years, birth through age 8, is a critical time for learning more about the world, practicing social skills, and gaining critical thinking skills and knowledge.

Children need families who have emotional resources and time. Children suffer when parents, teachers, and care providers are too tired or too stressed to give them the attention they deserve. Most Texas children live in homes where the primary caregiver also works outside the home.

Children need a society that supports family child-rearing efforts and recognizes that investments in young children and childhood services are more cost effective than remediation or incarceration.

Every individual can make a difference. Here are some steps for starters: (1) Take time to watch, listen, and appreciate children in your family and community; (2) make sure that children have access to and receive the preventive health services so vital to their development; (3) contribute in some way to the improvement of the quality of early education and care programs; (4) Do what you can to make your community more attuned to children's needs; and (5) Examine how policies can support children and families.

The future of today's child as tomorrow's adults depends upon each of us. For more information on positive parenting, contact the Gray County Extension Office.

Pampans achieve life master status

A party honoring bridge life masters, Mary Smith and Norma Tarbet, was held March 8th at the Pampa Country Club. They achieved life master status at the

regional bridge tournament in Amarillo in November, 1991. Life master pins and corsages were presented and letters of congratulations were read from the

unit secretary in Amarillo. Fifteen tables of bridge were in play with players from Dallas, Amarillo, Dumas, Stinnett, Borger, Wheeler and Pampa.

Life master is the highest rank a player may achieve in the American Contract Bridge League. To achieve life master status, a player must be credited with 300 points or more including 250 black points won at local tournaments and 25 red and 25 gold points won at regional and national tournaments, according to Jean Casey.

The first life masters in Pampa were Lola Roach and the late Janet Warner. Other Pampans achieving this honor are Hazel Nation, Marguerite Philpott, Fern Root, now of Dallas, Betty Garren, Juanita Finsley, Jean Andrew, Verdillee Cooper, and the late Gladys Forsha, Jim Philpott, Dorothy McCurry, and Mabel Torvie.

Other life masters in the immediate area are Iva Gray and Georgia Jones of Borger, Eddie Richardson of Wheeler, and Bob and Vernie Porter of Dumas.



Mary Smith and Norma Tarbet were honored for achieving the status of life master in the game of bridge.

Twice-bounced gift pops up again this year

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my daughter and son-in-law received a \$100 check as a wedding gift from friends of ours who live in the suburbs. (I'll call them the Smiths.)

The Smiths' check bounced; the newlyweds made two attempts to deposit it. I advised our daughter to do nothing about it, and just wait and see what happens. Well, nothing happened.

Yesterday, I bumped into Mrs. Smith at the mall; we chatted a while, and she hinted that our daughter had been remiss for not acknowledging their "gift."

Now, a year later, what do you think my daughter should do? Leave things as they are, or write to the Smiths at this late date and thank them for their check that bounced twice?

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

DEAR MOTHER: You gave your daughter poor counsel when you advised her to "do nothing" about the twice-bounced check and to just "wait and see what happens." She should have advised the Smiths that something must have been seriously amiss at the bank when their check did not clear.

Perhaps your daughter should call Mrs. Smith and explain that she didn't acknowledge their gift sooner because she was unable to cash their check.

P.S. Mr. Smith was not in Congress, was he?



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I married Al two years ago, without living with him first. Now I'm sorry. We are both well-educated, stable employees, and reasonably well-adjusted.

Al makes more money and has fewer bills than I, yet he contributes only one-third of our household expenses. He travels in his business, and he is often away for weeks at a time. When he's home, he sleeps in the guest room.

After five months of marriage, he announced that sex was "too much trouble." On weekends he rarely bathes, and he spends most of his waking hours reading in bed. He buys ratty clothes at resale shops, and always needs a haircut and a shoe shine. His room and car are both disaster areas. He refuses to get his teeth cleaned. He's useless around the house.

When we go out, either I pay or we go Dutch. He is always crying poor-mouth, yet he buys computer toys for himself. His gifts to me are a dis-

grace (books from a resale shop that I neither want nor need).

He's an embarrassing slob. If I had known what living with Al would be like, I'd still be single. We are both in therapy - but he's not listening. Is there hope?

FORT WORTH

DEAR FORT WORTH: Hope? For you or for Al? He clearly needs therapy - and if, as you say, he is already in therapy but "isn't listening" and you put up with him, you need the therapy more than Al.

DEAR ABBY: I just about swallowed my teeth when I read the letter in your column written by "Desperate" concerning her sister "Arlene" and Arlene's husband, "Bud," growing marijuana in their back yard!

My name is Arlene and my husband's name is Bud, and we've had quite a few telephone calls about the letter you printed - they were mostly teasing us about it.

Abby, please print this to let everyone know that it is not ...
ARLENE AND BUD OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
P.S. Thanks, Abby!

This one's for everybody, from teens to seniors! To purchase Abby's new booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," send a long, business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054. (Postage is included.)

Pampa High takes District 1-4A honors

Pampa High School took University Interscholastic League District 1-4A honors on March 27-28 at the meet on the campus of West Texas State University. The Pampa team scored 367 points.

PHS students, their events and results from the district meet are:

Lesley Montgomery-3rd place, informative speaking; Anne Bingham-4th place, informative speaking; Josh Steele-2nd place, persuasive speaking and 1st place current issues and events team; David Loyd-3rd place, persuasive speaking; Niels Berzanskis-5th place, persuasive speaking; Ellen Steele-tied for 3rd place (3-way), 4th on a blind draw-poetry interpretation; Kara Kay Skaggs-4th place, prose interpretation; Jenny Edwards-2nd place editorial writing; Amy Eakin-2nd place, feature writing; Anglea Rodriguez-2nd place, news writing; 1st place ready writing; Rachel Beck-3rd place, news writing, 5th place headline; Lori Jones-4th place headline; Joyce Osborne-1st place calculator applications, 2nd place computer science team, 4th place ready writing; Josh Seabourn-2nd place team calculator applications, 2nd place computer science team, 3rd place spelling; Dalawna Meloy-2nd place team calculator applica-

tions, Julian Chen-2nd place computer science team; Kirk McDonald-2nd place computer science team; Andrew Ackfeld-2nd place current issues and events, 1st place current issues and events team; Caleb Headley-1st place current issues and events team; Jennifer Ward-4th place keyboarding; Ketrina Thompson-5th place keyboarding; Christina Wingert-1st place literary criticism; Crystal Woods-Patrick-3rd place literary criticism, 2nd place mathematics, 1st place mathematics team; Todd Black-1st place mathematics, 1st place mathematics team; Bryan Utley-3rd place Lincoln-Douglas debate; Christina Wingert-1st place literary criticism; Crystal Woods-Patrick-3rd place literary criticism, 1st place mathematics team.

Alternate competitors were:

Anne Bingham-4th place informative speaking; Lori Jones-4th place headline; Ellen Steele-tied for 3rd place (3-way) 4th on blind draw poetry interpretation; Kara Kay Skaggs-4th place prose interpretation; Jennifer Ward-4th place keyboarding.

Jenny Edwards-2nd place editorial writing; Caleb Headley-1st place current issues and events team; David Loyd-3rd place persuasive speaking; Kirk McDonald-1st place number sense team; Lesley Montgomery-3rd place informative speaking; Joyce Osborne-1st place calculator applications, 4th place ready writing (alternate); Angela Rodriguez-2nd place news writing, 1st place ready writing; Brett Schakel-3rd place number sense, 1st place number sense team; Josh Seabourn-3rd place spelling; Josh Steele-2nd place persuasive speaking, 1st place current issues and events team; Bryan Utley-3rd place Lincoln-Douglas debate; Christina Wingert-1st place literary criticism; Crystal Woods-Patrick-3rd place literary criticism, 1st place mathematics team.

Other team totals were Dumas-264; Randall-196; Hereford-184; Borger-150; Caprock-83.

Use fences to advantage around house

By GARDEN PRODUCTS AND PLANNING GUIDE For AP Special Features

Fences do more than just make good neighbors. They can corral a toddler, provide privacy, or serve as a backdrop for flowers.

Fences that are 1 or 2 feet high make useful edging or borders. Taller fences, about 4 feet high, easily mark a boundary yet allow a view. Fences 6 feet or taller establish a strong sense of enclosure. Whatever their height, however, fences are available in a variety of styles.

Homeowners who want a fence that will blend with its surroundings should choose a design that uses natural-looking materials, such as grape stakes, split cedar rails, unpainted redwood, or cedar. All of these weather to a subtle gray or brown.

Around a traditional house, a

Teng advances to final round of competition

Pampa Middle School eighth-grader Hugh Teng recently competed in the Texas Geography Bee at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas on March 27. Hugh was accompanied to the competition by his father Jer-Shi Teng.

Teng advanced to the final rounds of competition. A three-way tie-breaker determined the winner,

who will now represent Texas in the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C.

The National Geographic Society developed the National Geography Bee in response to a growing concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. A 10-country Gallup survey conducted for the

Society in 1988 and 1989 found that people in the U.S. ages 18 to 24 - the youngest group surveyed - knew less about geography than young people in any of the other countries in the survey.

Teng is an honor student at Pampa Middle School. He won in competition over sixty students at the local level.

Wheeler Chamber of Commerce plans garage sale

The Wheeler Chamber of Commerce will conduct a City-Wide Sidewalk and Garage Sale on May 2. The organization will sell garage sale permits to individuals, organizations, and businesses for a one-day sale. All garage sales on this day will be required to have a permit.

The sidewalk and garage sale will be the spring project for the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will sponsor a food booth selling hamburgers and cokes. Garage sale spaces will be available for anyone from out of town wishing to participate in the garage sale, and they will be assigned a space on the square.

Individuals in Wheeler can have their garage sale at their residence and the Chamber will do the advertising for them.

To obtain a permit, contact Wheeler Chamber of Commerce, Box 221, Wheeler, Texas 79076; or Wheeler Chamber Office 505 Alan Bean Blvd. (806) 826-3408.

15% off

Senior Citizen's Day Tuesday April 7th, 1992

The first Tuesday of each month has been designated as Senior Citizen's Day at JCPenney. To register in our club, you must be 55 years or older. You can stop by our service desk Monday through Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and formally register, free of charge. Also, for your convenience, we will have a registration table set up on the first Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Once a senior Citizen's Club cardholder, you will be entitled to **15% off of all purchases and services** on the first Tuesday of each month, excluding our catalog department. We will also provide other special offers on an on-going basis. Ask our sales associates for more details.

JCPenney
Pampa Mall

The Pampa News

Comic Page

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

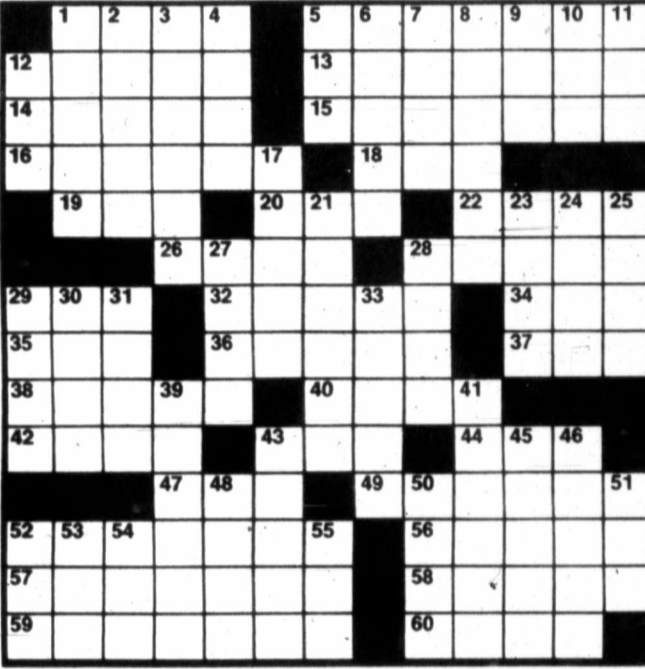
- ACROSS:**
- 1 Actress — Periman
 - 5 Little bone
 - 12 Scoffs
 - 13 Point of view
 - 14 Conductor — Previn
 - 15 Releases from punishment
 - 16 Esteem
 - 18 Actress Ruby
 - 19 Even (poet.)
 - 20 Chemical suffix
 - 22 Adjacent
 - 26 Sand hill
 - 28 Once upon
 - 29 UK time
 - 32 Of snow
 - 34 Actress — Charlotte
 - 35 Soap ingredient
 - 36 Adult insect

- DOWN:**
- 37 Curvy letter
 - 38 Don't exist
 - 40 Tropical fruit
 - 42 Florida county
 - 43 Fedora, e.g.
 - 44 Miner's pointed bar
 - 47 Oklahoma town
 - 49 Predatory birds
 - 52 Producing an effect
 - 56 Munches
 - 57 — and Shirley
 - 58 Sacred song
 - 59 Endless
 - 60 Old

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | T | R | I | U | M | A | T | O | N | E | D |
| V | I | E | N | N | A | N | U | D | I | T | Y |
| I | N | S | E | A | M | W | E | A | P | O | N |
| S | E | T | M | Y | A | N | E | | | | |
| | | | F | L | O | O | R | E | D | | |
| F | I | N | L | A | N | D | M | O | V | E | D |
| O | B | O | E | S | E | T | A | P | E | | |
| N | A | V | E | S | R | A | D | O | N | | |
| D | R | A | C | O | B | I | G | G | E | S | T |
| | | | E | S | C | A | P | E | E | | |
| M | M | E | R | A | E | M | M | I | | | |
| A | E | R | O | B | E | C | U | T | O | | |
| T | A | L | L | O | A | R | I | O | S | O | |
| S | T | E | E | P | S | C | E | N | T | E | R |

- ACROSS:**
- 5 Alley —
 - 6 Symbol on a card
 - 7 Male parent
 - 8 Place to right of margin
 - 9 AFL —
 - 10 — Chaney
- DOWN:**
- 11 Annapolis grad
 - 12 Food container
 - 17 Heavy twilled cotton
 - 21 Sagebrush State
 - 23 Ireland
 - 24 Dec. holiday
 - 25 English river
 - 27 Fixed quantity
 - 28 Thanks —
 - 29 Happy
 - 30 — Breckinridge
 - 31 Set up (golf ball)
 - 33 Playing marble
 - 39 Less distant
 - 41 New Year's drink
 - 43 — Barbera
 - 45 Wing-shaped
 - 46 Deposited moisture on
 - 48 Mend
 - 50 Phonetic symbol
 - 51 Fast aircraft (abbr.)
 - 52 — Miss
 - 53 Mrs. Nixon
 - 54 Actress Arden
 - 55 — Aviv



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WALNUT COVE

By Mark Cullum

ARLO & JANIS

By Jimmy Johnson

ECK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider

B.C.

By Johnny Hart

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

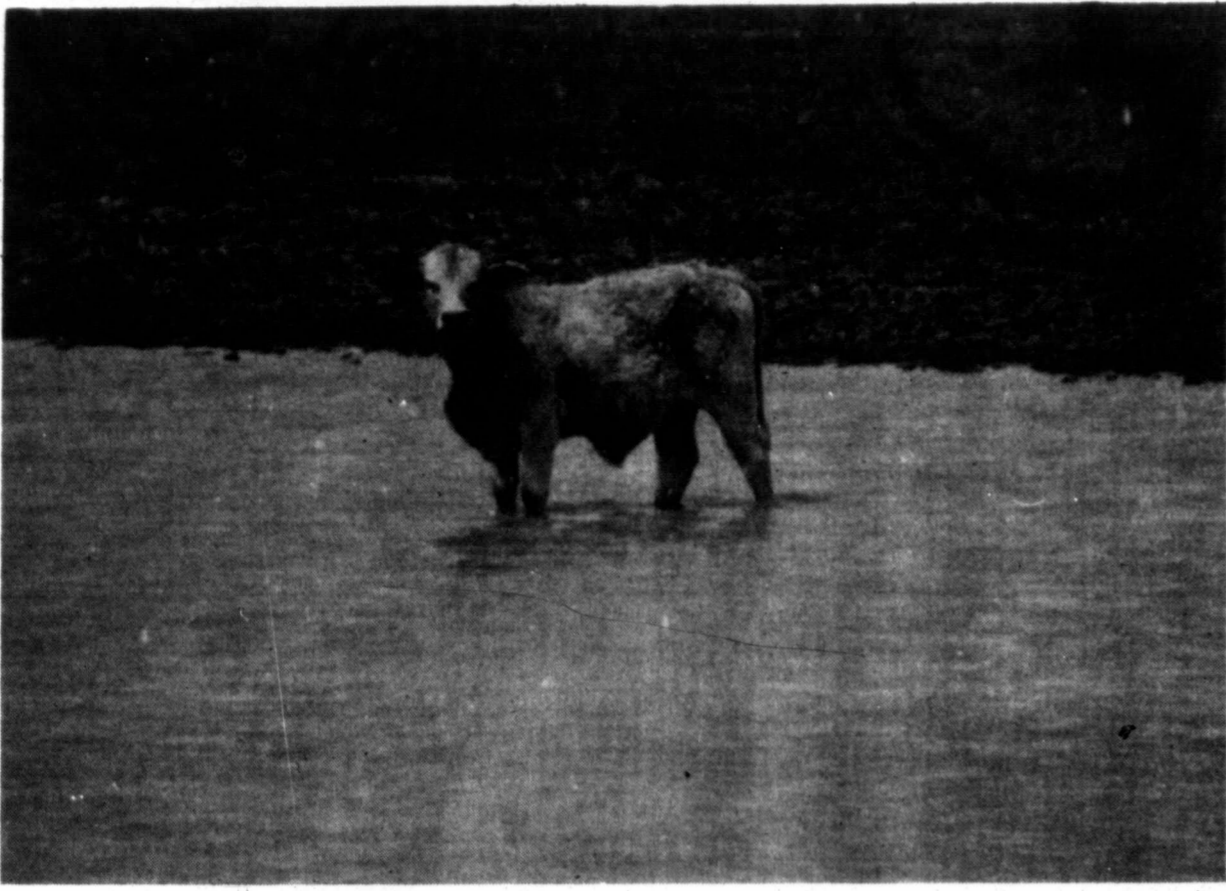
PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

Knee-deep



(Staff photo by J. Alan Brzya)

A curious bovine wanders into the water up to its knees in a playa lake off U.S. 60 12 miles east of Pampa Sunday. Perhaps the steer was trying to cool off as temperatures neared 70 degrees. Warmer temperatures are expected today with highs forecast to reach the upper 70s.

UAW workers face Caterpillar ultimatum

By BILL VOGRIN
Associated Press Writer

EAST PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Thousands of striking United Auto Workers rallied at Caterpillar Inc. plants across the state today, ignoring an ultimatum to return to work or risk the loss of their jobs.

A small number of the nearly 13,000 strikers crossed the picket lines, according to union members who said they recognized some co-workers but wouldn't release their tallies of people crossing.

Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of earth-moving equipment, gave workers a 7:30 a.m. CST deadline to cross picket lines and return to work or face losing their jobs to permanent replacement workers.

The union's strike entered its sixth month Saturday.

"They're trying to break the backs of their workers, but it won't happen," UAW secretary-treasurer Bill Casstevens said as he arrived to shake hands with union members this morning outside the East Peoria plant.

"We're going to win, we're ready to negotiate," he said. "There will be no funeral for the UAW today."

Crowds began gathering hours before the deadline set by Caterpillar, growing to several thousand by

6 a.m. at East Peoria. They lined the streets near the plant, cheering and chanting "stay out, don't bust your union."

More than 2,000 lined streets leading to the plant in Decatur, and hundreds showed up in Mossville and Mapleton.

Well over a thousand showed up at the Aurora plant, where they erected a gallows with a noose and put up a sign that said "Stop Scabs."

"We've made them wealthy and now they're done with us," said Mike Whittington, a 42-year-old welder who has worked at the Decatur plant for 19 years. "We're going to be here as long as it takes."

Wayne Zimmerman, Caterpillar vice president, vowed Sunday that the company would get its factories up and running.

"I think there's a lot of people out there who are unemployed and will recognize our offer as an excellent package," Zimmerman said.

UAW officials urged strikers to stay put.

"Scabbing is like a tattoo — you can never wash it off," Casstevens said at a rally Sunday. Union members chanted, "Once a scab, always a scab."

Caterpillar has 16,000 UAW workers in Illinois, York, Pa., Mem-

phis, Tenn., and Denver. The strike has affected plants only in Illinois.

Analysts called Caterpillar's strategy a huge gamble because it could poison labor relations. No other major manufacturer has ever attempted to break a union the size and strength of the 900,000-member UAW, labor experts said.

Caterpillar warned that help-wanted ads will run in Illinois newspapers later this week.

The company said returning workers will receive immediate raises that will boost average pay at the Illinois plants from \$16.98 to \$17.56 an hour. Workers also will be guaranteed no layoffs or plant closings for six years.

The offer is different in York, Pa., where Caterpillar seeks such concessions as a wage freeze and a three-tier wage scale to keep the plant open. New hires there would earn \$7 per hour.

The union wants a contract similar to one it signed with Deere & Co., with cost-of-living increases, a 3 percent raise during the first year and lump sum payments equal to 3 percent during each of the next two years.

Company supervisors called their employees individually over the weekend to invite them to return. Each worker also got a letter explaining the offer.

Northwest salmon going the way of the buffalo

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — For years, Merle Johnson kept up the spring tradition of putting out the salmon board, a floating dock where those without boats could hook a Rogue River chinook.

Between the crowds of people riding rafts down the river and the low numbers of fish returning, he won't bother this year.

Along the West Coast, salmon runs are a mere trickle of what they once were, and the Rogue River is no exception.

Federal officials, alarmed by the decline, are considering banning for the first time all ocean fishing for salmon off California, Oregon and Washington.

The ban would affect a zone extending from three to 200 miles offshore, and not rivers like the Rogue, which are controlled by the states they flow through.

But Johnson and others say the simple lack of salmon, and other activities on the Rogue that disrupt fishing, threaten their businesses.

"At one time there was 17 salmon boards from Indian Mary down to Grave Creek," a distance of about 10 miles, said Johnson, who started fishing the Rogue in 1936. "I think it's a thing of the past now."

"We've been hammered," Charles Whitley, a commercial fisherman from Garibaldi, told a recent hearing of the federal Pacific Fishery Management Council.

"Until a few years ago, we had a completely unregulated fishery. We fished all summer long with as much gear as we wanted and we still never hurt the fish."

The council will consider a ban this season at a meeting Friday in Millbrae, Calif. It could order instead that this year's salmon catch be cut in half.

The reasons for the salmon's

decline are complex but boil down to a simple truth: Like the pioneers whose westward migration drove the buffalo from the Great Plains, people are pushing the salmon out of the rivers where they spawn.

Last year, the American Fisheries Society, a group of biologists, declared 214 runs of West Coast salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout in danger of extinction.

In the past century, according to a report by the group, man has built enough dams for electricity, taken enough water for farming, and cut enough trees for lumber to gut a natural food supply that thrived for millennia.

"Salmon are the silver thread of evolution stitched through our ecosystem," said Jim Lichatowich, a biologist from Washington's Olympic Peninsula who helped write the report. "They find their way, either alive or as food, to every corner of our ecosystem."

Archaeological evidence shows man has depended on salmon for 10,000 years, since the glaciers receded and natives began catching the abundant fish in the Northwest. "Our existence was centered around salmon and their life

cycle," said Rachel Kowalski, fisheries manager and a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe in Port Angeles, Wash. "Every year with the arrival of the first salmon, we would have a ceremony of thanks and prayer."

Salmon fishing became a leading industry in the region, right behind timber.

Now, that's in danger, say business people who fear that when the fish don't show up this year, neither will the tourists who charter boats, rent equipment and stay in hotels.

"Right now, we're looking at a disaster," said Loran Wiese of the Coos County Economic Development Department.

No matter how much the salmon season is cut back, there will be no shortage at restaurants and markets. Salmon raised in pens in Norway and Chile have dominated the market for several years.

"There's been such a limitation on catching salmon that most of your restaurants, most of your stores are already used to buying ranch fish," said Scott Adams, manager of Hallmark Fisheries in Charleston.

Marriage, kids buffer job stress

NEW YORK (AP) — Being a wife or mother has its hassles, but a new study says it also protects a working woman from distress if her job becomes less satisfying.

She may still feel lousy after a bad day at work, but the study suggests that changes in her overall job satisfaction do not significantly affect her general level of distress.

This buffer effect appeared for women with husbands, other long-term partners or children. In contrast, childless and unattached working women did show job-related changes in distress.

Apparently, family roles offer satisfactions that can offset work troubles, the study's authors said.

"The presence of that other role, that family role ... protects them in terms of their distress from vicissitudes of the workplace," said psychologist Rosalind Barnett.

Working women without family

roles might receive similar protection by getting involved in such things as community organizations, said Barnett, a senior research associate at Wellesley College's Center for Research on Women in Massachusetts.

Prior studies have shown that the more roles a woman occupies, the better her mental and physical health, Barnett and co-authors wrote in the April issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

The study focused on 305 randomly chosen licensed practical nurses and social workers in Massachusetts.

Barnett said she believes the results also would apply to women in other jobs, although she and co-authors called for further research.

Helen Farmer, a University of Illinois psychologist who studies women's conflicts between home and career, noted that the women in the study had jobs in

which they help others.

So they might gain more fulfillment than other women do from the helping aspects of being a mother and partner, she said. She agreed that studies of women in other occupations are needed.

Sandra Tangri, a Howard University psychology professor who studies issues of working women, said she believes the findings would apply to traditionally female jobs. She said she is unsure about male-dominated occupations.

Each woman in the study was interviewed three times, at intervals of about a year, to reveal changes in overall job satisfaction and in distress levels.

The women rated how rewarding or problematic their jobs were on 50 measures, such as job security, convenience of working hours, salary, work demands and support from supervisors.

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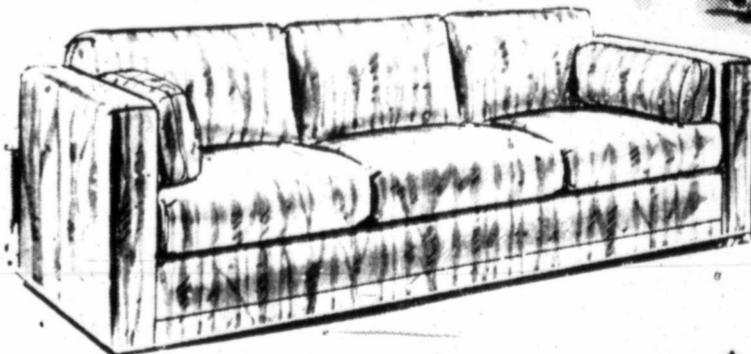
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