

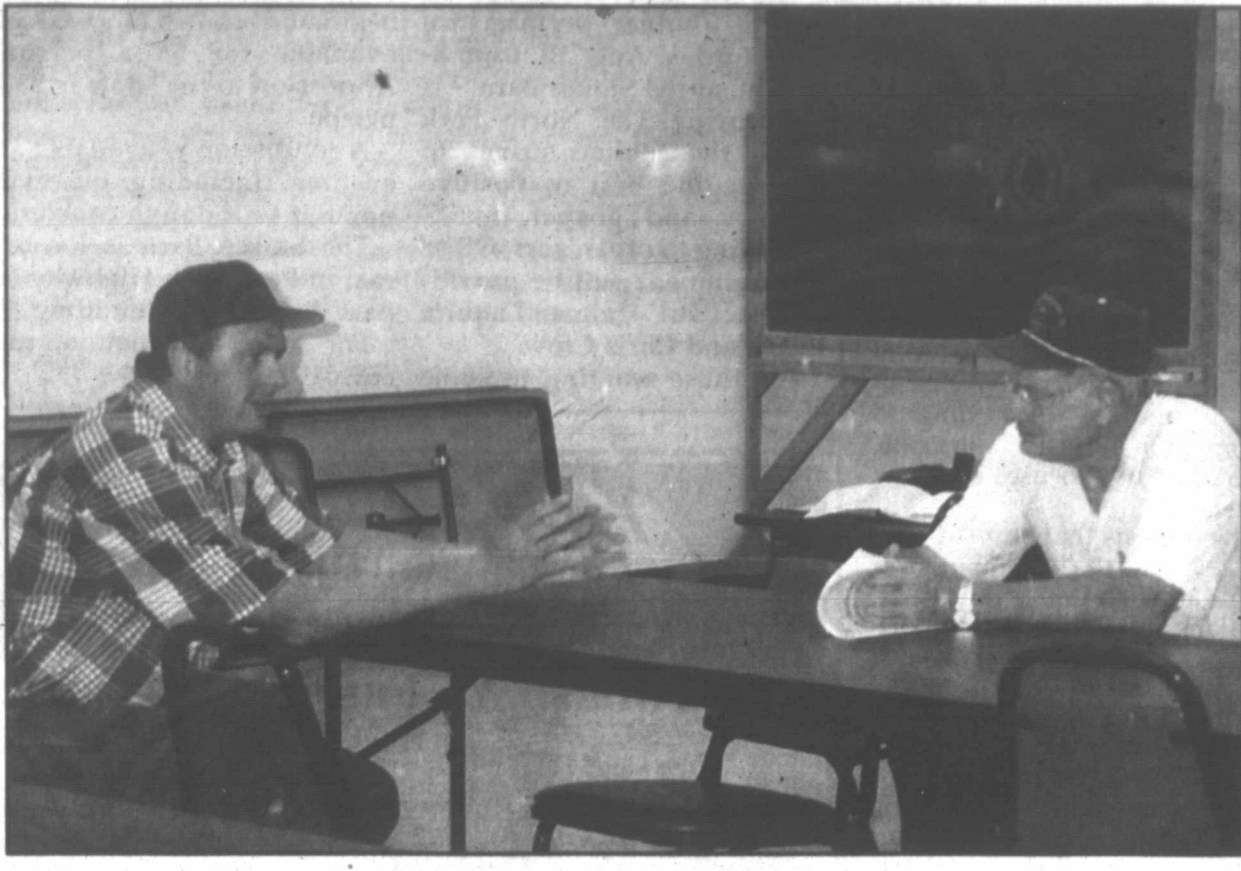








## Pesticide application instruction



(Pampa News photo by Sherry Cromartie)

Gray County Agricultural Extension Agent Danny Nusser, left, is shown talking with Gray County farmer Hugh Hutchinson in a Private Applicator Licensing training class. Several applicants attended the instruction by Nusser on Wednesday in the conference room of the County Annex building, in preparation to test for private applicator licenses. A licensed private applicator is authorized to use restricted-use and state-limited-use pesticides for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. Licensed users must obtain 15 continuing educational credits in order to maintain their license, and they have five years in order to actually keep their license, Nusser said.

## Despite campaign and party reforms, corporate money flows to conventions

By CONNIE CASS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Corporations with numerous interests before Congress will foot about a third of the bill for the Democratic and Republican conventions this month — despite reforms two decades ago designed to keep their money out.

Philip Morris, Amway, United Airlines and Anheuser-Busch are just a few of the donors who will be paying for everything from stages and lighting to daiquiris and dance bands.

In return, corporate executives get to hobnob privately with key politicians at race tracks, aboard a special train ride and on the golf course.

AT&T, which donated \$1.5 million in services and money to each convention, is one of the sponsors of a state fair-themed party for new Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, an important player in the recent overhaul of telecommunications law.

Such events "give us a chance to recognize members of Congress who we feel have played key roles in issues important to AT&T," company spokesman Jim McGann said.

The bulk of each convention's roughly-\$30 million cost will be borne by national and local taxpayers through a post-Watergate system of public financing that was created to chase corporate money away from the political conventions.

It didn't work out that way. In San Diego, more than \$12 million in private money has been raised for the Republican National Convention that begins Monday. More than 45 companies gave at least \$100,000 apiece, guaranteeing them two or more tickets into the convention hall and invitations to golf outings, horse racing, countless cocktail parties and a dinner-under-the-stars gala with nominee Bob Dole.

In Chicago, private donors have chipped in more than \$9 million toward the Democratic National Convention, which begins Aug. 26. More than 65 companies wrote six-figure checks and will be rewarded with invitations to events still being planned.

At least a dozen corporations gave \$100,000 or more to both conventions.

They include major defense contractors Lockheed Martin and Tenneco and corporations in heavily regulated industries: United Airlines, BankAmerica Corp., and medical companies Abbott Laboratories and Baxter International.

Others are Anheuser-Busch, Chrysler, Browning-Ferris Industries, and Archer Daniels Midland, the giant food processor and ethanol producer known for giving huge sums to both political parties.

Philip Morris, which is fighting the Clinton administration's attempts to regulate tobacco, is a major sponsor of the Republican convention; the company's Kraft Foods division sponsors the Democratic convention.

Why support both Democrats and Republicans?

"They want friends in both parties. It's that simple," said John Herrington, chairman of the California Republican Party.

Other contributors are unabashedly partisan. Amway Corp. — one of the GOP's most generous backers — gave \$1.3 million to San Diego's visitors bureau to cover the cost of airing the Republican National Convention on cable TV.

Corporations also sponsor fund-raisers planned around the conventions — in San Diego, for example, a \$96-per-head beach party and a train trip with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and others pulling in as much as \$5,000 per ticket.

In addition, businesses and labor unions will set up unofficial hospitality suites and private

parties for convention-goers.

It's legal, even though political parties have been prohibited from taking contributions to pay for their nominating conventions since 1974, when the system of taxpayer financing of conventions began.

"Obviously, corporations and money interests still have enormous influence," said John Bonifaz, executive director of the National Voting Rights Institute, a non-partisan group that supports complete public financing of elections.

Each party receives \$12 million in federal funds to cover convention costs — and is limited to spending that amount under election law.

In addition, the city of Chicago and state of Illinois have kicked in \$10 million for the Democratic convention, and San Diego is spending \$6.5 million on the Republicans.

But an unlimited amount of money can legally be raised and spent on the conventions by non-profit "host committees" set up to smooth the way for party conventions.

Legally, the host committees are separate entities. But they work closely with the Republican and Democratic parties, which decide how the money will be spent.

"They do it, we just pay for it," said Leslie Fox, executive director of the Chicago host committee. "It seems like we pay for everything."

Although it's illegal for corporations or labor unions to contribute money to influence a federal election, they can give unlimited amounts to the host committees. It's considered a civic donation and is tax-deductible, unlike political contributions.

"It's not political. That's the point," said Gerald L. Parsky, chairman of the San Diego host committee. "By contributing they're doing something to help the community."

## Carter, Moler attend state training seminar

County Clerk Wanda Carter and District Clerk Yvonne Moler recently attended a training seminar in San Antonio to learn more about state and county laws and record keeping.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush spoke to the conference as a keynote speaker.

"He ... told us what he expects regarding the tax programs. He said there would be no tax increases, ... and he expects improvements on public school finance programs," Carter said.

According to Carter, the conference in San Antonio included many topics concerning county government procedures, court records and the clerk's duties, counties' mental health case

records and confidentiality.

During the general assembly, members of the Republic of Texas caused disruptions, saying they wanted to address the state's clerks and employees. Additional security was called in for the rest of the conference, Carter said.

"They interrupted the meeting hoping to express their beliefs that the state of Texas and the United States have illegally formed government control over its citizens," she said.

One of the agenda items included a session on Republic of Texas lien filings. Ray Speece, Harris County district court officer, and Kerr County Assistant District Attorney Ilse Bailey discussed the organization's meth-

ods of purging county deed records and other historic legal records.

Carter said people of this group are encouraging others to join them in renouncing all legal documents, including Social Security, driver's licenses, marriage licenses, birth certificates or any certification issued by county, state or federal elected officials.

Carter also attended a workshop training session July 31-Aug. 2. She and Jody Finkenbinder represented Gray County at the Secretary of State Election School in Austin. The workshop covered update procedures in early voting and precinct voting, concerning the upcoming election period.

## Mental Health Symposium to be held in Amarillo

AMARILLO — The Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority is sponsoring the second Mental Health Symposium from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4714 NW 4th Avenue in Amarillo.

Lorraine Sommerfeldt, MD, will speak on "Treatment of Anxiety Disorders."

Dr. Sommerfeldt is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and did her psychiatry residency at Rush Presbyterian in Chicago, Ill.

She came to Amarillo as medical director for Quest Professional Services in 1990. Since 1993, she has been in private practice. She is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Sommerfeldt will discuss anxiety disorders and treatments available to persons who have been diagnosed with one or more such disorders.

Anxiety disorders are baffling sometimes not only to the persons who have them but also to family members, friends, co-workers or others who live and/or work with a person experiencing one or more anxiety disorders.

Kent Keith, mental health director for the Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority said, "Some of the conditions considered as anxiety disorders are panic disorders with or without agoraphobia, social phobias, obsessive compulsive disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders and generalized anxiety disorders."

Keith went on to explain: "Symptoms, diagnostic criteria and treatment vary significantly for each disorder. Each of the disorders can be very disabling for individuals. Understanding what a person is experiencing is very helpful to everyone involved. The attendees will learn ways they can help and support the individual who has an anxiety disorder."

This Mental Health Symposium is the second of four to be offered this year by the TPMHA. Everyone in the Panhandle is welcome and encouraged to attend these free, informational and educational symposiums, organizers said.

For more information, call Gene Ann Grant, Family and Community education director, at (806) 354-2191.

## House Appropriations chairman calls for investigation of Shapiro

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee wants the Justice Department to investigate contacts between FBI general counsel Howard Shapiro and the White House in connection with the FBI files controversy.

Shapiro said he would welcome an inquiry.

Renewing his call for Shapiro's departure, Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., said Wednesday he believes the attorney's actions are "a gross violation" of FBI Director Louis Freeh's stated commitment to maintaining a fair and impartial FBI.

Justice Department spokesman Bert Brandenburg said a letter from Livingston to Freeh had been received by Attorney General Janet Reno and by the department's internal watchdog, the Office of Professional Responsibility.

Brandenburg said that office was reviewing the letter.

Department investigators were making preparations in case a

decision was made for OPR to proceed with such a probe, according to a senior justice official who requested anonymity.

Shapiro alerted the White House about an FBI report the bureau was going to provide Congress. The report quoted a former presidential counsel as saying Craig Livingstone had been "highly recommended" for his job by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Livingstone resigned in June as White House personnel security chief, after it was disclosed his office gathered FBI background files on hundreds of former White House aides from Republican administrations.

Shapiro also gave White House counsel Jack Quinn a draft copy of a book by a former FBI agent critical of the Clinton White House.

"I am calling for the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility to conduct a comprehensive investigation of Mr. Shapiro's actions," Livingston wrote Freeh.

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**Business Owners & Managers:**

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## Hospice helpers



(Special photo)

Phillips Corporate Engineering and Zachary Company personnel joined forces recently to help Hospice of the Panhandle better serve persons with limited life expectancies and their families. Employees from both companies volunteered their time, supplies and skills to rebuild a door for the non-profit agency's storm shelter/storage area at the Berger office. The employees also installed a weight/pulley system for the door and new wiring and lights for the room. Pictured are four of the men who participated in the project, from left: Robert Marshall and Alfred Cruz, both Zachary employees, and Jim Mesneak and David Theel of Phillips Corporate Engineering. Not pictured are Zachary employees Bill Wigart and Bob Jensen.

## Mexican parties criticize judge's decision regarding assassin's fate

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Mexico's three main political parties are questioning a judge's acquittal of a man charged in the 1994 assassination of the leading presidential candidate.

Judge Jorge Mario Pardo Rebolledo of the 2nd Federal Criminal Court said Wednesday that Othon Cortes Vasquez was innocent of charges he participated in the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Colosio, the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, was shot March 23, 1994, at a Tijuana campaign rally. Since then, the investigation has been a national obsession.

Two attorneys general and three special prosecutors have handled the case, reaching different conclusions. Some even have contradicted themselves as to whether a single crazed gunman killed the candidate or whether there were two gunmen. Pardo

was the second judge to hear the case; his predecessor was removed when the prosecution accused him of bias.

Federal prosecutors now assert that the murder was part of a larger plot, and Attorney General Antonio Lozano Gracia said his office will appeal Wednesday's acquittal.

"The case is not closed and the investigation will continue," Lozano Gracia, the only opposition member in President Ernesto Zedillo's cabinet, told reporters. "The attorney general's office continues to maintain that the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio was the result of a conspiracy."

Only one gunman, Tijuana factory worker Mario Aburto Martinez, has been convicted of killing Colosio. He was arrested at the site of the shooting and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Cortes, a ruling party worker, was videotaped at the rally and

arrested in February 1995. Prosecutors at the time claimed they had evidence of a plot.

But the court in Toluca, the capital of the State of Mexico, found there was insufficient evidence, and Cortes was freed from the maximum-security prison nine hours later.

He was the fourth person directly implicated in the case to be found innocent in court.

The PRI, which has been in power for 67 years, demanded in a statement that the attorney general's office publicly explain "how it conducted the investigation" and requested "greater efforts in solving" the case.

Leaders of the opposition National Action Party, to which Lozano Gracia belongs, deplored the verdict and urged the attorney general to appeal. Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas, a party leader, said the decision was an "attempt to bury the case."

## World briefs

### Suharto accuses leftist group of treason

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesia's president is accusing a small leftist group of treason for allegedly orchestrating July 27 riots in which at least three people were killed.

In his first official statement about the riots, President Suharto said Wednesday that the Democratic People's Party "committed activities with the character of treason," according to Information Minister Harmoko, who like Suharto uses only one name.

The protests that erupted after police raided the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party, breaking up a sit-in by supporters of pro-democracy leader Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Suharto's government claims the violence was designed to destabilize its rule. The Democratic People's Party is an unauthorized group set up last year by student, labor and farmers' organizations to press for greater democracy under Suharto, a former general who seized power in 1966.

### World airlines to fight U.S. ban on gambling

SINGAPORE (AP) - Some foreign and U.S. airlines want the United States to repeal its ban on in-flight gambling, saying it could cost them millions of dollars.

Singapore Airlines, Swissair and British Airways have pioneered a project to install electronic gaming devices on some of their jetliners in the next few months.

A U.S. law prohibits domestic and foreign airlines from operating on-board electronic gaming machines on flights to and from America.

Given that the United States represents 40 percent of the world's air travel market, failure to repeal the ban would hurt the foreign airlines financially.

Singapore Airlines is opposed to "any attempt by the U.S. government to impose its national laws extraterritorially," airline spokesman Rick Clements said Tuesday.

Singapore Airlines belongs to an international coalition that includes British Air, Swissair, Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways, Japan Airlines, Japan Air System, KLM, Lufthansa, Qantas and TAP Air Portugal.

## Jubilee announces performance

The All Star Jubilee will be having another performance on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 8-10 p.m. at the Stokes Barn.

Featuring The North Fork Band, the Jubilee strives to provide the best in positive country and gospel music, according to organizers. Other entertainment will be provided by Paul Helms, Laquita Evans and Chris Crow.

For those wanting to come

early and eat, a fajita supper, beginning at 7 p.m., will be available for \$6 a person. Admission to the show is \$3 a person.

A concession is available all evening, including the ever popular sour dough cobbler.

The Stokes Barn is located east of Pampa on Highway 60 past the Schwan's building.

For more information, call 665-0190 or 665-2213.

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## DPS officials: Travelers should be aware of state towing regulations

People towing trailers with a passenger car or a light truck need to be aware of state regulations and codes governing proper procedures for towing, according to Trooper L.B. Snider, Texas Department of Public Safety public information officer.

Snider provided the following information for those who will be towing trailers.

"Light truck" means a truck with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of not more than 2,000 pounds, including a pickup truck, panel delivery truck and carry-all truck. This would include 1 ton, 3/4 ton, 1/2 ton and smaller pickup trucks.

Unless a special hazard exists that requires a slower speed, drivers should be aware that certain speed limits pertain to passenger cars and light trucks towing trailers, Snider noted.

The speed limit for towing is 60 miles per hour in daytime hours and 55 miles per hour at nighttime if the towing vehicle is a truck, other than a light truck, or if the vehicle is a truck-

tractor, trailer or semi-trailer.

This limit also applies to a vehicle towing a trailer, semi-trailer, another motor vehicle or a house trailer of an actual or registered gross weight lighter than 4,500 pounds and a length of 32 feet or shorter, excluding the tow bar.

The speed limit is 45 miles an hour if the vehicle is towing a house trailer of an actual or registered gross weight heavier than 4,500 pounds or longer than 32 feet, excluding the tow bar.

Speed limit is 50 miles an hour if the vehicle is a school bus, except for 55 miles an hour on interstate highways. "The important point to remember is that if you are towing a trailer, the speed limit is 60 miles per hour during daytime and 55 miles per hour during nighttime," Snider said. "This includes any size or type of trailer."

Snider noted that "daytime" refers to the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

## Sweetwater smelling sour these days

SWEETWATER (AP) - Pepe LePew would love this place.

The amorous cartoon skunk that always seemed attracted to unfortunate female alley cats could find plenty of belles from his own species in this West Texas city.

The nocturnal animals with the fetid defense mechanism are causing some sour air in Sweetwater.

"I don't get out at night anymore," said Emma Acuna, who shares her street with many of the bushy-tailed varmints. "They really scare me."

The city's animal control officer blames the problem on new home construction near a creek that has disturbed the animals' natural dens.

"So they are out looking for a new den, and scavenging for food," Tommy Wood said. Wood warns residents not to excite the creatures, which causes

them to let go with their signature scent, sometimes so strong it soaks into clothing. Like any wild animal, skunks also can carry rabies.

Jo Ann Henson said her husband, Bill, had a close call with a skunk that appears to have grown accustomed to its new, more urban surroundings.

"Bill said it walked right under his truck, and acted as though (people) were not there," she said. "It showed no fear."

Wood's solution is a plastic trap with a door in one end that he places near houses that are doubling as skunk dens. "I set it at the entry under the house and build a little fence around the trap so that the skunk has to go inside it," he said.

Unfortunately for residents like Ms. Acuna, the untrapped skunks seem to be adapting to suburban life - and multiplying.

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No, I won't be able to make the TOMA Seminar but please have an associate contact me for a presentation.

## British troops fear riots; use barbed wire to pre-empt historic Protestant parade

LONDON, Northern Ireland (AP) — British troops have slung barbed wire and set up barricades across the historic route of a planned Protestant march, trying to pre-empt street fights in this bitterly divided town.

But Protestants predict "another black day in Northern Ireland" if they aren't allowed to march their full route Saturday along Londonderry's 17th-century walls. Many Catholics said they, too, expect trouble.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the British minister responsible for Northern Ireland, ordered several hundred soldiers to part of the wall Wednesday as fear rose of a repeat of the widespread violence started by a Protestant march in July.

The disputed part of Saturday's march is a quarter-mile stretch of wall overlooking the Catholic Bogside neighborhood, where soldiers patrol in armored cars and police carrying assault rifles are posted in flak jackets.

The barbed wire and armored barricades erected late Wednesday make the stretch impassable. "The Protestant community are angry, they're isolated, they're alienated, and they feel that this weekend will be yet another black day in the history of Northern Ireland," said Gregory Campbell, the leading councilman in Londonderry for the Rev. Ian Paisley's hard-line Democratic Unionist Party.

Campbell said Protestants would try to negotiate the removal of the barriers, but added: "We

will not meekly accept this decision. There will probably be an even bigger confrontation now over the weekend."

The annual march commemorates Londonderry's resistance against a 17th-century siege by the forces of the deposed British Catholic king, James II. Some 15,000 members of the Apprentice Boys, the town's main Protestant fraternal society, and their supporters were expected this year.

To Catholics, the march represents a demonstration of Protestant dominance in a town where Catholics once were denied equal rights in housing, jobs and political power, despite being a majority.

Two weeks of talks aimed at compromise on this year's parade route broke down Tuesday.

Although the troops and barricades are meant to keep Protestants away from the disputed area, Catholics were skeptical police and soldiers would defend them. Into this morning, young Catholics sporadically pelted the troops with stones.

Last month, police tried to block a Protestant march through the Catholic district in Portadown, 45 miles southeast of Londonderry. After five days of Protestant violence, police backed down and restrained Catholic residents to allow marchers through. That led to provincewide Catholic rioting. In the Bogside, one man was killed and scores were wounded.

## Nation briefs

### Woman acquitted for having cat spayed

FRONT ROYAL, Va. (AP) — Audrey and Brian Brehm figured Goober, their calico cat, had met her untimely end, perhaps beneath the wheels of a car.

Six days later, Goober returned, but she wasn't the same.

Turns out their neighbor had the cat spayed without their knowledge or consent. So they had her charged with a misdemeanor count of catnapping for "defacing" it.

"She made my children cry, and nobody makes my children cry," Brian Brehm said.

But Judge William G. Hammer was unmoved and found neighbor Leilani Monahan innocent during a brief trial Wednesday.

Monahan's side of the story was that Goober was a hussy and she spared the animal from her own promiscuity.

"They're making it out like I go to people's houses and grab their cats, and that's not the case at all," Monahan said. "I really think that this little one had been abandoned. I was afraid for her."

Monahan said before the trial that the hungry cat had begged at her doorstep for more than a month. She said she decided to spay Goober after she caught her cavorting with a tomcat that has a deadly feline version of AIDS.

In an eight-page letter last week to Pfizer's chairman, the FDA said company brochures recommending Zoloft to physicians for depressed heart attack patients despite "as yet unresolved safety concerns associated with its use."

The letter cited Pfizer's own clinical tests showing that the popular anti-depressant drug may cause chest pain, rapid heartbeat and other side effects among people who have suffered heart attacks.

The FDA routinely warns drug makers against promoting medicines for unapproved uses but the letter to Pfizer was unusually stern. The agency also ordered the company to write every physician who had received its brochures to correct the claims in the ads and to publish that letter in every medical journal that has run a Zoloft ad in the past year.

### Latest Kevorkian-assisted suicide classified as homicide

DETROIT (AP) — A 59-year-old woman with Lou Gehrig's disease "wasn't anywhere close

to being terminal" when she committed suicide with help from Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the medical examiner said.

Oakland County Medical Examiner L.J. Dragovic on Wednesday ruled the death of Elizabeth Mercz a homicide and said she died from a drug injection. Further toxicological tests will identify the drug, he said.

The Cincinnati woman died Tuesday and Kevorkian brought her body to a Pontiac hospital that night.

Dragovic has classified other deaths involving Kevorkian as homicides, but most have not resulted in prosecution. It was unclear whether the retired pathologist would be charged in Mercz's death; observers doubted it.

Kevorkian has been cleared of assisted suicides charges in three trials, the most recent acquittal coming May 14.

While Dragovic said Mercz "wasn't anywhere close to being terminal," Kevorkian's lawyer, Geoffrey Fieger, said the woman was suffering.

## Business Owners & Managers:

# WHAT'S YOUR TOMA?

(Watch this space to find out more.)

### FDA halts 'misleading' promotion of anti-depressant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has ordered Pfizer Inc. to halt what it called the "false and misleading" promotion of Zoloft for treating depression after heart attacks, pre-menstrual depression and other unapproved uses.

### Bone marrow transplants cure sickle cell anemia

BOSTON (AP) — Bone marrow transplants can cure sickle cell anemia, a study found, but experts caution the treatment is too hazardous and difficult for most cases.

The international study found that the transplants — long a mainstay of cancer treatment — can cure sickle cell in about three-quarters of patients, saving them from a lifetime of suffering.

However, another ten percent die from the therapy. Because of the risk, doctors say the treatment must be reserved for the most severe cases — something that often is hard to determine until damaging complications have already occurred.

"The bottom line is this is a significant advance, but patients should not think this is a cure for all," said Dr. Ronald Nagel of Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

About 80,000 Americans, most of them black, have sickle cell disease and several million others worldwide are afflicted. Dr. Helena Mishoe of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute estimated that the new treatment will be appropriate for less than 1,000 of the U.S. cases.

Besides the risks, the treatment has another significant drawback: The transplanted bone marrow must come from a genetically similar brother or sister. Only an estimated 18 percent of sickle cell patients have a suitable marrow donor.

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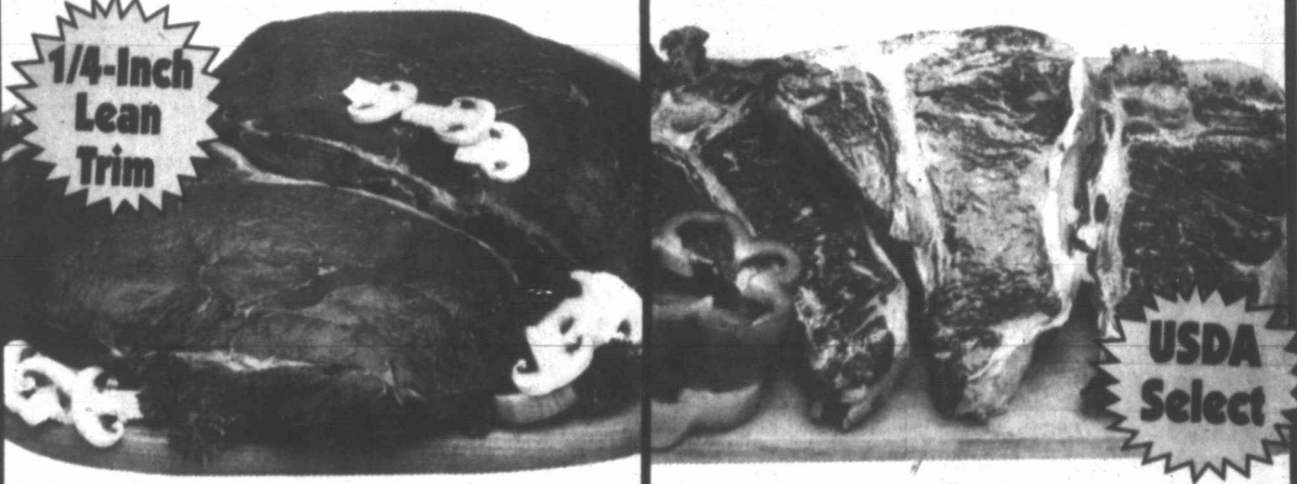
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Lb. SAVE \$2.00 Lb.

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Trimmed Top butt Tenders Cut and Wrapped Free

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Lb. SAVE \$1.00 Lb.

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USDA Select 1/4-Inch Lean Trim Beef

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USDA Select Beef

Per Pound

**\$1.28**

Bonus Packs of 2 or 3 Steaks

SAVE lb. \$1.61

**Boneless Round Steaks**

Prices good thru Tuesday, August 13 Sales in Retail Quantities Only

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## Prayer Of Farmers Reveals The Tough Row They Hoe

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in behalf of all farmers and our embattled farming industry. Farming is one of the hardest, most labor-intensive occupations in this country. This year has been particularly difficult because a very wet spring and summer have prevented many of us from planting all of our crops. Consequently, many individuals are uncertain about the future of dairy farming in our state.

In addition, the Southern states have suffered severe drought. This has also affected crop production, so you can bet that soon customers will be complaining about the price of food. Fortunately, in our great country we are blessed with the quantity and quality of our food products.

My grandmother sent me this prayer, which she clipped from a newspaper many years ago. Its author is unknown. Perhaps it will help consumers appreciate not only the farmers' point of view, but our struggle to survive.

A FARMER IN MAUSTON, WIS.

**DEAR FARMER:** Having been born and reared in Iowa, where the tall corn grows, I appreciate the Farmer's Prayer your grandmother sent, as well as its unique insight. Read on:

"Dear God, I'm grateful for the generous bounty which you have bestowed upon me, but I must ask one more heavenly favor: Grant me the wisdom to understand why a



**Abigail Van Buren**

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

pound of T-bone steak is considered too high at \$3.50 while a 3-ounce cocktail at \$2.25 is not, and people pay \$1 for a soft drink at the convenience store without blinking, but insist that a 15-cent glass of milk is inflationary.

"Help me, too, my Lord, to comprehend why \$6 movie tickets are a normal expense, but \$3.50 for a 60-pound bushel of wheat is unimaginable; why cotton is overpriced at 60 cents a pound but a \$20 cotton shirt is a "bargain", and why corn is too steep when 3 cents fills a bowl, but no one bats an eye paying \$1 for a serving of flakes in a restaurant.

"Lend me your divine insight that I may perceive the justice in being forced to grant an easement to the utility company so they could cross my property with their gas lines, then double the price they charge me for their gas. And finally, grant me the strength to endure without bitterness the consumers who scoff at me for shelling out \$10,000 for a piece of farm equip-

ment that they were paid to build, so they can afford the cars they drive on their vacations down the road that used to be my acreage before it was stolen for the right-of-way.

"Eternal thanks to you, my Creator, for your past insight and divine guidance. But please — help me to understand their reasoning. Amen."

DEAR ABBY: You were right on the mark when you explained that birth control pills can be used for purposes other than contraception.

I'm a 35-year-old virgin. Before I started on the pill two years ago, I had spent years dealing with disabling menstrual cramps accompanied by flu-like symptoms that interfered with my ability to work. It lasted an entire week of every month.

Thanks to the pill, my productive life is no longer confined to three-week intervals, and the pain is a thing of the past. If only people would stop jumping to conclusions.

Thank you for setting the record straight.

ON THE PILL BUT NOT PROMISCUOUS

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

## Horoscope

Friday, August 9, 1996

Improvements in several areas of your life are indicated for the year ahead. These changes will affect your family, your finances and your career in a positive way.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Usually you are a self-assured person who has good reason to assume that others like you. However, today you might have doubts about where you stand with someone you admire. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Your popularity with your peers will increase. You will have an opportunity to verify this today if you listen to the comments of someone you trust.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Surprisingly, a target that offers the greatest challenge and appears to be the most difficult to achieve might be the easiest to attain today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** You can receive a payoff if you are observant today. What you learn from studying the modus operandi of a colleague can be beneficially applied to your circumstances.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Today's conditions will differ from those you've experienced recently. You may benefit from situations in which others have done the groundwork.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** An arrangement that has been difficult lately will be harmonious today. If you both operate on the same wavelength, you will achieve the desired results.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Your pro-

ductivity can be substantially enhanced if you treat all of your tasks, large or small, as labors of love. Just for fun, try this method today.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Innocent flirtation might be taken seriously by others today. Keep this in mind before batting your eyelashes at someone else.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You will derive considerable personal satisfaction today from doing things for the people you love. You can help them do things they can't do by themselves.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Someone who loves you will be anxious to know how much you love him or her. Try to express how you feel as soon as possible.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** The financial knowledge required to get something you've wanted for yourself looks like it can be acquired at this time. Try to think positively.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** You will not fit comfortably in a subservient role today, so do not let a manipulator put you in this position. Express your independence.

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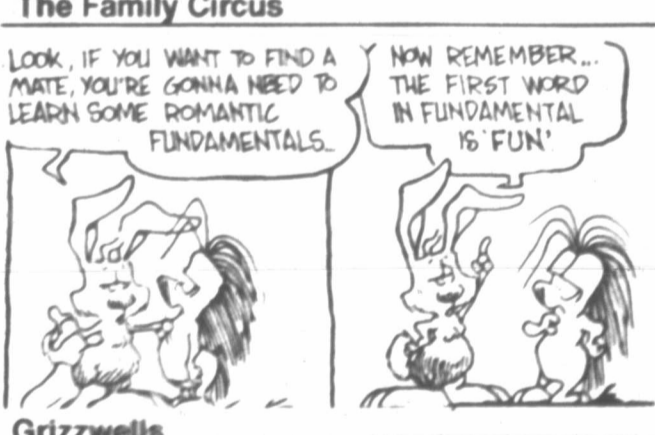


8-8

"Grandma answers, but all she'll say to me is, 'Leave a message after the beep.'"



"He got teeth marks on the ceiling, but he caught the fly."



The Family Circus



Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



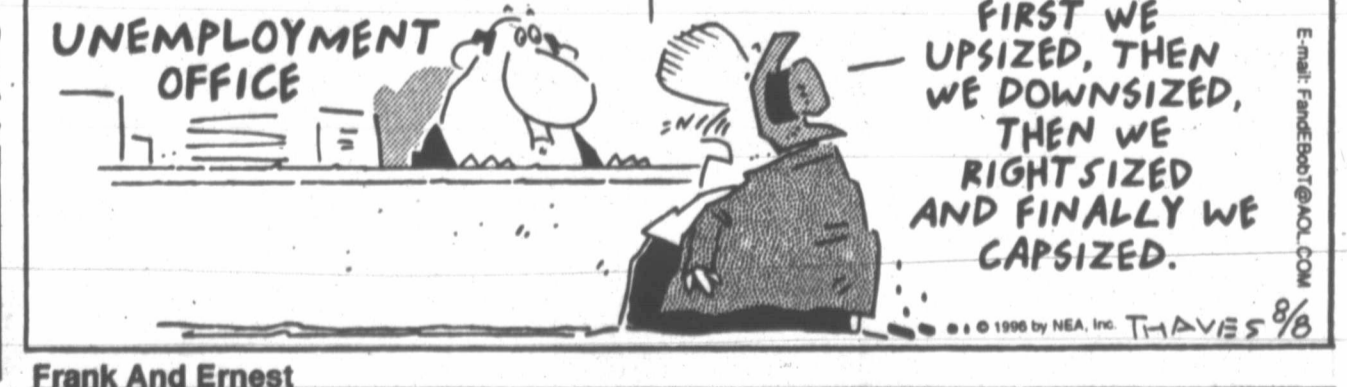
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore





# Major League standings

National League					West Division					American League									
At A Glance					At A Glance					At A Glance									
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB				
Atlanta	70	42	.625	—	San Diego	61	55	.526	—	Chicago	58	54	.518	9	Texas	4	Detroit	2	
Montreal	63	49	.563	7	Colorado	59	55	.518	1	Chicago (Bullinger 4-9)	53	60	.469	14 1/2	New York	9	Chicago	2	
New York	54	61	.470	17 1/2	Los Angeles	59	55	.518	1	Toronto	52	62	.456	16	Baltimore	13	Milwaukee	3	
Florida	52	62	.456	19	San Francisco	47	65	.420	12	San Diego (Valenzuela 8-7)	49	74	.345	28 1/2	Kansas City	9	Oakland	2	
Philadelphia	47	67	.412	24	Tuesday's Games					Central Division					Wednesday's Games				
Central Division					Wednesday's Games					West Division					Thursday's Games				
St. Louis	7	1	.875	—	Chicago 3, New York 0	Los Angeles 10, Philadelphia 4	San Diego 1, St. Louis 0	Montreal 7, Houston 5	Colorado 11, Florida 0	San Francisco 9, Cincinnati 2	Pittsburgh 12, Los Angeles 2	Cleveland 69, Chicago 63	Milwaukee 55, Minnesota 54	Kansas City 53, Toronto 5	Texas 63, Seattle 60	Oakland 56, California 52	Boston 3, Toronto 2	Chicago (Andujar 0-1)	New York (Weathers 0-1)

## Fishing report

**ARROWHEAD:** Water clear; low, 84 degrees; black bass to 4 pounds are good on spinners and worms; white bass are good on live bait and imitation shad; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished over deep brush; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with minnows and shrimp.

**GRANBURY:** Water off-colored; 85 degrees; black bass to 9 pounds are fair on spinners, worms and Rat-L-Traps; striped bass are fair on live bait; white bass are good on spoons; crappie are fair on minnows fished in deep water; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with shrimp and night crawlers.

**KEMP:** Water fairly clear; low, 87 degrees; black bass to 4 pounds are fair on small spinners, topwaters and worms; striped bass are fair on live bait; catfish are fair to good on trotlines baited with bait.

**OAK CREEK:** Water clear; low, 84 degrees; black bass to 3 1/2 pounds are fair on topwaters fished early and on crank baits fished during the day; white bass are fair on live bait and spoons; crappie are fair on minnows fished over deep water brush piles; catfish are slow.

**O.H.I.V.I.E:** Water clear on main lake, murky in upper end and tributaries; lake level 1541.83; 79 degrees; black bass to 5 pounds are slow on plastic worms fished in 20 to 30 feet of water; crappie are fair on minnows fished in 20 to 30 feet of water in the creeks, coves and ridges at night; white bass are fair; crappie are fair on minnows fished in 20 to 40 feet of water around flats, ridges and creeks; catfish are fair on trotlines baited with cut bait fished over baited holes; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear; 9 feet low, 85 degrees; black bass are good on topwaters and Slug-gos; striped and white bass are fair on live shad and slabs fished on the main lake; crappie are fair on minnows fished around the docks; catfish are good on rod and reels baited with cut bait and on trotlines baited with live perch.

**PROCTOR:** Water clear; low, 87 degrees; black bass to 5 pounds are good on spinners, worms and topwaters; hybrid stripers are slow to fair on live bait and topwaters; crappie are slow on minnows and pumpkinseed tube jigs fished over heavy brush; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with chicken liver and dough bait.

**SPENCE:** Water clear; lake level 1854; 85 degrees; black bass to 8 pounds are fair on spinners and jigs; striped bass to 12 pounds are good on shad; blue and channel catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with shad; prepared bait and night crawlers; yellow catfish are slow to fair on live perch.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water clear; very low, 83 degrees; black bass to 4 pounds are good on worms and black spinners; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs; channel catfish are good on rod and reels baited with shrimp and cheese bait.

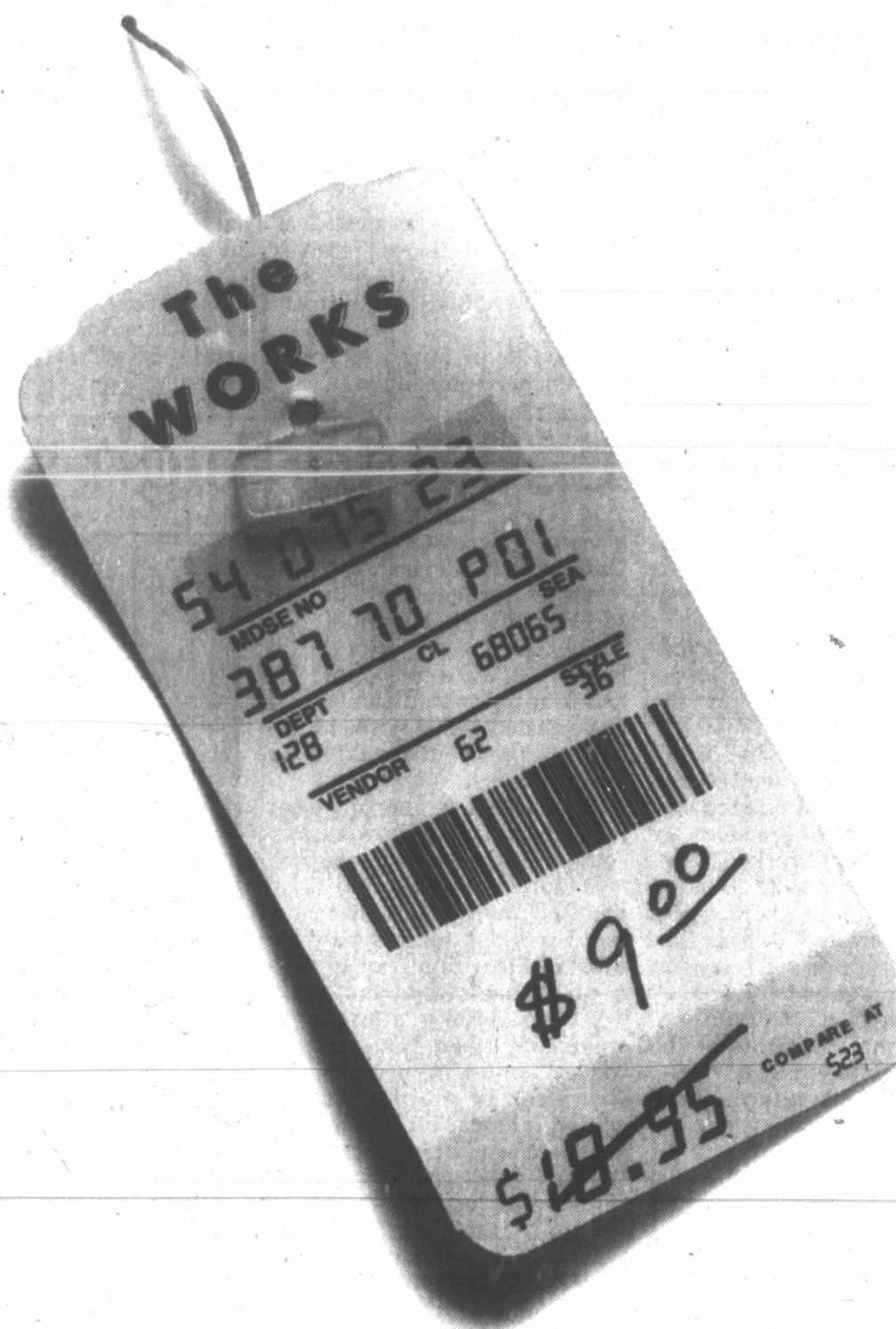
**B.A. STEINHAGEN:** Water fairly clear; 1 1/2 feet low, 86 degrees; black bass are good on topwaters fished at night; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to good on minnows, perch, worms and stink bait.

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear; low, 84 degrees; black bass to 3 pounds are good on spinners; white bass are fair to good on live minnows, slabs and spoons; crappie are fair on minnows fished over brush piles and around the bridge; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with cheese and cut bait fished in the creeks after a rain.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; normal level; 82 degrees; black bass to 8-34 pounds are good on dark spinners and Power Worms; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished at the dam; catfish are fair on shrimp, night crawlers and minnows; bream are good on crickets.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; lake level 127.35; 86 degrees; black bass to 4 pounds are fair on topwaters fished at night and on spoons and spinners fished in the channels; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons; striped bass are slow on slabs and live bait; white bass are good on Charlie Slabs and spoons fished deep on the main lake; catfish are fair on rod and reels and trotlines baited with live and cut perch.

**RAYBURN:** Water clear; 14 feet low; 85 degrees; black bass to 7 pounds are fair on white spinners; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs fished in deep water; catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut and prepared bait.



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Please call 665-2961..</p> <p><b>21 Help Wanted</b></p> <p>NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.</p> <p>DO YOU HAVE NEWSPAPER TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE? The Pampa News would like to keep its files current with the names of available individuals living in this area who are interested in full or part-time employment and who have credentials in all areas of newspaper work including editing, reporting, photography, advertising, production, presswork and circulation. If you are a QUALIFIED newspaper professional, please send your resume, including salary requirements, IMMEDIATELY to: Wayland Thomas, Publisher The Pampa News P.O. Drawer 2198 Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198</p> <p><b>Shop Pampa</b></p>	<p><b>21 Help Wanted</b></p> <p>Drivers Willis Shaw Express *NEW PAY PLAN* Now 1 year or more on the road experience and you start (7/1) at 26 3/4¢ per mile. 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# America Online users indignant after waiting 19 hours for service

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In what appears to have been the largest online outage ever, 6.3 million American Online customers worldwide were left stranded when the system crashed for almost 19 hours.

Service at the nation's largest online service resumed at 10:45 p.m. EDT Wednesday, 18 hours and 45 minutes after it was taken off-line for what was supposed to be routine maintenance to install new software.

The technical glitch left furious customers without their e-mail or access to their favorite Web sites. During the outage, frustrated users who had accounts on other online systems commiserated on a popular Internet bulletin board devoted to complaining about America Online.

"AOL DID IT AGAIN!" one writer lamented. "Their system crashed and we gotta love it. This

stupid s— is starting to annoy me. Wonder when AOLame will be back up?"

The problem was different from a software glitch that brought down AOL's e-mail system for an hour on June 19, company spokeswoman Pam McGraw said. This time, it involved new host software, essential to the network's operating systems. The company also has had several other minor system outages over the past year.

"Good-bye from America Online. The system is temporarily unavailable," was the message customers got when they tried to log in Wednesday. They were asked to try again in 15 minutes ... then one hour ... then an hour and 15 minutes.

And so on, and so on, until 10:45 p.m. EDT.

America Online will credit all members for a lost day of service, said Steve Case, AOL chairman and chief operating officer. Case apologized to mem-

bers in a letter sent online and tried to put a positive spin on the system crash.

"It did have an interesting side effect — it reminded all of us how important AOL is becoming in our everyday lives," he said.

E-mail sent to AOL users from outside the system during the crash was stored and delivered when the system went back online.

The outage was probably the biggest in online history, said Mark Mooradian of Jupiter Communications, a New York online marketing firm.

Members who thronged to America Online's chat spaces to talk about what they did while the system was down posed theories from the comical, "the hamsters went on strike" (Don't ask), to the hysterical, "a Martian virus."

In the Town Square chat area, one AOL staffer

joked with members that he himself was responsible.

"It was me! I did it and admit it. They told me to unplug the popcorn maker and ... well, I unplugged the wrong thing."

Photographer Jeff Glaser was not amused by the inconvenience.

"My daughter uses it for e-mail with her friends and she's been bugging me all evening. I think it's awkward," he said from his Ashburn, Va., home.

Many companies that rely on AOL for their e-mail accounts and technical support for money-making World Wide Web sites were outraged while the system was down.

"My whole company is stopped," said E. David Ellington, president of NetNoir, a San Francisco-based media company whose Afro-centric Web site is on AOL. "We've got people running around trying to do stuff off-line."

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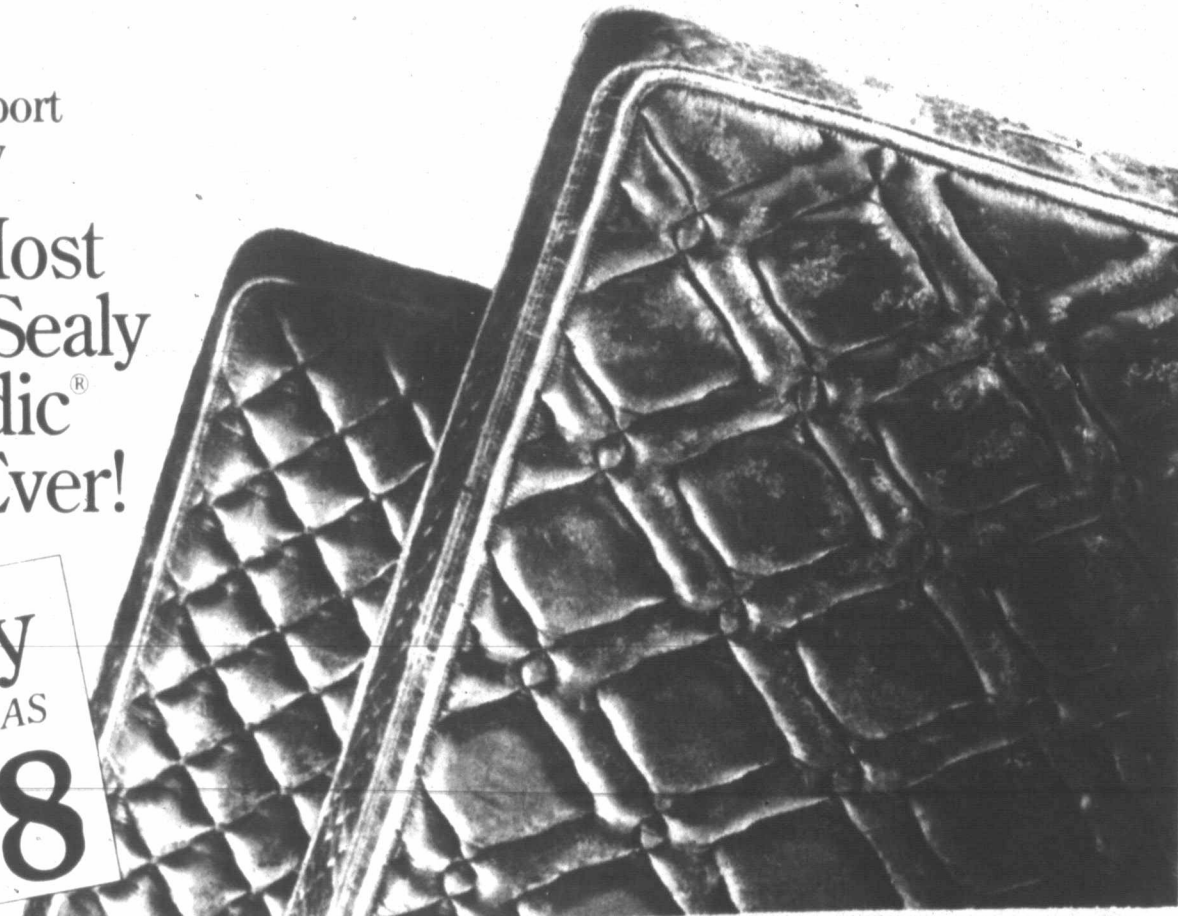


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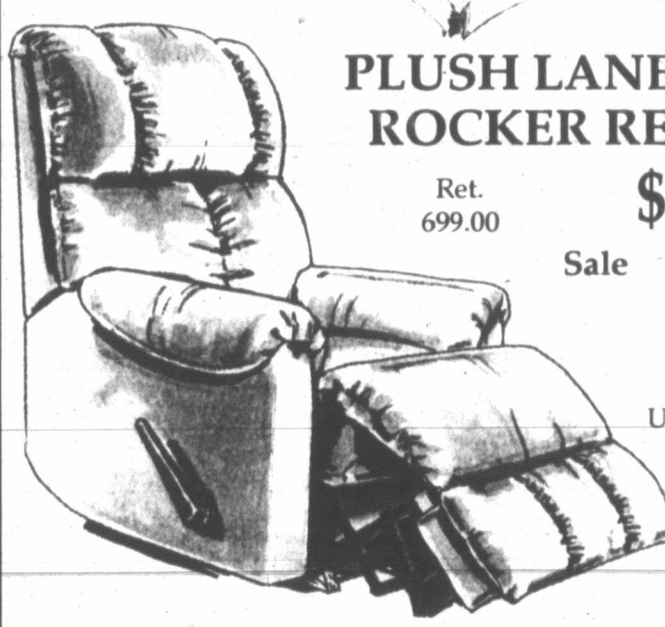
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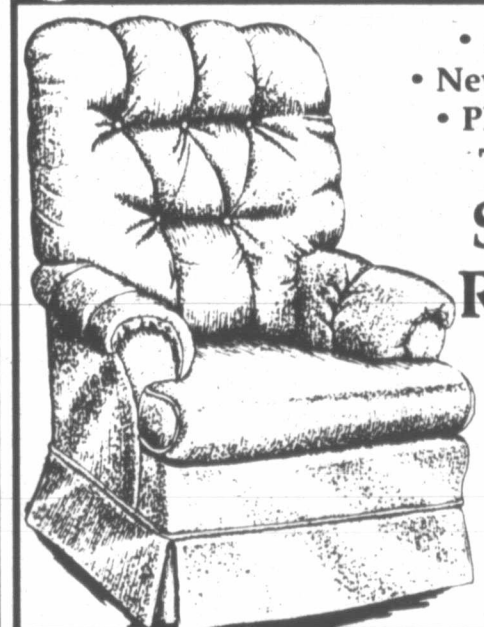


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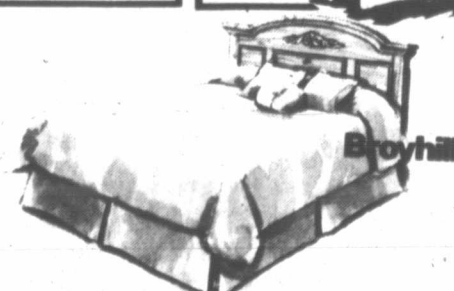
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Texas FURNITURE

9:00 TO 5:30 MONDAY-SATURDAY PHONE 665-1623

90 DAYS No Interest Financing With Approved Credit

210 N. CUYLER IN DOWNTOWN PAMPA