

**NATION:**  
Interest groups bankroll galas  
for party bigwigs, Page 3

**GOOD EVENING**  
Monday, August 26, 1996

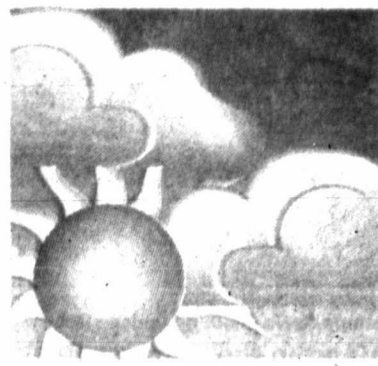
**SPORTS:**  
Cowboys make final cuts  
before season starts, Page 7

# THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 122

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 60s,  
high tomorrow in mid  
80s. See Page 2 for  
weather details.

## LOCAL

**PAMPA** — Buckner Community Based Services will be offering counseling services to residents of Pampa and the vicinity.

A therapist from Buckner Children and Family Services will be at First Baptist Church, 203 N. West, from 1-5 p.m. on Thursdays.

Families and individuals who are experiencing difficulties can receive counseling services on a sliding scale. Insurance and Medicare/Medicaid will also be accepted.

To obtain more information or to schedule an appointment, call (806) 374-8101.

## STATE

**WACO** (AP) — A toll-free hotline has been set up for farmers and ranchers in drought-stricken areas of Texas who need hay for their livestock.

The service, which will hook up donated hay with needy livestock producers, will be coordinated by Farm Aid.

Hotline callers may also request information about credit, family, personal and stress management, which will be provided without charge by Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.

"We're seeing the kind of devastation we haven't seen since the Great Depression in some Texas counties," said Wes Sims, president of Texas Farmers Union, which announced the hotline.

The hotline will be operational on Sept. 1. Those who either need hay or who can donate hay are urged to call.

The number is 1-800-264-4429. Faxes may be sent to another hotline, 1-800-294-1631.

**AUSTIN** (AP) — The Lotto Texas jackpot will be worth an estimated \$25 million on Wednesday night.

No tickets in Saturday night's drawing, which was worth \$18 million, matched all six numbers, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 8, 12, 13, 20, 35 and 49.

There were 120 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth \$2,003.

**FORT WORTH** (AP) — A family awoke early Monday to find a burning cross, two unfired shotgun shells and a threatening note in their front walkway.

Police were investigating the case as a hate crime. It was the city's first cross burning in three years, Lt. Mark Krey said.

The Schemmels, who live on the city's southwest side, were awakened by a continuously ringing doorbell. When they went outside, they discovered the burning cross in the walkway that leads to the front door.

Classified ..... 8  
Comics ..... 6  
Editorial ..... 4  
Sports ..... 7

## Clinton: Family violence offenders don't need guns

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — President Clinton today proposed guns be denied people who commit violence against their families. "Those who threaten the safety of others do not deserve our trust," he said.

En route to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Clinton cast himself as a hunter who enjoys the sport. But, he said, no one should use a gun to hurt or intimidate the people close to them.

"I believe strongly in the right of Americans to own guns. I have used them as a hunter with great joy," Clinton said. "But if you're stalking or harassing women or children, you shouldn't have a gun. And if you commit an act of violence against your spouse or child, you shouldn't have a gun."

The president's "21st Century Express" pulled into Columbus late Sunday after making two stops on the first day of his whistlestop tour heading toward Chicago and the convention.

Clinton spoke before rows of police officers and cadets gathered at a police academy here. His proposals, which require congressional approval, would

amend a 1968 law barring convicted felons from possessing a firearm to include all family violence convictions.

Clinton said the change was necessary to enhance the Brady law, which he said had effectively protected many Americans, including police officers, despite critics' assertions that it would keep innocent gun owners from legitimately having weapons.

"They scared a lot of people," Clinton said. "The Brady bill has plainly worked."

Shortly after Clinton began speaking, some hecklers in the crowd waved a Dole-Kemp poster while shouting about the FBI files controversy. Clinton fired back that they were just bitter about the success of his term in office.

"You have to feel sorry for these people. If the American people found out the truth, they don't have a chance."

As Clinton unveiled his anti-crime proposals, an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, released more details about Clinton's plans later this week.

Clinton on Tuesday will announce a \$2-billion proposal aimed at meeting an administra-

tion goal to have children reading on their own by the third grade. The proposal, among other things, requests more money for his national service, AmeriCorps, enabling the national service workers to do more tutoring of youngsters learning to read.

The proposal is likely to run into opposition in the Republican Congress, which has tried to curb AmeriCorps spending.

On Wednesday, Clinton was expected to unveil initiatives to step up the cleanup of toxic waste sites and develop so-called "brown fields" in inner cities. All told, the various crime, education, environment and economic development initiatives dribbled out by Clinton this week will cost about \$8 billion, aides said.

Clinton's support for the Brady gun law, which requires a background check and five-day waiting period for people who buy handguns, brought him scorn from the National Rifle Association. But he scoffed at critics Sunday, telling an evening rally in Chillicothe, Ohio, that the law did not cause the harm to legitimate gun owners that opponents predicted it would.



(Pampa News photos by Sherry Cromartie)

**Gray County Agriculture Extension Agent Danny Nusser examines an ear of corn in a field south of Pampa, farmed by Lewis Davis. The crop appears healthy, free of insects and weeds, Nusser said.**

## Rainfall helps farmers and ranchers to expect better ag industry year

By SHERRY CROMARTIE  
Staff Writer

What began as a bust year for agriculture may turn into a better one, according to an official of the Texas Agriculture Extension Service.

Rainfall - now exceeding the norm for the year - has helped tremendously with agriculture development since the spring when drought took its toll, said Agriculture Extension Agent Danny Nusser.

Cattlemen were earlier worried about the lack of grass, price of feed and low cattle prices.

The most critical time of the year for calves is early May through June, and with the Panhandle experiencing no rain and continued heat, grass was not plentiful to provide nutrients, said Nusser.

"Everything seems much better now. The cattle are better off, prices are better and grass is lush and plentiful for grazing," Nusser said.

Drought conditions this year produced a poor wheat crop in the county, resulting in about a quarter the normal harvest, he said.

The early freeze took its toll on most of the wheat, Nusser said.

"As far as yields are concerned, compared to what is expected for wheat farmers in this area, they made ten percent less than the norm," he said.

There's good and bad at the same time for ag producers, regardless of the weather, it seems. Now that rains have greened things up, and sorghum and corn are growing, the weeds, worms and insects are healthy also.

"The rains have really benefited

the corn, which is excellent right now, and the grain sorghum looks really good, though it was planted a little late," Nusser said.

He explained sorghum is behind schedule because of late planting and cooler weather in the past several weeks.

"We need a certain number of hot days before the crops can start maturing, and if we don't have an early frost this September, we'll have good sorghum production this fall," he said.

Producers are facing problems now with weed and insect elimination.

"Weeds are germinating and growing faster than the crops almost and farmers are trying to get their land ready to plant winter wheat," he said.

He said with depressed cattle prices, there may not be as many farmers planting early this year.

Early wheat has a chance to get up with normal heat and moisture expected, giving better production options, he explained.

With continued rain, Nusser believes farmers will have good crops and can expect better prices.

Producers are planting soybean crops this year, and some are into sunflower production.

Soybeans, an irrigated crop, is a good feed substitute for protein, he said.

There is a real potential for soybean production in this area because of increased hog production in the Panhandle, he said.

Sunflowers also hold the potential increased production in this area because they do not need as much moisture, Nusser explained.

"We're due a good production year in everything," Nusser said.

## 4-H enrollment party



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Youth between third grade and 19 and their families are invited to the Gray County 4-H enrollment party at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Recreation Park. Getting ready for the party are, from left, Lindsey Price, Nicole Gutierrez, Tyler O'Neal, Jason Bliss, Royce O'Neal, Meghan Lewis and Casey Dunham. Representatives of all 4-H clubs will be on hand to provide ice cream and cookies and to answer questions about 4-H. Volleyball and other activities will be available. All youth involved in 4-H during the last year as well as first-time enrollees should plan to attend and enroll for the 1996-97 4-H year.

## City to hold hearing on proposed budget

An unusually long Pampa City Commission agenda is planned for Tuesday which includes a public hearing on the city's proposed budget and award of a contract for water and sewer services.

The work session is to begin at 3 p.m. in the third floor conference room of City Hall. The regular meeting follows at 6 p.m. in city commission chambers of City Hall.

During the work session commissioners will hear:

- A proposal from Celebration of Lights for modification to Recreation Park to accommodate

electrical displays. A resolution supporting the project will be presented during the regular meeting.

- A proposal to send a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board survey in water bills.

- Update on housing rehabilitation from Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

During the regular meeting, a public hearing will be held on the proposed 1996-1997 operating budget.

Commissioners will also consider an ordinance authorizing the sale of the Bourland-Leverich property after Milton

David Roofing declined to lease the property.

Commissioners also will consider:

- Award of a contract for water and waste water treatment.

- An amendment to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation's budget to allow for a property purchase on behalf of Control Equipment Inc.

- PEDC's 1996-1997 operating budget.

- A resolution authorizing a grant request to build a building and purchase capital equipment for baling operation on Municipal Drive.

## City to resume fogging operations against latest batch of mosquitoes

Weather permitting, the City of Pampa will once again begin fogging for mosquitoes this week.

It will take approximately one week to spray the entire city.

The chemical being used to spray for mosquitoes is Malathion, which is generally considered safe for human and animal life, according to city officials.

Reed Kirkpatrick, Parks Department superintendent, said residents can help keep down the number of mosquitoes by keeping the grass mowed short. Mosquitoes like to hide and breed in tall grass, he said.

In addition, if there is any standing water around homes and businesses, it should be drained, Kirkpatrick suggest-

ed. Also, any containers such as cans or tires in yards that might hold water also should be removed.

He suggested residents should be especially careful during the time when mosquitoes are most active: any time they are disturbed, and 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after sunrise.

Those who desire not to have their

neighborhood sprayed for mosquitoes and who have not already called this year with the request should contact the Parks Department at 669-5770.

By this method, the Parks Department can have an up-to-date record of those requests, Kirkpatrick said. People move constantly, and current records are very important, he added.



# Interest groups bankroll galas for party bigwigs, privy documents note

CHICAGO (AP) — If \$15,000 sounds like a lot for a round of golf or a tennis game, special interests are jumping at the chance to pay these prices — and higher — to entertain major Democratic donors and dignitaries.

Indeed, the \$15,000 for sports outings pales in comparison with the \$150,000 such groups are willingly shelling out to wine and dine the Democratic powers that be.

According to internal planning documents obtained by The Associated Press, the Democratic Party had no trouble finding corporate interests willing to invest in "sponsorship opportunities" during the party's national convention this week.

Two decades ago, Congress approved full taxpayer financing of the major party conventions in hopes of keeping out special interest money.

It hasn't worked.

For instance, there was no shortage of sponsors for the luncheon to be held on the convention's last day in honor of Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. Securities giants Paine Webber, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America signed up, as did the Public Securities Association. All deal in the government bonds controlled by Rubin.

The Democratic planning documents estimated the cost for the luncheon — which will be attended by the party's top-dollar "Business Council" donors — would be \$75,000. A party spokesman said the estimates were "a little on the high side" but final figures weren't available yet.

The same scenes, often with the same corporate sponsors, played out two weeks ago at the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

It's not the way the post-

Watergate reformers envisioned things. In the mid-1970s, Congress authorized full federal financing of the conventions to wean the parties off of special interest money. This election, the two parties got \$12 million each in tax dollars.

"The decision's been made that tax dollars legally have to be spent on the convention itself but if there is a lot of entertaining and ancillary events, they should be underwritten by outside sources," Democratic party spokesman Jake Siewert explained.

Delta Airlines, whose industry has been lobbying the government for a favorable plan to replace the federal ticket tax that expired in January, is picking up the cost for the party's posh hospitality lounges inside the convention hall.

The party's welcoming guide for its big donors advises that the lounges will "provide complimentary food and beverages and a relaxing area to watch convention proceedings" from a skybox overlooking the convention floor. The planning documents estimated the price tag for those at \$35,000 per day.

And while the insurance industry helped defeat President Clinton's health care overhaul legislation, Democrats are apparently willing to let bygones be bygones.

Industry giants MetLife, Prudential and Lincoln National Life along with two of the industry's largest trade groups picked up the tab for Saturday night's welcoming reception for Democratic donors at Chicago's Field Museum.

For the corporations, these events provide an opportunity to spread goodwill among leaders and power brokers they may call on later.

# Spraying for weeds



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

The great rains of this summer may have helped many area farmers find their fields full of good moisture for growing crops and preparing to plant new crops. But they also have brought a problem to the fields — weeds. Above, pilot Don Zumstein flies above the fields of Artie Sailer south of Pampa spraying for weeds last Thursday.

# Nation briefs

### Communications deal forms telecommuniations giant

NEW YORK (AP) — WorldCom Inc., the nation's fourth largest long-distance telephone company, said today it has agreed to pay about \$14 billion in stock for MFS Communications Co. in a blockbuster telecommuniations deal.

The new company will provide a single source for local, long distance, Internet and international communications services competing with telecommunications providers like AT&T Corp., MCI, Sprint and the former Bell System companies.

The pact follows the enactment earlier this year of federal legislation aimed at opening local phone markets to competition, setting off a scramble among phone companies to get an edge on the industry.

The deal, unanimously approved by the boards of both companies, calls for each share of MFS stock to be exchanged for 2.1 shares of WorldCom stock.

The new company will be known as MFS WorldCom and will have annual revenue of about \$5.4 billion with more than 500,000 business customers throughout North America.

# County authorities report several felons sprung because of policy change dispute

FORT WORTH (AP) — Tarrant County officials say they've released about a dozen parole violators over the past two months because of recent changes by the state that were supposed to streamline operations.

In the past, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division served arrest warrants when it learned that suspected parole violators had been arrested for additional crimes.

But in a controversial policy change July 1, state parole officials began asking local jails to hold the prisoners on detainers rather than warrants.

They also asked for ten days' notice before release of a parole violator so the state could decide whether to serve an arrest warrant.

Tarrant County officials refused.

"For us to incarcerate an individual in the jail for ... ten days while we're waiting for an actual arrest warrant ... would be false imprisonment," said James Skidmore, a top supervisor at the county jail.

He said the county was forced to release seven prisoners in early July, including a man who beat and strangled his wife, because parole officials wouldn't execute arrest warrants.

Skidmore said he isn't sure how many parole violators have been released in Tarrant County.

Melinda Bozarth, director of the state's parole division, said the changes were intended to streamline how the state handles parole violators and to eliminate duplicate processing of new prisoners.

Skidmore said he doesn't know what the feds do, and what other states do," she said. "It's simpler and it's ultimately quicker."

But jailers in many Texas counties, including Tarrant County, say they don't think it's legal to hold prisoners only on a detainer.

Nevertheless, most say they are going along with the state parole division policy until the constitutional merits of the rules are tested in court.

"We have not gotten into a situation where we've had to release somebody, but we've gone down to the wire pretty routinely ... and we're on the verge of releasing people," said Capt. Don McWilliams with the Harris County Jail, the state's largest county jail.

Those released include Sammie Lee Johnson. In January, the 56-year-old walked away from a Fort Worth halfway house where he was living after violating parole from a 15-year sentence for the beating and strangling death of his wife in Lamb County and a five-year sentence from a 1992 drug trafficking conviction in Midland County.

On July 6, he was ticketed for minor drug and alcohol violations in Fort Worth and booked into the Tarrant County Jail for repeated parole violations.

# Researcher creates whole new fat substitute

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Dietetic brownies, oatmeal cookies and pancake mixes may soon come with a new type of fake fat that its developer says will enhance flavor and texture without producing any unpleasant side effects.

A U.S. Agriculture Department researcher has used fiber from the hulls of oats, corn and soybeans to develop a fat substitute called Z-trim, which he promises will not cause the cramps and diarrhea sometimes associated with olestra, another zero-calorie fat substitute.

"This has been processed in such a way as to be very comfortable to the body," said George Inglett. "There's no way that anybody would overdose on this."

Inglett, who was to present his product today at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Orlando, Fla., explained it to reporters and provided samples. Products using Z-trim could be on store shelves next year, he said.

A Z-trim chocolate bar was sweet and chewy, with no unusual aftertaste. On the other hand, a cheese spread tasted like most low-fat spreads: flat and a bit gluey.

Nutrition experts welcomed the new fat substitute.

"I think it's terrific to see this kind of innovation," said Margot Wootan, senior scientist for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a private association in Washington, D.C., that has campaigned against olestra and fatty restaurant food.

# Controversial retired pathologist defends actions on prime time

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian, under fire for assisting in the suicide of a 42-year-old woman who doctors said was not terminally ill, said in a television interview that he did nothing wrong.

Asked on *Dateline NBC* if he erred in the Aug. 15 death of Judith Curren, Kevorkian said: "No, no. If I'd made a mistake, I'd admit it."

While the medical examiner found that Curren suffered from no fatal illness, the woman had begged Kevorkian to end her pain, said Kevorkian's attorney, Geoffrey Fieger.

"It had nothing to do with lethality," Kevorkian said in the interview. "It's quality of life. ... Quality of life."

Kevorkian, a retired pathologist who has attended four suicides in the last ten days and 38 since 1990, said the nurse from Pembroke, Mass., had chronic fatigue syndrome and a severe immune deficiency syndrome.

"She was incapacitated," he said. "She was in a wheelchair. She'd lie in bed. She was in pain. ... I mean she was ill."

Other questions were raised with news that police had repeatedly been called to the Currens' home, and that just three weeks before her death, her husband was charged with assaulting her. Franklin Curren said the couple had been arguing because he only reluctantly supported her desire to have Kevorkian help her die.

Kevorkian, who last week said he was unaware of the Currens' past and had a policy against assisting with a suicide if family problems exist, said it's not his responsibility to do background checks on family members.

"I'm a medical doctor. I can review records and I can see patients and I can examine them," he said. "Who says I got to learn what their family history is and who their children are and what they did 50 years ago? Who said I have to know that?"

Kevorkian said he will continue helping people commit suicide until the medical profession deems it an acceptable service.

"If the medical profession declares this a medical service and they lay guidelines down, and I see one doctor do it openly under these guidelines without intimidation or threats — I'll stop," he said.

# It's invasion of the bats! In Waco at any rate ...

WACO, (AP) — It's enough to drive city officials batty.

Several thousand free-tail Mexican bats, a protected species in the United States, have invaded downtown Waco this summer, and they've proven to be less than gracious guests.

They sleep all day, stay out all night and refuse to go away, at least until they fly south for the winter.

"They make a terrible mess and smell," said George Walker, the city of Waco's building official.

The bats are roosting in a downtown parking garage, causing such a disturbance that the city isn't able to charge for parking spaces in the immediate vicinity.

"Since we had to inconvenience our parking customers with bat droppings, it's such a nuisance we've offered free parking," Walker said.

Authorities say there are always bats in Waco, but no one can remember a colony like this before. In fact, the city has hired a consultant to help with the problem.

"We didn't have anyone who knew anything about small flying mammals," Walker said.

The consultant has been paid about \$100 for his advice. So far that advice is simple: wait for the nocturnal creatures to leave and then thoroughly clean and seal the crevices in which they are roosting.

The Waco bats are the same breed as those that make up the famed bat colonies that live under the Congress Avenue bridge in Austin during the warm weather months, normally from March to October.

"This is generally a migratory cycle. Generally, they'll go down south for the winter to Mexico," said Kenneth T. Wilkins, a mammals specialist and associate professor of biology at Baylor University.

"This is the time of year that the roost is bigger because the females have had their young and they're beginning to fly on their own," he said.

While Wilkins said he hasn't known of a bat problem in Waco before, Baylor has seen a few small roosts.

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### Nation's 'toughest sheriff' to begin female chain gangs on city streets

PHOENIX (AP) — Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, calling himself an "equal opportunity incarcerator," says he plans to put the nation's first female chain gang to work next month.

"These women will be placed in the same areas where I place the men, out in the streets of Phoenix where everybody can see them," he told The Associated Press.

"I don't believe in discrimination in my jail system," he said. "I feel that women should be treated just like men."

Arpaio, who revels in his reputation as the nation's toughest sheriff, began his chain gangs for men more than a year ago, linking inmates by leg irons and putting them on busy streets to pull weeds or paint over graffiti.

"If women can fight for their country, and bless them for that, if they can walk a beat, if they can protect the people and arrest violators of the law, then they should have no problem with picking up

trash in 120-degrees," he said.

Each female chain gang will consist of 15 inmates, who will work five days a week for 30 days. The women will wear the county's new jail uniform of pants and tops with black horizontal stripes. Armed volunteers will guard the group.

Arpaio was criticized recently after a preliminary Justice Department finding that his officers used excessive force with inmates. He is known across the country for banning cigarettes, coffee and Playboy magazines for prisoners.

Critics say his latest move is just another attempt to garner publicity.

"He likes to come up with a new gimmick every three months," said Louis Rhodes, state director of the American Civil Liberties Union. "Most of his programs or his ideas are basically harmless. They aren't illegal or unconstitutional, they just end up wasting a lot of time and taxpayer money."

### Mother Teresa gravely ill on eve of birthday

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — On the eve of Mother Teresa's 86th birthday, the champion of the poor remained in serious condition in a Calcutta hospital today, battling heart troubles and a lung infection.

Over the weekend, the ailing nun's condition stabilized, but her heartbeat remained irregular and she continued to use a respirator, her personal physician, Dr. A.K. Bardhan said.

On Tuesday she turns 86, but special prayer services and other celebrations were planned for today. In 1993, then-Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao erroneously sent birthday greetings to Mother Teresa a day early, and many people since have marked the occasion on both days.

Mother Teresa was admitted to the Woodlands Nursing Home last Tuesday with a 100-degree fever brought on by malaria. Doctors said the fever aggravated existing cardiac troubles that

caused her heart to fail three times since Thursday.

### Eleven dead in high seas mutiny aboard fishing boat

TOKYO (AP) — Suspects were under Japanese custody today in a high seas mutiny that left a South Korean tuna ship captain and ten of his crew dead.

Coast guard investigators, who found the ship adrift without fuel some 330 miles south of Tokyo, believe Capt. Choi Ki-taek and the others were killed in a dispute over working conditions.

Details surrounding the mutiny on the Honduras-registered Pesca, Mar No. 15 were unclear.

Innami said the ship left Pusan, South Korea, on July 14 to fish for tuna in the South Pacific with 25 crew, including seven Chinese nationals. For reasons not yet clear, one crew member was transferred to another ship on Aug. 2, Innami said.

On Aug. 3, according to South Korean maritime officials, Choi radioed another South Korean ship in the South Pacific to say his Chinese crewmen were refusing to work and he was going to

Samoa to find replacements.

The ship was reported missing soon after.

By the time Japanese ships reached the 294-ton vessel early Sunday, the bodies of the victims — Capt. Choi and six other South Koreans, at least three Indonesians and one Chinese — had already been thrown overboard.

The mutineers, who had apparently been overpowered by other crew members, were found locked in their cabins. They remained under custody on the ship today, Innami said.

### World briefs

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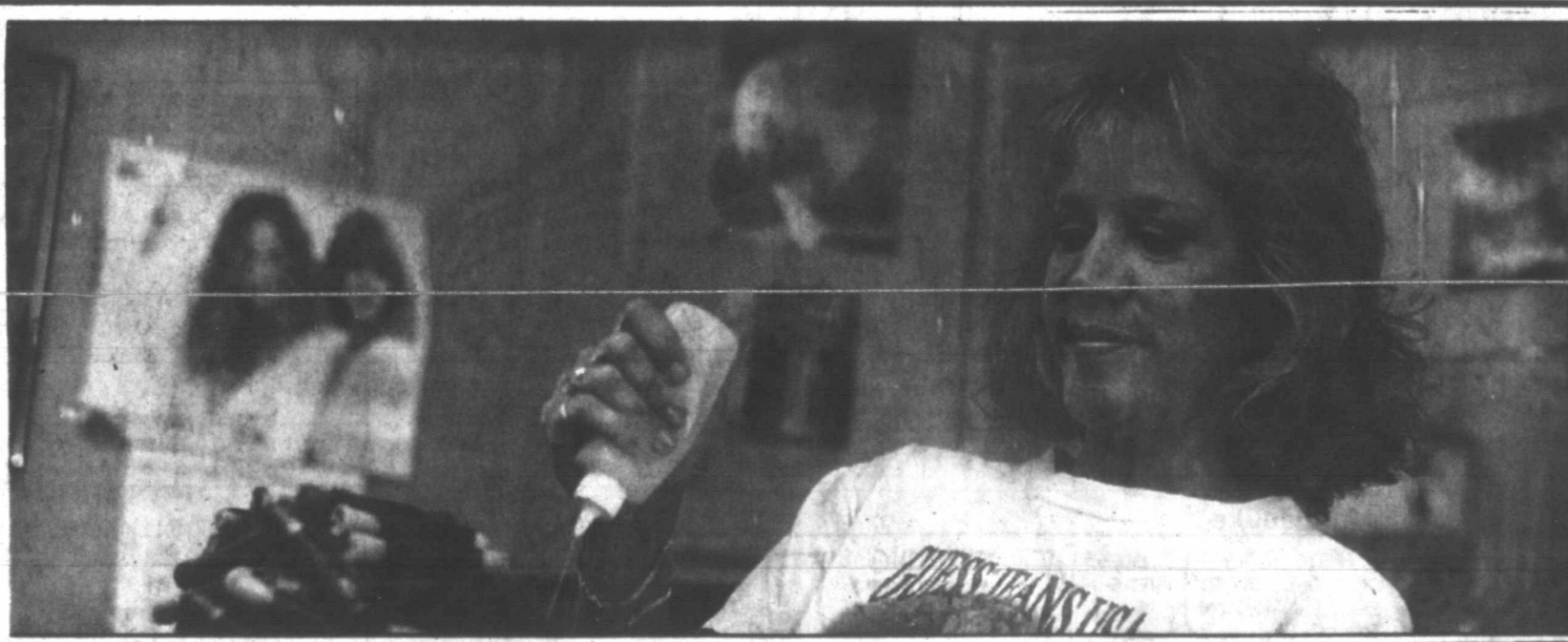
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## Wedding Plans Are Dampened By Mom's Drinking Problem

DEAR READERS: I'll be on vacation between Aug. 18 and Aug. 31. Don't panic — I've selected some of my favorite letters from past years to fill the gap. I hope you enjoy them.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning to be married next month, and what should be the happiest time in my life has turned into one of my biggest problems. The reason is my mother — or more specifically, her drinking. She has ruined every affair she's attended.

Last year at my sister's wedding, Mother:

1. Positioned the judge who performed the ceremony.
2. Started a screaming argument with my sister.
3. Punched me out.
4. Went on a crying jag.
5. Fell on the dance floor.
6. Got mad at the people who were trying to help her and locked herself in the coat closet.

Mother is a darling person when she's sober, but when she drinks, she's impossible. Afterward, when we tell her how she behaved, she doesn't blame us.

I'm planning my wedding half-heartedly, knowing my mother will ruin it. I love my mother, Abby, and can't have a wedding and not invite her. We are considering eloping, but if we do, we will want a reception afterward to celebrate our marriage, and if Mother comes, she will turn it into a disaster.

What should we do? We're not



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

kids. I'm 42, the groom is 52 and Mother is 63.

SOMETHING BLUE

DEAR BLUE: Talk candidly to your mother. And tell her that only if she agrees to refrain from drinking on your wedding day will you have a wedding. If she agrees, enlist the cooperation of a few close friends and/or relatives to make sure she either keeps her promise or is removed. It's not fair that you should have to elope or forgo a wedding because your mother can't tolerate alcohol.

I recommend Al-Anon. It teaches friends and families of alcoholics how to deal with the problem. And if you really love your mother, you will view her problem as an illness and do all you can to help her.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old, and my parents force me to go to church every Sunday.

I hate going to church because I see people there who I know are drunkards, gossips, liars and cheats, and they are right there every Sunday saying their prayers and singing the hymns. I don't have any respect for hypocrites, and our church is full of them, my own parents included.

I am only 13, so maybe my opinion doesn't count, but I don't see any sense in my going to church with a bunch of hypocrites.

ONLY A BOY

DEAR ONLY: Christ became a man at 13, and you are not too young to become a man either. One goes to church to learn about the Bible and the word of the Lord, although God dwells in one's heart, and it's not necessary to "go" to church to communicate with him.

A church is not a museum for saints; it's a hospital for sinners. So "judge not, lest ye be judged," young man.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$9.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



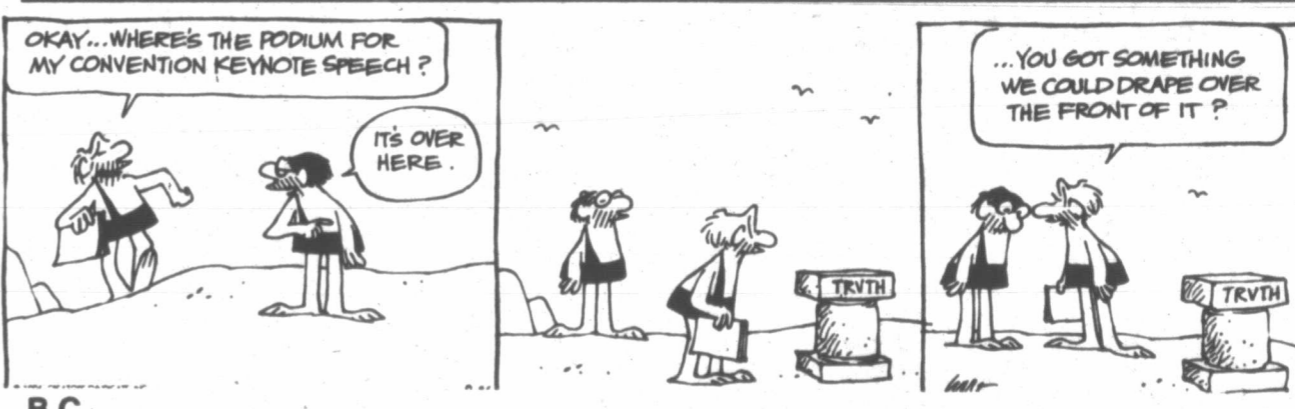
Garfield



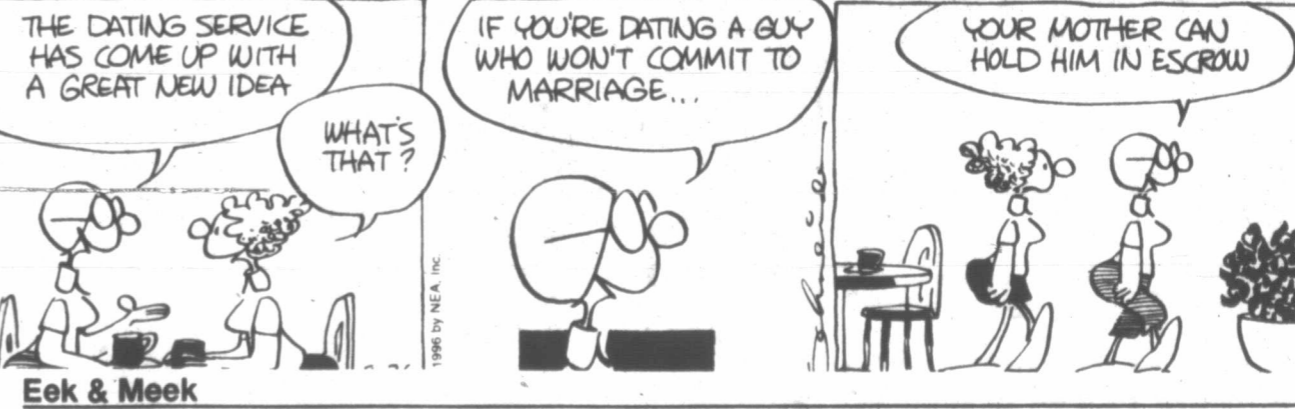
Walnut Cove



Marvin



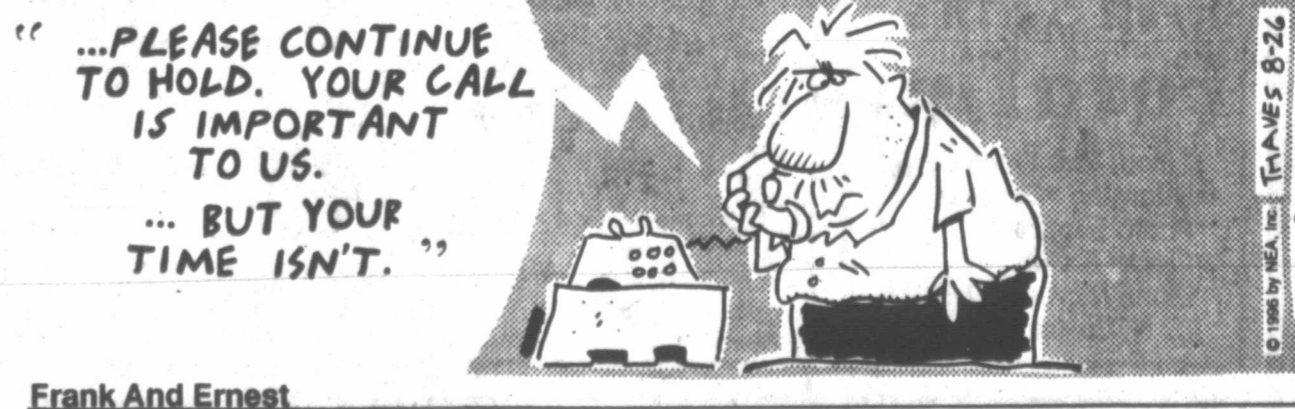
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

## Horoscope



Tuesday Aug 27, 1996

Instead of considering a career change in the year ahead, do something constructive to make yourself more valuable. You will have many opportunities to improve your skills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Try to be more imaginative regarding procedures and methods at work today. Improved ideas will enhance your industriousness and productivity. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand

what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your most effective asset today will be your ability to get along with all kinds of people. This can be used to enhance your reputation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You will be rewarded for your efforts today if you remain determined. Do not start anything you do not intend to conclude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Guard against the inclination to blurt out secrets today because your words will have more impact on others than you realize.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you're in the market for something unusual, this will be a good day to explore the shops. Make sure to visit out-of-the-way stores.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Strive to help people who have assisted you previously, but don't become so immersed in their affairs that you forget to tend to your own responsibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A close friend with whom you've been eager to

discuss something confidential should be available today. He or she will be interested in the same topics.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This will be a good time to resurrect an idea that was put in the junk pile. Conditions have changed and this project now has new potential.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you extend your hand in friendship to someone you argued with recently, you can resolve your differences with a friend. Take the initiative today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can succeed today if you look out for everyone's interests. Conversely, you will fail if you are too self-absorbed.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do not take anything for granted in your business dealings today. Watch everything closely because you might be able to turn a negative into a positive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Instead of talking to people who will tell you only what you want to hear, talk to counselors who will tell you the truth about your situation.

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"This time try not to miss my bat."



"Say 'when!'"

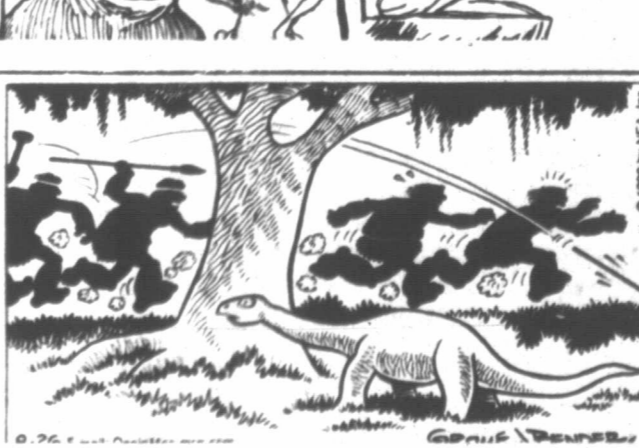
The Family Circus



Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts









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