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have been murder,
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Toddler recipient
arrives at home,
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JANUARY 14, 1990

SUNDAY

Gorbachev vows not to oppose multiparty politics in U.S.S.R.

By ANN IMSE
Associated Press Writer

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev announced today that he is willing to accept a multiparty political system in the Soviet Union, where the Communist Party he leads has ruled for 72 years.

His pledge came at the conclusion of a three-day visit to the restive Baltic republic of Lithuania aimed at persuading local Communists to restore the ties they severed with Moscow. But top party members rejected his appeal, saying union with the national party "would mean death" for theirs.

In previous public appearances, Gorbachev had ruled out permitting the existence of other parties, which is already a political fact of life in Lithuania since the local legislature voted last year to revoke the Communists' constitutional guarantee of power.

But Gorbachev said in Vilnius: "We shouldn't be afraid of a multiparty system the way the devil fears incense."

"I see no tragedy in a multiparty system, if, and I can tell you this straightforwardly, it

arises as a result of a normal historical process and answers the needs of society," he told a meeting of the Lithuania's Communist Party, which strengthened the republic's independence movement when it voted last month to break from the national party.

Since the 1917 Russian Revolution, Communists have firmly held the reins of power in the Soviet Union, but they are being increasingly challenged by independent groups — some calling themselves parties — that have sprung up in the atmosphere of greater tolerance introduced by Gorbachev.

Reforms Gorbachev put in place also led to popular uprisings throughout the Soviet bloc and dramatic democratic reforms in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria.

Speakers at the meeting today told Gorbachev they were unimpressed by his promises of greater autonomy as an alternative to Lithuania's drive for full independence. They said their Communist Party must also support independence to keep the people's support.

"Our reality is that we Lithuanian Communists have no trump cards in our dialogue with the people," said Vasily Yemeljanov, editor-in-chief of the newspaper Soviet Lithuania. "The majority of Lithuanians are ready to sacrifice their material benefits for the sake of independence."

To reverse the December decision "would mean death for the Lithuanian Communist Party," Yemeljanov said.

In 1940 dictator Josef Stalin absorbed Lithuania and the two other Baltic states, Estonia and Latvia, under a secret deal with Nazi Germany.

Vytautas Landsbergis, the leader of Lithuania's pro-independence Sajudis movement, dismissed Gorbachev's announcement of a day earlier that a secession law was being prepared.

"It's a propaganda trap," said Landsbergis, who is also a member of the Congress of People's Deputies parliament in Moscow.

"If we get entangled in the mechanism of seceding from the Soviet Union, we automatically act as if we were (now) a legal part of the Soviet Union," he told a news conference.



(AP Laserphoto)

Demonstrators carry anti-Soviet posters during a visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to a collective farm in Siauliai, Lithuania. Gorbachev told the farmers they would be better off if their country stayed in the Soviet Union.

4-H Showmanship Show begins stock show week activities



(Staff photo by Kayla Pursley)

Heidi Phetteplace displays the jacket she won as overall champion of the 4-H Showmanship Show.

Gray County 4-H students exhibited their showmanship skills during their annual warm-up exhibition event Friday night at Clyde Carruth Pavilion.

4-H leaders have noted that the event prepares students for the annual county and Top O' Texas stock shows.

Carson County Extension Agent Danny Nusser served as judge for the event, which challenged their ability to show an animal, rather than the quality of the stock.

Competitors were broken into three categories: beginner, intermediate and experienced showmen.

Champion swine and sheep showmen received jackets as awards.

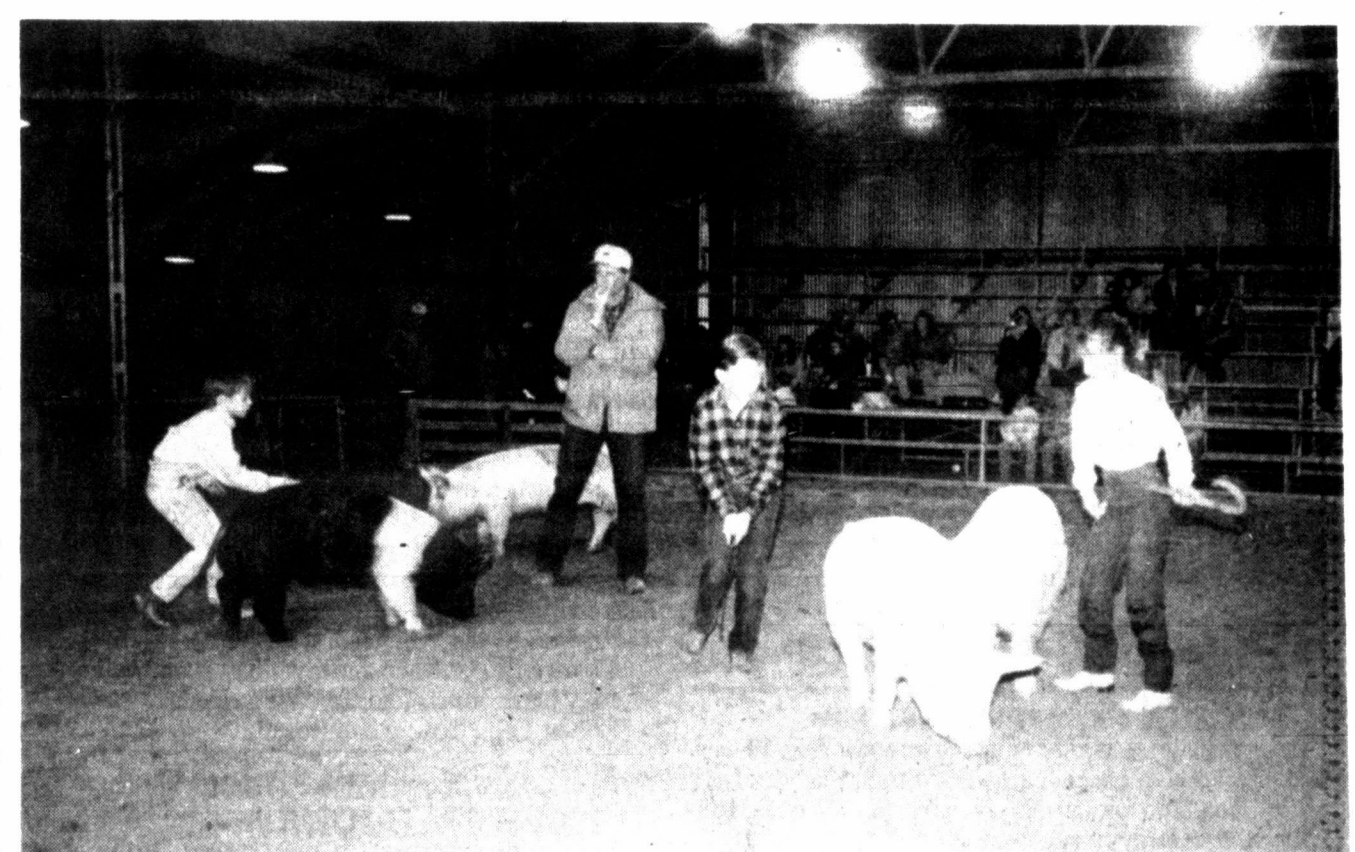
Heidi Phetteplace was awarded the overall champion of the event with Nickie Legget claiming reserve champion status.

Results of the of the events included:

SWINE

Class 1 Experienced: 1. Heidi Phetteplace; 2. Matt Reeves; 3. Melanie Lee; 4. Kandy Winton; 5. Amy Eakin; 6. Scotty Henderson; 7. Angie Underwood.

Class 2 Intermediates: 1. Alicia Lee; 2. Dillon Downs; 3. Jeremy Knutson; 4. Andrea Clark; 5. Dustin Brown; 6. Nonnie James; 7. Matt Rhine.



(Staff photo by Kayla Pursley)

Local 4-H'ers practice showing their swine to Judge Danny Nusser Friday.

Class 3 Beginners: 1. Nickie Legget; 2. Heather Shepard; 3. Justin Thomas; 4. Clint McClure.

SHEEP

Class 4 Experienced: 1. Dennis Williams; 2. Heidi Phetteplace; 3. Carly Downs; 4. Matt Reeves; 5. Will Greene; 6. Scott Stribling.

Class 5 Intermediates: 1. Jennifer Williams; 2. Chris Fox; 3.

Class 6 Beginners: 1. Dawn Fox; 2. Melanie Lee.



(AP Laserphoto)

The Long Duration Exposure Facility is lowered by the robot arm into the cargo bay of the Columbia.

Astronauts pursue more experiments

By HOWARD BENEDICT
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The recovery of a huge science lab by space shuttle Columbia will help engineers design spaceships of the future, the shuttle's commander said today.

Astronaut Dan Brandenstein said all the various types of materials that have been exposed to space on the Long Duration Exposure Facility for more than five years "will now be studied and that will give us the capability to design better and more durable spacecraft and space stations."

Brandenstein and his four crew members discussed their flight in a 20-minute news conference from their distant orbit, answering questions beamed up from reporters at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Mission specialist Bonnie Dunbar, who snared LDEF Friday with the shuttle's 50-foot robot arm, said that although some of the experiments were beaten up by the long exposure to micrometeoroids and other space debris, they will serve as invaluable research tools.

"It was the intent of this payload to find out which materials we should be building space stations

and spacecraft out of," she said.

Mission specialist David Low said the astronauts planned to spend the final days of the flight before their planned landing next Friday working on experiments.

"This is the second longest space shuttle mission, and we can do some good materials sciences work and also get some good medical data," he said.

Pilot Jim Wetherbee said as a rookie space flier it took him a couple of days to get used to weightlessness. He and the two other first-time space travelers, Low and Marsha Ivins, sometimes bumped into one another until they got acclimated.

"It's pretty neat to be floating around up here," Ivins commented.

The space travelers and ground controllers remained on an emotional high today after the retrieval of the satellite, with Mission Control waking the crew with its version of "Hello Dolly."

"Hello, LDEF, it's so nice to have you back where you belong ... You're looking swell, LDEF, we can tell, LDEF..."

"Your music this morning is courtesy of the LDEF project who are obviously very happy," the control center told the astronauts.

"We enjoyed doing it and are

equally happy," Brandenstein responded.

With the most dramatic part of the trip behind them, the astronauts settled in for six days of experiments,

concentrating on materials processing and tests on how well the human body adapts to weightless space.

Columbia is to return to Earth Friday.

County commissioners to consider Lefors deputy

Gray County Commissioners' Court is scheduled to consider a request from Lefors Mayor Gene Gee for additional law enforcement and continue discussions on building a new county jail at a regular meeting set for 9:30 a.m. Monday in the Gray County Courtroom.

Gee made the request at a Jan. 2 Commissioners' Court meeting at which an estimated 25 Lefors residents showed their support. Gee said Gray County Sheriff Jim Free had made a campaign promise of placing a deputy in Lefors, and that promise had not been kept.

Free cited budget cuts by the Commissioners' Court as the reason a deputy had not been established in the small community.

Following the Jan. 2 meeting, Free said he planned to ask the

Commissioners' Court at the next meeting for an additional \$20,000-25,000 to hire a person for the deputy's position.

Other items on the Commissioners' Court agenda include:

- Appointing members to a Salary Grievance Committee.
- Considering the holiday schedule for 1990.
- Considering the request from AT&T to bury cable in the county right-of-way.
- Considering authorizing Precinct 4 Commissioner Ted Simmons to advertise for bids to sell used equipment.
- Considering a proposal from the curator of White Deer Land Museum for additional help.
- Considering a proposal by Jordan & Associates for the tax office.

Friends describe slain family as being quiet, pious, poor

By SALLY STREFF BUZBEE
Associated Press Writer

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — Dennis and Cheryl Avery were a quiet couple who never had much money but were devoted to their three daughters and their church.

Unhappy with the ordination of women and other changes in the church, they followed lay minister Jeffrey Lundgren to Ohio and became allied with his breakaway fundamentalist cult. They apparently became so controlled by him they turned over their paychecks and bought a gun for him on their credit card.

And it may have been that very gun that killed them and their daughters last spring, police say. Lundgren and other cult members are charged in their slayings.

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Their bodies were found Jan. 3-4 at the farm commune near Kirtland,

Ohio, where the cult stayed, after police received an anonymous tip. They had been bound with duct tape, shot and buried in a barn. Police theorize that the deaths were a ritual sacrifice to cleanse the cult.

Lundgren, 39, his 19-year-old son and three other cult members are charged with their murders. His wife and seven others are charged with conspiracy.

The deaths left those who knew them struggling to understand what went wrong.

"I just think they didn't know what they were getting into when they went to Kirtland," said Marie Haworth, a friend from Independence.

Avery and his wife both grew up on the West Coast as members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a church that has roots in common with the Mormon Church but is separate. They were married in Independence, where the church is based, in 1970.

Avery, who worked 17 years as a computer programmer for a Kansas City bank, was a deacon in one of the RLDS congregations dotting the Independence area. Mrs. Avery taught preschool and Sunday school, sewed her family's clothes and took her bookworm daughters to summer reading programs at the public library.

The family lived in a small house in an older section of Independence. The daughters attended public schools until May 1986, then were schooled at home, church records show.

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No one knows when Lundgren and his followers made the switch from his fundamentalist RLDS teachings to a cult whose members drank heavily, trained for paramilitary activities and called their leader "the prophet," said Grant McMurry, the RLDS' world church secretary.

Shortly after the Averys arrived in Ohio, Lundgren was asked to resign from the temple position, and he was eventually defrocked after his teachings became "un-Christian," said the Rev. Dale Luffman, head of the northeast Ohio chapter of RLDS.

The Averys broke all ties with the RLDS church after Lundgren was asked to resign.



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The bodies of the slain Avery family, who might be victims of ritual sacrifice to cleanse a religious cult according to police, were found buried in this barn in Kirtland, Ohio on Jan. 3 and 4. The Averys, together with their three children, were last seen in April shortly after they told others they were moving from Ohio, where they had been staying since joining a religious cult, whose leader is now accused of killing them.

Federal judge OKs Austin school plan

AUSTIN (AP) — This city's neighborhood school system — in which 20 of the 64 elementary schools have an enrollment of 80 percent or more minorities — does not discriminate against blacks and Hispanics, a federal judge ruled Friday.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin said the Austin Independent School District acted in good faith by implementing a neighborhood school system in 1987 that officials said was designed to improve the quality of education.

"That some racially identifiable schools resulted from the implementing of the new plan is not alone an indication of a school system that intentionally practices segregation," Nowlin said.

He dismissed accusations from minority parents who sued the school district claiming the neighborhood school system was a pretext to reinstate segregation.

But Gary Bledsoe, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, said of the ruling, "It is with deep regret that I have observed that the hands of time have been turned back, that we are now officially moving back into a segregated and separate society."

The current school plan, Bledsoe told a news conference, "legitimizes segregation."

John Ellis, superintendent of the Austin

Independent School District, said, "I invite the community and plaintiffs to work with us to ensure that all children receive a high-quality educational program."

"It's time to come together and work for all children," he said.

At issue is a 1987 plan adopted by school district trustees designed to shorten bus rides for students and more efficiently use school space in the face of state mandates to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio.

Another concern behind the plan was the loss of families and students to private schools and outlying school districts.

Prior to implementation of the plan, six of 65 elementary schools had an enrollment of more than 80 percent minorities. That number grew to 20 of 64.

According to testimony at the trial last November, this increase was due to the high concentrations of minorities in certain areas of the city.

Nowlin said the school district "should not be considered a villain... merely because a legitimately motivated plan fell prey to the geographical limitations of the district."

The plaintiffs also claimed facilities at the minority schools were inferior to those at the predominantly white schools, but Nowlin

said that was the state's fault for mandating school improvements without providing funding.

He noted that state lawmakers will return Feb. 27 in a special legislative session on the public school finance system, which has been declared unconstitutional by the Texas Supreme Court because of disparities in funding between poor and rich school districts.

Nowlin wrote "risks must be taken" and local governments given a chance to grapple with racial problems, adding "for in the end the energy which continues to spawn racial unrest in this country must be neutralized by its citizens and not through the endless scrutiny of the federal judiciary."

David Van Os, an Austin attorney who represented the Texas Civil Liberties Union, said, "What this decision really means is that the school children of Austin who suffered in the past, who continue to suffer in the present, are going to continue to suffer in the future."

Bledsoe of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Nowlin's ruling would be appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Teen gets 30-day sentence for killing pregnant llama

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The attorneys agreed that Cantu, charged with criminal mischief, should be placed on probation for 10 years and be ordered to pay the animal's owner \$22,000 in restitution.

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Pastor Lyndon Glaesman noted that the program is part of the monthly Men's Meeting and open to men around the area.

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"Yet, early did our forefathers recognize that at some point church and state must be separated in order to prevent abuses and persecutions."

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He suggested that free reservations be made through the church for the program and a free meal by calling 665-0842.

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The Pampa News

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Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Socialized medicine could bankrupt us

Last month West Virginia Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV recommended imposing a socialized health scheme on the entire country. The liberal Democrat heads the United States Bipartisan Commission on Health Care, which was appointed by President Reagan, who should have known better.

Sen. Rockefeller's recommendations closely resemble those by Sen. Edward Kennedy and are much like the scheme imposed on Massachusetts by Kennedy's close friend and ally, Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Like the actual one imposed by Gov. Dukakis, Sen. Kennedy's plan would force employers either to provide health care for all employees or pay a tax that would subsidize government-provided care for all people without health insurance. How much would the tax be? That hasn't been decided yet by the full commission (which has yet to approve the Rockefeller plan).

Whatever the commission recommends, we can expect that Congress will up the ante. Senate Majority leader George J. Mitchell will introduce his own socialized medicine plan this month.

But let's look to Massachusetts. In recent months, the state's bond rating has dropped to bottom of the 50 states. Gov. Dukakis's approval rating has plummeted to 15 percent, lowest of any governor in the state's history, and he has been forced to dismantle parts of the program while also calling for yet more tax hikes to pay for a debt running into the hundreds of millions of dollars. The socialized medicine scheme has effectively bankrupted the state.

The Rockefeller plan, if imposed, would spread the same disease across the whole country. It would also cause a shortage of some types of health care; this happens when government guarantees anything free to everyone. The government would then have to decide which types of health care get priority for scarce funds and who gets that care. In Canada, this has led to long lines for heart surgery and other critical operations. Things are so bad that many Canadians now drive south to America and pay for care.

What can be done? Decrease government taxation of small companies, for example, by reducing or eliminating the capital gains tax. This would return to companies their own money, allowing them to give health benefits to more workers and to hire more of those currently unemployed and uninsured. Decreased taxation would also increase charitable giving, the only decent way to provide for the needy.

Earlier last year, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski was chased through the streets by constituents angry at the heavy tax imposed by the 1988 catastrophic health bill. Sen. Rockefeller may well find himself similarly hounded for proposing his socialized medicine scheme.

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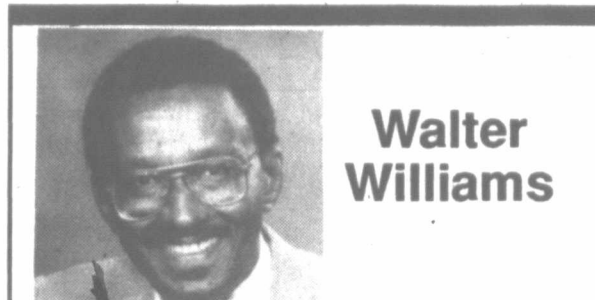
Double standards are dangerous

Black leaders, white liberals, the news media and government officials do great damage to racial harmony. Decent people must respond by demanding honesty, morality and responsibility before we find our reservoir of racial goodwill completely depleted.

Racial double standards are part of the problem. In Bensonhurst, N.Y., last year, white youths set upon Yusef Hawkins, a black 16-year old, and murdered him. And back in 1986, in Howard Beach, N.Y., white youths attacked Michael Griffiths, who went to his death trying to flee. These despicable racist incidents received nationwide attention and rightful condemnation.

In 1986, in Windar, Georgia, a black student killed a white high school principal. In College Park, Georgia, a gang known as the "Bad Black Boys" shot a white youth to death. Neither of these racial incidents received wide media attention or roused moral outrage from black leaders or white liberals. In the case of the murdered white principal, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) leader Reverend Joseph Lowery's main concern was that the black youth receive a fair trial.

What can we say about people who exhibit moral indignation at a racist white attack but remain silent when there is a racist black attack? There is only one answer: hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy. What can we say about newspapers who go to great lengths to publicize white-on-black



Walter Williams

murders but remain relatively silent about black-on-white crime? Again, nothing less than dishonesty and deception.

Earlier this year, ABC-TV's Ted Koppel provided us with theatre by airing a Town Hall meeting on race. A Howard University psychologist announced that drugs in black neighborhoods are part of a white plot to destroy blacks. That's absurd: what's worse, she was applauded, and Koppel, out of ignorance or fear of being labeled racist, didn't take her to task. Using her "expert" reasoning, shared by others, fat people can blame supermarkets for plotting their destruction; gamblers can blame casinos for their addiction; and alcoholics can blame distilleries for their plight.

On college campuses, black professors are permitted to refer to whites as "honkies" or genetically inferior, but a white professor, who merely assigns a reading critical of affirmative action, can be censured by his colleagues for being racially insensi-

tive. Some colleges single out black students for cash prizes, as high as \$500, for maintaining C grades. White high school teachers, seeking transfers to better schools, are turned down in favor of black teachers, unless their specialty is math or the sciences, where a shortage exists.

If racial double standards were only despicable, we might breathe a collective sigh of relief. But official double standards produce the equivalent of highly combustible kindling waiting for a racial arsonist to set it afire. White people, who would otherwise ignore racists like the Klan and Skinheads, are now giving them a sympathetic ear. As such we shouldn't be surprised to see more people like David Duke winning political office.

For the most part, Americans are fair-minded people. White people have no problem plunking down hard cash to see: basketball games where sometimes 100 percent of both starting team members are black; or football games where 55 percent of the players are black; or boxing matches where the black fighter brains the whites fighter every time. None of this unevenness generates the racial resentment of racial quotas and double standards because there is the perception of fair play.

Multi-ethnic societies are inherently fragile. To preserve civility, we condemn those who, through demagoguery, ignorance and self-serving monetary gain, destroy racial goodwill. We begin with non-negotiable demands for evenhanded treatment.



Trouble practicing girth control

A recent episode of CBS's hilarious *Designing Women* dealt with the issue of overweight women, aka, fat girls.

Delta Burke, who plays the pudgy Suzanne Sugarbaker on the program, has been gaining weight steadily since *DW*'s debut, and there have even been reports she might be written out of the cast if she continues adding the poundage.

But that obviously is not true. Not only is Delta Burke still in the cast, but the episode mentioned earlier gave the message that overweight women are tired of being held in low esteem.

Said Suzanne Sugarbaker, "All my life I've had to fight my weight. It's not that I want to be fat. I just don't feel I have to be thin to be loved."

Thin has been in for women for a very long time (since milkmaids) and it must be quite frustrating for a woman who can't seem to keep from gaining weight.

One of the male's deepest fears always has been getting lined up with a blind date who turns out to be a fat girl.

You know the drill. Somebody gets you a blind date and you ask how she looks.

There's trouble if the answer has anything to do with your date's personality, impressive bowling average, or the fact her father has lots of money.

That happened to me. Soon after my first



Lewis Grizzard

divorce, a wife of a friend said, "I've got you a great blind date."

"What does she look like?" I asked.

"She's got a great personality," was the answer.

She was a fat girl. We went to the bowling alley that her father owned.

There is also the deep-seated male fear that a woman he marries, thin as his bride, might emerge into plumpdom afterwards.

A friend married recently, but before he did he checked out each female of his bride's family to make certain there was no family history of post-marital thunderthighs.

He did notice from a photograph that his fiancée's great grandmother, a former milkmaid, had some rather pronounced jowls, but he went ahead with the marriage anyway - figuring as long

as he hadn't found any evidence of weight problems until three generations back, he was safe.

There are several ways it would seem to me an overweight woman can deal with that situation. There are all sorts of diets available. There are operations that can suck the weight right off you, or you can be like Delta Burke and say, "So, I'm fat. That doesn't make me a bad person."

Cordie Mae Poovey, a fat girl in my school, was like that. She was big as a train wreck but used her weight to her advantage.

One day in 5th-grade geography class, Alvin Bates said to Cordie Mae, "Hey, Cordie Mae, don't ever move to Rhode Island. You wouldn't fit."

Cordie Mae put Alvin into a hammerlock and beat his head against the blackboard until four teachers, the principal and Lamar, the janitor, could pull her off.

This was the start of Cordie Mae's brilliant career as a female wrestler.

You may recall her as "The Masked Whale."

An overweight woman can find love, too.

After retiring from the mat, Cordie Mae married Hog Philpott, and they are still quite happy together.

Simply remember what Hog still says about living with Cordie Mae: "Thin may be in, but fat's where it's at."

While you pay, Congress gets richer

By VINCENT CARROLL

Here are a couple of things to remember this year, to let simmer in the back of your mind all the way until November.

First, your FICA payroll tax rate (for Social Security and Medicare) has just jumped again, by 2.3 percent, for the 15th time in 27 years. And the tax now tops out at \$3,924.45 a year, up nearly 9 percent from the previous maximum.

Second, although your taxes are going up, this year is going to be a banner one for members of Congress, now that President Bush has signed their pay hike into law. House salaries will jump from \$89,500 to \$96,500, and to more than \$120,000 in 1991, plus a cost-of-living adjustment.

Senate pay will rise as well, though not by as much. Senior bureaucrats will also enjoy a 35 percent raise.

But that's only half of the insult. Perhaps you're among the minority of Americans who believes Congress actually deserves such a huge pay hike, that men and women of such status and responsibility should earn more than they do.

You may not buy congressional sob stories about how hard it is to get by on a salary three or four times the national average, but you still don't begrudge them an extra 30 grand.

If you are one of these understanding souls (more understanding than I am, certainly), then even your patience should fray upon learning of the pension riches Congress has bestowed upon itself in its latest pay package.

Watchful analysts at the National Taxpayers Union have put on their green eye shades and done some figuring. Their conclusion: 254 members of the House and 77 senators could become pension millionaires

because of the pay hike, assuming they live as long as most men and women of their ages.

Many could become pension multi-millionaires, in fact, with several members of Congress topping out at more than \$3 million in benefits.

"The pension perk could be worth another \$60,000 in hidden annual income," says David Keating, NTU's executive vice president.

As an example, let's say that House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash. - one of the main supporters of the pay hike - retires after another term. The very first year he'll earn \$99,190 in pension benefits, and that sum will ratchet up annually with inflation (something few private pensions do).

Needless to say, Foley is one of the potential pension multimillionaires. But Bob Micheal, House minority leader from Illinois, does even better. His first annual payment would exceed \$100,000. Even some-

one with only 10 years of service will receive an initial benefit of about \$25,000.

Better yet, depending on when they were first elected, members of Congress can start drawing their pension as early as age 50 - another rare deal among private plans.

There's probably no stopping this raid on the federal Treasury, since it's now official law. Members of Congress have effectively ensured that they will live, whether working or retired, as mandarins - pampered and protected. Not even a future binge of high inflation can crimp their lifestyles.

Yet that doesn't mean we must limply endure their highhanded behavior.

Come November, why not remember what they did, and act upon that knowledge? They wanted a push retirement, let's give them one.

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Loyal brother, adored husband... bloody murder

By GEORGE ESPER
AP Special Correspondent

BOSTON (AP) — Her head lolled sideways like that of a rag doll, dark hair dangling over a contorted, bloodied face. An emergency breathing tube, useless, as it turned out, protruded from her mouth.

Who would not believe the anguished story of Carol Stuart's husband, who sat next to his pregnant wife, his shoulder cushioning her head, his blood-splattered shirt torn wide to expose the bullet hole in his belly?

Chuck Stuart, teeth gritted with pain, had barely been able to summon help on his car phone. "My wife's been shot, I've been shot. ... Oh, man, it hurts and my wife has stopped gurgling, she's stopped breathing."

Even Carol Stuart's family never doubted his story that a black gunman with a raspy voice had commandeered their car as they left a hospital birthing class, then robbed and shot them.

"Never, never," said her brother, Carl DiMaiti. "He seemed so believable. There he was lying in a hospital with tubes and intravenous and there'd never been any problem that anyone could see between him and Carol. So why would anyone doubt him?"

Now, 11 days after Stuart's terrible hoax was exposed with his suicide leap off a bridge, authorities are sorting rumors and evidence, both focusing on insurance money, looking for a motive in Carol Stuart's murder and any partners in the plot.

One of the most fascinating — and repellent — aspects of the Stuart case is that two younger brothers had early knowledge of the crime. Last week, Matthew Stuart, 23, told his attorney he'd known for 2 1/2 months about the plot to kill his sister-in-law. On Friday, Richard Clayman, attorney for Michael Stuart, disclosed to reporters that Matthew told Michael, 27, about the plot Oct. 26, just three days after Carol's death.

Matthew Stuart stood at Carol's wake and carried her casket. Under Massachusetts law, no one can be charged with a crime for failing to report what they suspect, but all over Boston people are saying that Matthew and Michael had a moral obligation to come forward.

"If they did know and they sat with us and cried, then it is the ultimate hypocrisy," said Carl DiMaiti.

Details of the plot kept tumbling out last week. Stuart was the beneficiary of at least two insurance policies on his wife totaling \$182,000, and authorities were said to be checking reports of at least one other policy worth more than twice that amount. Published reports said Stuart needed the money to realize a

dream of starting his own restaurant. A nickel-plated .38-caliber revolver pulled Tuesday from the Pines River in suburban Revere, where Chuck Stuart grew up, appears to be the one stolen from the fur store he managed. Chuck and Carol Stuart were shot with a .38-caliber gun, although it has not been determined if the gun from the river was the weapon that shot either of them. She was 30 weeks before his suicide.

A grand jury convening Friday was to investigate the evidence and rumors still flying around Boston.

Carl DiMaiti has heard them all: that some neighbors suspected Chuck from the beginning, that he stayed out on Friday nights because he was having an affair, that the couple was heard arguing loudly.

"I would like one of them to come up to me and say (that). (I would say) 'Oh, really, do you think you knew her better or you saw her more than her parents and her very close friends?'"

"I hear she was upset because he went out on a Friday night. I think that's a pretty common occurrence in marriages. Chuck was a great sports fan. He was often at Celtics or Bruins games. I never saw them arguing. They were a very loving couple. They did things together. They went out to eat. They went to shows."

Death & DECEIT
THE STUART CASE

Much of the nation saw him that way, too, the suburbanite living the middle-class American dream, victimized by city crime. People were outraged by the images of a woman in her death throes, a woman expecting her first child at Christmastime.

"I was shocked out of my mind," said Rosemary Leone, an aunt. "I prayed that she didn't suffer."

But a tragedy that might have been treated as a routine urban crime story took on another dimension because of a dramatic, tape-recorded 10-minute exchange between the wounded Stuart and state police dispatcher Gary McLaughlin, who pleaded with Stuart to hang on until patrol cars could find him.

"You can't blank out on me, I need you, man. Chuck? Chuck? Chuck, can you hear me? Chuck ... Chuck, pick up the phone, I can hear you breathing there, Chuck,

come on, buddy." The drama, which tore at hearts and brought torrents of sympathy cards from as far away as Italy, remained riveting for weeks. Stuart wrote a poignant letter that was read at his wife's funeral. "I will never again know the feeling of your hand in mine, but I will always feel you," it read in part. "I miss you and I love you."

He asked forgiveness for her killer. "For us to truly believe, we must know that (God's) will was done and that there was some right in this meanest of acts. In our souls, we must forgive this sinner because He would, too."

Their baby, Christopher, died 17 days after his premature birth. Stuart, hospitalized six weeks, left his bed to kiss his dying son goodbye.

Stuart's dark side now shadows living victims. His father, Charles Sr., who has Parkinson's disease, and his mother, Dot, who recently had a cancerous breast removed, apparently were told by other children of Chuck's involvement in Carol's murder just two days before his suicide.

Chuck's mother and two half-sisters visited Giusto and Evelyn DiMaiti three or four times in November and early December. Carl DiMaiti recalled the Stuarts speaking fondly of his sister: "You know, what a lovely girl Carol was, how Chuck can never replace her, how much they loved Carol, how special she was."

Chuck spent his last night, Jan. 3, in a hotel room, avoiding police who by now were watching his suburban Reading home. Hours before, officers had heard Matthew describe how Chuck tossed him Carol's Gucci bag containing the .38-caliber revolver and her jewelry, apparently just after the shootings. The bag was recovered from the same river as the gun.

Chuck scrawled out a note on hotel stationery saying he loved his family and could not handle the allegations about to be made about him. Around 7 a.m., he drove to Boston's Tobin Bridge.

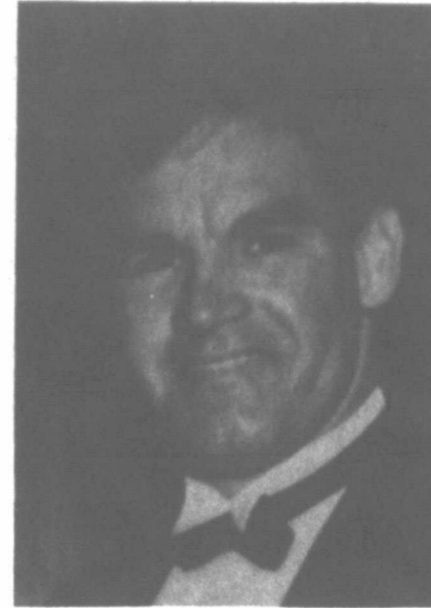
There, he parked the \$22,000 Nissan Maxima he had bought with part of the \$82,000 insurance settlement from the publishing company where his wife worked as a tax attorney. He laid his note on the passenger seat then leaped into the cold waters of Boston Harbor.

Even in death, Stuart continued to fool people. The first word of his suicide prompted sympathy and sorrow from the DiMaitis, who were expecting him that night for dinner. Mrs. DiMaiti had even checked what foods Chuck could easily digest because of his stomach wounds and resultant colostomy.

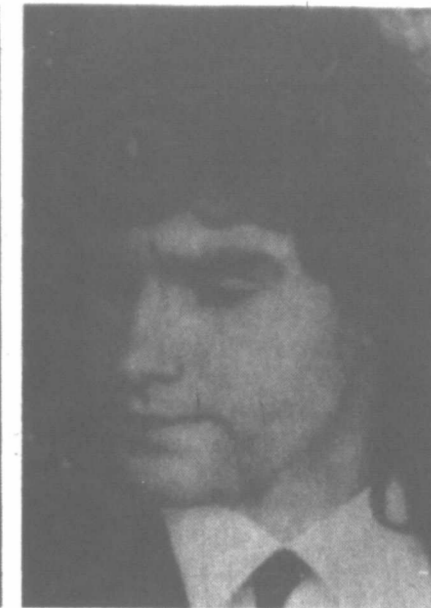
"We were grieving for Chuck because we thought he killed him-



Carol Stuart



Charles Stuart



Matthew Stuart

self through grief," said Carl DiMaiti. "He couldn't go on without Carol and Christopher. My God, he's thrown himself off the bridge in the ultimate act of love. Then, to find out from the police that he was a prime suspect, it was more than you can take."

The DiMaitis were devastated. Giusto, 64, who had open heart surgery a few years ago, was rushed to a hospital, gasping for breath with his blood pressure rising. His wife could not stop crying. Carol was their only daughter. Her father had paid her way through law school by laboring as a pizza dough maker.

Many others touched earlier by the attack on the Stuarts, such as the emergency medical crews and McLaughlin, the dispatcher, felt revulsion at the revelations.

"It's a pretty remarkable turn of events, very bizarre and twisted, a horrific ending to the real tragedy," McLaughlin said. "Anyone familiar with the case would have ... an empty feeling about it, especially the people involved in the mission, police and nurses."

Others felt fury and anger. Stuart's original story about a

black assailant touched off a vast manhunt. Police fanned out through the Mission Hill neighborhood, frisking black men. State politicians called for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

"When I ordered an aggressive police response ... I wanted to send a strong signal ... to show the city's outrage," Mayor Raymond Flynn said.

Three weeks after the murder, William Bennett, a 39-year-old paroled convict with a long record of violence, including the shooting of a police officer, was arrested and held on a warrant for a motor vehicle violation.

Bennett became the prime suspect

in the Stuart case after grand jury witnesses said he had boasted of committing the crime.

Stuart's suicide cleared Bennett, but black leaders were furious. They asserted that Bennett had been railroaded, that his and other blacks' constitutional rights had been violated. They accused law officers of being all too willing to narrow their investigation to the black community.

Paul Leary, first assistant district attorney of Suffolk County, responded that black neighborhood residents themselves had led police to Bennett as the No. 1 suspect.

"Folks, Charles Stuart took us all in," said Flynn.

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Trucker also approached about murder of Stuart's wife, Boston newspaper reports

BOSTON (AP) — Charles Stuart tried to enlist two of his brothers in the plot to murder his pregnant wife, and one became at least an unwitting partner and the other begged off of "any sort of crazy thing," a lawyer said.

Attorney Richard Clayman told reporters Thursday that his client, Michael Stuart, and another brother, Matthew, were the only family members who knew of the crime before Jan. 1.

But he also revealed that Michael Stuart had been approached by Charles weeks before the Oct. 23 slaying but did not realize the significance of the overture.

Three days after the shooting that his brother claimed had been at the hands of a mugger, Matthew Stuart told Michael Stuart that he had disposed of the suspected murder weapon at his brother's request. Matthew and Michael Stuart did not share their knowledge with the rest of the family until shortly before Charles Stuart committed suicide Jan. 4, Clayman said.

"The appearance that has evolved in my judgment is that some type of conspiratorial scenario existed by and between all

of these family members sitting around talking about keeping something hidden. That is not true," said Clayman.

Accompanying Clayman at a news conference were Michael and Mark Stuart and two sisters, Shelley Yandoli and Neysa Porter. Matthew Stuart did not attend.

The Boston Globe reported Friday that Charles Stuart had asked a truck driver for help in killing his wife, but the man refused. Stuart told the man his wife refused to get an abortion, the paper said, citing investigative sources.

Investigators found a third bullet in the car in which the shootings occurred, the Boston Herald and the Globe reported. The bullet reportedly was either in the roof liner or the left visor.

The Herald said investigators were trying to determine if the bullet had been fired by a third person in the back seat, but the

Globe said authorities believe Stuart fired the shot to back up a story that the robber fired at his head, missed and fired again. Stuart was shot in the stomach, his wife in the head.

The Herald also reported being told by an unidentified family source that Matthew told family members the gun believed used in the shootings was passed to him by Charles over the body of his dying wife.

Matthew, who was in another car, reportedly told police he had seen something in the passenger seat of his brother's car but did not know it was Carol.

Clayman was asked if Charles Stuart ever asked Michael Stuart for assistance in killing his wife.

"There may have been an early, disjointed, vague conversation by and between Charles Stuart and my client, Michael Stuart, weeks before Oct. 23," he answered.

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New Jersey sues Exxon over spill; New York holds off



(AP Laserphoto)

Animal rescue workers apply eyedrops to a Canada goose last week at a treatment center set up at the Exxon refinery in Linden, N.J. More than 300 water fowl were killed in a 567,000-gallon heating oil spill from an underwater Exxon pipeline 11 days ago. Environmentalists fear the oil may have damaged the fertility of fish and crustacean breeding grounds in the Arthur Kill waterway leading to further wildlife deaths.

Witnesses say woman charged in murder showed no emotion for infant daughters

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Nurses said a woman who is charged with killing one daughter and implicated in the death of another was "cold and emotionless" toward the infant girls but "thrilled and adoring" of her son.

Nurse Bernice Stupperich, testifying Friday in the trial of Paula Marie Sims, recalled her "cold, blank stare" when she saw newborn Heather. Mrs. Sims is accused of suffocating the 6-week-old girl in April. Her first child, Lorelei Marie, died after two weeks of life in 1986.

Mrs. Sims in both cases told authorities a masked gunman had entered her home and snatched the babies, later discovered dead.

She is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Heather, and could face the death penalty if convicted. She faces trial later for obstruction of justice and concealment of a homicide in the death of Lorelei in June 1986. No one has been charged in Lorelei's slaying.

Defense attorney Donald Groshong spent hours Friday

attacking the testimony of Stephanie Werner Cook, who shared a hospital room with Mrs. Sims in March when Heather was born.

Mrs. Cook said Mrs. Sims described what she said was the 1986 kidnapping of Lorelei to her, using details of the story Mrs. Sims later told police when Heather disappeared.

Madison County prosecutor Donald Weber said Mrs. Sims was groggy from her Caesarean section and

slipped up in describing Lorelei's death to Mrs. Cook, providing proof that Mrs. Sims already was planning to kill Heather.

Groshong accused Mrs. Cook of fabricating the story, implying that she could not be believed because she was suffering complications from her own childbirth.

He also got Mrs. Cook to admit that Mrs. Sims was affectionate toward Heather, often talking and singing to the baby and kissing her.

By TODD RICHISSIN
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Meetings between New York and Exxon Corp. officials led to a last-minute agreement to try to settle differences out of court, but New Jersey officials have gone to court over the spill of 567,000 gallons of oil in the Arthur Kill.

Exxon, in response to the threat of a lawsuit by New York, said it will pay for "appropriate" environmental studies of its oil spill, but that it has accepted responsibility only for "damages for which it is liable."

New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams said Friday that he has decided not to file the lawsuit because Exxon committed itself to paying for a study to assess damage from the spill, as well as for the cleanup.

But New Jersey Attorney General Peter Perretti Jr. filed the civil lawsuit in Superior Court in Elizabeth, charging Exxon violated the New Jersey Spill Act, the state's Water Pollution Control Act and state common law.

If Exxon is found liable for all the violations, it could be hit with fines of \$50,000 per day, per violation. The number of alleged violations has not been determined, according to the attorney general's office.

The lawsuit also seeks to force Exxon to pay any expenses the state incurs because of the spill, said John Hagerty, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"The state is incurring substantial costs," Hagerty said. "Whatever we spend, we anticipate Exxon paying for, either voluntarily or pursuant to a court ruling. And we haven't been able to put a price tag on our environment

yet."

Carol Ash, regional director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said cleanup and restoration of the area will run into the millions of dollars. Under Exxon's agreement with New York State, the state environmental agency will oversee damage assessment and Exxon will not participate in determining the extent of the damage, Ash said.

In New Jersey, Hagerty said Exxon has neither agreed nor refused to pay the bill.

"It's a major environmental accident with serious ramifications for the natural resources and everything that's involved," said Christopher Florentz, spokesman for Perretti. "It just seemed that a case should be brought at this point in this time."

Exxon spokesman Phil Wetz said the company could not respond to the New Jersey lawsuit because its attorneys have not reviewed it.

Federal officials said they were prepared to fine the company \$10,000 daily starting Wednesday unless they received a detailed explanation of how more than a half million gallons of oil was able to spill into the waterway.

Wetz said Exxon would have no comment on the threatened fines.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has given Exxon until Wednesday to explain how the spill occurred, what the company's response was to protect the environment and what is being done to restore the environment.

"The response from Exxon wasn't what we would have liked," said EPA spokeswoman Kim Helper, in New York. "We were particularly concerned about

the initial low estimates. When you hear about a 5,000-gallon spill you respond one way. When you hear about a 500,000-gallon spill you react another way."

By Friday, the Coast Guard's tally of dead birds had risen to at least 317. Forty-eight live birds have been recovered and are being treated.

When the leak was discovered Jan. 2, the Coast Guard, using information provided by Exxon, estimated the spill at only 5,000 gallons. That has since been revised to 567,000 gallons.

Florentz said an investigation is under way to see if New Jersey would file criminal charges on top of its civil suit.

Exxon officials said immediately following the spill that a leak-detection system indicated a problem with the pipeline. The system had been giving false signals for about one year, the officials said, so it was switched off by an employee. When it did not indicate a problem a second time, it was ignored, they said.

The New Jersey lawsuit said, "Both Exxon personnel and the leak detection system caused and failed to prevent the discharge of oil and failed to immediately shut down the transfer to prevent the discharge of large quantities of oil."

Edward T. DiCorcia, vice-president of refining for Exxon USA, said Friday that the system was a good one.

He said that although it may have been giving false signals for a year, the system, until the spill, had erred on the side of safety.

"The system did have a mechanical malfunction, like a Mercedes with a flat tire," DiCorcia said. "But the malfunction was not known at the time."

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What's in a word? Too much or too little when it's a media buzzword

By JOHN HORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega called them "dignity battalions." NBC's Tom Brokaw said "Norega's goons." Should "anti-abortion" replace "pro-life"? Is it "crippled" or "physically challenged?"

And what about "black"? Why not "African American?"

In the quick-draw world of media buzzwords, it's far simpler to spot a "pro-democracy" movement than to find easy answers to these linguistic dilemmas. After all, one person's "freedom fighter" might be another's "terrorist."

Even what some consider the most straightforward labels now are being challenged.

The Rev. Pat Robertson has objected to being called a "televangelist." Special Olympics holds that "hearing

impaired" is preferable to "deaf."

Why the attention to detail? Public-relations consultants and special-interest groups are convinced journalistic shorthand affects public opinion — one word can shift sympathies in subtle, but lasting, ways.

If you're fighting for citizenship, it's better to be called an "undocumented worker" than an "illegal alien."

And since "liberal" has taken on negative connotations, some left-of-center organizations now say they're "progressive."

The fight over language, politics and the media was examined at length by George Orwell in 1946. But with the advent of news compression — "Give us 22 minutes, and we'll give you the world!" — the semantic scrap has intensified.

"The terminology is extremely important," said Douglas Gould, vice president of communications for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"It helps form an impression in people's minds about what the different groups are really all about. ... It is the first step in framing the debate."

Nowhere is the fight over buzzwords more intense than in the abortion battle. After calling the opposing sides "pro-abortion" and "pro-life" for several years, the media now often refer to the rival sides as "pro-choice" and "anti-abortion."

Even that description, some journalists and media critics agree, is biased in favor of abortion-rights advocates: The implication is that anyone who's not "pro-choice" is "anti-choice."

"The other side wants to be for something, and they want us to be against something," said Dan Donehey, director of public relations for the National Right to Life Committee, which opposes abortion. "The public tends to lean toward a group that is in favor of something."

Yet if reporters were to reverse course and describe

Donehey's constituents as "pro-life," the implication would be that the other camp is "anti-life." So what's to be done?

"The closest that I could come up with, as neutral terms, and I'm not satisfied with this either, is 'abortion-rights advocates' and 'abortion opponents,'" said Jeff Greenfield, a reporter for ABC News.

Snappy labels — "Star Wars" or "pro-democracy" — may add little to our understanding of complicated issues.

"The genesis for this is really television, with its short attention span and its desire to compress everything into little nuggets of information," said media critic Mark Hertsgaard, author of *On Bended Knee: The Press and the Reagan Presidency*.

"I think the use of shorthand has become at least as much a liability" as an asset, Hertsgaard said. "It discourages any kind of nuance or complex understanding of political events."

Inflation rate hits 4.8% for 1989 — worst in 8 years

By DAVE SKIDMORE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale prices jumped 0.7 percent in December to boost inflation for 1989 to 4.8 percent, the worst showing in eight years, the government said.

The gain in the Labor Department's Producer Price Index for finished goods, one step short of retail, topped last year's rate of 4.0 percent and more than doubled the 1987 rate of 2.2 percent.

It marked the third consecutive year that price increases have accelerated and was the steepest rise since the index shot up 7.1 percent in 1981.

The annual number for 1989 masked a roller-coaster ride that had prices rising at better than a 9 percent annual rate in the first five months of the year, slowing to a 1 percent annual rate from June through November and then soaring again in December.

Prices had fallen 0.1 percent in November and risen 0.4 percent in October.

As with inflation early in the year, wholesale price gains in December were fueled by a steep rise in the energy sector, where prices rose 1.4 percent for the month and 9.6 percent for the entire year.

The deep freeze that gripped much of the nation last month helped boost fuel oil prices 7.1 percent and natural gas costs 1.6 percent. Gasoline prices were unchanged after falling 7.1 percent in November.

For the year, fuel oil was up 33.9 percent, the biggest rise since 1979 when fuel oil prices rose 70.5 percent. Gasoline rose 9.2 percent for the year and natural gas, 3.5 percent, the report indicated Friday.

The cold also played a role in food costs last month, which rose a moderate 0.5 percent overall. Vegetable prices shot up 4.1 percent and egg prices rose 4.7 percent. But those gains were somewhat offset by substantial price drops for pasta, pork, turkey and shortening and cooking oil.

For the year, egg prices were up 40.9 percent, on top of a 42.1 percent rise in 1988; pork prices rose 19.4 percent and dairy products, 14.3 percent. However, fresh fruit declined 10.4 percent; chicken, 8.9 percent; and fish, 5.7 percent.

December's overall gain of 0.7 percent was higher than the 0.5 percent increase that many analysts had expected.

The inflation rate excluding the volatile food and energy sectors shot up 0.6 percent last month, in large part because of a 4.5 percent jump in tobacco prices. Passenger car prices rose a brisk 0.6 percent, but for the year were up only 2.1 percent because of weak sales.

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Cult leader thought Jesus would destroy all but his followers



(AP Laserphoto)

By DWIGHT WOODWARD
Associated Press Writer

KIRTLAND, Ohio (AP) — A cult leader accused of murdering a five-member family in his flock preached that Jesus would return to Earth and destroy everyone but his followers, a minister familiar with the cult said.

Jeffrey Lundgren, his wife, their 19-year-old son and two of his followers were arrested this week, and eight others have been arrested in the shootings on a farm where the small cult lived until April 1989.

Dale Luffman, president of the northeast Ohio chapter of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said Lundgren worked from 1985 to 1987 at a church temple in Kirtland, about 30 miles east of Cleveland.

Lundgren, once a lay minister of the Reorganized Church, conducted tours of the church's 153-year-old temple in Kirtland when he moved here from Kansas City, Mo., Luffman said.

Lundgren lived on church property until he began preaching radical doctrines during tours, Luffman said. He was defrocked and left the church with some followers to form his cult in 1987, Luffman said.

Several of Lundgren's followers who left the cult told authorities that the leader had violent beliefs, which included death threats against members of his flock, Luffman said.

"There were some that dropped out," Luffman said. "One alerted authorities about things that really scared him."

Lundgren preached to his followers, who were estimated at more than a dozen, that Jesus would destroy anyone not inside the historic Kirtland temple where he once worked.

The temple was founded in 1836 by Joseph Smith, founder of the Salt Lake City-based Mormon Church, which shares some beliefs with the Reorganized Church, based

in Independence, Mo., but is not affiliated with it.

Lundgren named two specific dates when Jesus was to return to Earth, but the days came and went, Luffman said.

"When that moment was supposed to occur, they were to be in the temple. Only those who got in the temple would be saved and the unrighteous would be destroyed," Luffman said. "They believed that they were the only people God could speak to."

The remains of the family, including three daughters, were found recently, buried in a barn on the farm that Lundgren rented about 11/2 miles east of this northeast Ohio community.

Authorities have identified the five as Dennis Avery, 49; his wife, Cheryl, 42; and their three daughters, Trina, 15; Rebecca, 13; and Karen, 7. Investigators believe they were killed in mid-April.

In addition to being shot, the vic-

tim's eyes were covered with duct tape, and some had their hands and feet bound with duct tape, Kirtland Fire Chief Richard A. Martincic said.

Lake County Prosecutor Steven C. LaTourette said the Averys apparently were killed because of Lundgren's interpretation of a prophecy that members had to be sacrificed before the group could relocate to the wilderness.

Luffman, however, said he did not believe the slayings were a sacrifice but probably came after a dispute over money, sex or fear the family would leave the cult.

In all, 13 people were charged with murder or conspiracy in the shooting.

Kirtland Police Chief Dennis Yarborough said his investigation of the house where Lundgren lived began in April 1988 when he heard reports of paramilitary activity and civil rights violations. No charges were filed, Yarborough said.

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Andy Vita, special agent in charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms from the Los Angeles district office, points to the weapons seized in connection with the arrest of five cult members suspected in the slayings of an Ohio family.

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 Proverbs 3:5-6

Jonas takes pen in hand, writes new verse in life

By BEAR MILLS
 Staff Writer

At 51, Don Jonas will be celebrating his first birthday tomorrow.

Four years ago Jonas kicked a 27-year addiction to alcohol and on Jan. 15th of 1989 he became a Christian.

This is, he insisted recently, his first birthday as a new man, born again and personally acquainted with the one whose life gave all other lives meaning.

Jonas said, "I have such a hunger for Bible teaching. I just can't get enough. I remember the stories of Jesus from when I was a kid, but it's all taken on new meaning."

To fully appreciate the depth of Jonas' remarks, it is important to know that he spent 27 years as an active alcoholic, living, he said, "with this macho ideal of totally suppressing emotion and things like crying."

"I was trying to be like the hero in those western movies where you drink a fifth of whiskey, beat up six or seven guys and then go out and herd the cattle."

"That's the kind of thing I was trying to live up to, but it didn't work."

Jonas said after almost 30 years of being under the influence of alcohol constantly, he was "whooped down physically."

Counted among his ailments were cirrhosis of the liver, an enlarged heart, a spastic colon and high blood pressure.

"The damage and the pain I caused my family was so terrible," the recovering alcoholic admitted.

"I had to go to a treatment center in Fort Worth, I was so bad. How my wife, Martha, put up with me for 27 years - nobody is supposed to have that much patience and love."

With the unfailing compassion of his family and a great deal of help from other recovering alcoholics, Jonas was able to stop drinking.

But he still heard an inner voice telling him that physical and spiritual renewal did not just mean giving up the negative.

It also meant acceptance. But acceptance of what? It was a nagging question Jonas couldn't get answered for several years.

"I was just one step away from God giving up on me," he remembered. "It was this time last year that my Mom had Alzheimer's and passed away. We were so tired."

"Martha said, 'You need a church home.' But she went to First Baptist and I thought that was just too big a church for me. For some reason, though, I went anyway. And you know, the Sunday before I was saved, when the invitation came, I started crying."

"My wife was trying to kick me down the aisle, but my macho pride won out."

That week the nagging questions grew louder inside Jonas' head.

During a conversation with First Baptist Pastor Darrel Rains, Jonas said he realized that while he had given up alcohol, his eternal well-being was still in peril, something he had known, but been unwilling to admit all along.

"The next Sunday when the invitation came, I was bawling so hard I couldn't even talk," Jonas said. "But the pastor knew what I wanted."

That was on Jan. 15, 1989, the day he quit trying to live up to the Hollywood ideal of the real man and took a higher example to heart.

In the last 11 months, Jonas has gone virtually full time into calligraphy, scripting magnificent recreations of his favorite Bible verses.

"When I do a verse, I study it from a lot of translations of the

Bible," Jonas explained. "I may not be able to recite every one of them I've done, but they become a part of me. It helps so much in my study of the Word."

He said because he has no natural ability as an artist, he is shocked at how popular his calligraphy has become.

"What I've got to tell you," Jonas insisted, "is that all of this is happening through no power of my own. I was alive 46 years before I even discovered it. The Lord is leading me in all of this."

Jonas credits Pampa artist Cile Taylor with being the tool through which God taught him calligraphy, something he pursued at the insistence of his wife. At the time he didn't understand how important a role it would play in his salvation and work for God.

"I believe scripture needs to be in the home, whether it's calligraphy or needlepoint or whatever," he said. "It helps the kids to grow up and see it there."

Between Jonas' recent conversion and his dramatic calligraphies, he is gaining attention he never expected, and certainly never sought.

"Even when I was in high school as the captain of the football team, I didn't much like publicity," said Jonas, who was reluctant to allow an article about himself to be printed.

"But, if it could help just one alcoholic to realize how their life can be changed, go ahead," he finally agreed.

Jonas was also the subject of a recent article published in Baptist state newspapers in Texas and New Mexico.

"You know, it's hard to keep from talking about my alcoholism. I started drinking when I was 18 and it did something for me it didn't do for my friends," he said. "But when I got saved, it was a physical lifting of the past off of me. In 27 years of alcohol, you build quite a past. But now everything is brand new."

If you happen to see Jonas on Monday, wish him happy birthday. He will tell you he is celebrating the anniversary of the most important event in his life.

Thank my God
 upon every
 remembrance
 of You.
 Phil. 1:3

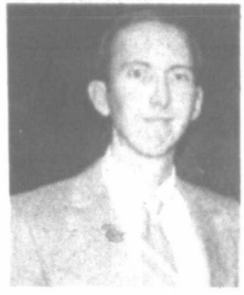
For I am
 not ashamed of the
 gospel of **C**hrist:
 for it is the power of
God,
 unto salvation to
 every one that believeth;
 Romans 1:16

Don
 Jonas
 Calligraphy
 2232 N. Christy Pampa, Tx. 79065

Thou shalt love the **L**ord thy
God with all thy heart, and with all thy
 soul, and with all thy mind. This is the
 first and great commandment.
 Matt. 22:37-38

Stock show weigh-in Jan. 17

Dates
 Jan. 14 - Bob Skaggs Futurity - Bull Barn
 Jan. 15 - Deadline to sign up for Southern Region Youth Advocacy Conference; McLean 4-H Showmanship Show
 Jan. 16 - 4-H Sheep Shearing
 Jan. 17 - 4-H Sheep Shearing: 4-H Animals to weigh in at Gray County and Top O'Texas Stock Shows, 4-6 p.m. - Bull Barn
 Jan. 18 - Gray county Stock Show - 9 a.m. - Bull Barn; Rabbit Show - 7 p.m. - Bull Barn
 Jan. 19 - Top O' Texas Stock Show - 8 a.m. - Bull Barn
 Jan. 20 - Bidder's B-B-Q - noon - Bull Barn; Livestock Sale - 1:30 p.m. - Bull Barn
Stock Show Time
 Its Stock Show time in the Top O'Texas and the Gray County 4-H program is going to be in the middle of it with some 65 4-H youth exhibiting some 120 animals in the Gray County and Top O'Texas Stock Shows.



4-H Corner
 Joe Vann

This will be a very busy week for many of our county 4-H youth. Not only will they be spending a great deal of time in the show ring, they will also be working hard putting the final touches on these animals to make them the very best possible.

In preparation for the stock shows, we will begin shearing sheep by appointment on Monday

or Tuesday afternoons, and will be shearing Wednesday the 17th. All sheep will have to be washed and dried before we will shear them. We will be shearing all this week and hope to finish Wednesday evening. So be sure and arrange to have your sheep ready to shear sometime this week.

On Wednesday between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., all Gray County 4-H animals except rabbits will be weighed in.

In order to weigh your animals in, you or a parent must be there to assist with the weighing of your animals. All 4-H animals that will be showing in the Gray County Show on Thursday should be in the barns by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

The Gray County Stock Show will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. The show order will be

with Barrows, followed by steers, and ending with lambs. This show will be judged by Burt Williams, Hansford County Extension Agent.

Then, between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., all animals entered in the Top O'Texas Stock Show will be weighed in (unless entered in the Gray County Stock Show).

At this time, we will also be weighing in the rabbits for the Top O'Texas Show-Gray County Rabbit Show. The rabbits will then be judged by Danny Messer beginning at 7 p.m. that evening.

The Top O'Texas Stock Show will then be held on Friday, Jan. 19, beginning at 8 a.m. with swine, followed by steers and then lambs. The Top O'Texas Stock Show will be judged by Leon Cooperider from Sayre, OK.

To end the Stock Show activities, a bidders bar-b-que will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, beginning at noon. Anyone who plans to bid on an animal is invited to attend the bar-b-que. The Top O'Texas Sale will then begin at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon, followed by the Gray County Sale.

I would encourage everyone to come out to the shows and sale and see what the young people are doing. Many of the youth have been working for 3-4 months with their animals in preparation for these shows.

Hot physical reaction is cooled by clear thinking

DEAR ABBY: I am as happily married as anyone can be. I have a handsome, successful husband, two children, a lovely home and a rewarding part-time job.

Several years ago, I realized that there was a strong physical attraction between me and one of my husband's closest friends. "Don" was handsome, charming and available. He was very cautious about his approach. He let me know that he was very much attracted to me, but I was no fool.

It was torture trying to decide what to do about this unmistakable physical attraction. Finally, when it was obvious that he was going to ask me to meet him somewhere for a drink, etc., I decided how to handle it. We were at a large party where nobody would think anything about our speaking in whispers. I certainly couldn't say "yes" because my marriage was too important to me. But I couldn't say "no" either, because "no" to an aggressive man is a challenge — like saying "come and get me."

My solution: I pretended I couldn't hear him — or didn't understand him. It was a hurtful thing to do, and I could see the pain in his eyes. For about a year, he barely spoke to me, and then, on one occasion, he made a reference to my rejection. Abby, had I admitted that the feeling was mutual but I couldn't go through with it, it would have fueled the fire.

Today we are distantly friendly, and he often remarks (to others) that I am one person he knows can be trusted.

Everyone knows that physical attraction between the sexes is a fact of life, whether they are married or not. And it's obvious by the divorce rate that very few people know how to deal with it. Sign this ...

COULD HAVE BEEN THERE, BUT WASN'T

DEAR COULD HAVE: You are not only wiser than most, you are also stronger. My hat is off to you.

There's a lesson to be learned here. Every forest fire began with one spark. The flesh is weak, so never let temptation get one foot in the door.

DEAR ABBY: My stepfather was married to my mother for 25 years. She passed away last month. They were deeply in love with each other. They were inseparable — always together, never apart for even one day. He was 80 and she was 70.

Ten days after my mother's funeral, Dad took off his wedding band. I don't think he showed the proper respect for a wife he supposedly loved. What do you think?

A DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: I would not presume to judge another in those circumstances. Perhaps that ring was a constant — and painful — reminder of his loss, and this was his way of accepting it.

Be gentle with him. He could be hurting more than you know.

DEAR ABBY: I am 10 years old. When I grow up, I want to be just like you. I think solving problems and giving advice would be really neat. Sometimes people write interesting things.

Well, I gotta go now. Your friend ...

ERIN METZGER

P.S. When you retire, call me up!

DEAR ERIN: Please don't rush



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

me, honey. I have no plans to retire. I intend to keep right on doing what I'm doing, as long as my fingers (and my head) work.

DEAR ABBY: Recently you advised a 17-year-old virgin to dump her boyfriend because he was pressuring her into sex. Then another reader who disagreed with you said, "Good girls end up alone."

Wrong! I am an 18-year-old "good girl" and have a boyfriend who is also 18. He's an honors graduate, gorgeous and popular. We have been together for two years and have never had sex. I'm not saying that he doesn't want to, but he says that we will wait until I am ready.

NOT READY YET IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT READY: Lucky you. Your "boyfriend" sounds like a real man.

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Vickie Taylor

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Mon.-Tues 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.



When you are not getting through...what can you do?

Single parents, are you seeing more negative moments in your parent-child relationship than positive ones? Would you like some positive helps and ideas to make your parenting job a lot easier?

Tralee Crisis Center will be offering its second ten-week program called "Positive Parenting with Ease", free to the public, beginning Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Center office, 119 N. Frost for single parents and their children.

Lendy Wooldridge, program director, says that new to this 10 week session will be a program especially designed for the children. Children and counselors will be discussing during the 10-week period: feelings, defenses, decision making and risk taking, all kinds of families, touches - good, bad and ugly, specialness, self esteem and saying goodbye.

A breakdown of the evening's schedule for children includes:

- 7:00-7:30 - getting started activity
- 7:30-8:15 - introduction of session topic
- 8:15-8:30 - break with parents
- 8:30-9:00 - activity to re-enforce session topic
- 9:00-9:30 - wrap up and clean up

The "Positive Parenting With Ease" program offers single parents an opportunity to learn how to recognize their child's different abilities at different stages of development; put into action principles and ideas incorporated in group discussions; understand both the parent's and child's characteristics, personalities, and temperaments that can compliment or disrupt the parenting process; and learn to use the network of support around them - such as friends, family, church, school, social services and health agencies. Program goals include increased assertiveness, improved self-control, reduced stress and improved



interpersonal communication.

Program topics for parents for this ten-week session include an evaluation and self-inventory, problem solving, stress management, assertiveness training, money management, child development, health and nutrition, interpersonal relations and re-entry (job search, housing, resources, and networking support).

The "Positive Parenting" program was started last October with grant funds from the Children's Trust Fund of Texas. According to Wooldridge, the January program will incorporate new ideas learned

from the first session including the new children's program. Several parents from the first program will serve as volunteer coordinators for the second term.

"Volunteers are still needed," says Wooldridge, "about three hours per week to go into homes and offer support, be nannies or supply transportation for participants in the program." For more information about "Positive Parenting with Ease" or volunteer opportunities, contact the Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131 or come by the offices at 119 N. Frost.

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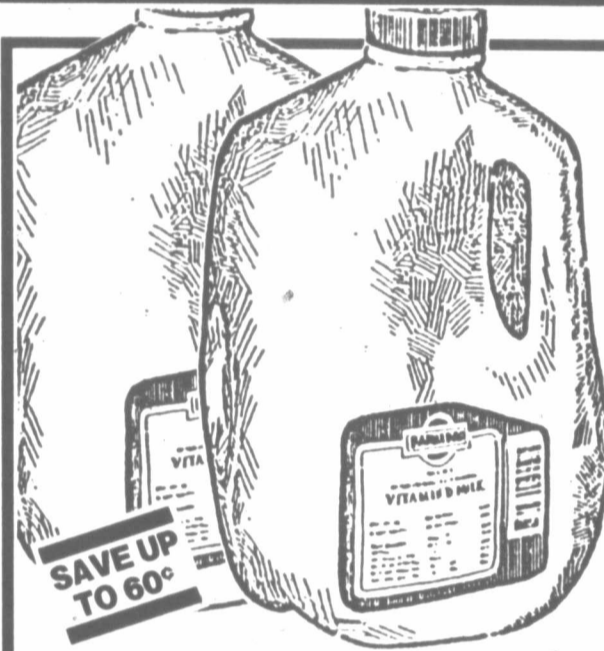
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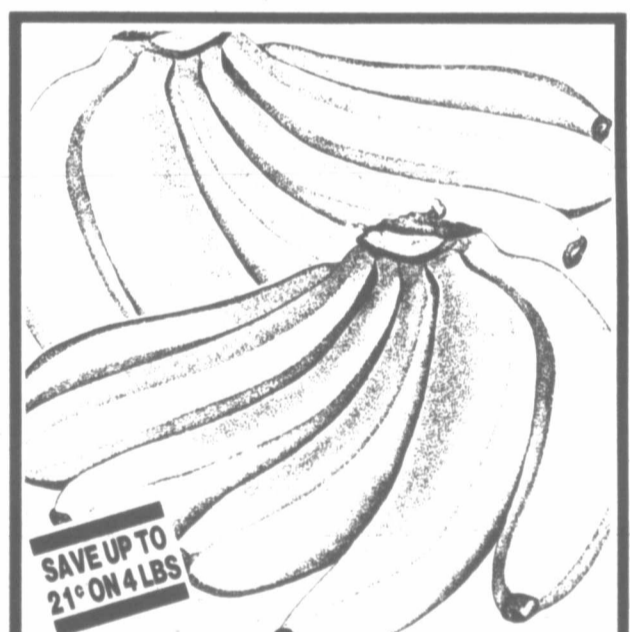


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Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Panhandler
- 4 Pointed
- 9 Beetle
- 12 Exclamation
- 13 Handy (2 wds.)
- 14 Eggs
- 15 Robot
- 17 Untried
- 18 Measure of heat
- 21 Mild pinch
- 22 — Chaney
- 23 Gravel ridge
- 24 Up to the leg joints
- 28 Weekend-welcoming abbr.
- 32 Popeye's friend Olive
- 33 Author Gardner
- 34 Circus animal
- 35 Minus
- 37 Trucks
- 39 Eastern title

- 40 — — angle
- 41 Atomic particle
- 43 Bizarre
- 45 Mortar mixer
- 46 Narrow valley (Brit.)
- 49 Reindeer herders
- 53 Elaborate poem
- 54 Sterile chamber (2 wds.)
- 58 Box for coal
- 59 Have dinner at home (2 wds.)
- 60 Unclose (poet.)
- 61 Four-poster, e.g.
- 62 Actress — Keaton
- 63 Bench

DOWN

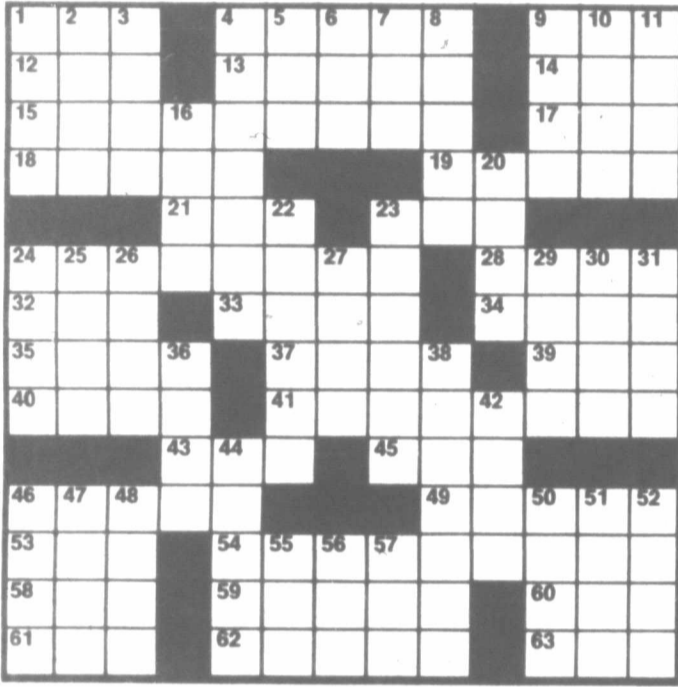
- 1 Ship
- 2 No
- 3 Speck

Answer to Previous Puzzle

```

M E S S R S   M A S S E S
R A T I O N   I G U A N A
E V O N N E   R A N D O M
D E W   D E A R   E S E
      W O R N O U T
J A K E   S E R R A T E S
U N I T   I T A L Y
T I L T S   T W I N
E L L E R B E E   E S S E
R O A S T E R
G O B   S T Y X   J I M
R H O D E S   M I R A G E
O N L I N E   O L I V E R
W O O D S Y   N E G A T E
  
```

- 4 Chest of drawers
- 5 Birds —
- 6 Pecan, e.g.
- 7 Same (comb. form)
- 8 Pennies
- 9 Skeleton part
- 10 Part of the eye
- 11 Sire
- 16 Heraldic border
- 20 Antiprohibitionists
- 22 Gave courage to Envelope cutter
- 24 Bitter nut
- 25 Russian veto word
- 26 Lioness in "Born Free"
- 27 Israeli airline (2 wds.)
- 29 Equipment
- 30 Othello villain
- 31 Custard
- 36 Haughty one
- 38 Of a triangle type
- 42 Construction beam
- 44 Deposited moisture on Baseballer Ty —
- 47 Dog in Garfield
- 48 Darn
- 50 Ship deck
- 51 Pontiff
- 52 Diving bird
- 55 "Ball" — whirl
- 56 Give —
- 57 Plating metal



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GEECH



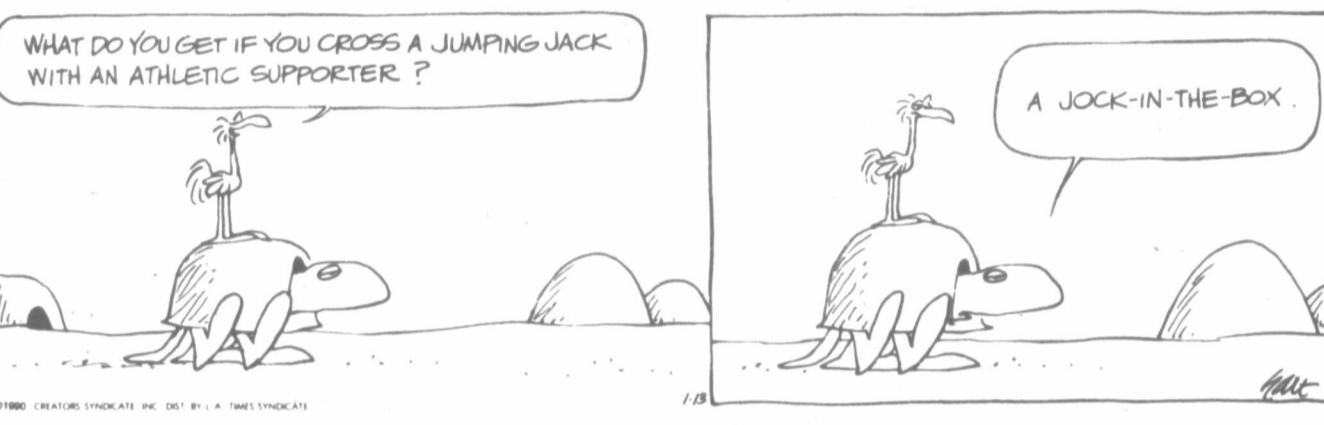
THE WIZARD OF ID



ECK & MEEK



B.C.



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

You'll have numerous opportunities in the year ahead to broaden your horizons. These new exposures will contribute to your self-confidence and expand your chances for success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're not likely to be too receptive today if someone tries to impose his/her ideas on you as well as others. You will, however, work with them, but not for them. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be careful today regarding to whom you choose to tell confidential information. Some of your friends might not be as good at keeping secrets as you are.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Things might not go exactly as you plan them today, but don't let this disturb you. Any corrections or adjustments made will be superior to your original thoughts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Pay attention to the directives of others today and it should be easier for you to achieve your objectives. Unaided your thinking could be a bit off center.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your possibilities of succeeding today look good, provided you are bold and industrious, but not brash or foolhardy. Little is likely to be gained if you are too timid.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Things should eventually work out to your satisfaction today if you are not too impatient or emotional regarding early mishaps. Keep plugging toward positive goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Strive to be cooperative today and work in harmony with associates, not against them. Others will come up to your expectations if you give them half a chance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It's your choice today, you can either dedicate your efforts to earning money or blowing it. Your behavior will be impressive, regardless of which course you take.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The way you conduct yourself today will make a strong impression on your peer group. Make an effort to have them remember you for your good qualities, and not those deemed unattractive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Rise above inclinations to overreact to petty crises companions instigate. You can keep control if you maintain a positive self-assured attitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't feel you have to make big expenditures in order to develop your present plans. On the contrary, that which you do with your brain instead of your pocketbook will prove the more successful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) There are a number of ways to pursue your objectives today that others won't find irritating. Work them out, because there is no reason for you to be too pushy.

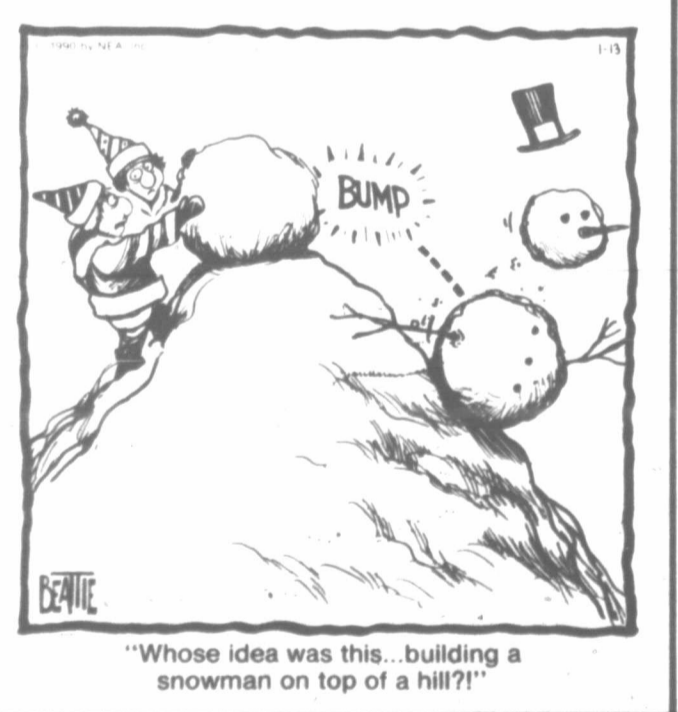
MARVIN



ALLEY OOP



SNAFU



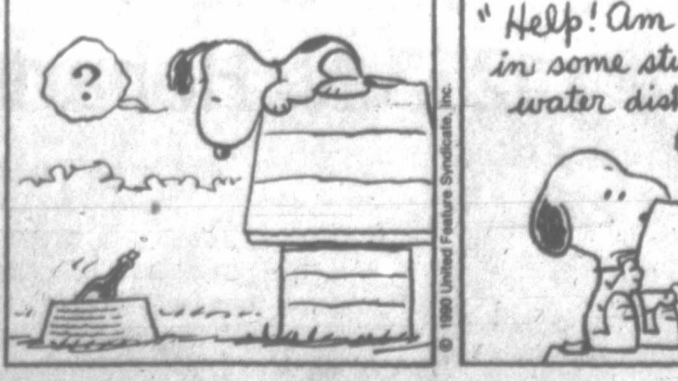
The Family Circus



THE BORN LOSER



PEANUTS



MARMADUKE



KIT N' CARLYLE



WINTHROP



CALVIN AND HOBBS



FRANK AND ERNEST



GARFIELD



'No cholesterol' label doesn't mean product has no fats

EDITOR'S NOTE - To sell their products, food companies often play to Americans' concern - or obsession - about what they eat. But many health experts worry that the "no cholesterol" drumbeat can go beyond clever marketing and flirt with outright deception.

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP Science Writer

BOSTON (AP) - Consider the cholesterol-free banana. Since the beginning of time, this fruit has never contained cholesterol. Unless evolution takes an unexpected turn, it never will.

Recently, however, some banana importers pasted "cholesterol free" labels on their produce. The stickers seem to imply that this is a new banana. A better banana. A healthier banana.

But in truth, it's just a banana.

Why point out the biological truth that bananas - like every other fruit and vegetable under the sun - don't have cholesterol? Perhaps for the same reason that makers of vegetable oil margarine buy TV ads that say "no cholesterol at all."

To sell their products, food companies play to Americans' concern - or obsession - about what they eat. But many health experts worry that the "no cholesterol" drumbeat can go beyond clever marketing and flirt with outright deception.

Everyone knows that cholesterol is bad for the heart. So if food's got no cholesterol, it must be OK, right?

Wrong.

"People can say something doesn't contain any cholesterol. But it can still be a product that raises your cholesterol substantially. That's the problem," said Dr. Carl Orringer of the University of Michigan.

High levels of cholesterol in the bloodstream can clog up the arteries and lead to heart attacks. Orringer and others believe that the no-cholesterol pitch takes advantage of public confusion over the difference between cholesterol in food and cholesterol in the blood.

Contrary to popular belief, cholesterol in food has a relatively minor impact on cholesterol in the blood. The part of food that really raises blood cholesterol is saturated fat. Being cholesterol free, however, is no guarantee that something is also low in saturated fat.

The saturated fat level in no-cholesterol foods depends largely on the type and amount of vegetable oil that goes into

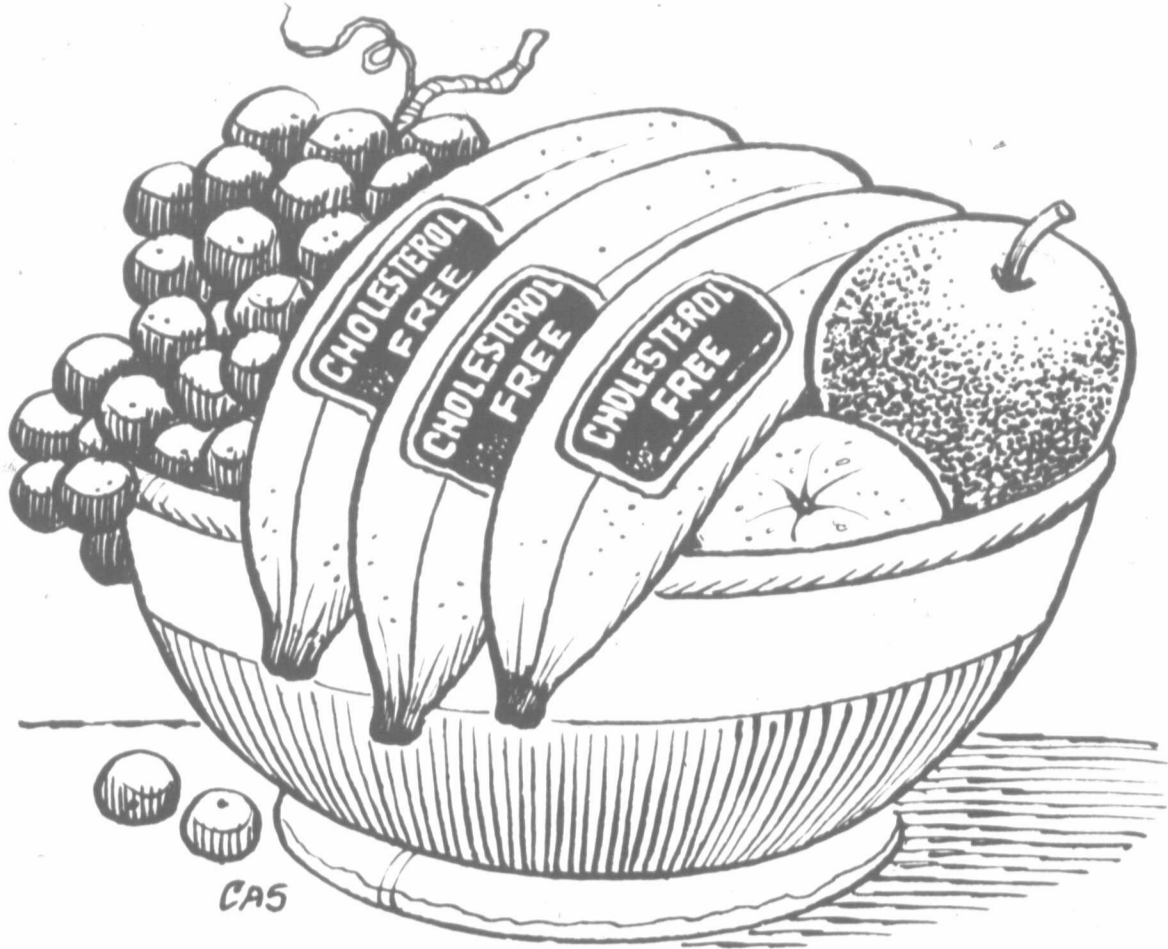
them. These oils contain widely varying combinations of saturated, monosaturated and polyunsaturated fats. They range from canola oil, which is 6 percent saturated fat, to palm oil, which is 51 percent saturated fat, and coconut oil, which is 92 percent saturated fat.

Lots of foods are cholesterol free. In fact, only animal foods, such as meat and eggs, contain cholesterol. Anything made entirely from plants does not - indeed, cannot - have cholesterol.

Many people are obviously confused about all of this. A recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration survey found that 42 percent of the American public believes that if a food is labeled cholesterol free, it is also low in saturated fat.

Despite its relative unimportance, the "no cholesterol" claim sings out from every aisle of the supermarket. Popcorn, bread, crackers, salad dressing and salted peanuts often carry it. "Labels like that are misleading and frequently dishonest," contends Dr. John LaRosa of George Washington University. "They beg the real issue, which is: This is a food that can raise your blood cholesterol."

Dietary experts say the key to "prudent" eating is holding down consumption of fat - all fat. It's implicated in some kinds of cancer. It's far more fattening than sugar and starch. And some component of it is always saturated.



In fact, some of the most diligent no-cholesterol labeling is on high-fat baked goods.

For instance, Duncan Hines cake mixes boast: "No preservatives. No palm oil. No cholesterol." The fine print on the back, however, discloses that once a devil's food cake is baked, 47 percent of its calories come from fat.

At Procter and Gamble Co., which makes the cake mixes, spokesman Don Tassone said thousands of consumers have called asking about those three things. The label "is a point of differentiation for our product line and a healthful service for people who are interested."

Procter and Gamble's Crisco shortening is also labeled no-cholesterol, even though it contains palm oil and is 26 percent saturated fat. Tassone said Crisco is clearly a healthy alternative to its primary competitors - lard, butter and beef tallow - which all contain cholesterol and much higher proportions of saturated fat.

Because of recent bad publicity over palm oil, Crisco will soon switch to hydrogenated cotton seed oil, but it will still be 26 percent saturated fat.

Bakeries are getting in on the no-cholesterol hoopla. For instance, the Mrs. Fields cookie chain recently began selling cholesterol-free chocolate chip

and peanut butter cookies.

Martha Shepherd, Mrs. Field's vice president of research and development, said the new cookies are made with margarine and egg whites, instead of butter and whole eggs. But she declined to reveal their fat content or any other nutritional information.

"They could potentially have some benefit from a heart disease standpoint, but we are not making a direct health claim," Shepherd said.

Some disagree with her assertion, however. Posters advertising the chain's no-cholesterol cookies proclaim, "Eat to your heart's content."

"That's a health claim, and it's misleading," said Dr. William E. Connor of Oregon Health Sciences University. "Even cookie fanciers - and I'm one of them - know that all cookies are high fat. You aren't going to help your heart by eating a Mrs. Fields cookie."

Bakeries are not required to put nutritional information on their bags. Labeling for packaged foods is also voluntary unless manufacturers fortify their products with vitamins, minerals or protein or they say something about the food's value.

Cholesterol content must be included only if some claim is made about it. However, pack-

ages that boast of no cholesterol needn't mention saturated fat.

The American Heart Association and other health organizations generally recommend that people limit their fat consumption to 30 percent of their total daily calories. No more than 10 percent of the day's calories should come from saturated fat.

Since it's next to impossible for ordinary people to figure out the percentage of fat and other nutrients in their own diets, many health experts recommend putting this information on food labels.

Connor urges use of the cholesterol-saturated fat index, or CSI, to make comparisons between foods even easier. This index uses a mathematical equation to arrive at a single number for each food. The higher the number, the greater the food's potential to cause heart disease.

For instance, the CSI for half a cup of baked beans is zero. So is a cup of apple cider, an unbuttered English muffin, an ounce of jelly beans, a cup of rice and 1 1/2 cups of spaghetti with marinara sauce.

A cup of sherbet is 3; half a can of sardines is 4; half a cup of mixed nuts is 6; 3 ounces of dark meat chicken with skin is 7; 3 ounces of hamburger is 11; a

slice of frosted carrot cake is 14; 3 ounces of calves liver is 16; 3 ounces of cheddar cheese is 24; two scrambled eggs are 27; a half cup of butter is 71.

The banana, like most fruits and vegetables, earns a healthy zero on this index. So why dwell on the impossibility of it having cholesterol? Paul Yoder, a spokesman for Dole, the fruit company, said the no-cholesterol stickers were part of a banana industry campaign to improve the fruit's image.

Because bananas are smooth and buttery, he said, some people actually think they contain butter and are fattening (which, at 90 calories apiece, they are not very fattening).

While the stickers might seem to imply that less desirable fruits are full of cholesterol or that these particular bananas are somehow better than competing brands, Yoder said the stickers were meant to clear up public confusion.

"When cholesterol is considered not good for you, and you don't have it, then I see no problem in saying you can eat this and not worry about getting too much cholesterol," he said.

However, LaRosa has another view of all the no-cholesterol labeling.

"It's just silliness," he said.

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Despite regulations, many workers still victims of asbestos

By BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin Quinn's father began working for Consolidated Edison in the 1940s, when asbestos was still considered a miracle fiber and there were no regulations governing its use.

William Quinn died in 1980 of cancer linked to asbestos.

His son was hired by the same utility in 1979. In the years since his father first came in contact with asbestos, numerous laws had been passed to protect workers from what was now acknowledged as a prime health risk.

But in 1987, Quinn says, he was working at a plant when asbestos-covered doors were removed from boilers and dropped to the floor. The doors remained for weeks while workers went about their duties without protective gear amid clouds of asbestos dust, he says.

"I used to walk past that area every day," he says. "They told us it was safe. And it turns out it wasn't."

Now, Quinn has joined 180 co-workers and the Environmental Protection Agency in suing Con Ed,

charging that he was exposed to the same material that killed his father.

Eighteen years after passage of the first federal law regulating asbestos, thousands of workers — at utilities like Con Ed, and in other industries where asbestos was used as an insulator — still face its effects.

"We are talking to people who are extremely surprised that asbestos is still a problem," said Heather Maurer, executive director of Asbestos Victims of America. "But the incidence of asbestos disease is on the increase instead of the decrease, despite restrictions that have been applied to make the use of asbestos safer."

A recent union-sponsored screening of 538 Con Edison workers found that 20 percent had either scarred lungs or mesothelioma, an asbestos-caused cancer of the lining of the abdomen or the lungs.

Since 1987, Con Ed has been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for more than a half-dozen alleged violations — mostly, failure to monitor the level of asbestos fibers in the air — at the Indian Point nuclear plant in Buchanan, a plant in Astoria,

Queens, and at Quinn's 74th Street plant in Manhattan.

Some allegations are still under investigation, some have been contested and dropped by OSHA, and Con Ed settled others by paying a fine.

"Prior to 1973, we didn't know what the asbestos risks were," said Con Ed spokeswoman Rosalie Zuckerman. "We're not denying that prior to that time, there was exposure. But now that we're aware of it, whenever we do any asbestos work, we follow all the regulations."

She added that since 1973, the company has had two medical vans visiting Con Ed plants, carrying X-ray machines to test for asbestos scarring.

She would not comment on Kevin Quinn's suit. But Quinn says the company was negligent in 1987, when he was exposed. The workers, he says, were kept in the dark.

"We didn't realize we were working around asbestos 'til a shop steward took an air sample to the White Lung Association," he said.

Because asbestos cancers can take 20 to 35 years to develop, workers like Quinn who believe they have been exposed recently may not become sick until the year 2020. And people who were exposed to

asbestos in the 1950s, '60s and '70s are just now getting sick.

A study by Irving Selikoff, M.D. — perhaps the world's most noted asbestos researcher — and his colleagues at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine projects that asbestos cancer rates won't peak until 1992 and won't drop off significantly until after the year 2000.

Smoking exacerbates the risk of asbestos-related lung cancer, which is incurable in 70 to 95 percent of cases, said Dr. Stephen Levin, who works with Selikoff. Mesothelioma is always fatal. Asbestos exposure also increases the risk of colon cancer, which has an 80 percent cure rate if caught early.

In 1992, the study says, there will be 9,739 deaths from asbestos exposure in just 11 industries — including utilities, construction, automobile and railroad engine repair, shipbuilding, and asbestos manufacturing.

There are a lot of Con Ed workers who are afraid that they might surface among those statistics:

— Gene Duffy, 46, has worked for Con Edison for 25 years. His chest X-rays show lung scarring; he often has trouble breathing. Duffy said he can't even cut his lawn without taking a rest halfway through to

catch his breath.

— Artie Sagevick, 58, a 31-year veteran. He gave up smoking 25 years ago, but he has "coughing fits 15 minutes at a time a couple of times a day."

— Says Steven Amato, a 21-year veteran: "If you had to do a strenuous job, go up and down stairs, I could not do it. In the wintertime, I throw the phlegm all day long ... I'm 51 years old and I feel like an old man."

All three want compensation from Con Ed, more help from their union, and, along with many of their co-workers, they are suing asbestos manufacturers.

Lawyer Chris Placitella is handling similar suits by 130 Con Ed workers. His firm represents another 3,300 workers from other utility companies who are involved in similar suits, and the number of plaintiffs rises daily.

Con Edison has other asbestos-related worries. City officials have raised concerns about public exposure to asbestos from Con Ed accidents. In several recent incidents, asbestos insulation wrapped around underground Con Ed steam pipes has blown off when the pipes or nearby water mains burst.

One explosion killed three people

and contaminated an entire Manhattan neighborhood with asbestos, forcing hundreds of people to relocate.

Con Ed was faulted for failing to report the presence of asbestos for several days, which delayed the cleanup and increased health risks. Other accidents contaminated streets and subways.

The city Department of Environmental Protection has called on federal officials to come up with new techniques to deal with these outdoor and underground emergencies, since the usual procedures have not always applied.

Most asbestos products will be taken off the U.S. market under a three-stage EPA ban that begins in 1990 and ends in 1997. Advocates for asbestos victims applaud the ban, but wish more were being done.

Asbestos manufacturers have filed a lawsuit challenging the ban, claiming today's products are safe because the fiber is encased in hard materials like cement and won't deteriorate.

Whether or not the manufacturers are successful, AFL-CIO occupational safety expert Peg Seminario predicts that "it's going to be some time before our asbestos problems are over."



(AP Newsfeatures Photo)

Workers in gas masks begin to construct a plastic bubble around an apartment building in Gramercy Park South in New York, providing a protective atmosphere for workers to clean up asbestos-laced mud from the building.

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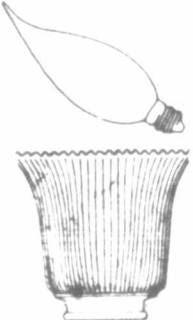
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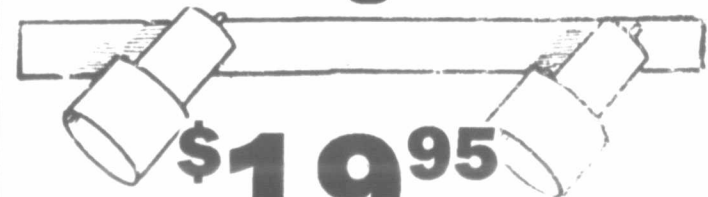
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