

Frugal traveler



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Roy Strahan, shown here on a recent outing on Foster Street, has solved the gas price crunch. He travels everywhere on his three-wheel bicycle. He can pedal to Amarillo in three hours, he says. His dog, "Sam," likes to hitch a ride with his owner in the cycle's back basket. Strahan moved to Pampa three months ago from Miami.

The 'who lost Kuwait' debate begins

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A decade ago, it was "Who lost Nicaragua?" — a question which, in retrospect, pales in significance next to the one being asked nowadays: "Who lost Kuwait?"

And there is a growing suspicion, particularly among congressional Democrats, that the State Department is the culprit by signaling the Iraqis just before the invasion that an Iraqi conquest of Kuwait would not trigger a strong U.S. response.

The State Department view is that the Iraqi invasion could not have been predicted. President Bush has said, in effect, that when the Persian Gulf crisis is over, the big loser will be not the United States but President Saddam Hussein.

The question of "Who lost

Kuwait?" probably will never be answered definitively. But amid the allegations that the State Department had appeased Saddam, the department got help from a surprise source the other day: Iraqi Ambassador Mohamed al-Mashat.

An AP news analysis

Did the United States signal Saddam that it was acceptable for Iraq to invade Kuwait? the ambassador was asked.

"Signal or no signal, we would not have changed our mind," he replied.

Given the grief they have suffered lately, the State Department's chief specialist on the Middle East, John Kelly, and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie, perhaps should put those words to music. It has not been an easy time for Kelly

and Glaspie. A transcript of a meeting Glaspie had with Saddam a few days before the invasion suggests that she ignored his warnings about forcible action against Kuwait if a peaceful solution to their dispute could not be reached.

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., told Kelly on Tuesday he believes the State Department bears a heavy burden of guilt for what has transpired in the gulf.

"The obsequious treatment of him (Saddam) by a large number of high-ranking officials encouraged him to take that action, and there's no escaping that responsibility," Lantos said during a House subcommittee hearing.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., told Kelly his attitude toward Iraq during testimony two days before the Aug. 2 invasion was far too relaxed.

After reading Kelly's words from

a transcript, Hamilton concluded: "You left the impression that it was the policy of the United States not to come to the defense of Kuwait" in the event of an invasion.

Bush has acknowledged that his administration did not send a strong signal warning Iraq of the consequences of an invasion. But he said the most serious miscalculation of all was Saddam Hussein's in not foreseeing the international reaction produced by his decision to devour his small, weak neighbor.

The president wishes that a more confrontational line toward Saddam had been taken beforehand. With help from "hindsight," he regrets this "absolutely." On that, he and his critics can agree.

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign policy for The Associated Press since 1968.

Two arrested in slaying

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Two people wanted in the murder of a Texas man in a downtown hotel room were arrested in San Diego, police said.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police homicide Lt. Kyle Edwards said William Tray Whalen Jr. and Jennifer Christine Palmer were taken into custody in San Diego on Thursday.

Whalen, 22, and Palmer, 24, were charged in warrants with the July 8 slaying of David Threadgill of Taylor, Texas.

The 37-year-old victim was in Las Vegas on vacation with family members, and was last seen by witnesses going into a hotel room with two people.

His body was found in a bathtub in the room, and an autopsy revealed he had been beaten to death.

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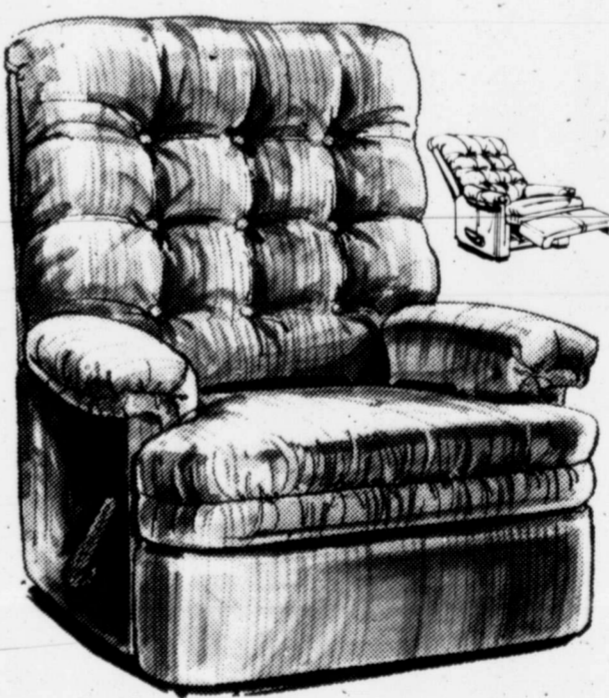
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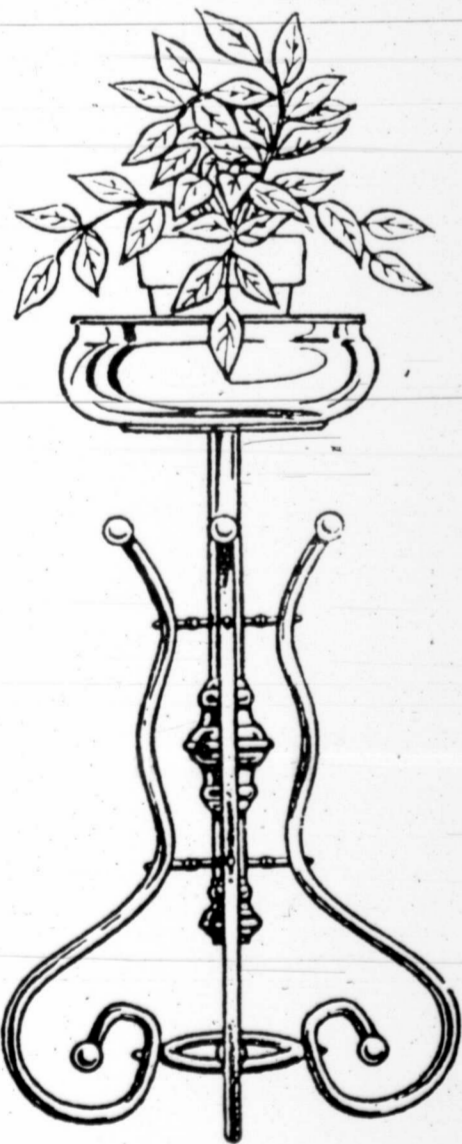
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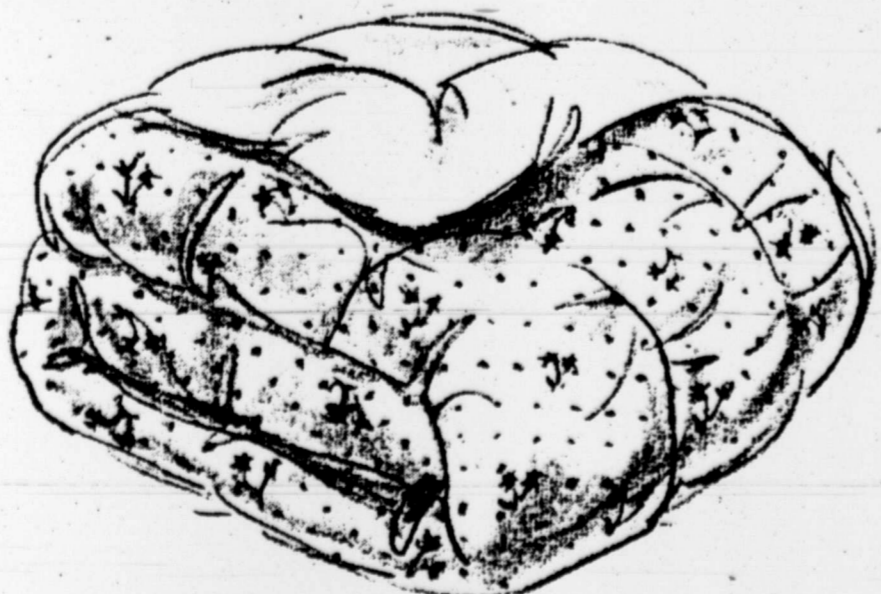
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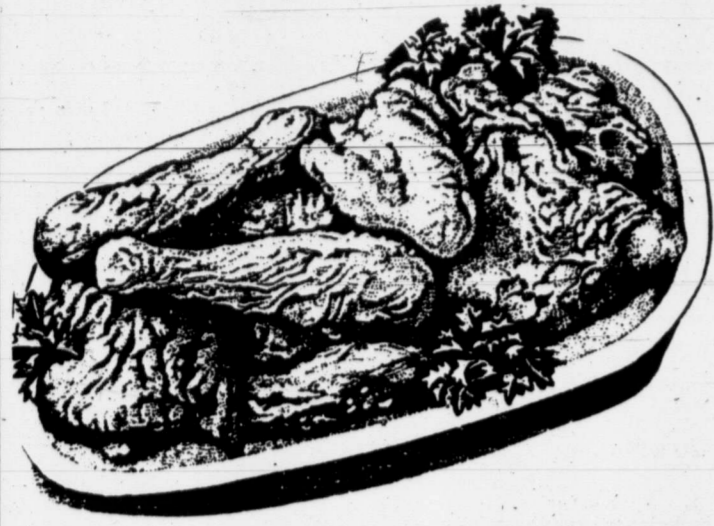
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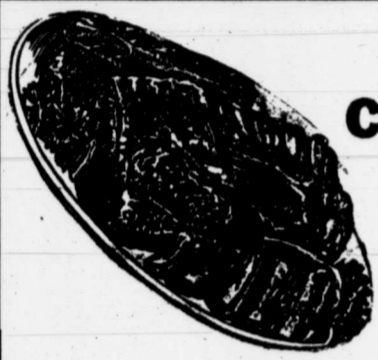
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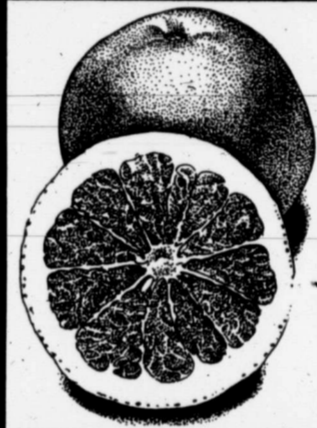
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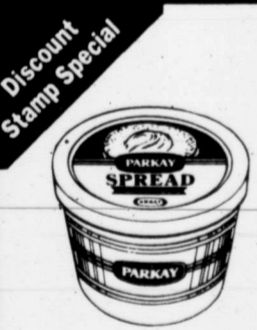
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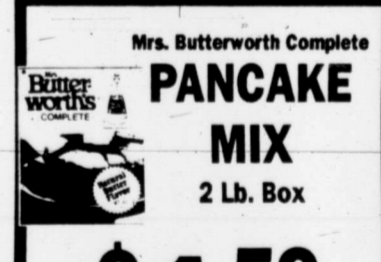
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Religion

Kopaska traveled from fiery jeep to God's call

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

LUBBOCK — When Rev. Kc (pronounced Casey) Kopaska talks about the fires of Hell, he knows of what he speaks.

Kopaska, a minister and home missionary to Indians in South Dakota, was a 17-year-old boy from the mid-west in 1976 when he was involved in a fiery jeep rollover in the mountains of Colorado.

The driver of the jeep died and Kopaska was so badly incinerated that his hands were "hanging in shreds" and 78 percent of his body suffered first-degree burns.

Today Kopaska believes God caused him to pass out while he was burning so he would live to carry out a divine call for his life.

"Everything turned orange as the flames engulfed the whole inside of the jeep," Kopaska recounted of the accident, which happened after the vehicle careened over a ravine. "The gasoline I had smelled (moments before) had spilled out of a five-gallon can that was right behind the front seat. Out of instinct I yelled 'Jump!' and bailed out of the burning jeep. But it was too late.

"Our clothes had been saturated by the gasoline as it exploded and both of us were burning like a couple of human torches."

Kopaska said that though he hit the ground rolling, the flames would not die out.

"The wind didn't help matters either, because it just fanned the flames," Kopaska said.

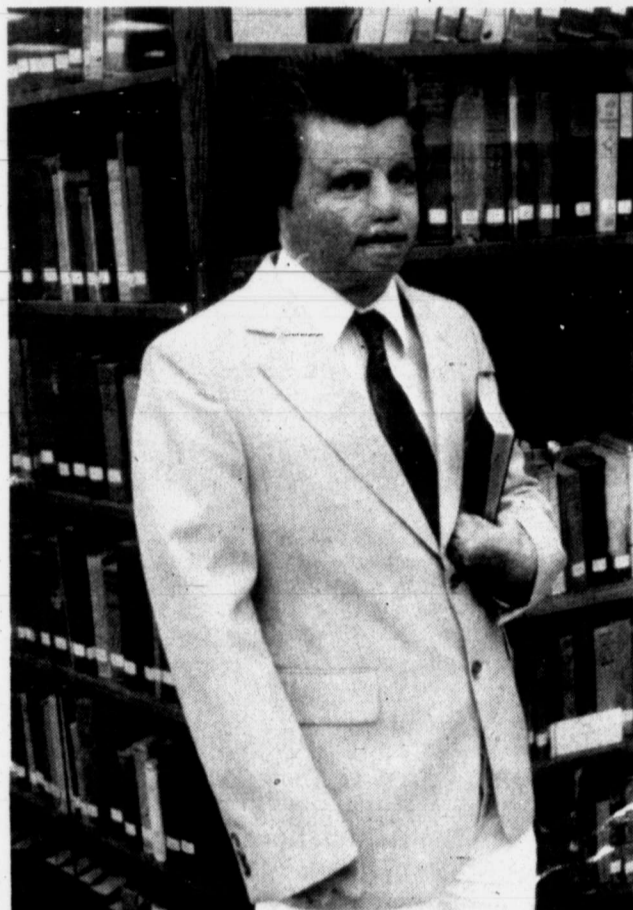
At that moment, Kopaska realized his life would never again be the same and decided he could not live with what faced him.

"Out of frustration I stood up and the thought came to my mind, 'I can inhale these flames and end it all right here, or I can live and never be the same again,'" Kopaska recounted. He now believes that if it were up to him alone, he would have chosen the former.

He passed out, though, before he had the opportunity to choose.

"I believe God made me black out so that I wouldn't kill myself and end up burning in Hell forever," Kopaska said, noting that he was not a Christian at the time. "I now know that God literally snuffed out the flames himself so I wouldn't burn up."

When Kopaska came to, he saw his friend wandering around in shock. Kopaska then walked to a farm house a quarter of a mile away, still feeling no pain from his injuries.



Rev. Kc Kopaska

He asked two small children at the ranch to call for firefighters and an ambulance, then sat on the porch waiting their arrival.

"When the ambulance arrived, the rancher tried to help me on the stretcher by grabbing a hold of my arms," Kopaska said. "As he did this, a chunk of skin came off in his hand."

Kopaska and his friend were flown to Brooks Medical Center in San Antonio, where his comrade died the next day.

"It didn't take long for my body to swell up to twice its normal size," Kopaska said. "In order to keep the blood circulating, doctors had to make incisions all the way through my skin, the entire length of my arms, from by shoulders to my wrists, to allow for the swelling. I also lost my sight and my voice for the next two weeks."

"When my parents arrived (from Iowa) they walked

right by me, not even recognizing who I was," Kopaska said. "When the doctor told them that the body lying there was their son, my mother blacked out. She blacked out several times after this until she could get used to looking at my extra crispy fried body."

Two weeks later, when Kopaska began to regain his senses, all the pain he had been spared to that point came back in spades.

"Three different times during this critical period, doctors told my parents I wasn't going to make it because of various infections that set in," he stated. The pain has to be the worst any human being can endure without losing his mind or dying."

Kopaska said his wild, pre-crash life reached new lows when he finally was released from the hospital. Drinking and drugs helped him forget his appearance and condition.

"I hit keggers, parties, rock concerts, anyplace to catch a buzz," Kopaska remembered, "but I experienced a deepening emptiness and void in my life. Something was missing. Booze and drugs didn't fill the void."

In the summer of 1981, Kopaska said he met a "very back-slidden Christian girl" with whom he began to hang out. One Sunday night she got the urge to go to church.

When Kopaska saw her the next day, something was "wrong."

"I could tell just by looking at her that something was different," he said. "She had gotten saved. For the next two weeks I tried to tear her back down to where I was."

Instead of going down, the girl worked to reach Kopaska for Jesus.

However, when she brought the church's youth pastor around to witness to Kopaska, he rebelled so strongly he ended up in a psychiatric hospital, labeled "a sui-

cidal."

"I know that if I hadn't made a decision to get a hold of Jesus, I would have very likely put a gun to my head," Kopaska said. "Without Jesus, I knew I had nothing to live for."

As Kopaska grabbed on to the gospel of Christ, he suddenly found his void had been filled.

He graduated from Open Bible College in Des Moines, Iowa, and Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo.

Now, at age 31, Kopaska is married to a woman he met in Bible college and they have two children, Cody, age 3, and Kara, who just reached the one-month mark.

He is a teacher at American Indian Bible College in Mobridge, S.D., and has been preaching around Texas for the last several months during a sabbatical period.

"People are very inquisitive and often times they will just start asking questions which open all kinds of doors," Kopaska said. "A lot of times I will walk into a strange church and they will ask me to get up and share."

Kopaska has learned how to play the bass guitar again, in spite of missing digits, as well as virtually everything else any "normal" person can do.

"I haven't figured out how to play baseball yet. That's about the only thing I can think of," he said.

What is most important to him, though, is sharing with people that no human life is an "accident" and all creation is made to operate under the direction of a divine God.

Kopaska emphasized that if God could save him from a hedonistic life and fires as hot as any in Hell, He can save anyone and show them their purpose."

Kopaska was in Lubbock recently to meet with members of the Assemblies of God during a West Texas Camp Meeting at the denomination's district headquarters.

Baylor president says faction seeking control

WACO (AP) — Southern Baptist fundamentalists are trying to take over Baylor University, the president of the 145-year-old institution says.

"We are doing all we know how to prevent such a takeover," Herbert Reynolds said. "We will be working at it with every fiber of our being."

Fundamentalists, who control the Southern Baptist Convention, have been holding meetings around the state to rally supporters to attend the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Houston Nov. 13 and 14, Reynolds said.

Fundamentalists have gained control of the 14.9-million member SBC through 12 straight years of winning the denomination's presidency. However, similar efforts at the state level usually have failed.

"I think it's extremely serious," Reynolds said. "They are capable of taking over and I think we have to think in those terms."

Reynolds said fundamentalists, who demand agreement on the issue of Biblical inerrancy, hope to elect their candidates as president and vice presidents of the 2.7 million member state convention.

Like the national president, the state president has wide appointive powers. Fundamentalist presidents of the SBC have used those powers to appoint only like-minded people to the numerous boards, agencies and seminaries controlled by the national body, the largest U.S. Protestant denomination.

Baylor, with 12,000 students, is the largest of the nation's Baptist-supported institutions.

Baylor's religion faculty has

been criticized by fundamentalists as too liberal and they have lambasted Reynolds for not firing a Mormon professor, and have charged that the school is becoming too worldly and moving away from strict Christian teachings.

Reynolds, a forceful critic of fundamentalist leaders, contends they want to deny religious and aca-

democratic freedom. He recently compared the fundamentalist power tactics to those used by Hitler's Third Reich.

Reynolds also said the fundamentalists have made it a high priority to seek the firing of Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

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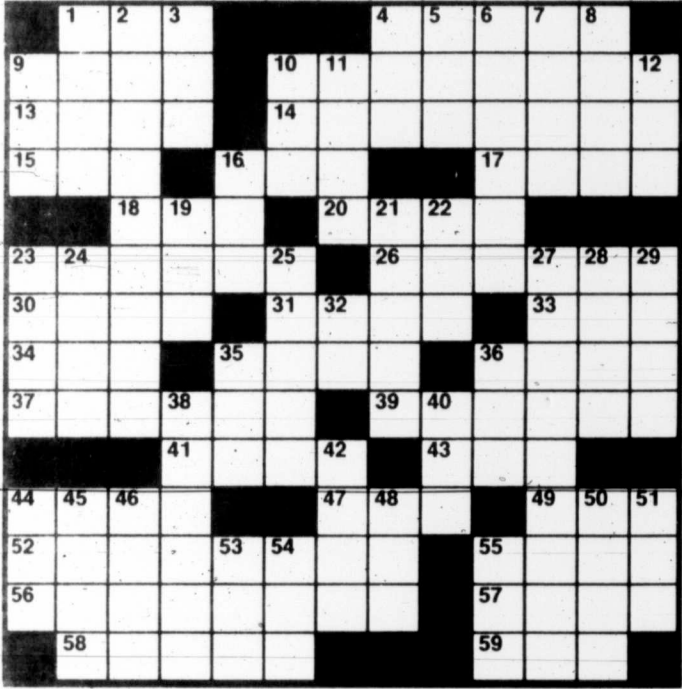
- ACROSS**
 1 Fragment
 4 Cut of beef
 9 Son of Adam
 10 Mined rock
 13 Don't go
 14 Awkward
 15 — Aviv
 16 Actress — Arthur
 17 Return envelope (abbr.)
 18 Made of (suff.)
 20 Center of shield
 23 Needs scratching
 26 Become electrically charged
 30 Ship canvas
 31 Group of families
 34 Hard drinker
 38 Actress Taylor
 35 Appear

- 36 Coin opening
 37 Cricket team
 39 Big lizard
 41 Consumes
 43 Ornamental flower holder
 44 Photocopy
 47 Apollo's son
 49 Failure
 52 Laud
 55 Mail
 56 Breed
 57 — Kringle
 58 Canadian peninsula
 59 Believer in anism

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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- DOWN**
 1 — noire
 2 Put in slanted type
 3 Love — neighbor
 4 Child's game
 5 Feminine garment
 6 Prayer
- 7 One of Columbus' ships
 8 Electric fish
 9 Fast aircraft (abbr.)
 10 Can. prov.
 11 Two-toed sloth
- 12 Tint
 16 Busy insect
 19 Hockey org.
 21 City in Florida
 22 — voyage
 23 — of Wight
 24 Follow
 25 Fragrance
 27 New York hockey team
 28 Organism
 29 Miss Kett of the comics
 32 French article
 35 Billowy expanse
 36 Over (pref.)
 38 Turns down
 40 Kind of weapon
 42 Magnitude
 44 View
 45 — oil
 46 Seaweed
 48 Over (poet.)
 50 Entity
 51 Dentist's deg.
 53 Econ. indicator
 54 Freshwater fish
 55 Snow runner



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EEK & MEEK
 By Howie Schneider

B.C.
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 By Tom Armstrong

ALLEY OOP
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SNAFU
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS
 By Bil Keane

THE BORN LOSER
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 By Bill Watterson

FRANK AND ERNEST
 By Bob Thaves

GARFIELD
 By Jim Davis

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Regardless of the size of the crowd or even if it's a strange group, you'll not go unnoticed today, although you'll do nothing out of the ordinary to attract attention. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today if you get involved in something of a confidential nature, do not discuss your plans with people who are not key players. There is no reason to keep outsiders informed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Sometimes people come to us for advice and yet don't really listen to what we have to say. This won't be true in your instance, however, because you'll be placed in a respected category.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your best ideas today will be those you get regarding ways to further your ambition or how to add to your resources. This may cause you to aim for different, yet related targets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will make an indelible impression on others today, not because of heroic deeds or revolutionary thoughts, but because of little acts of thoughtfulness and charity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Even though you might not be invited to participate in a friend's venture, you could still learn how to do on your own what your friend is successfully doing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) What you attempt to do alone today might have only reasonably satisfactory results, but what you do in concert with others could turn out to be quite lucky for all concerned.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your artistic and creative attributes are likely to vie for expression today. You may be able to produce something of beauty that will have permanent values as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try to select activities today that require both mental and physical agility. If they are games you enjoy with elements of competition, all the better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your possibilities for material gains look promising today owing to the good auspices of others. You could do especially well if you're involved with people who have a generous nature.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If there is something important you are trying to promote today, you're apt to be more successful if you use the soft sell. Paint pictures with your words so that your prospects can easily visualize what you say.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your business instincts are likely to be better than usual today, because you're equally as intuitive as you are logical. This combination could spell profit. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.



(AP Laserphoto)

Mbanna Kantako sits in the radio station he operates out of his family's apartment in Springfield, Ill., recently. Kantako's radio station is an unlicensed .4 watt FM station. It's called Zoom Black Magic Liberation and is operated from his apartment in a public housing project.

Pirate radio station remains on air

By DENNIS CONRAD
Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — With dirty dishes stacked behind him in his kitchen sink and a pirate radio transmitter nearby, Mbanna Kantako sees himself on the front lines of a guerrilla war against the white establishment.

The blind, black man, who has rejected his "slave name" of Dwayne Readus, has made 373 consecutive broadcasts of his Zoom Black Magic Liberation Radio from his apartment in a public housing project. Tonight, he plans his 374th.

Despite authorities' complaints, no one has managed to persuade the former janitor and child-care worker to take down his antenna and stay off the air.

Kantako's 0.4-watt FM station began in November 1986 as an occasional electronic newsletter sponsored by the Tenant Rights Association at John Hay Homes. It has evolved into a daily, aggressive critic of what Kantako considers police harassment and white society's goal to eliminate blacks.

Spicing the airwaves are speeches by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, rap and reggae music, interviews with Communist Labor Party officials and denunciations of the Rev. Jesse Jackson as an opportunist.

"We were fed up with the way

we were being covered or not being covered," Kantako said. "We decided our community needed communications ... controlled within the community."

Kantako, 31, said he's neither a Muslim nor a Communist. His philosophy can't be labeled easily.

"We're definitely not for the few exploiting the many," he said.

"If we had a political party, it'd be called the Truth Party because that is the only way all our folks are going to be able to go free in this world."

Kantako's radio station reaches more than 1,000 people in the project and sometimes more nearby.

Willie Joiner, 23, is an enthusiastic listener. His paralyzed father was arrested on drug-related charges and became a rallying point for Kantako's criticism of police.

"Every time he's on the air I listen to him," Joiner said. "He always dedicates songs to my dad."

Ronnie Scott, 33, said the station is "great for the kids."

"We don't have a black station as it is in Springfield," Scott said.

Some officials are concerned that too often Kantako tarnishes the airwaves with dirty language or attacks on the police for monitoring the project for drug trafficking.

"In my opinion, they ought to shut it down," said George Stewart, a caretaker for the Springfield Housing Authority. "He's talking about

things he doesn't know about." Project resident Carla Rowe, 24, thinks authorities object to the station "because it speaks out against racism."

Federal officials say they've tried to shut down the station, not because of its political messages, but because of its transmitting signal.

Under federal regulations, the FM radio band is limited to use by licensed broadcasters transmitting with at least 10 watts of power. For commercial stations, the minimum is 100 watts. Exceptions are extremely low-power operations — smaller than Kantako's — that generally can be heard no farther than 25 yards.

"Regulation is needed to prevent the cacophony of signals from interfering with each other," said Dan Emrick of the Federal Communications Commission.

In April 1989, the FCC fined Kantako \$750 for his unlicensed activity and referred the case to the U.S. attorney's office in Springfield.

Kantako, who lives off disability checks and food stamps with his wife and three children, said he doesn't plan to pay the fine.

Federal officials say the case isn't closed.

"As soon as we think he is able to pay, we will expect him to pay," said James Lewis, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Scientists correct key cystic fibrosis defect in test tube

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a boost for hopes of treating cystic fibrosis, researchers have replaced abnormal genes with healthy ones in the test tube to correct a crucial defect in cells afflicted with the disease.

"It's a milestone," said Paul Quinton, a cystic fibrosis researcher familiar with the work.

While the notion of gene therapy for cystic fibrosis was science fiction only a few years ago, the new work has "pressed the fiction closer to reality," said Quinton, of the University of California, Riverside.

The cells carried the abnormal gene that causes cystic fibrosis and researchers fixed the defect by giving them a normal copy of the gene.

Combined with research into gene therapy for other diseases, the new results "give us tremendous hope that gene therapy is going to become a reality in cystic fibrosis patients," said Robert Beall, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's executive vice president for medical affairs.

"We're not talking decades, we're talking years, a few years," said Beall, whose organization helped fund the new work.

Two teams of scientists corrected the cell defect in the test tube by using a harmless virus to inject the normal gene into the cells. One group describes its results in today's issue of the journal Cell. The other will publish its results in next week's issue of the British journal Nature.

Cystic fibrosis, the most common genetic defect in Caucasians, affects about 30,000 children and young adults in the United States. Their lungs produce a thick, sticky mucus that sets the stage for fatal lung infections. Mucus elsewhere

interferes with digestion.

The abnormal mucus appears because cells cannot expel charged particles called chloride ions, while they absorb other particles called sodium ions too rapidly, Beall said. The effect is to dehydrate normal mucus, he said.

In the new work, researchers found that cells given a normal copy of the cystic fibrosis gene began expelling chloride ions normally. Scientists did not check for any effect on sodium ions.

It is not known whether simply fixing the chloride problem would cure cystic fibrosis, said Dr. Michael Welsh of the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute there. Welsh is a co-author of the Nature report.

The normal gene corrected the defect by telling cells how to produce a particular protein. Future research should aim at discovering just what this protein does, Welsh said. If enough can be learned, scientists may be able to find ways other than gene therapy to treat cystic fibrosis, he said.

The other research team found that the inserted normal gene was inherited by perhaps about 40 generations of cells in the laboratory, said team member James Wilson of the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor and another Howard Hughes Medical Institute there.

Such stability will be important if gene therapy is to cure cystic fibrosis, he said. If the effect is temporary, treatments could be repeated, he said.

The gene might be delivered to airway cells by having patients inhale a mist, much as asthma patients do for their medicine, he said. That approach must be proven in animals before researchers could proceed to humans, he said.

New tropical depression develops off West Africa; other drifts to northwest

MIAMI (AP) — The 11th tropical depression of the Atlantic hurricane season remained on a slow-moving northwesterly course in the open Atlantic, while the 12th tropical depression formed in the eastern Atlantic, forecasters said.

The 11th depression had top sus-

tained winds of 35 mph, and forecasters said there probably wouldn't be much change in strength through Friday.

At 6 a.m. EDT, the depression's center was near 18.1 north latitude and 50.3 west longitude, or about 725 miles east of the Leeward

Islands, according to the National Hurricane Center in suburban Coral Gables.

The system was heading northwest at 5 mph and was expected to continue that speed and direction for the next 12 to 24 hours, the center reported.

Meanwhile, the 12th tropical depression was centered at 6 a.m. EDT near 13.2 north latitude and 33.4 west longitude, or about 575 miles west southwest of the Cape Verde islands.

The 12th depression was moving west 9 mph.

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