

Names in the news



Ethel Kennedy

Dennis Kucinich

Caterer sues Ethel

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Ethel Kennedy is being sued by the owners of an Aspen catering service who allege she refused to pay \$500 for a Christmas dinner for 20 people.

The suit, filed in county court here, said Mrs. Kennedy's housekeeper called Christmas Day asking if a dinner could be prepared that evening.

Because of the holiday, caterer Dean Small said he charged \$90 an hour for his work — \$360 for four hours. Small said his normal rate is \$45 an hour. He said other charges included \$50 for cab fare because the firm's van was broken and \$90 for the food itself.

"We've done work for the Kissingers and the Rockefellers. We don't believe in overcharging just because of their name," said Tom Gerlak, the firm's president.

Small said he presented the bill to Mrs. Kennedy the day after Christmas — \$300 plus \$35 tax. "She was really furious," he said. "She said it was worth \$25."

Mrs. Kennedy, who was on a skiing vacation with her children, could not be reached for comment.

Dennis can't drive

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Mayor Dennis Kucinich's Ohio driver's license has expired and the police department, where 275 officers may be laid off Friday at the mayor's recommendation, knows about it.

"It's true," said Kucinich news secretary Andrew Juniewicz. "Things have been busy around here lately."

Juniewicz said the mayor, who has a police chauffeur, would renew his license at the earliest possible opportunity. He added that Kucinich has done no driving since his license expired Oct. 8, his 32nd birthday.

In a related development, the mayor's youngest brother, Perry, 22, was indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of unarmed bank robbery in connection with a Cleveland bank holdup last month.

Soviets rap Nixon

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet newspaper has attacked former President Richard Nixon, describing him as a "politician entangled in intrigues and lies" and branding his new book a "whitewash."

Za Rubezhom, a million circulation weekly, carried a stinging commentary on the Watergate scandal and a 7,000-word excerpt from Nixon's book, "RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon."

Nixon's history of anti-communism and his "hard-line" positions are given new emphasis. He is also shown as having barely avoided prison after resigning as president.

The newspaper's treatment of the Watergate story and Nixon's administration differs greatly with the official line carried in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, which excludes any reference to his anti-communist history. Rather, it points out Nixon's successes at easing U.S.-Soviet tensions through detente and devotes only one sentence to his resignation "as a result of the internal political situation."

Quinn heads GNS

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — John C. Quinn, who has been vice president of Gannett News Service, was appointed president Wednesday.

AS president, Quinn succeeds Paul Miller, former chairman of the Gannett Co. newspaper group who retired Dec. 31.

The Gannett News Service is a supplemental wire service that supplies news of state, regional and national interest to Gannett's 78 daily newspapers in 30 states and on Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Quinn retains his principle corporate title of senior vice president news for the Gannett Co.

Succeeding Quinn as vice president of GNS is John J. Curley, who retains the titles of GNS general manager and GNS bureau chief in Washington.

Sweet to drop in

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A man was charged with third-degree burglary Wednesday after he fell through the ceiling of a pastry shop and almost landed on a group of customers, according to police in suburban Cheektowaga.

Charged was Timothy J. McPhaden, 22, who gave no permanent address.

Detective Ron Selbert said the man told police he got drunk at a New Year's party and then hid himself in Buddy's Pastries Inc. because he had nowhere to go.

Wednesday morning, a bakery employee went to a storage area in an attic crawl space and saw a man there. Police were called to the scene. As they entered the crawl space, police said, McPhaden fell through the ceiling, landing in the coffeeshop section of the store.

"Things seemed to be out of place over the past several days," one of the shop's bakers said. "I guess that guy has been living here, and I don't blame him. It's warm, and there's all this good food."

Carter attends Guadeloupe summit

SAINT-FRANCOIS, Guadeloupe (AP) — President Carter and the government chiefs of Britain, France and West Germany begin an informal, two-day summit meeting today haunted by the specter of anarchy in Iran.

Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, told reporters in Washington Wednesday that the president in his talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and British Prime Minister James Callaghan would reiterate his support for Shah Mohammad Reza

Pahlavi.

Brzezinski said the three European leaders agree with Carter's backing for the threatened shah, one of the biggest customers for their arms and other manufactures and a major source of oil for Western industry. All four leaders are deeply concerned that if power slips from the shah's grip, Iran's new leaders might turn to the Soviet Union, the country's big northern neighbor.

Billed by the French hosts as an "informal and friendly meeting" on "the state of the world at the end of 1978 and beginning of 1979," the summit will also

assess new moves in the American-Soviet SALT negotiations to limit nuclear arms, the normalizing of relations between the United States and China, Chinese shopping for Western arms, the deadlocked Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations, the continuing black-white confrontation in southern

Africa and the money and trading problems of the Western world.

Brzezinski said Carter would solicit advice from the European leaders about how to deal with "gray area" tactical nuclear weapons or those with short or medium range during the next phase of SALT

talks with the Russians.

These have been excluded from previous SALT talks, which have dealt with the long-range missiles and aircraft that constitute the chief Soviet and American deterrents on each other. But the "gray area" weapons threaten European cities; the French and British

have their own, and the Germans provide the territory on which the Americans deploy about 7,000 to 8,000 tactical nuclear weapons.

The Carters were also bringing their 12-year-old daughter Amy and planned to stay on a three-day vacation returning to Washington Tuesday night.

Pilot denies jet out of fuel

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A lawyer for the United Air Lines captain whose jet crashed in Portland last week has denied investigators' reports that the DC-8 ran out of fuel, saying the pilot chose a spot to crash land after the engines flamed out.

The statement by attorney Albert Malanca was the first word of pilot Malburn McBroom's thoughts and actions in the final minutes before his jet crashed, killing 10 of 184 persons aboard.

Malanca spoke at a news conference after listening to a National Transportation Safety Board interview with his client Wednesday. Investigators interviewed McBroom for 75 minutes, indicating he did an "amazing job" in landing the jet, Malanca said.

Investigators say evidence shows the plane ran out of fuel, but Malanca said McBroom thought there was enough fuel to reach Portland International Airport.

"The captain was — and I believe all of the crew in the cockpit were — of the opinion there was sufficient fuel to make the airport," Malanca

said.

He said that after the engines flamed out, pilot McBroom made a quick attempt to determine how best to set the plane down — rejecting a landing in the Columbia River or on a nearby freeway.

The plane crashed into a grove of large evergreen trees and wrecked two unoccupied houses in a residential area of Portland three miles from the airport. There were no injuries or wreaths on the ground.

A tape recording of a radio conversation showed the 52-year-old pilot said just after 5:03 p.m. that he had 3,000 pounds of fuel. The plane crashed at 6:14 p.m. Pilots and federal investigators estimate 3,000 pounds of fuel would last from 10 to 15 minutes in a DC-8.

"He chose an unlighted area where he could see trees and felt there were no people," Malanca said. "Rather than try for one final burst of power to try to get the plane to the airport, McBroom chose to 'feather' the plane down as gently as possible toward his chosen crash site."

Gene may cause mental illness

HOUSTON (AP) — A newly discovered gene dramatically increases the risk of a severe mental illness and seems related to alcoholism and perhaps even multiple sclerosis, a California scientist says.

Dr. David Comings said a person who inherits the gene from one parent is more than twice as likely to develop severe psychotic depression as is a person without the gene.

And if two such genes are inherited — one from each parent — the risk increases eightfold, he said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Psychotic depression is a debilitating illness characterized by extreme withdrawal and inactivity.

Comings' gene's relationship is less clear to multiple sclerosis, a disease of the nervous system, and to chronic alcoholism. The gene is more common among victims of the afflictions than in the rest of the population, he said, but "we really don't understand what the situation is... We're just reporting what we found."

Comings is based at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, Calif. His findings were being published this week in the British scientific journal Nature.

He said the gene, which he calls Pz 1 Duarte, seems to be present in about one-third of the population. Although its pre-

sence increases the likelihood of psychotic depression, the gene is not the sole cause of the disease, Comings said.

"A person can have this gene and be perfectly healthy, or he cannot have the gene and develop the disease," he said.

Scientists have generally been convinced of genetic influence on psychoses such as depression and schizophrenia. But Comings said his findings are "the first biochemical evidence of the mutant protein that's involved in this psychosis."

He said the protein that signals the gene's presence was identified in brain tissue taken from the bodies of accident or disease victims.

The gene was identified initially in tests on brain samples from 132 individuals which showed 31 percent carried the gene. The brain tissue of 28 persons who had committed suicide or were diagnosed as depressives or alcoholics were then tested, he said, and more than 64 percent carried the gene.

Tests on 40 multiple sclerosis victims showed 21 — 53 percent — had the gene. Comings said the gene might increase susceptibility to multiple sclerosis, or might operate with another gene. But he said it is also possible the gene has little or nothing to do with multiple sclerosis.

Estrogen therapy linked to cancer

BOSTON (AP) — The largest study ever conducted on women who take estrogen during menopause concludes the medicine can cause cancer of the uterus and that the risk increases the longer it is used.

Estrogen should be prescribed "only for important indications when the benefits seem to outweigh the risk," it said.

The study, conducted at Johns Hopkins University and published in today's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, refutes a Yale University report published two months ago which concluded that the link between estrogen and cancer is based on faulty research.

Estrogen is a natural female hormone that is widely prescribed to ease the discomforts of menopause in middle-aged women.

"The new work should dispel controversy about the association between estrogen use and uterine cancer," Food and Drug

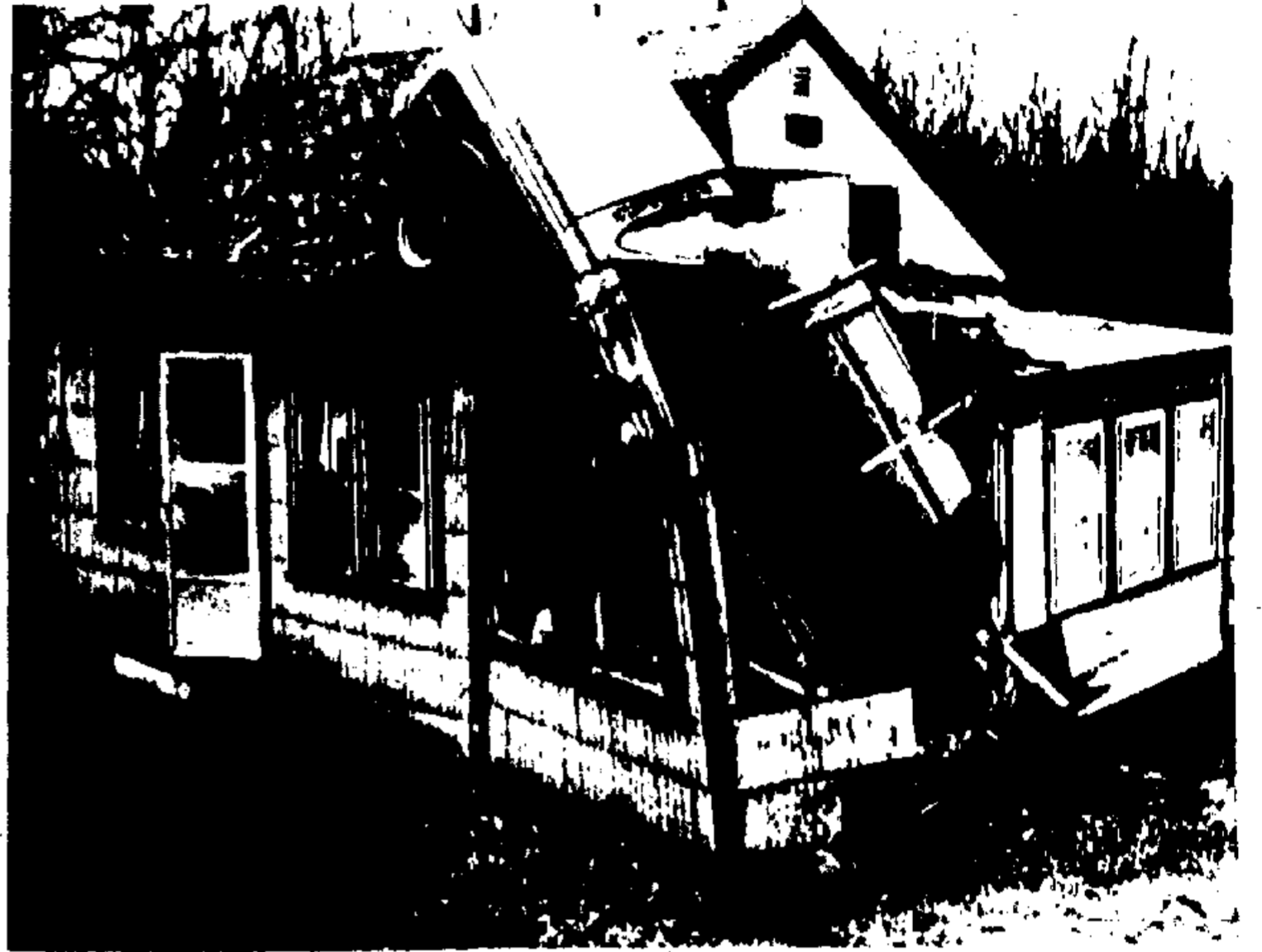
Commissioner Donald Kennedy said in Washington. "Women now taking or considering taking these drugs should read carefully the information provided with them and discuss the drugs with their doctors."

The study is the latest argument in a continuing debate over the safety of estrogen supplements during the change of life.

The study examined 1,339 women in menopause and concluded that those who take estrogen pills are six times more likely than non-users to have cancer of the uterine lining.

For those who use the medicine for more than five years, the risk is 15 times greater.

A series of earlier reports, most of them also published in the New England Journal, found that estrogen increased the risk of cancer four to eight times. All of them were based on smaller numbers of women than the latest study.



Maine attraction

A 1972 Chevrolet driven by Ronald Decamp Jr. of Bartlett, N.H. Maine Tuesday as Decamp swerved to avoid an animal. No injuries were reported. (AP)

Five workers sterilized

WILLOW ISLAND, W. Va. (AP) — Four women say they had themselves sterilized after an American Cyanamid official implied the surgery might help save their jobs at the chemical plant.

"I'd never, ever do it again," said Barbara Cantwell, one of the five workers sterilized.

Ms. Cantwell was among nine female Cyanamid workers who met with an Associated Press reporter here Wednesday.

The women described meetings with Glen Mercer, plant personnel director — discussions they said made them fear for their jobs and led them to conclude sterilization was the answer.

Mercer told them, they said, that federal regulations might soon require women to be phased out of the chemical industry. And he said Cyanamid planned to limit women able to have children to jobs in two sections of the plant because of possible lead danger to a fetus, the women said.

"He even said he felt sure our health insurance would cover the operation," said Ms. Cantwell, a divorcee with two children.

Contacted after the meeting, Mercer denied encouraging the

sterilizations, but conceded he might have discussed health insurance coverage in response to questions. He denied saying women might be phased out of the chemical industry.

"We tried to talk them out of getting sterilized," he said. "In fact, our company doctor even went so far as to tell them what could happen while they were under the anesthetic."

"I can't imagine why they would have done such a thing," Ms. Cantwell recalled sitting in the plant locker room and crying after learning two of her co-workers had been sterilized.

"And then a month later, I found myself doing the same thing," she said. "That just shows you how scared I was."

"It makes me feel different, like part of me is missing," said 27-year-old Betty Moler, who is married and has one child.

Seven of the women who met with the AP at the office of their union said they considered sterilization after talking with Mercer last January. One of the

five sterilized women was at work during the meeting. All five have had at least one child.

Denise Cline, 22, who is married with one child, said she considered sterilization.

"But we talked her out of it," said co-worker Linda Matheny. "Wouldn't that have been terrible and her just 22?"

Federal officials toured the plant Wednesday in response to a complaint from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union of America. The union, which represents 560 of about 900 plant workers, has filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, charging some workers are in "imminent danger" from lead and other chemicals.

The union has also threatened to file suit over the sterilizations.

Plant officials have said eight women in the plant's pigment department were told they would have to be transferred because of possible lead danger

to an unborn child.

Plant manager Jack White said the women were told they would receive their current salaries for 90 days. During that time, he said, they would be able to take jobs in other areas of the plant. Cyanamid officials say the lead levels at the plant are below the federal standard for men and women.

"The operations took place in April and May, for most part," said Donna Martin, 26, one of the women sterilized. "It was not a joint decision on our part. We made the decisions individually and we did it because we were afraid."

Mrs. Martin, who is married and has five children, said she asked Mercer if she had options besides sterilization — such as waiving the company's responsibility, or a vasectomy for her husband.

She said Mercer told her those suggestions could not be considered, adding:

"I was shocked, and then I was scared."

Gunmen holding hostages

MARION, S.C. (AP) — Two masked gunmen who may have been seeking drugs shot an orderly at a hospital here, fled the scene and then returned and took some hostages early today, officials said.

Hugh Munn of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said the agency's special weapons and tactics squad and officers of local law enforcement agencies had surrounded the Palmetto General Hospital.

"We have men over there, but we don't know how many hostages they have," said a spokesman for the state Highway Patrol in nearby Florence.

The gunmen reportedly demanded a car after shooting the orderly around midnight and drove off in a vehicle provided by Marion police, taking a nurse with them.

A short time later police found the car about two blocks away, according to Bobby T. Phillips, administrator of Marion Memorial, the other hospital in this city in southeastern South Carolina, about 100 miles east of Columbia. The nurse was found unharmed in the trunk, he said.

Phillips said police then learned that the gunmen had slipped back into the small hospital and were barricaded near the pharmacy.

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