

## Briefly

## PEOPLE

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Kucinich family's troubles with finances roll on.

Dennis Kucinich is mayor of the first major U.S. city to default since the Depression. His wife has been sued for \$533. And an uncle has filed for bankruptcy.

Sandy Kucinich was sued in Cleveland municipal court on Wednesday by Denise Arthur, 28, of Parma, Ohio. Miss Arthur said she was owed for wages and expenses incurred in preparing a Christmas parade that was cancelled because the mayor was ill.

Mrs. Kucinich, who headed a non-profit organization planning the parade, said the matter is "a communications problem."

Meanwhile, George Kucinich, a \$15,000-a-year investigator with the city consumer affairs department, listed debts of \$17,155 and assets at \$150 in his bankruptcy petition filed in federal court.

He declined comment on the bankruptcy, but his lawyer, Paul Kirner, said Kucinich's problems were caused by medical expenses.

The mayor's 23-year-old brother was charged with bank robbery Dec. 17. Perry Kucinich was arrested after he handed a teller a Christmas card with a demand for money written on the back.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Senator James Eastland (Dem. Miss.) resigned Wednesday after serving 36 years in the U.S. Senate.

Gov. Cliff Finch named Republican senator-elect Thad Cochran to the seat.

It had been suggested that Eastland, whose term expires when the new Congress convenes next month, step down early so Cochran could be appointed to the seat, giving him an edge in seniority among freshman senators.

Eastland was a long-time chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, and his resignation clears the way for Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem. Mass.) to assume the post.

HOWARD CITY, Mich. (AP) — Charles Parmer offered a \$3,000 reward Wednesday for information about burglars who stole his family's Christmas gifts Sunday while the Parmers were visiting their paralysed daughter in hospital.

Parmer said other missing items in the \$3,500 burglary included \$850 in cash bonuses for employees of his produce market, a color television and microwave oven.

"They even took some presents my wife bought for the school kids and teachers at the school," Parmer said.

Parmer, his wife and 10-year-old daughter Angela were visiting another daughter at a hospital when the burglary occurred. Sue Ann Parmer, 18, was paralysed in a Nov. 10 car crash.

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Barry Childress was killed and Ted Laintz was badly injured when the men ran into the path of a train to save Childress' dog on a duck-hunting trip.

But Laintz, 21, says he's done no rethinking of the decision to rescue the dog, despite the death of his childhood friend and the grief of Childress' parents.

"It was kind of a reflex" to bound after the dog when it became confused and ended up in the train's path, Laintz said.

Laintz suffered broken ribs, collapsed lungs, a broken leg and a cracked collarbone.

Childress, 20, had owned the golden retriever, Rufus, for two years.

### Mother gets jail sentence

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A 22-year-old mother was sentenced to an 18-to-20-year prison term Tuesday for killing her tiny daughter, whose body was found in a trash can.

Denise Gallison of Somerville was sentenced by Superior Court judge Paul Garrity, who also sentenced her to a concurrent nine-to-10 year sentence for assault and battery on her four-year-old son, Edward Jr., who now is in a foster home.

Mrs. Gallison was found guilty Dec. 18 of killing her two-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

Her lawyer said she will appeal the conviction.

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BLACKSHEAR, Ga. (AP) — It's your funeral, and it's free.

So says The Blackshear Times, a weekly newspaper offering a free funeral to a drinking driver killed on New Year's Eve.

There's a catch: you have to

admit in advance that you'll be drinking and driving on New Year's Eve.

The newspaper has a special form for the "contest." It must be signed and returned to the newspaper or to insurance agent Ken Brumbelee.

**Free funeral offered**

"I will be drinking and driving on New Year's Eve," the form states.

"Last year, the first year we did it, we didn't have anybody sign up," said Robert Williams, publisher of the newspaper in this community of

about 2,600 people.

"It's just reminding people of the dangers. It brings home the stark reality of what could happen."

"We were lucky. We didn't have a single fatality here last year."

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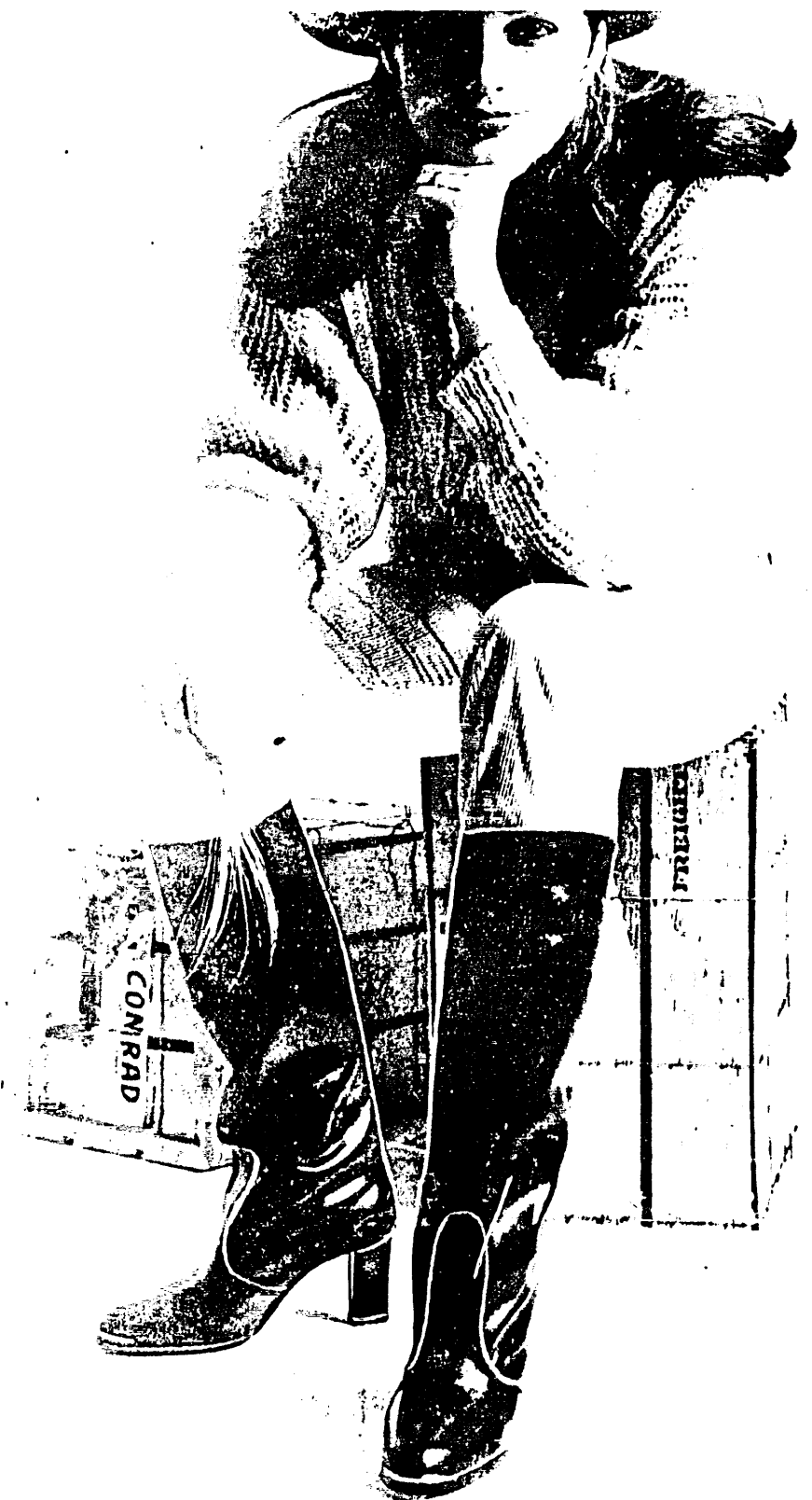
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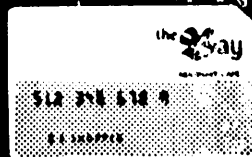
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