

International

Romeo and Juliet story

Man kills himself, wife

United Press International
MIAMI — The dying wish of a 60-year-old man was that his family understand he shot and killed himself and his crippled wife of 60 years "an act of love" — not of violence. It was a Romeo and Juliet story. They just didn't want to live without each other, said Dion Sena, administrator of Homestead Manor where Vivian and Charles Ivins were found dead Saturday. Mrs. Ivins, 80, had been living in the nursing home since suffering a disabling stroke two months ago. She could not walk and had arthritis. Her husband, who recently learned he had cancer, visited her daily so they could share meals. They loved each other," said

Sena. "They were always holding hands, always together." Police said Sunday Ivins left a note for his son and other relatives, went to the nursing home, shot his wife in the head, then shot himself in the heart. No one heard any shots. A nursing home aide discovered the bodies — Ivins sitting slumped over in a patio chair, his wife beside him in a wheelchair. At their feet was a box and a bag that police believe the retired Army colonel used to carry the gun to the nursing home. "It was evident that she knew what he was going to do," said Dade County Police Homicide Detective John LeClaire.

Ivins' note, which police discovered on a desk in the couple's apartment located near the nursing home, implored relatives to consider his action "not as an act of violence, but an act of love." The couple, said LeClaire, had traveled the world together and the "family says they were extremely close and affectionate their entire lives. He was afraid he would die first and she would suffer." The nursing home administrator described the couple's deaths as "a pact." "Who can say it was wrong?" he asked. "They are happy for eternity. That's the way I want to feel."

Farmers' loans extended if grain goes into market

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department Monday extended the period to 90 days during which farmers must repay price support loans for grain in the farmer-owned reserve if prices rise enough to force grain into the market. Previously, the 90-day period applied only to farmers who placed grain into reserve after Jan. 7. Now it applies to all farmers and all grain. Other farmers had had only 30 days to settle their accounts with the government if grain prices rose high enough, so the government called grain from reserve and thus called in loans for grain held in reserve. The reserve, created in 1977, keeps grain off the market when prices are low so that sufficient grain will be available when prices rise in times of short supply. Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the 90-day period will provide more time to markets to stabilize and permit

more orderly marketing if prices in an old reserve rise high enough so the reserve is called. Fitzgerald said it might be wise for farmers who have corn in old reserves to enter into a contract to shift their grain into a new reserve because the old reserve is close to being called at a lower price. "Corn prices are currently near the \$3.15-per-bushel call level for Reserve I, making it especially attractive to producers to convert their contracts to Reserve III where release and call prices are higher," he said. The switch must be made before

the old reserve is called, Fitzgerald said. The first reserve includes all grain put into reserve before the Russian grain embargo. The second reserve includes all grain put into reserve between the embargo and this summer soon after President Carter raised price support loan rates. The third reserve includes all the grain added to the reserve after the increase in price supports.

Nationwide strikes keep schools closed

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — Walkouts by at least 35,000 teachers nationwide affected over 600,000 students Monday. Philadelphia school officials vowed to open schools Monday for about half the district's 220,000 students, but advised parents the students would be sent home early. Negotiations between the city and the 23,000-member American Federation of Teachers collapsed late last week over the issue of teacher layoffs. No new talks were scheduled in the eight-day walkout. School spokesman William Jones said all elementary schools and 15 special education centers, with enrollments totaling about 100,000, would open Monday for half-day sessions ending at noon. Strikes also prevented school openings in Rochester, N.Y., 17 school districts in Pennsylvania, four communities in Rhode Island, seven districts in Illinois and 22 districts in Michigan. Columbus and three other communities in Ohio fell victim to strikes as did eight districts in Puerto Rico. In the West, partial strikes affected Auburn, Wash., and Sierra Vista, Ariz.

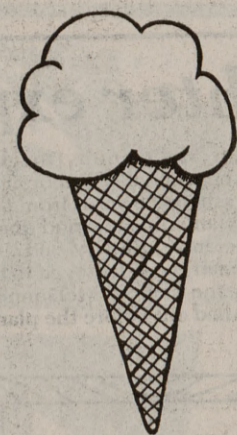
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