

National



Photo by Wesley Amann

Here goes nothing!

Mike Duffy demonstrate the Australian Rappel to his venture dynamics class at the Fireman's Training School. The Australian Rappel was developed by Australian soldiers so they could repel down a mountain with one hand free to defend themselves with a handgun.

Profane employees bugged by railroad

United Press International
MINEOLA, N.Y. — An official for the union representing Long Island Rail Road workers says he was told bugging devices discovered in engineer's cabs were installed in an attempt to identify cursing employees.

Edward Yule, general chairman of the United Transportation Union, said Friday that on Wednesday, a conductor discov-

ered voice-activated tape recorders in the engineer's cabs of two LIRR trains.

Yule said he is filing a complaint with the Nassau County District Attorney's office.

Railroad spokeswoman Alexandra Zetlin said the recorders were legally installed "as part of an investigation into illegal and unauthorized use of our broadcast channels."

First food

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Until recently, if you wrote the White House asking about the first family's favorite food you received a form letter and the recipe for crab-meat and artichoke casserole.

Now you get a form letter and the recipe for macaroni and cheese.

The change from elegance to mundane occurred because of a fear the public may think the Reagan lifestyle too fancy.

Why Macaroni and cheese? It's the president's favorite.

Warped



By Scott McCullin

Poisoned eyedrops, spray found in California stores

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Health officials are investigating in at least seven chain stores the poisoning of eye drops and nasal sprays with highly concentrated acids and chlorine sufficient to cause severe pain and possible blindness.

Seven people using the widely advertised products were injured and one woman may have suffered permanent eye damage in recent weeks, health officials reported Saturday.

"In most cases, the user put in one drop of the eye drops and started screaming," Susan Bond, an inspector for the state Department of Health Services, said. "If they'd put in more than one drop, there could have been total blindness," she said.

The acids included sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, acetic acid and chlorine.

"Someone most likely went into the store bought out the product, took the stuff from the store, replaced part of the contents and put it back," she said.

The contaminated products included the brand names Visine, Clear Eyes, Murine, Duration eye drops, Afrin nose drops, Sinex, Neo-synephrine and Dristan nasal sprays.

They were found at Alpha Beta markets and a Thrifty Drug Store in West Hollywood, Hollywood, Burbank, Glendale and Santa Monica.

Officials said contamination was confirmed in 10 of the samples from the stores involved.

In one case, a tested sample of

Afrin was found to be 50 percent sulphuric acid.

A check of 500 samples from about 100 other stores from various chains between Santa Barbara and San Diego has failed to turn up any evidence of further contamination, officials said.

The Alpha Beta stores temporarily removed all eye drops and nasal sprays from its shelves and Thrifty relocated the products and replaced all the items with new merchandise.

The first complaint was made several weeks ago, Bond said, and

investigation indicated the products had been on the shelves for about three weeks. She said the tampering was apparently done after delivery to the stores.

In most cases, she said, the seals were broken and in one case, a hypodermic needle may have been used.

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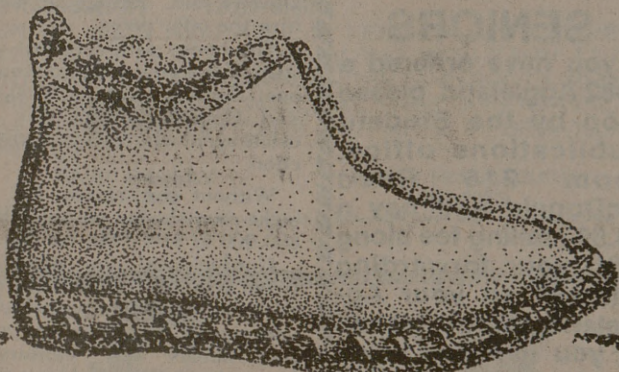
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