

Heroine leopard given 3 weeks to leave town

United Press International SEMINOLE, Okla.— A heroine last week, Sasha now is not on good terms with city officials.

Without twitching a whisker or lifting a paw, the 150-pound Asian leopard scared off a burglar at the home of her master, Court Egger, Feb. 9.

But that stint as a crime fighter also got Sasha and Egger in trouble, since the 16-month-old cat escaped through a door left open by the horrified burglar.

Sasha did not prowl far from

home and caused no trouble, yet neighbors reported the unexpected visitor to police and gained the feline some unwanted notoriety.

City officials, invoking a municipal ordinance, told Sasha to get out of town by sundown March 12.

Egger has vowed to fight the eviction notice and said he will prove the law does not apply to his leopard because she is not a wild animal.

"She doesn't know how to kill," said Egger, who has cared

for Sasha since she was a 3-day-old kitten. "She doesn't know how to hunt. She couldn't live in the wild."

Sasha is trained to use a litter box and is comfortable around people, dogs and farm animals, Egger said. She's probably more domestic than a cow, sheep or horse, he said.

The seven-foot long leopard also has been declawed.

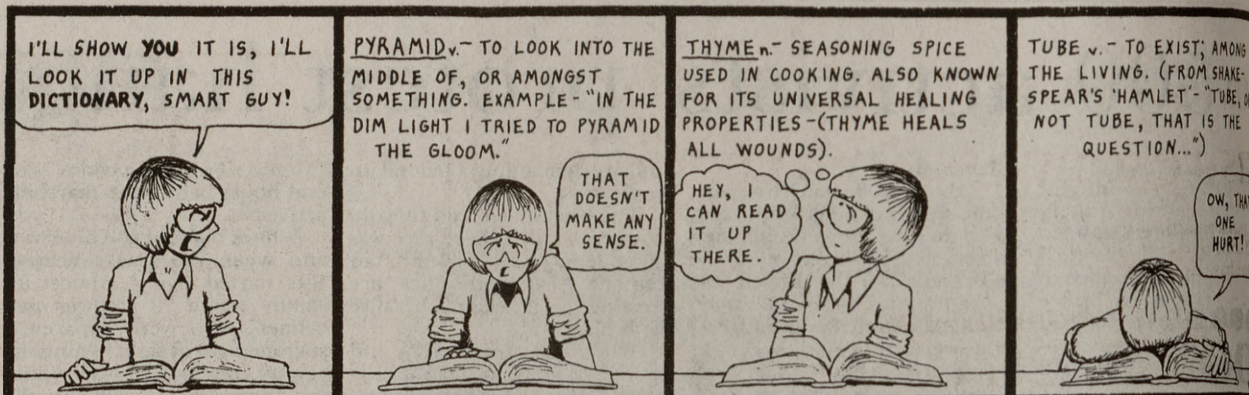
Seminole officials who have met Sasha acknowledge that she is a nice cat, but say they must follow city codes.

"It is a real friendly animal, but there's always a danger," City Housing Inspector Paul Staley said. "You can't eliminate that natural instinct in them."

"We might as well not have the ordinance if we don't enforce it. You've got the threat of somebody maybe hitting at it (leopard) and upsetting it. It could scare an older person."

Warped

By Scott McCullar



Japan may give U.S. private aid amounting to \$10 billion

United Press International WASHINGTON — Major Japanese corporations are considering a \$10 billion private aid package to the ailing U.S. economy to create thousands of jobs for Americans, Kay Sugahara, a Japanese-American businessman said Saturday.

Sugahara, the head of Fairfield-Maxwell Ltd., a conglomerate of 40 U.S. corporations, said the proposed project would relieve some of the pressures on Japan to reduce its huge trade surplus with the United States. He said it also would improve the Japanese image in America.

"We are talking about \$10 billion," Sugahara said.

"This substantial infusion of money is intended to create jobs

for Americans."

If the project goes through it would be the first time in modern history for a foreign nation to provide economic assistance to the United States.

The United States has been a major source of foreign aid since World War II, pumping billions of dollars into war-ravaged Europe under the Marshall Plan.

Sugahara declined to name the corporations he said were contemplating the aid package.

"I have a commitment from the power structure of Japan to

alleviate the situation," he said.

"We've had discussions with Japan Incorporated." Japan Incorporated is a term that refers to big business, financial institutions and the Japanese public establishment.

Japanese businessmen told the National Governors' Association the proposed treasury fund would be advanced directly by the private sector at a low interest rate, possibly 5 percent. Sugahara said he plans to brief governors on the plan Monday.

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Glacier breakthrough tough for Northern Ohio town

United Press International VERMILION, Ohio — Vermilion, a city of 6,000 on Lake Erie has something few towns have, its own glacier — right in the center of town.

The two-mile glacier has a thickness ranging from 25 inches to 13 inches.

Earlier this week the Coast Guard sent the ice breaker Neah Bay to help the city's ice breaker,

Jaws, clear the river.

There were problems however.

The ice breaker cleared the mouth of the river, then ran into trouble.

"The river is long, and has a lot of bends and is shallow, to the extent that it is too shallow for large ice breakers," he said.

"And because the river is right through the center of town it has three bridges over it and it is impossible for boats of any size to go under it," Mayor Herb Johnson said.

A lot of the ice breaking work has to be left up to Jaws and weather.

The city converted an old fishing boat into Jaws by putting iron plates on the front and a wing part of the hull with center

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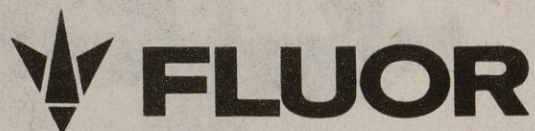
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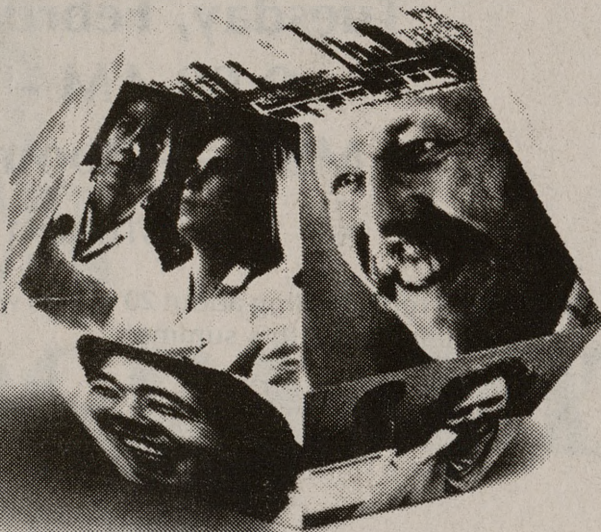
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