

Buyer needed before Sept. 19

Buffalo Courier-Express folding

United Press International
BUFFALO, N.Y.— Workers wept openly or sat in stunned silence at the news the 148-year-old Buffalo Courier-Express will cease publication Sept. 19, unless a buyer is found — a possibility the owners say is unlikely. "It was the best job I ever had," said Bob Bukaty, 45, a 10-year veteran photographer at the morning daily. "I believe it, but I can't believe it." He said when the announcement was made Tuesday afternoon, most of the workers sat silently, obviously stunned,

while others sobbed. "This is a very sad day for Buffalo and all of us," publisher Roger Parkinson said Tuesday. The demise of the Courier-Express would leave Buffalo with only one daily paper, the Buffalo Evening News. "The Courier-Express was losing money when we came to Buffalo three years ago," said John Cowles Jr., president of the Cowles Media Co., formerly the Minneapolis Star & Tribune Co., which bought the newspaper in 1979. Cowles said the paper was suf-

fering pre-tax losses of about \$8.6 million a year "despite our commitment of very considerable resources." The Courier-Express has a daily circulation of 127,750 and a Sunday circulation of 267,975. Cowles and Otto A. Silha, chairman of Cowles Media Co., said they had talked with possible buyers, but without success. "In our opinion, a sale is unlikely," Cowles said. The newspaper employs about 850 full-time workers. They were told of the decision at a 4 p.m. meeting and the official

announcement was made at a news conference about an hour later. Cowles said they had considered the possibility of a joint operation agreement with the Buffalo Evening News, which publishes an afternoon paper Monday through Friday and morning editions Saturday and Sunday. They concluded, however, that "the length of time probably required to reach and implement such an agreement made

that option economically feasible." The Buffalo Courier established in 1834 and merged in 1926 with the Buffalo Evening News, which was founded in 1846. Cowles said several arrangements will be made with the Courier's employees and participants in the Company pension plan will receive benefits to which they are entitled. Cowles will engage in management services to assist Cowles employees seeking new jobs.

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Paper offers reward for missing paperboy

United Press International
WEST DES MOINES — The parents of a 12-year-old newspaper carrier who has been missing for three days fear the boy was abducted, and they have asked to negotiate with the kidnapers. Police and volunteers rode mules and three-wheeled vehicles Tuesday searching river banks and woods searching for John Gosch, who disappeared Sunday while delivering newspapers. The widening search included areas along the Raccoon River known by police to be a hideaway for youths. "I just hope they find him and he's well," one mother said. "And I hope they get whoever apprehended him. I'm worried, the longer it goes by." The parents of other news-

paper carriers in the area also voiced fears. The mother of a 10-year-old paper carrier said her son had been bothered earlier this summer by a man driving a van. Her son ignored him and wasn't bothered further. After learning of Gosch's disappearance, the boy is scared to go out alone in the morning. "He won't be going out alone anymore," his mother said. "It makes you want to say, 'That's it. I don't need this.' But you don't want to let this beat you." The boy's parents, Noreen and John Gosch, assume he was kidnapped. Gosch is a carrier for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Co., which announced Tuesday it was offering a \$5,000 reward to anyone with information

leading to the whereabouts of the youth. The disappearance is being considered a missing person case. A spokesman for the Division of Criminal Investigation said, "We can't call it abduction or kidnapping because there are no witnesses one has seen anything." West Des Moines Police Officer Orval Cooney said there were leads in the case. When asked there had been any cause for optimism, Cooney replied, "None whatsoever." More than 1,000 volunteers searched Monday but the search was considerably smaller Tuesday as many volunteers turned to work or school.

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United Press International
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