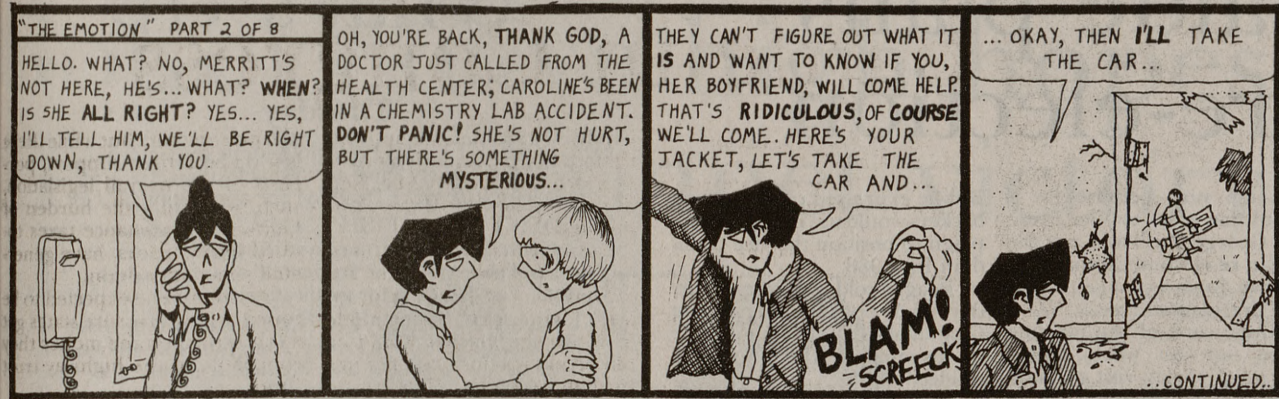


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Rickety bridge stands three attempts to raze

United Press International
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The 77-year-old Arch Bridge was supposed to be so rickety it was unsafe to walk on but demolition workers failed to blow it up in three tries. "This is incredible, isn't it?" said Robert Duncan, foreman of the crew that lost three rounds to the stubborn 650-foot steel suspension bridge over the Connecticut River.

Workers realized they had seriously underestimated the bridge but planned to make another try Monday with cutting torches. After each blast a cheering crowd of 3,000 people applauded the bridge that would not die. Duncan and his men gave up after the third try Sunday and said they would be back today to

cut the bridge's supports with blow torches. The bridge, the longest single-arch structure in the United States when it was completed in 1905 between Bellows Falls, Vt., and North Walpole, N.H., was closed to vehicular traffic in September 1971 after the New Hampshire Highway Department said stress points in the structure were weakening.

Striking wives demand love

United Press International
SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Fifteen wives are striking for attention and affection from their husbands, while husbands stand subjected to the snickers of co-workers.

The men have stubbornly resisted their wives' demands for more romance and help around the house since the women went on strike Friday. But peer pressure could force the husbands to change their ways.

"The first day or two it was 'Haw, Haw, what a joke,'" said jewelry worker Michael Larkin, 39. But ribbing from co-workers and additional pressure may force a settlement, Larkin said.

The women went on strike to protest their husbands' lack of affection and attention and to get more help with the chores. They said their complaints had gone unheeded for months.

The women and their kids greeted their husbands with signs when they came home from work. "When I came home, I drove down my street and saw cardboard signs all over the place — 'Have You Hugged Your Wife Today?' and 'Mothers on Strike.' Then I knew something was coming," Larkin said.

The neighborhood revolt in this rural northern Rhode Island town appeared to be at a standoff on Sunday. "A mother's day goes 24 hours with no appreciation, no affection and the husband comes home and lies on the couch — there's nothing there," said Gloria Gangi, 25, one of the leaders of the wives' strike.

"We sat down and discussed it a little last night, but I don't think either one of us is willing to give in," said her husband, Jim, 30, a security system installer.

He said, "The thing is, when a

union strikes, you can fire the workers. But how do you fire a wife?"

"It hasn't come to the point where any of the couples have come to fistfights or anything," Larkin said.

"I went on strike for love," said Larkin's wife of 14 months, Brenda. "It's more communication, that's what I mean by love and affection. A lot of people think I mean in the bedroom, but I mean talking at night, a little romance."

For the men, the strike has meant cold cuts for dinner, toast for Sunday breakfast and sinks piled with dirty dishes.

Some of the men feel their lifestyle is at stake.

"They clean up for themselves, they clean up for the kids, but when it comes to their husbands they say no," he said. "These women, I don't know."

"I'd say it's at a standoff, because a lot of the other guys are saying we can cook and clean for ourselves," Larkin said. "I've always been the independent type."

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Deregulation of your telephone ...how will it affect you

Deregulation. What does it mean to the nation's telephone industry — and the customers it serves? All of the hows, whys and maybes are not determined, but here are answers to some often-asked questions.

Q. What is deregulation?

A. Simply, it's the process of removing state and federal controls from many services provided by the telecommunications industry. It means customers can select equipment and services in a competitive market without regulation by a regulatory commission.

Q. When does it happen?

A. Deregulation isn't new. Federal Communications Commission rulings over the past three decades have allowed some competition in terminal equipment (telephones, multi-line systems, etc.) and in long-distance services. But deregulation surfaced as a major public issue when the FCC mandated total deregulation of new terminal equipment, effective January 1, 1983.

Q. Why does the FCC want the telephone industry to be deregulated?

A. The FCC believes competitive markets are most efficient. Deregulation — and competition — will encourage new services and open more options to customers.

Actually, the FCC is but one of the driving forces behind deregulation. Congress, the Justice Department and the Reagan Administration (like others before it) all are eager to deregulate the American telephone business.

Q. What is GTE's position regarding deregulation?

A. GTE feels that deregulation ultimately will benefit all concerned. Competition is the American way and GTE expects to compete aggressively.

Q. Just what services will continue under regulation?

A. After January 1, the basic local and long-distance switching networks will continue to be regulated. So will all in-place equipment on customer premises. New equipment will be excluded from regulation, as will "enhanced" services, which combine basic service with computer processing to provide additional, different or restructured information.

Q. How does this affect customers?

A. The big change is in lease and purchase arrangements for telephones, multi-line systems and other equipment in a customer's home or business.

After January 1, existing customers may continue to lease their phones from General Telephone. In addition, they have the option of purchasing phones — either from General Telephone or another supplier.

New customers also will be able to buy phones anywhere they choose (including General Telephone). Cost of equipment purchased by customers will be determined by the marketplace — not regulatory commissions. Lease options also will be available to new customers, but again will be determined by the marketplace — not the regulators.

There's another important point. By definition, anyone who alters existing service will be classified as a new customer. People who move from one residence to another — even though both are served by General Telephone — would be considered new customers under deregulation guidelines.

Q. Will all customers be affected by deregulation?

A. No. The FCC's order applies only to single-line service. Customers on multi-party lines may continue to lease phones from General Telephone with all the traditional services. For a period after deregulation begins, party line customers may have some options that will not be available after January 1, 1983 to single-line customers.

Q. Will it affect the cost of telephone service?

A. Deregulation will have an impact on virtually every aspect of the telephone industry — including cost. It should result in lower prices for some services and higher prices for others. The net effect of deregulation — and the competition it creates — is that each product or service provided by General Telephone must pay its own way, without subsidies from other segments of the business.

For example, revenues from various optional services have traditionally subsidized the cost of providing basic local service. That ensured basic telephone service was affordable to nearly everyone. But competition will force prices to more closely reflect the true cost of any service. Local rates probably will rise; others may decrease. Either way, customers will be asked to pay for the cost of the services they use.

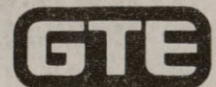
Q. So what are the benefits to the consumer?

A. With deregulation comes competition. With competition comes the suppliers' desire to provide customers with what they want, when they want it, resulting in many options, introduction of new technology and keeping costs at the lowest possible level.

Q. Won't there be a lot of people who will be unable to afford a telephone?

A. GTE expects to help customers meet increases in telephone rates by phasing in certain options for flat rate pricing, including Usage Sensitive Service (USS) which is a measured service.

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