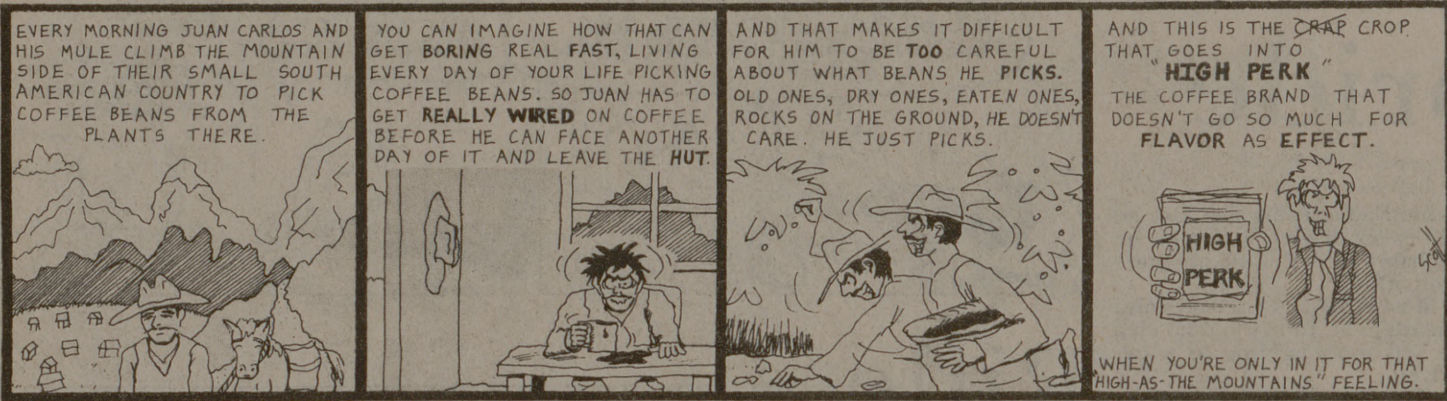


Warped

by Scott McCullar



# Defector's parents get letter from son

**United Press International**  
ST. LOUIS — The soldier who defected to North Korea last year has written his family for the first time, his parents said today.

Joe White's father, Norval White, said his son gave no indication in the letter, which the family received Friday, why he left his post in South Korea to defect.

"The letter contains only assurances that he is well and expressions of love and concern for family and friends," White and his wife, Kathleen, said in a statement.

White, 21, from St. Louis, was patrolling the demilitarized zone the morning of Aug. 28 when he walked up to a gate along the border and shot off the lock, a military report said after the incident. Soon after, another soldier saw White, carrying his rifle, on the other side of the border.

North Korean officials said White defected. His parents vigorously denied the claim until the Army said in September its investigation showed White willingly entered North Korea. The Defense Department since has listed White as a defector.

The elder White refused to divulge the exact contents of his son's letter, which was dated Oct. 27 and dated in Pyongyang, capital of North Korea.

White, who works at a General Motors Corp. truck assembly plant, called the Washington Post late Saturday to get the letter. He told the paper his son wanted a dictionary and an almanac.

"We're going to try to get him that dictionary and almanac," he said. "We'll get it and just send them to the care of Pyongyang, North Korea. That's all we want."

Parent notification is issue

# Birth control plan fought

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — A lawyer for a family planning group urged a judge, Monday, to block the administration's plan for federally funded clinics to tell parents when their teenage daughters get prescription birth control devices.

John Niels, attorney for the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, said the new regulation will discourage teenagers from seeking contraceptives, but not from engaging in sexual activities.

"The U.S. Congress has uniformly and consistently rejected the requirement of parental notification," Niels told U.S.

District Judge Thomas Flannery in asking him to block the rule that takes effect on Feb. 25.

"The Department (of Health and Human Services) has no power to make that requirement on its own."

Flannery did not rule immediately on the dispute, but said he would make a decision this week on the request for a preliminary injunction to block the rules.

At issue in the case is an HHS regulation that federally funded clinics notify parents within 10 working days when girls 17 years old or younger are prescribed birth control pills, diaphragms or intrauterine de-

vices. 5,000 clinics and more than 400,000 teenage girls would be affected, family planning officials say.

Justice Department lawyer Theodore Hirt told Flannery the government has the "right to impose limits" when it funds services.

"It has the right to set conditions on those services," he said, arguing the new regulation is in line with the intentions of Congress.

He also said parents have an important interest in knowing what medication their children are taking.

"A notice to the parent that a minor has received contracep-

tives is perhaps the most practical, concrete way of encouraging family participation," Hirt said.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Health Association went to court in a move to stop the regulation, arguing it is unconstitutional and could adversely affect hundreds of thousands of teenage girls.

Niels said Congress passed an amendment in 1981 for clinics receiving federal money to "encourage" family participation, not mandate it. He said Congress specifically rejected proposals to require parental notification.

# Mom loses three kids to 'crib death' syndrome

**United Press International**  
DALTON, Ga — Relatives of a woman who lost three babies to sudden infant death syndrome in three years say they learned to accept the mysterious deaths spanning five generations as the will of God.

Doctors say their investigation into the family's 12 infant deaths may lead to the first evidence that sudden infant death

syndrome (SIDS) has genetic origins.

About 9,000 American babies die each year from SIDS — the most common cause of death among infants between the newborn stage and 1 year of age, officials say.

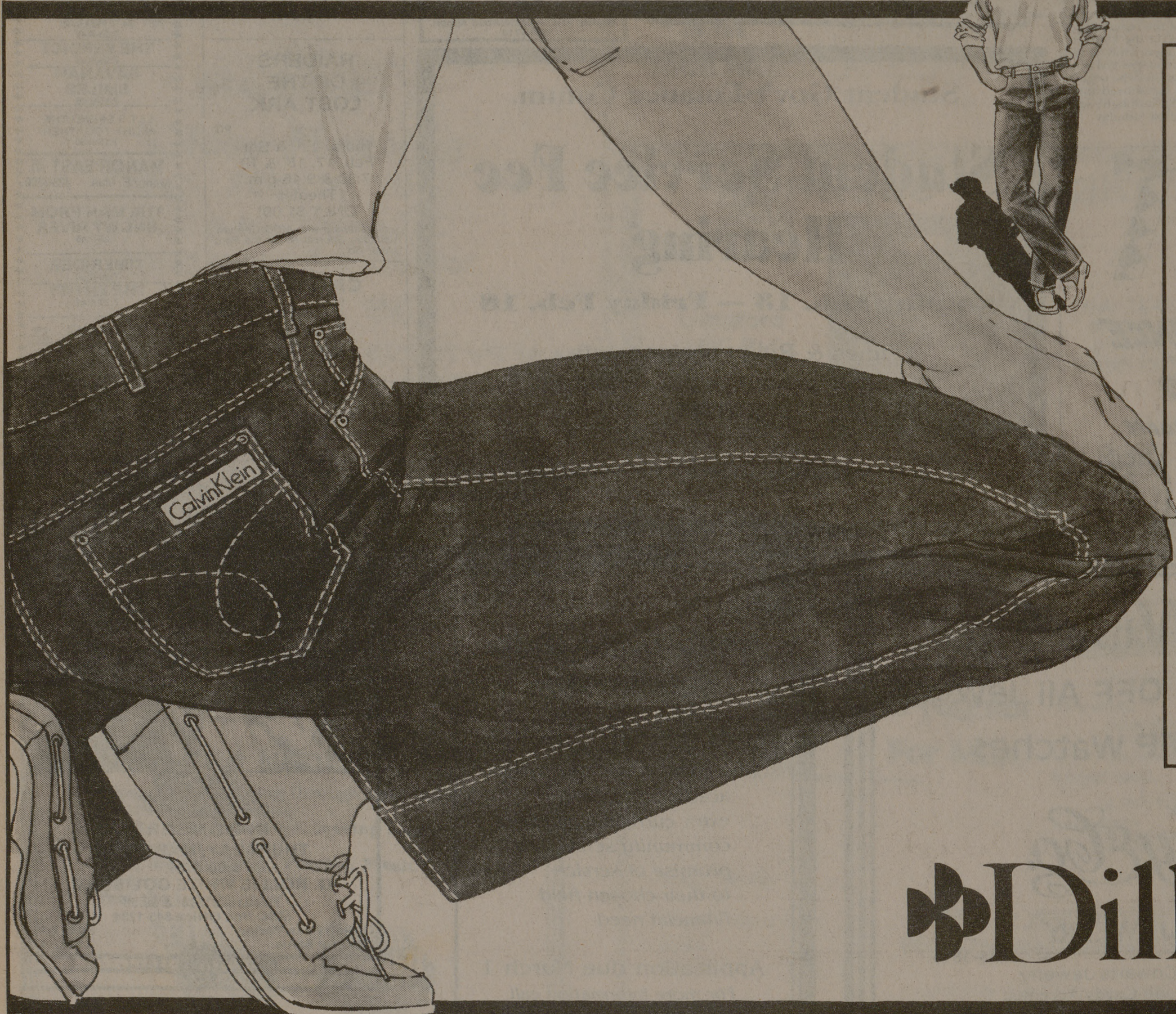
"My grandmother says the babies all died in their sleep. I guess my family learned to accept it because there was nothing they could do about it. But

it's hard for any mother to accept the death of one of her own," Terrie Lee Greeson said.

Greeson's 3-week-old third baby the Greesons lost to what is commonly known as "crib death."

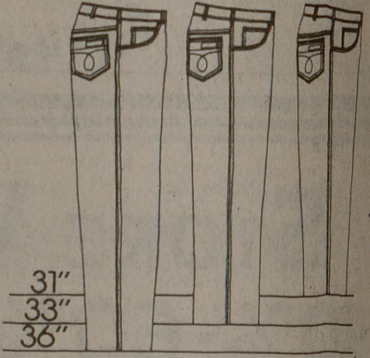
Included among the other deaths were four born to Greeson's great-grandmother and two to her great-grandmother's child.

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