

Trapper' wins award

United Press International
NEW YORK — Trapper, a 30-year-old English Springer spaniel from Kentwood, La., defeated 30,000 canine contestants Tuesday to earn the distinguished title of "The Great American Dog."
When the envelope was opened and Trapper's name was read out, his proud 10-year-old mistress, Heather Schaefer, knelt down beside the spaniel and white poodle and held her arms around his neck.
With a broad smile, the trainer rubbed her cheek against Trapper's expansive floppy ear and squeezed with a heartfelt hug.
With cameras clicking, a

Dixieland jazz band playing and a standing ovation at the award ceremony in a suite at Manhattan's posh St. Moritz hotel — Trapper remained undaunted. He sat down, looking bored.

The new celebrity became visibly uncomfortable when the white robe was draped across his back and the diamond tiara placed on his head. Within moments, however, the tiara easily was removed with a few shakes of the head and a paw or two.

Heather received a \$25,000 prize which she plans to put into a fund for college.

An independent judging firm chose five finalists, all of whom made an appearance

on the Merv Griffin Show and received checks for \$5,000 each.

The runners-up were announced until it came down to Heather and Trapper, and contender Tremain Jones, 7, whose St. Bernard "Bernice" was not present. When Trapper's name was announced as winner, tears welled up in Tremain's eyes as members of his family, who had come from Dallas, leaned down to console the second prize winner.

Trapper and Heather's picture will appear on 2 million packages of Dog Chow, and they will ride on a float at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Kroger closes six stores

United Press International
BATON ROUGE, La. — A Texas-based grocery store chain closed six of its 11 Louisiana stores Tuesday and a union representing 800 workers who walked off the job across the state filed complaints with the National Labor Relations Board.

About 800 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 210 struck Kroger stores in Louisiana at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday protesting cuts in wages and benefits contained in what the company said was its final contract offer.

"They told the union, 'Here is our final offer. If you reject, we will close the Baton Rouge stores before the first of the year. If

you reject and strike, and if pickets show up, we will close the Baton Rouge stores at that time," said union president Aurburn P. Dickey.

Company officials at the Houston-based grocery chain said the Baton Rouge area stores had been losing money for some time and the strike made it no longer possible to operate them.

"Over the past several months Kroger has indicated to bargaining representatives that Kroger food stores in the Baton Rouge area are unprofitable and significant modifications of the labor agreement were needed to bring the stores more in line with performance expectations," said Carmen Lovell, a Kroger marketing spokeswoman.

"However," she added, "the union's failure to agree with us on a new contract indicates to us that we could only expect to sustain further losses by continuing to operate in the Baton Rouge

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area."
She said the six stores were being closed permanently, but that Kroger intended to continue operating stores in Alex-

andria, Pineville, Lake Charles, Lafayette and Sulphur.
Trucks rolled up to the Baton Rouge stores shortly after "closed" signs were posted in windows and non-union workers began loading perishable food items for transfer.

"It is our current intention to operate the food stores during the strike action and keep them operating if and when a settlement is reached," Lovell said.

Dickey said that 430 of the employees involved in the strike were from the Baton Rouge area stores.

A contract between the union and Kroger expired on Oct. 9, but both sides continued the existing agreement while negotiations on a new pact continued.

Use of TDC funds questioned

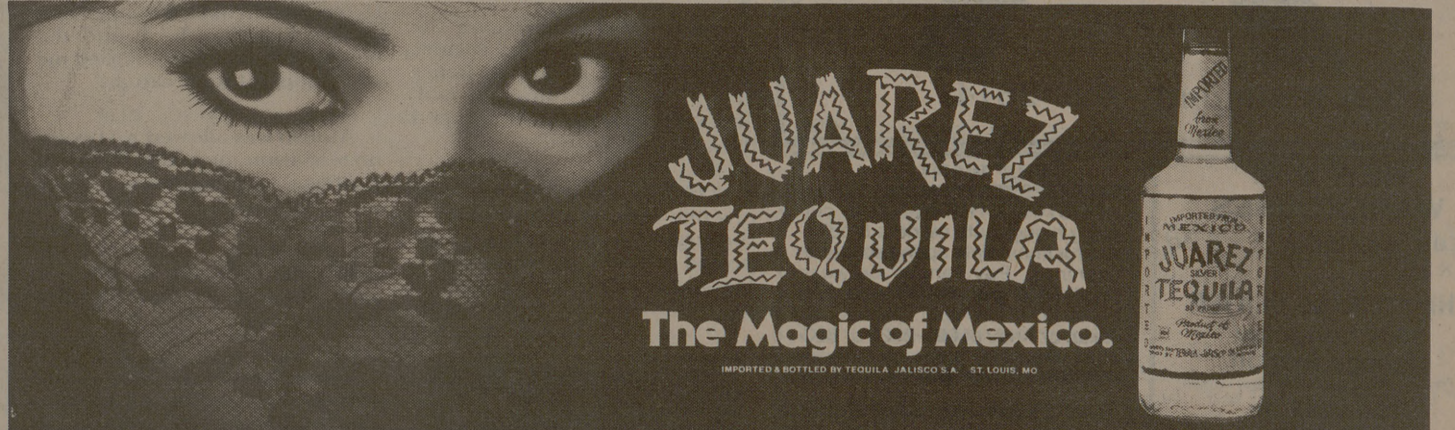
United Press International
DUNCANVILLE — Rep. Ray Keller, D-Texas, called Tuesday an investigation into the use of vocational training agricultural funds to build an employee housing.

"When work is done (by inmates) for other agencies, the money is placed in this fund to enhance additional industries," Keller said. "Excess money is then to be returned to the general revenue fund. Never have they returned any money and instead have taken it upon themselves to build employee housing and remodel existing employee housing, which is in no way allowable in the statute."
Keller said a preliminary in-

quiry showed that \$700,000 from the fund was used for employee housing, including \$36,000 for employee mobile homes and \$16,000 to renovate two residences at the Central Unit.

In addition, Keller said, \$150,000 in agricultural funds were used to purchase employee housing "with no legislative approval whatsoever."

Keller said it was "a serious breach of trust."



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