

# Moose, cow baffle experts with interspecies romance

SHREWSBURY, Vt. (AP)—They said it wouldn't last, but now that Jessica the cow and her lovesick moose have been nuzzling happily for nearly two months, the experts are struggling to come up with an explanation for the odd couple.

Maybe the young moose was rejected by a female of his own kind, suggested one animal behaviorist.

Maybe he grew up in a barnyard and is more comfortable around cows than other moose, theorized another.

Whatever the explanation, it's clear that the relationship between

Jessica and her moose transcends its lusty beginnings during the cow's mating period, said Charles Willey, the Vermont's moose expert who spent a few hours at Larry Carrara's hilltop farm recently observing the two.

"He just has these mixed-up feelings, something between passion and companionship," said Willey. "There really is a bond between the two."

Willey said Jessica, a Hereford cow, shows signs of closeness to the moose, too. "When I was there she

was mooing to him," he said. "When they were separated from each other, he would walk to her and brush up against her. She seemed very taken by the attention."

Willey and other scientists who have studied moose behavior extensively say they believe the moose initially was attracted to Jessica because she was in heat.

Although it is biologically impossible for a moose and a cow to produce offspring, experts say the scent of a cow in heat may be similar to that given off by a female moose.

## Iran

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that oversight, when used properly, is a pretty good tool."

Senate leaders announced the makeup of a special, Watergate-style committee, headed by Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, to conduct an investigation of the entire Iran-Contra affair when the 100th Congress convenes in January.

Regan said that during his appearance before the committee, "I didn't duck any question. I didn't take any Fifth Amendment. I didn't invoke executive privilege."

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., said that Regan "told an unbelievable story in a very believable manner. . . . It's the story you've read about, and he says he knew nothing about it. I find that unbelievable."

Any congressional grant of "use immunity" proposed by Reagan would not only compel testimony by Poindexter and North, and possibly others, but would shield them from prosecution based on information they give Senate investigators. However, prosecutors would be free to build a criminal case from information gathered independently or from other witnesses' testimony.

## Toys

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Swartz identifies Levin's remarks as just another industry excuse.

"Part of this 'shift the blame' strategy lies in the industry's use of the words 'parental supervision' as a substitute for 'don't blame us' when tragedy strikes," he says. "The industry knows the vast majority of toys sold will be used without adult supervision, as surrogate baby-sitters."

Toy manufacturers also hide behind age recommendations when ever an injury occurs, Swartz says.

"Age recommendations, when given, are frequently inconsistent, misleading, inaccurate and inappropriate," he says. "They rarely explain the risks posed by any particular toy and it is common for truly hazardous toys to never carry age recommendations."

In response to this charge, Levin says she wonders what made a trial attorney the person to be deciding these things.

"We (the TMA) didn't compile a 10 worst attorneys list," Levin says.

Swartz says most warnings, if they exist, are printed on packaging which is tossed away and forgotten moments after opening a toy.

Swartz says he has never found a toy which adequately describes and indicates its potential for killing, even in cases in which the toy has caused several deaths.

Governmental action against toy

manufacturers has been overwhelming lacking, he says.

"The United States lags behind other countries around the world in establishing stringent, effective safety standards for toys," he says. "The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) knows we could learn a great deal from our nearest neighbor, Canada, on how to develop effective toy safety standards, yet they defend inadequate standards which permit the continued marketing of toys and other products that kill our children."

"Each year they (the CPSC) sponsor an annual 'toy safety campaign' with the toy industry's trade association. They use our tax dollars to help toy makers get their spurious points across to consumers and to provide free public relations."

"This is the industry the CPSC is supposed to be regulating. It is a case of the fox guarding the henhouse."

Swartz also accused the CPSC of not testing toys before they reach store shelves.

"If any such testing is done, it is usually paid for by the manufacturers and we are never told about the failures. Testing organizations hired by the industry refuse to reveal the names of toys which their testing has found to be hazardous."

The CPSC declined comment in response to any of Swartz's accusations.

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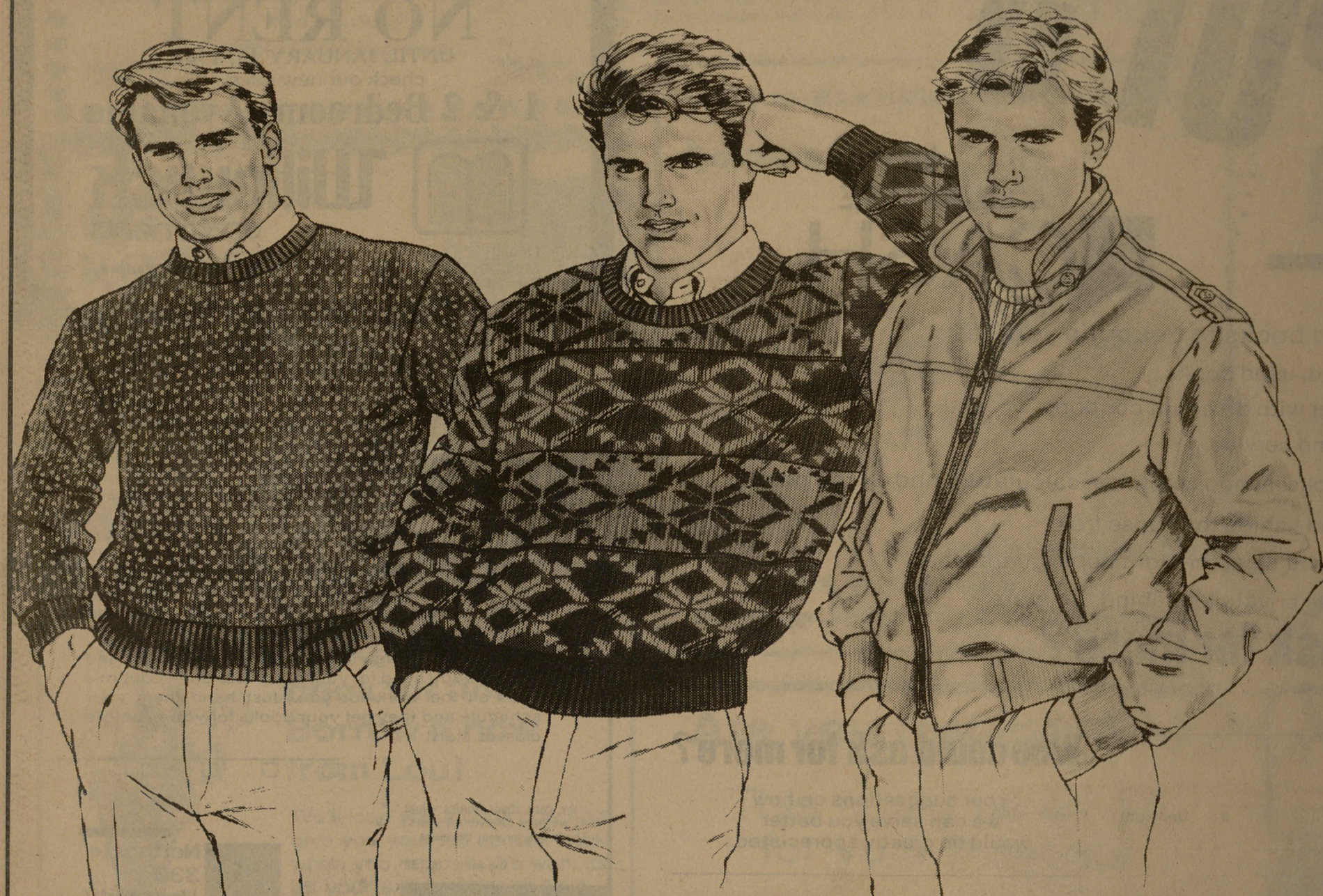
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