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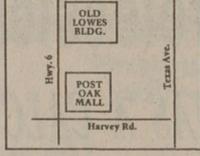
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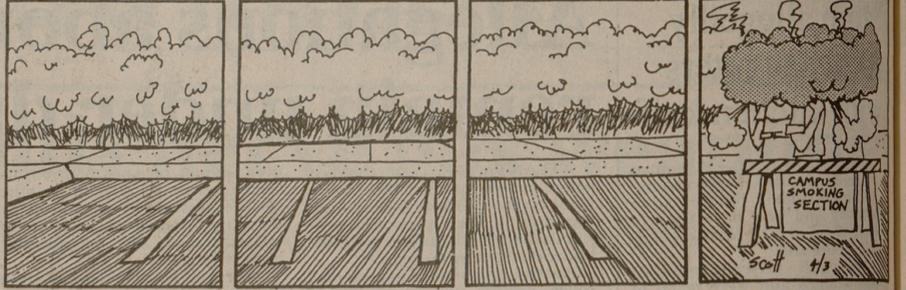
Small	Medium	Large
\$2.50	\$4.00	\$5.75
(12 oz.)	(20 oz.)	(32 oz.)
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Criminals ordered to pay

Some prisoners must reimburse state

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Federal judges across the country increasingly are ordering criminals not only to pay the time for their crime but to pay the cost of their prison stay.

From Jan. 19, 1989, through the end of October, federal judges ordered 254 defendants to pay a monthly fee during their prison sentence, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington, D.C.

"We see this as merely an equitable and common sense thing to do," said Judge William Wilkins Jr. of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., chairman of the seven-member commission.

"If you have the wherewithal to reimburse taxpayers for the cost of your imprisonment, which you caused through the commission of a criminal act, then you ought to have to pay," Wilkins said.

Some civil libertarians, however, are objecting. They say the inmates aren't getting their money's worth because of overcrowded prison conditions.

The commission, created in October 1985 after public outcry over sentencing discrepancies, instituted mandatory sentencing guidelines to be applied uniformly in federal courts.

But judges must use discretion in deciding which convicts will pay for their prison stay. Only those who can afford the monthly payment of \$1,210.05, plus \$91.66 a month during probation, can be ordered to pay.

Those fees, calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, cannot be imposed if they would leave the defendant's family destitute or on welfare, said Paul Martin, a commission spokesman.

"It was kind of a very simple thought — select those folks who have the ability to pay for their cost of incarceration or supervision," Martin said. "It's mainly earmarked, of course, for the 'white collar' defendant, someone who has some financial resource."

Of the 45,000 cases that reach federal court every year, few criminals appear to fit the bill.

"Most people who are put away in the federal court system are indigent," said Ron Wheeler, an attorney in Des Moines. "They don't have a dime. I've had clients who didn't have enough money to buy a six-pack of beer."

Last year, Wheeler represented a University of Iowa student charged with possessing LSD with the intent to sell. The student, Matthew Follett of Kenilworth, Ill., pleaded guilty.

In August, U.S. District Judge Charles Wolle sentenced Follett to seven years in prison plus four years of probation.

Noting that Follett had a substantial trust fund, Wolle also fined Follett \$20,000 and ordered him to pay for his prison stay, plus the monthly fee during probation.

"I don't have any problem with that at all," Wheeler said. "If they're convicted and can pay the cost of being kept in prison, I think they should."

"It looks nice on paper, but in actuality, there aren't a lot of these kinds of defendants."

One critic of the program is Alvin J. Bronstein, director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, who noted that the federal prison system is running at 170 percent of capacity "and getting worse every month."

"It is clear to me that federal prisons today are basically unconstitutional because of the conditions of overcrowding, inadequate medical care and all the problems created by that mass of overcrowding," he said.

"It seems unseemly and highly inappropriate — if not illegal — to be requiring defendants to pay for room and board, or the cost of being incarcerated, in an unconstitutional facility," Bronstein said.

Travel trend influences spa packages

Associated Press

A continuing trend toward the shorter vacation, including weekend breaks, continues to influence the travel and resort business, according to those in the industry.

One inn owner is offering spa "breakations," short one-to-five-day vacation packages including special fitness programs.

"We've witnessed a tremendous change in recent years," says Edward Safdie, owner of the Norwich, Conn., Inn and Spa. "Guests no longer book one- or two-week stays at the spa. Most of them just don't have the time."

Safdie says the inn now offers shorter-stay programs and, for weekend travelers, inn accommodations and use of the spa on an "a la carte" basis.

Many hotels, in cities from New York to Los Angeles, are offering special package deals for weekend guests.

Stouffer Hotels and Resorts, for example, promotes one- or two-night weekends at its properties in Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, California, Georgia, Florida and Arizona, with longer weekend packages available at its Stanford Court in San Francisco and the Mayflower in Washington, D.C.

Airlines give tourists needed sleeping bags

SINGAPORE (AP) — The glut of hotel rooms of a few years ago that enabled picky tourists to choose from an array of bargains has ended. In fact, things are so bad that two airlines plan to issue sleeping bags to stranded passengers.

Room occupancy has been averaging more than 90 percent in recent months. So Singapore International Airlines and the Australian carrier Qantas hope that sleeping bags will make unexpected layovers or flight delays at Changi Airport more bearable when no rooms are available.

Sleeping bags will be used only as a last resort, according to an SIA spokesman. But stranded passengers zipped into sleeping bags in designated areas "is certainly far better than letting them lie around the transit halls," he says.

This city-state of 2.6 million people expects 5 million visitors this year. It has 68 hotels and 24,142 rooms now, with 72 hotels and 26,185 rooms expected to be available by the end of 1992.

By then the Raffles Hotel, a 104-year-old landmark, is expected to reopen after a \$52-million facelift.

Room rates, heavily discounted

as recently as two years ago, are expected to increase as much as 40 percent in the next two years.

One stopgap under study is to offer apartments in government housing projects for visitors on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

Singapore became a regional tourist stopover mainly because visitors could pick up some bargains on their way to the beaches of Bali or the temples in Thailand. But there are few bargains these days. Only freepassengers from Japan and Taiwan might find it relatively inexpensive, because the local dollar has depreciated along with its U.S. counterpart.

With few natural and man-made attractions, the Tourist Promotion Board plugged the island successfully in the 1970s as "Instant Asia," a clean and crime-free metropolis where most people spoke English and the water was safe to drink.

Spurred by the euphoria of surging tourism in the mid and late 1970s and optimistic forecasts that the boom would continue, developers built more hotels than tourists could fill. Some 8,000 rooms were added in 1982-86, a 57 percent increase.

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