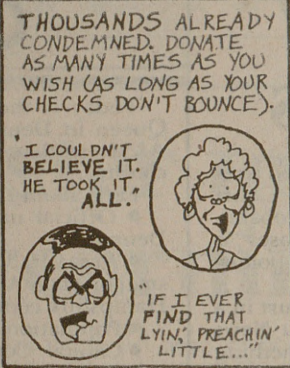
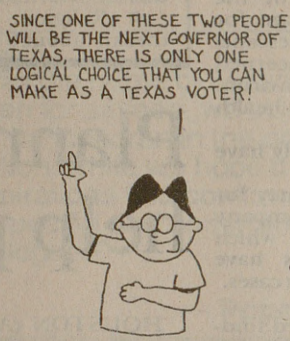
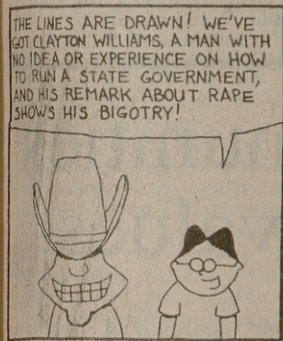


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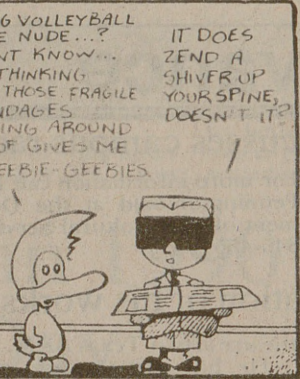
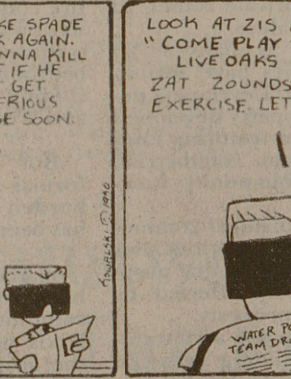
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Low vision patients get help from Lighthouse for the Blind

NEW YORK (AP) — There's nothing unusual about wearing glasses or contact lenses to bring vision up to or close to normal. In fact, nearly 100 million American adults wear some form of prescriptive eyewear.

But at least 4 million visually impaired Americans have eyesight that cannot be improved medically or with conventional lenses.

"An ordinary pair of glasses does not give these people sufficient vision to do everyday visual things — reading a newspaper, filing their nails or recognizing a person's face," says Dr. Eleanor Faye, ophthalmological director for the Lighthouse Low Vision Services since 1965. The Lighthouse, founded in 1906 as the New York Association for the Blind, is a not-for-profit organization that helps the visually impaired make the most of the sight they have. It offers a number of special low-vision aids to help the visually impaired become more functional and less dependent on others.

Among these aids are devices such as magnifiers and telescopes that are

prescribed to meet individual needs.

There also are everyday items — wall clocks, telephones, playing cards — with extra-large markings, special reading lamps, talking clocks, video magnifiers and various large-type magazines and books, including a dictionary, atlas and the Bible.

One of the visual aids the Lighthouse fits is a device to help visually impaired motorists see distant objects such as highway signs, traffic signals and street signs.

What looks like an ordinary pair of spectacles actually has two small, cylindrical telescopes mounted in the upper portion of each lens.

Dr. Bruce P. Rosenthal, clinical director of the Lighthouse Low Vision Continuing Education Program, says the motorist, while driving under normal conditions, looks through the regular lenses. He glances into the telescopic part only when something distant needs to be brought into his field of vision.

Rosenthal says the device is legal in several states.

The purpose of the Lighthouse is to rehabilitate people who have vi-

sion problems, Faye says. They are brought to the Lighthouse, she says, "with the possibility that something can be done to help them."

She says patients with low vision are faced with hazards from things that don't faze people with normal or corrected sight.

Such otherwise simple tasks as shaving, setting a thermostat, negotiating sidewalk curbs and steps, and dealing with traffic can be hazardous to those with low vision.

Low vision can cause social problems, too. "People who have trouble seeing faces feel socially out of it, and they end up staying home," Faye says.

The Lighthouse serves more than 4,000 people, from infants to the elderly. Dr. Barbara Silverstone, executive director, says that over the years, "the profile of blindness has changed. Only 5 percent of the 4,000 we serve are totally blind."

Faye stressed another problem the visually impaired face: While the public can often understand the handicap of a blind person, "partial sight is not simple to understand."

Dairy farm owner caught in line of fire for ownership of Civil War battlefield

SHARPSBURG, Md. (AP) — Once again, Millard Kefauver's 280-acre dairy farm is in the line of fire.

Kefauver's great-grandfather farmed the same land when Union and Confederate troops surged across the rolling western Maryland landscape on Sept. 17, 1862, in the bloodiest single day of fighting of the Civil War.

Now Kefauver and his family are swept up in a struggle over efforts to protect the Antietam National Battlefield Park from encroaching development.

It is typical of many struggles being fought out as the great cities of America extend their suburbs into the once-quiet countryside.

"Battles were fought near areas that had strategic importance then and, since they had strategic importance then, they would have growth potential now," says Edwin Beers, chief historian of the National Park Service and a specialist on the Civil War.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation says Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation at Middletown, Va. — where Union General Phil Sheridan handed the Confederacy one of its final stunning blows by winning control of the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 — could be surrounded by eight 10-acre industrial parks.

In 1988, Congress authorized acquisition of Stuart's Hill at Manassas, Va., stopping plans for a 1.2-million-square-foot shopping mall on land where the Blue and the Gray fought two crucial battles.

Just last year, Congress stepped in again and approved expansion of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia.

It is not just Civil War battlefields that are threatened, say preservationists.

The National Trust has a list of what it calls the 11 most endangered historic places, including sites associated with Columbus' landing in the Virgin Islands and 19th century gold and silver strikes in South Dakota.

Preservationists are far from

"There are still people in Sharpsburg who would just like the whole battlefield and the National Park Service to go away, and that isn't going to happen."

— Tom Clemens, Save Historic Antietam Foundation president

unioned on how to deal with the situation.

"One view is that the only way to protect a park and the only way to be truly fair to landowners is to have the federal government purchase the property," says Bruce Craig of the National Parks and Conservation Association.

That approach got a boost as long ago as the 1890s, when Congress established Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, blocking the Gettysburg Electric Railway Co. from building a development around Big Round Top. That area was a vital point of ground in the en-

gagement that marked the high-water mark of Confederate fortunes.

The railroad sued, saying Congress didn't have the power to acquire land for commemorative purposes.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous opinion in 1896, replied, "Such a use seems not only a public use, but one so closely connected with the welfare of the Republic itself as to be within the powers granted the Congress by the Constitution for the purpose of protecting and preserving the whole country."

The trouble is that protecting and preserving the whole country can be costly.

In the Manassas case, for example, the purchase price was left to future negotiation, and hasn't been settled yet.

"I can never be satisfied with anything the Park Service does," says Russell Weaver of Sharpsburg, president of Save Historic Antietam with Responsible Policies (SHARP), one of two rival citizens' groups that have sprung up around the battlefield here.

Tom Clemens, president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF), says, "There are still people in Sharpsburg who would just like the whole battlefield and the National Park Service to go away, and that isn't going to happen."

Millard and Nancy Kefauver, meanwhile, continue living inside the park boundaries in their privately owned home, which served as a Union field hospital during the battle.

"We sort of felt like we knew as much about protecting it as the Park Service did," Nancy Kefauver says.



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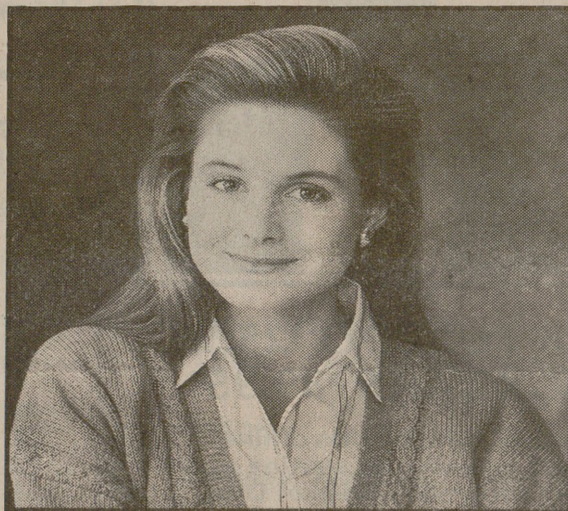
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