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Al Givens (volleyball) — Diane Robertson Cindy Durham (women's basketball) — Jennifer Fasnacht
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Tonight • April 18, 1991

double header 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
at Lady Aggie Field

Muppets owner files lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP) — First they broke off the wedding. Now Miss Piggy is accusing Mickey Mouse of carrying on as if they were married.

What was once one of America's more tender courtships soured into a court feud Wednesday as the owner of Piggy, Kermit and other Muppets sued Walt Disney for alleged misuse of the famous characters.

The lawsuit, filed by Henson Associates Inc. in federal court in Manhattan, charges that The Walt Disney Co. used images of Muppets without a license in television commercials, movies, books, brochures, T-shirts and other merchandise — and in Disney's 1990 annual report.

The legal action stems from a dispute over whether Disney has

the right to show the Muppets after protracted merger talks with Henson Associates broke down in late December.

It also marks a low in a relationship that once was hailed as an aptly touching epilogue for Jim Henson, the Muppet father and company founder who died unexpectedly in May 1990 at age 53 from pneumonia.

Supporters of the proposed

merger said the puppeteer's elation was guaranteed to endure when combined with Disney's marketing magic.

The 90-page lawsuit accuses Disney of "outright theft of Jim Henson's intellectual property."

Henson is trying to bar Disney "from performing, advertising, merchandising and acting in any way that suggests Disney owns or has any rights to the Muppets."

Activist appeals to audience to boycott grapes

Continued from page 1
"Boycott anything that looks like a table grape," he added.

The UFW targets grapes because one-third of the pesticides used on grapes are known carcinogens, Chavez said. Also, over one-half of all acute pesticide-related illnesses reported in California come from pesticides applied to grapes, according to literature from the UFW.

Two communities near grape fields have incidences of cancer in children which are 800 to 1,200 percent higher than the national average.

Chavez said this third boycott is a direct result of the unwillingness of Republican California Gov. George Deukmejian to enforce laws designed to protect farm workers.

In the 29-year history of the UFW, this is the third boycott. The first was from 1965 to 1970 and the second was from 1974 to 1975.

Growers argue the boycott has not succeeded in the six years since it started, but Chavez said the focus on grape pesticides didn't start in earnest until later. When the UFW wins is not important, Chavez said.

"Our adversary is one of California's richest industries," he said. "Farm workers can never match its resources. The rich have money, but the poor have time. We'll just keep plugging away, day after day, until the

boycott — with its appeal against agricultural poisons — takes its toll on the grape industry. We will never quit.

"This campaign is effective when 5 to 10 percent of the consumers boycott grapes," Chavez said. "This percentage will have the impact on the growers that the farmworkers need to begin negotiating in good faith about pesticide use in the workplace, and also about better wages, job security and a union contract."

Fewer grapes were unloaded in 1989 than the year before in 15 out of 23 major markets surveyed in the United States and Canada, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report. The National Academy of Sci-

ences reported in 1987 that existing laws and regulations governing allowable residues of cancer-causing pesticides permitted high levels of some chemicals or in foods reaching consumers.

Another 1987 report by the World Resources Institute claimed that about 300,000 farm workers are poisoned with pesticides annually.

In addition, three communities in the San Joaquin Valley of California have been declared Childhood Cancer Clusters by the state health department.

The Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture, MSC Great Issues and MSC Political Forum sponsored the presentation.

Train strike not expected to affect University

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the University.

"It so happens that our Food Services Commissary out there has a railroad sitting so the train comes right to our door," he said. "But many places do not have this."

Powell said Business Services is responsible for food services, printing centers and copy centers on campus. Textbooks are also trucked in for bookstores.

One reason for the change is because some think the railroad running through campus is unsafe and have proposed the Lo-Trak project, Powell said.

If the project is implemented, the railroad tracks will be lowered into a trench and people will walk over the trains. If this happens, the train will not stop at the commissary, he said.

"It would not be coming straight through campus anymore," Powell said. "It will actually be going two stories down. The railroad would not be able to get to food services, and we began to phase that out so we would not have to depend on the railroad."

Campus mail service converted to highway traffic after hearing about the strike and does not expect any problems. The mail service rarely used the railroad and has almost phased it out completely, he said.

"This part of the country has converted so much to the trucks as opposed to rail," he said. "This is not going to be a big problem."

Rex Janne, director of purchasing and stores, said the strike will not affect A&M in the short-run. It also uses trucks for most of its freight.

"That is not to say that our wholesalers do not get their supplies from the railroad," Janne said. "In fact, many of them do, but their stock is such that a short strike will not have any impact."

Purchasing and Stores uses railroads for the shipment of towels, tissue paper and other

high-volume paper products.

The strike might not affect A&M in the short-term but could in the long run, he said.

"If it turned out to be a long-term strike, probably the trucking business would eventually pick up the slack," Janne said.

Amtrak passenger services in the Midwest has been limited because of the strike. Amtrak trains in the Midwest are operated primarily over tracks of freight railroads that provide dispatching and maintenance.

Many of the Amtrak trains, including those that operate at College Station, are not expected to resume their operations until the strike has ended.

U.S. Beef producers aim for Japanese market

Continued from page 3
its tradition," he said. "Different regions in Japan have a reputation for their particular beef."

"So just because we produce beef with this kind of marbling doesn't mean it will sell for top

dollar in Japan," Lunt said. "It won't have any tradition, and will automatically be considered inferior because it was produced in America."

The cattle A&M is using for re-

search are descendants of four bulls from Japan imported to the United States in 1976 by a group of investors. The bulls were bred with Angus cows.

Lunt said the cattle have to be

fed more roughage, like hay and straw, than American cattle because they cannot handle as much concentrated feed.

"American cattle have been selected for rapid growth and lean tissue, but Japanese cattle have been selected for marbling," Lunt said.

The cattle also are fed longer than American cattle so they grow slower, he said. The cattle need the special diet, he added.

"I mimicked what was done in Japan so the cattle would gain at the same rate as Japanese cattle," Lunt said. "I tried to duplicate the production system that results in this kind of beef in Japan as closely as I could."

Lunt has visited Japan five times to study its cattle and management system, and found the system very different from America.

"The American system is based on quantity and priced on averages, while the Japanese system is based on quality and priced on individual merit," Lunt said. "We make money on how much we produce."

Lunt said some American companies are beginning to produce the marbled beef for the Japanese market. The companies only have calves now, and about 4,000 of the cross-bred cattle will be born this year.

"No one in Japan ever expected we could produce this type of beef," Lunt said. "When Japanese industry officials came to see the cattle slaughtered here, they couldn't believe the quality we had. They were impressed."

A cooperative research program to study marbling already has been established with a doctor at Kyoto University, a major university in Japan with a highly regarded agriculture program.

"This enhances the international reputation of A&M," Lunt said. "We have very strong ties in Japan already. This helps to further those ties."

"It also helps A&M to be recognized as the leading agricultural university to the Japanese cattle industry," Lunt said. "We can discover what regulates marbling, the major impediment would be in helping the American cattle industry by improving their product for domestic consumption."



MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness

Presentations of Study and Travel Abroad by Jordan Fellows

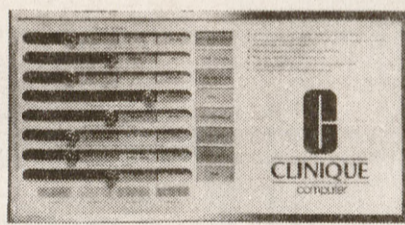
Cathy Rentz: Scotland and Ireland-7:00 p.m.
Karl DeRouen: Caribbean-7:30 p.m.
Dan Hargrove: Mexican trade agreements-8:00 p.m.

**April 22, 1991
404 Rudder**

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