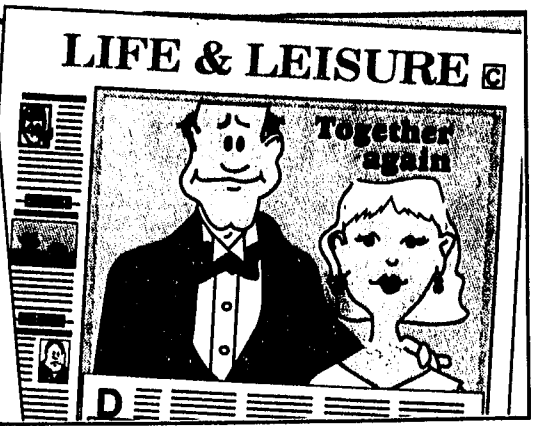


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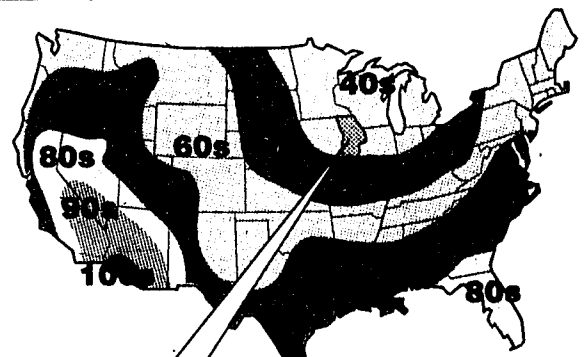
**Sunday**  
October 6, 1991

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
VOL. 109, NO. 270 \$1.25



# The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



**FORECAST:** Cloudy with chance of rain or snow. Highs 45-49; lows 26-30. Today's daylight: 11 hrs., 31 min. See 20A.

## Small town shattered by slaying

By Lyle Muller  
Gazette staff writer

**SPRINGDALE** — You look around a quiet hill north of this Cedar County town and the name Mather jumps at you.

It is inscribed on several tombstones, some dating to the 1880s, at the entrance of Springdale Friends Cemetery and implies deep roots in this community four miles east of West Branch.

Those roots are a big part of why Tom Mather's death shocked people here. Friends and neighbors watched Mather grow up and move to his parents' farm home less than one mile from where he was buried Thursday with the rest of the Mathers in Friends Cemetery.

After all of Mather's 32 years, no one could think of a bad thing to say about him.



Tom Mather  
Mourned by town

"Hard-working kid," West Branch Police Chief Dan Knight said. "Very quiet. Never crossed paths with law enforcement that I know of."

Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch said: "I think we all hear how people comment, 'Maybe this person was better off dead than alive.' Well, this is not the case here. Here's a guy who's a pillar of the community, the kind we need more of."

Against that backdrop, criminal investigators are searching for someone who thought Mather should be dead. The assailant remained at large Saturday and kept the tension high in Springdale, an unincorporated town of about 100 people.

**MATHER WAS SHOT** to death by a man who entered the Mathers' home Monday night, investigators said.

Authorities have declined to release several details about what happened. That includes saying whether they have determined a motive.

Officials said Mather and his wife, Dawn, had been watching television before Mather was to go to his 11 p.m. work shift at the University of Iowa's Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City. Dawn escaped uninjured.

Two weeks ago, Tom and Dawn had been teasing each other about that television at church. The gist of it had Tom facing the prospect of this year's Christmas tree being put in front of his favorite line of view with the television, said Jo Leighty, who heard the joking.

Mather thrived on situations that made him laugh, those who knew him said. "Tom always had a smile on his face. He was a happy kid," Leighty said.

David Beranek, best man at Tom and Dawn Mather's wedding last year, said he will remember the water balloon fights, trips to the Cedar Bluffs Fourth of July parade and pheasant hunts he shared with Mather.

Beranek last saw Mather a week ago today, when he helped him move an air conditioner.

■ Please turn to 8A: Mather

## A MEDICAL REVOLUTION



Gazette photo by John McIvor

Dr. Yang Ahn, shown here in an examining room at his MedCenter West clinic, changed the nature of medical care in the Cedar Rapids area 10 years ago by opening the first emergency walk-in practice. Other physicians and both hospitals adapted to the competition by keeping longer hours or dropping fees.

## Ahn's walk-in clinic changed operation of medical business

By Tom Fruehling  
Gazette staff writer

**T**he dust seems to have settled now. But the whirlwind kicked up 10 years ago by Dr. Yang Ahn's walk-in clinic, the first in Iowa, changed the nature of medical care in Cedar Rapids.

The community wasn't an oasis, of course. A trend throughout the country in the early 1980s saw a surge in offices where patients could show up without an appointment and be treated on a first-come, first-served basis for minor emergencies and illnesses. The clinics were open at night and on weekdays and holidays, for convenience, and they were cheaper and quicker than hospital emergency rooms.

Dr. Stephen Vanoury, who left a pediatric practice four years ago to become medical director at St. Luke's Hospital, calls the concept "doc-in-a-box" — medicine's equivalent to fast-food restaurants. "It's a sign of the times," he says. "People want convenience, in the field of medicine and everything else."

More and more dentists' offices are open in the evenings. And it's common for pediatric practices to have doctors on duty at night and on weekends and holidays. Dr. James Ziska of Pediatric Associates of Cedar Rapids insists the

development was prompted by an increase in working mothers and not the competition from the emergency-care clinics.

"With children, there are problems that just won't wait until tomorrow," Ziska says. "And it's important that they be seen by those with

■ Patience and patients helped Ahn launch clinic 10 years ago, 8A

training in pediatrics and have consistency of care. If we weren't open, we'd have a barrage of phone calls and be at the emergency room until midnight."

Ahn opened MedCenter West in 1981. While the trend Ahn helped spur was new, it was an immediate hit with the public. So much so, says Dr. Percy Harris, that "it scared the devil out of some people." St. Luke's and Mercy Medical Center suffered drops in their emergency room numbers, and more than a few primary-care physicians feared Ahn was going to siphon off their patients.

Then, as now, there was talk of the risk of seeing large numbers of patients without being familiar with their medical history.

■ Please turn to 8A: Clinics

## Soviets vow cut in arms

Bush applauds Gorbachev move

Washington Post

**MOSCOW** — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, responding to a sweeping U.S. arms cut initiative, promised Saturday night to eliminate or withdraw all land- and sea-based short-range nuclear weapons.

In a brief televised address eight days after President Bush announced his promise of unilateral cuts, Gorbachev also called for negotiations to reduce the long-range, strategic missile and bomber arsenals of both nations by roughly half.

With his sweeping response, unconditional in some areas and challenging the United States to mutual steps in others, the Soviet president signaled his willingness to enter a new era of arms control, in which the two nations agree to destroy an entire class of weapons without years of bargaining and negotiation.

"Acting in this way — in some cases unilaterally, in other cases by responding to the moves of others and in other cases through negotiations — we are decisively advancing the process of disarmament, bringing closer our goal of a nuclear-free world," Gorbachev said.

The Soviet action, combined with Bush's earlier pledge, means that nuclear weapons numbering in the thousands will be withdrawn from Europe, Asia and the world's oceans.

After receiving a call from



Mikhail Gorbachev  
Promises sweeping changes

Gorbachev at Camp David before the Soviet leader's speech, Bush returned to the White House and told reporters that Gorbachev's announced nuclear arms reductions were "very positive" and the Soviet Union has "come a long way."

Bush said a team of U.S. officials in Moscow, headed by Undersecretary of State Reginald Bartholomew, is "prepared to discuss all issues" and is talking with Soviet officials about Gorbachev's announcement.

Gorbachev's pledge to eliminate tactical nuclear arms affects a class of weapons that has caused the most worry recently for Western experts as the Soviet Union threatens to disintegrate. The Kremlin's arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons, probably numbering more than 15,000 and located in several republics, is the most susceptible to theft, to appropriation by breakaway republics and to unauthorized launching, the experts have said.

## New sections debut

Three new sections and the addition of feature columns are part of today's expanded Sunday Gazette.

Readers will find the new "Life and Leisure" section filled with popular features they've come to enjoy in the Sunday paper. In addition, two new columns aimed at young and older readers are being added: "In Your Prime," found on page 9E, offers practical advice on lifestyle and health for senior citizens. "Inside Video Games," on page 5E, gives young readers tips on playing new video games.

The new "Milestones" section offers readers an opportunity to expand and personalize routine news items, such as engagements, weddings and anniversaries, or to draw attention to personal accomplishments, acts of kindness and noteworthy achievements. One aspect of Milestones allows readers to submit color photos for use as the cover photo of this new section.

The new "Home & Real Estate" section showcases a variety of stories and columns about homes, home decorating, yards and gardening. This new section includes The Gazette's home and real estate classified advertising.

These new sections are part of The Gazette's commitment to provide a quality product for readers and advertisers in Eastern Iowa.

## INDEX

Advice .....	6E	Horoscope .....	13F
Births .....	12A	Iowa City .....	16A
Bondy .....	2C	Iowa Today .....	11A
Books .....	2E	Life/Leisure .....	E
Bridge .....	5E	Log .....	12A
City Briefs .....	15A	Lottery .....	12A
Classified .....	F	Milestones .....	M
Crafts .....	8E	Money .....	C
Crossword .....	5E	Older .....	9E
Deaths .....	12A	People .....	9A
Deupree .....	2A	Pol. Notes .....	14A
Editorial .....	6-7A	Sports .....	B
Farm .....	C	SuperQuiz .....	5E
Geo. Quiz .....	10E	Travel .....	E
Health .....	7E	TV list .....	5E
Home/Real Est. .....	D	U.S.-World .....	A
		Weather .....	20A

## TODAY'S CHUCKLE

It's good to get all the opinions you can before drawing your own confusions.



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

## Putting on a game face

Rick Podrasky (left) of Beloit, Wis., and Pat Ryan of Rockton, Ill., model a "Game Face," a new product they are selling. The mesh-screen masks carry a Hawkeye logo. The two men made the face masks with the help of a few friends. The Hawk masks, which sell for \$2 apiece, made their debut at the Iowa-Michigan game in Iowa City on Saturday. The men also have game faces for other universities. Iowa lost to Michigan, 43-24. Full coverage in Sports, section B.

**COMING TOMORROW/** Friends expect the unexpected from Iowa City teen-ager

# Long hours helped get new idea off the ground

**By Tom Fruehling**  
Working 70 hours a week, with Sundays off and even a chance to play golf, is almost like a part-time job for Dr. Yang Ahn.

It wasn't always a piece of cake for the Cedar Rapids family physician. Ten years ago, Ahn stirred the curiosity of the community and skepticism among fellow doctors by opening a medical practice the likes of which had never been seen. Not here, anyway, or Iowa for that matter, or many other places in the nation.

Moving from Vinton, where he'd been in a four-member group for eight years, Ahn set up a free-standing, one-man walk-in clinic for non-critical emergencies and routine care. Ahn's idea was to combine elements of the emergency room with that of a family practice.

As the first doctor in Cedar Rapids to

advertise, which didn't sit well with the establishment, Ahn offered little- or no-wait service for at least one-third the cost of emergency-room care. He'd take all patients, even those with their own doctors. And his office kept longer hours than most, until 10 p.m. weekdays and 5 p.m. weekends.

To pull it off, Ahn put in 88 hours a week, working every day for two straight years.

"I ate three meals a day here," says Ahn, 48, in his office at Medcenter West, 2215 Westdale Dr. SW. "I cooked here — lots of rice and noodles. I don't know if I could do it again. But I had good health and good help. And I enjoyed it. I never got tired of it."

After two years, however, the patient load led Ahn to add an associate. The staff has grown to three doctors, and eight nurses and receptionists.

Ahn's notion, which he picked up at a seminar in Chicago, was so new that four banks turned him down for financing before one took a chance on his success. The local medical community was less than enthusiastic.

"I know there were those that wanted to chop me off," Ahn says.

He contended that he was merely providing medical service at the patient's convenience instead of the physician's. Because he had nowhere near the overhead of emergency rooms, he could work cheaper. If he was competing directly with the hospitals and fellow family practitioners, he claimed he was simply more efficient.

By limiting his practice to outpatients, Ahn did away with the time-consuming task of making hospital rounds. Besides, he says, those who need to be hospitalized are better served

by being referred to specialists.

"Medicine is so sophisticated," says the Korean-born Ahn, who came to Iowa with a friend in 1968 to serve an internship in Cedar Rapids. "Family practice physicians can't take care of very sick or complicated cases."

Ahn says his practice was the 25th of its kind in the country and the first in Iowa when it opened in fall 1981. Ahn says it differed from others popping up in major cities because it combined regular patient care along with the walk-in concept.

The innovative Cedar Rapids clinic was immediately popular. Ahn says he hit a daily patient load of 70 within three months, even though he hadn't projected such numbers for two years. "I knew it would go. I just didn't know how soon it would go. But we were busy from the start and kept going."

Ahn's success soon spawned imitators; three similar operations opened in northeast Cedar Rapids. As part of the nationwide trend toward less-costly outpatient medical treatment, Ahn says, more than 4,000 clinics like his dot the United States.

He says some in the medical field scoff at the convenience-store approach to non-critical primary care. Ahn says the insurance-industry push for cost-cutting and patient acceptance have proved the worth of what was an experiment 10 years ago.

When his office recently switched from a manual accounting system to computers, the list of clients numbered more than 40,000. Ahn says the practice has succeeded by maintaining a simple principle. "We take good care of our patients, and when they need our service we give it to them."

## Clinics:

■ From page 1A

"It caused a shock in the medical circle," Ahn admits. "Some didn't want the old ways disturbed. But I never hurt anybody's practice. And the patients liked it."

So, when Ahn announced in late 1982 his plans for a second clinic in northeast Cedar Rapids it set off what Vanourny terms "a flurry of activity" for a couple of years throughout the local medical community.

Mercy Medical Center jumped into the fray in early 1983 by opening its own walk-in clinic, Mercy Care North, on Collins Road. About the same time, a handful of family practice doctors banded together to form the Immediate Care Medical Clinic on Center Point Road. Yet another east-side office, InstaCare, popped up on 42nd Street a year later.

The three developments, in addition to staffing limitations, caused Ahn to hold off on his plans. Instead, he attempted to branch out into Iowa City but says today his rezoning efforts were blocked by "huge opposition" from the well-entrenched medical clique. Ahn says Iowa City remains one of the few cities in Iowa where the trend has not taken hold.

Some local physicians say Mercy Medical Center's entrance into the clinic wars of the mid-1980s had more impact on their practices than Ahn's earlier initiative.

Dr. Joseph Galles, who has a family practice on Center Point Road NE, says he joined the staff at Immediate Care Medical Clinic in direct response to Mercy's involvement. "It was the only way I had of competing," Galles explains. "A significant number of my patients were going there

Dr. Yang Ahn  
Long hours paid off



(Mercy Care North) on weekends and holidays and at night. I knew they weren't going to go away. Instead of sitting back and wishing they weren't here, I decided to get on the bandwagon or stop complaining."

Like others at Immediate Care Medical Clinic, Galles kept his practice and rotated with the other doctors at the clinic for the extended hours. At the start, the eight physicians staffed the clinic for no pay to give their patients an alternative to emergency rooms or other clinics.

While St. Luke's Hospital is paid to provide management services for Immediate Care Medical Clinic, the office is an independent operation. Galles says it still galls him and others in the medical community that the Mercy name is attached to a competing clinic. "Being identified with a highly respected institution like Mercy gives them an advantage the rest of us don't have," Galles notes.

Still, petitions by doctors asking Mercy to drop its name from the clinic have gone unheeded, and Galles now calls it "a dead issue." He says much of the initial distrust of the walk-in centers has largely diminished. "Many of the physicians who

saw them as competition are now supportive and cooperative," he points out.

Vanourny says hospitals have adjusted to the concept as well.

"There was a significant drop-off in the emergency room," he acknowledges. "But the numbers have gradually come back. I think hospitals became more customer-oriented. Service was speeded up, and fees were developed for minor care. Now, we're just as busy as we've ever been."

"I think people have sorted out where they need to go. If it's something serious, they need to come to the hospital because the emergency room is better equipped to do everything and do it better."

Sue Courts, head emergency room nurse at Mercy Medical Center, says the patient load there has surpassed records before the arrival of clinics on the local scene. She's convinced the public is better served by the niche Mercy has created while leaving the more-critical cases to a hospital setting. Emergency rooms have expanded their role as true trauma centers.

"We're seeing sicker patients," Courts says, "but that's what we're best at. It's more efficient, and less costly, to get some things out of the emergency room and into the clinics."

Harris, in fact, credits Ahn and the type of practice he launched with altering the cost, availability and delivery of medical care in the Cedar Rapids area. "He offered a different kind of competition," Harris says. "And in my opinion he had a profound effect on keeping the cost of medicine down in this community. He probably deserves a medal."

## Mather:

■ From page 1A

and then they watched the "Star Trek" marathon special on a Davenport television station. The two had watched the "Star Trek" special the night before, too, on a Cedar Rapids station.

"It's a senseless killing," Beranek said.

Tom and Dawn Mather were married in Urbandale, her hometown, on Aug. 4, 1990. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1989 at the U of I. She has been staying with the Beraneks since her escape.

Mather's father, Stewart, is an avid roller skater and frequently organized skating parties at the Springdale United Methodist Church. One was scheduled for Oct. 13, although whether it will be held is uncertain because of last week's tragedy, said the Rev. Richard Paulus.

The Mathers would teach children how to roller-skate. Paulus told of a young girl talking in a West Branch ice cream store after Mather's death: "She was

saying she was sad because Tom was so much fun when he helped his dad teach them to skate."

Memories like those are fueling sympathy, but also anger and fear, among Springdale's residents, many of them longtimers with roots here. If this could happen to someone like Tom Mather, it could happen to anyone, those interviewed said.

"I don't know how it's going to be the same," Jim Farmer said about the town's lost sense of security. "It can't be."

## Probe suspects federal official took \$10,471 from outside organizations

**Washington Post**  
WASHINGTON — Congressional and White House officials are reviewing an inspector general's report that charges that the administrator of the Agency for International Development, Ronald Roskens, violated federal law and ethics codes in accepting thousands of dollars from outside organizations, including some that do business with AID.

The inspector general of AID, Herbert Beckington, in a report dated April 5 and obtained Saturday by the Washington Post, concluded that Roskens accepted \$7,883 in payments from "different organizations in compensation of his and his wife's travel expenses" while Roskens was on official government travel. He took another \$2,588 from two organizations for private trips, Beckington said, but one organization was a corporation "from which Dr. Roskens had agreed to divest himself as a condition of his presidential appointment."

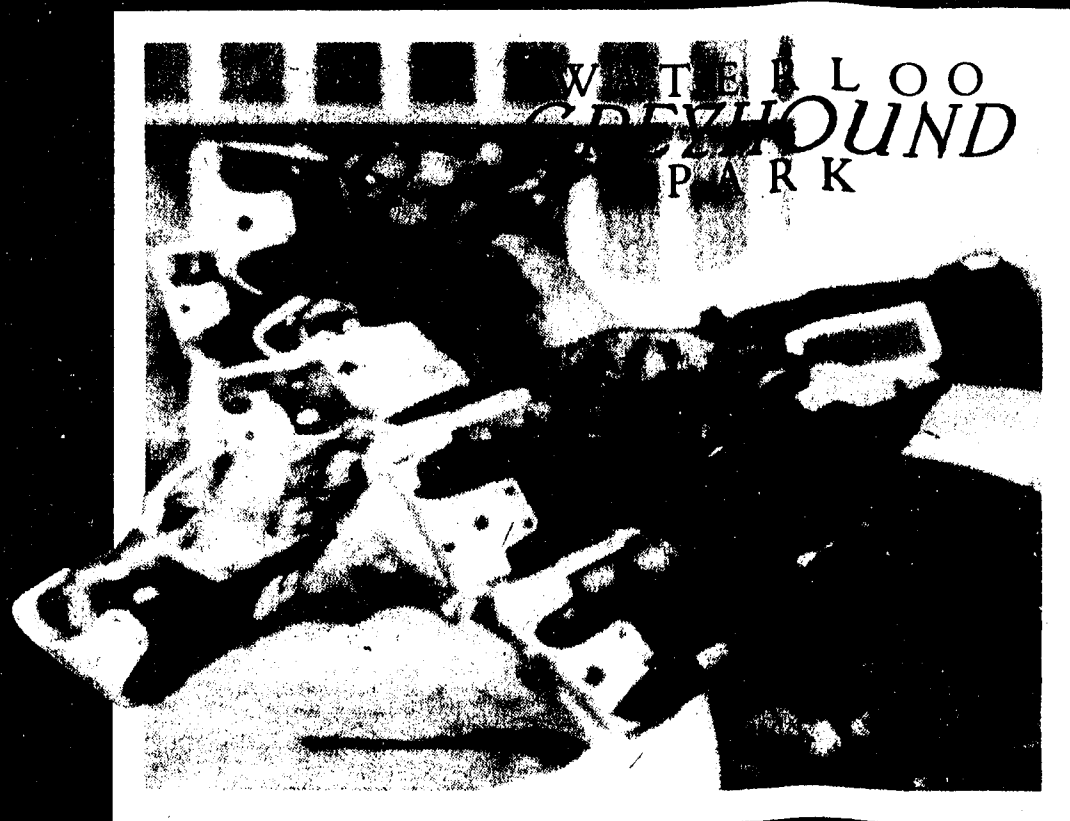
Beckington concluded that the payments consti-

tuted a conflict of interest and violated federal law against receiving outside income.

Roskens, asked in August about Beckington's investigation, said he had not seen the report but hotly disputed any impropriety. He said then that the allegations were either wrong or overstated and that he had not knowingly committed any ethical or legal violations. He said many of the trips and expenses Beckington questioned had been approved in advance by the AID general counsel's office.

Roskens, former president of the University of Nebraska and head of AID since March 1990, could not be reached Saturday for comment.

The agency issued a formal statement Saturday saying that it was "improper for anyone to comment on the report. It was sent to the White House Oct. 1 and is now being reviewed. We believe it to be highly improper for the public to have access to a process which is incomplete and a report which Dr. Roskens has not seen."



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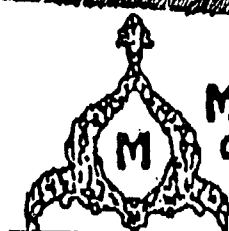
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