

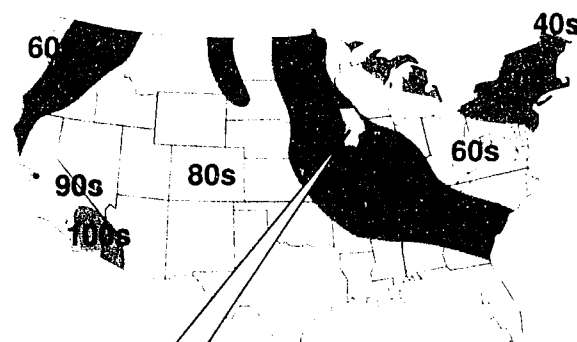


WEDNESDAY Sept. 30, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
VOL. 110 NO. 265 50 CENTS

# The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



FORECAST: Mostly sunny and comfortable today. Highs 71-75; lows 44-48. Today's daylight: 11 hrs., 49 min. See 14C.



## NEIGHBORS

Down in the dumps with Dave Hogan

Page 4

## BASEBALL SCORES

### AMERICAN

Indians 4, Yankees 3  
Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 2  
Orioles 7, Tigers 2  
Twins 5, White Sox 4  
Athletics 5, Rangers 0  
Royals 2, Angels 0  
Brewers at Mariners, late

### NATIONAL

Dodgers 5, Reds 0  
Braves 6, Giants 3  
Phillies 5, Mets 3  
Pirates 3, Cubs 0  
Cardinals 2, Expos 1 (10)  
Astros 6, Padres 5



## BRIEFLY

### New tower mullied

Old tower killed man in C.R.

A Cedar Rapids firm is seeking permission to replace a tower that collapsed during a storm and killed a man July 13. A proposed city ordinance would require inspections of such open-frame towers. Details on page 1B.

### Judge's view delayed

In trial over sale of WOI-TV

Closing arguments were heard Tuesday in the trial over the sale of WOI-TV. A judge said it will be at least three weeks before he renders a decision. Details on page 2B.

### IRS shifts gears

Agents target non-filers

The Internal Revenue Service is giving more than 2,000 tax-auditing agents a different task — pursuing those who don't even bother to file a tax return. Details on page 5C.

### Unhappy coaches

Fry, Walden blast media

Hayden Fry and Jim Walden, Iowa and Iowa State football coaches, respectively, took turns criticizing the media Tuesday. Fry was particularly upset over a newspaper article regarding Willie Guy. Details on page 1C.

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### TODAY'S CHUCKLE

If you build a better mousetrap, you'll have to join the rat race in order to sell it.

## TOMORROW

### 'Car Talk'

Auto advice with a smile

Automotive gurus Tom and Ray Magliozzi share their wisdom and humor in "Car Talk," a new column in The Gazette. Motoring in the Classified Section in Thursday's Gazette.



# Farmers cheer 'idle acres' rule

Plan could boost revenue, offset sagging corn prices

Associated Press

Corn growers in Iowa, the nation's largest corn-producing state, are applauding a government decision Tuesday that could stop the current slide in corn prices and boost growers' revenues next year.

Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said corn farmers who receive federal subsidies will be required to idle 10 percent of their acreage in 1993, compared with a 5 percent set-aside this year.

Farmers are expected to harvest 8.77 billion bushels of corn this fall, which would be the second-largest crop on record. The bumper crop will refill the nation's bins after four years of drought emptied them, but the harvest is also depressing prices toward \$2 a bushel. Corn growers say they need at least \$2.50 a bushel to break even.

In Iowa, prices have dropped below \$1.90 a

bushel at grain elevators as the fall harvest begins. The last time prices were lower was five years ago, when bulging stockpiles of unsold grain depressed markets.

"I don't know how many farmers can produce corn profitably below \$2," said Rod Williamson of the Iowa Corn Growers Association.

The 10 percent acreage reduction program (ARP) was exactly what growers had requested. Grain traders, on the other hand, had sought a zero acreage reduction, or full production.

John Schnittker, a food and agriculture consultant in Santa Ynez, Calif., said Madigan's decision is not expected to raise corn prices in the current cash market, which is driven by the harvest and export decisions.

But it may stop current prices from further eroding, "and it could project higher prices next summer and fall than otherwise would have been the case," he said.

Schnittker said he expects a 10 percent set-aside to bring next year's harvest down to 8.25 billion bushels, enough to meet domestic and export needs without depressing prices.

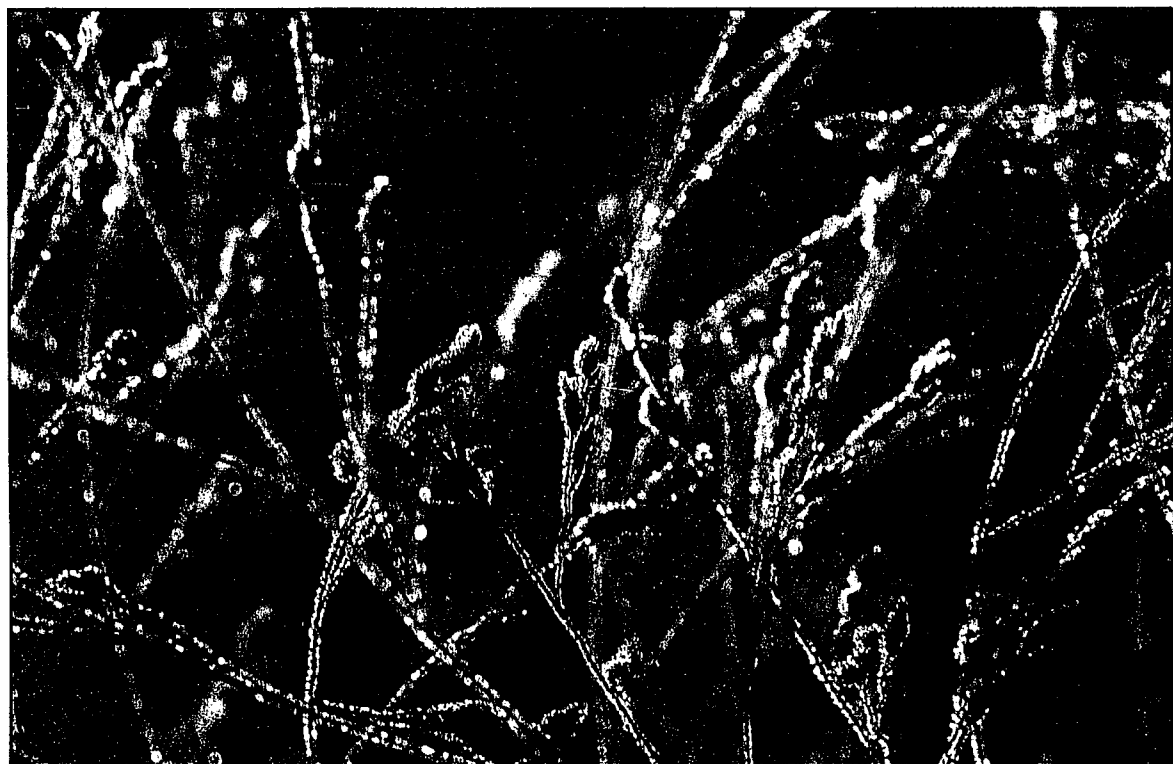


Photo by Jerry Wadian, Fayette

Frost dusts weeds Tuesday morning in a ditch along a cornfield farmed by Robert Helms of Elgin in the Volga River Recreation area.

## Hard freeze spares Linn area

By Tom Fruehling

Gazette staff writer

The shot of cold Canadian air that whizzed through Iowa Monday night did little or no damage to crops in the Linn County area, but it was a different story up north.

"It looks like the late-planted soybeans got it pretty good," said Dick Horne, extension service director for Winneshiek County. "But then, a lot of it wasn't looking that good anyway. Same thing for the late-planted or replanted corn."

Horne estimated a 10 percent to 15 percent loss of yield for immature beans and corn due to the fall's first hard freeze, which saw temperatures dip to the mid- to upper 20s in the northern tier of counties.

But he said the timing of the cold snap, fueled by a Canadian high-pressure cell that moved out of Iowa Tuesday, could have been worse.

"We really needed another week without frost," he said. "But if it would have been a week ago, it would have been devastating. We've had a lot of maturity in the past week."

Horne said this summer's cooler temperatures and lack of sunshine produced a poor soybean crop, with pods on the lower part of the plant but spotty above. He looks for average to above-average corn yields, however. For mature corn, Horne estimated no more than 3- to 5-percent damage from the freeze.

Much of what was hurt, he pointed out, was destined for the silo rather than the marketplace anyway.

Jim Fawcett, Extension crop specialist for the six-county area around Linn County, said he thought few fields in east central Iowa were affected by the overnight freeze. Temperatures in this part of the state fell below 30 degrees.

"Most corn and beans around here are mature or close to it," he said. "Some might have got hurt a little, but I don't think anything was completely killed."

As the cold moved on, warm southerly air took its place Tuesday. The trend is expected to continue at least through Saturday, with highs reaching the mid-70s to mid-80s and lows from the upper 40s to 50s.



Dawn Mather

Wife of victim



Tom Mather

Slain a year ago

## Rumors persist 1 year after Springdale slaying

By Rick Smith

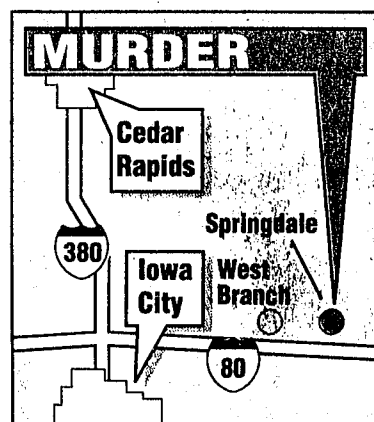
Gazette staff writer

WEST BRANCH — Rumors. That's all there are one year after Tom Mather's murder, according to the man pumping gas Sunday at the Apco station on Main Street.

Just north of town, in a trailer park with street names of Eisenhower, Hoover, Patton and Marshall, the parents of Tom Mather say they still are stunned by their son's death, that they wonder how such an awful crime could happen in such a peaceful piece of rural America.

Stewart and Mildred Mather know all about the rumors — the ones that somehow try to place Tom's widow, Dawn, at the heart of the crime.

The Mathers say they know, too, that some rumors coincide with at least one direction investigators have headed in trying to unravel the secrets of their 32-year-old son's murder Sept. 30, 1991,



Gazette map

Turn to page 7A: Murder

## Fall forecast calls for lots of 'hot air'

Political observer warns voters to be wary of words

By John Kirsch

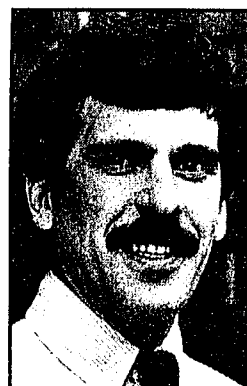
Gazette staff writer

Eastern Iowa voters were warned Tuesday to beware of "unidentified flying propaganda" and "soundbites" in the final weeks of the presidential campaign.

In a wide-ranging talk at Kirkwood Community College, media critic Norman Solomon took aim at the verbal contortions employed by candidates and how they are covered by the media.

Solomon is the author of "The Power of Babble: The Politician's Dictionary of Buzzwords and Double-talk for Every Occasion," an examination of the ways candidates twist language in pursuit of electoral victory. The Oakland, Calif., writer also co-writes a syndicated newspaper column on the media.

Solomon's message Tuesday was simple: Voters shouldn't allow politicians to twist language to the point of deceit.



Norman Solomon

Decries "soundbites"

"Words can kill. It was said by one Austrian diplomat that wars happen when politicians lie and then believe their lies in the newspaper," Solomon said.

He directed barbs at President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton, saying each candidate is guilty of "linguicide," which he defined as the "steady destruction of language." Solomon also said it is alarming that many voters appear to take Ross Perot's simplistic solutions at face value.

Clinton has misused the language by portraying himself as a champion of the "middle

Turn to page 7A: Solomon

## Criticisms pour forth after warning on milk

By Lisa Ann Williamson

Gazette staff writer

That pitcher of cold milk you set in front of the kids at mealtime has become a hot issue.

At a news conference in Baltimore Tuesday, physicians expressed concerns about feeding cows' milk to children, saying it sometimes is contaminated with traces of antibiotics, can cause allergic reactions and digestive problems, and has been linked to juvenile diabetes.

While the national debate heats up, local experts advise against alarm, saying milk is still a sound source of calcium, vitamins D and A, protein and riboflavin.

Among the doctors at Tuesday's news conference were Dr. Frank Oski, director of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and author Dr. Benjamin Spock. "There's no reason to drink cows' milk at any time in your life," Oski said. "It was designed for calves and not designed for humans, and we should all stop drinking it today, this afternoon."

Howard Tyler, assistant professor of dairy science at Iowa State University, called Oski's statement an unfortunate use of data. "My concern would be that people might go to some other item that has no nutritional value," he

said. Oski recommended eating foods such as kale, broccoli or fish to provide the protein and calcium that one might get from milk.

Tammy Dodderidge, a regional spokeswoman for the National Dairy Council, noted the calcium in milk contributes to strong bones and teeth, and vitamin D helps the body absorb the calcium.

A study published in the July issue of the New England Journal of Medicine linked the drinking of cows' milk during infancy to development of juvenile diabetes in some people genetically prone to the disease.

Ironically, said Dr. Julianne Thomas, a Cedar Rapids pediatrician, "in the same issue there was an article about children not getting sufficient amounts of calcium, causing an increased risk of bone fractures."

Thomas advises breast milk or formula during a baby's first year, when milk sensitivities are more likely, but she cited economic and cultural pressures on parents to feed cows' milk. "The expense of formula has gone up, and grandparents are encouraging cows' milk at 6 months, so I get parents asking to get babies off formula," she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Gazette photo by Chris Stewart

Delane Cooper, 7, a first grader at Coolidge Elementary School in Cedar Rapids, drinks milk during lunch at school Tuesday.

## Murder: 1 year later, Springdale murder rumors persist

■ From page 1A

in his rural Springdale home a few miles east of here.

But the Mathers insist on this: Tom's wife of 13 months had nothing to do with it.

"There's no truth in that. We certainly don't believe any of that," Mildred Mather said.

Tom Mather's insurance company helped plant the public seed of suspicion that Dawn Mather may have played a role in her husband's murder.

Dawn felt forced in February to take Principal Financial Group to court, saying it was refusing to pay her claim on her husband's life insurance policy. The insurer said murderers are disqualified from receiving insurance proceeds.

In June, Principal paid \$42,500, insisting it never denied Dawn's claim, only that the claim was still being reviewed at the time Dawn went to court.

### Still hot topic

Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch says the case remains on people's minds and in their conversations throughout the county. "People have different theories. Everyone has some opinion," he said this week.

The sheriff, speaking in general, said many murders are committed by a person close to the victim. "Anytime you have a spouse killed, the public thinks it's the surviving spouse who did it. And quite frankly, sometimes it is. . . . And at this point, we can't say (Tom's wife) is or isn't."

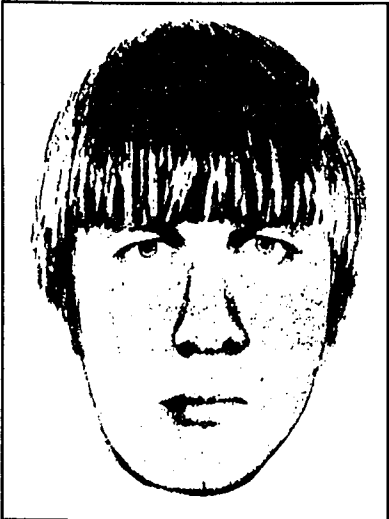
Whitlatch said the wife-as-murderer theory may have a particularly enduring life in Cedar County because many recall the 1979 murder of Ady Jensen in a farmhouse north of West Branch. Jensen's wife served a prison sentence for conspiring in the killing.

### Parents believe story

Tom Mather's parents say Whitlatch's investigators and those of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation are barking up the wrong tree when it comes to their daughter-in-law.

The Mathers speak fondly of Dawn, 25, formerly of Urbandale, who lives in Coralville with an unlisted phone number. They talk about how well they know her.

Tom, a night-shift custodian at Carver-Hawkeye Arena at the University of Iowa, and Dawn met at Sycamore Mall in Iowa



Drawing of suspect

City. She was a cashier at an arcade, and he frequented the place to play video games.

Dawn lived with the Mathers from January 1990 until that summer; she and Tom were married in August. They stayed on at the house, on the family's 160 acres near Springdale, while the elder Mathers moved a few miles west to West Branch. They saw each other several times a week for the next 13 months.

And the Mathers have seen Dawn twice a month since the murder. She has kept them informed of investigators "harassing" her, the word the Mathers use.

The couple said investigators have gotten access to Dawn's phone records of the last year and have called everyone Dawn did. Investigators have tracked her bank account. The Mathers said they and Dawn suspect their phone lines have been tapped.

"(Investigators) know information they couldn't otherwise know," Mildred Mather said.

### Murder story

The Mathers said they believe every word Dawn has said about the murder because her story is believable.

They believe the murderer was a drifter who came off Interstate 80 at the West Liberty exit, made his way the 1½ miles north on County Road X-40 to Tom's house and saw it as a convenient target to rob.

Dawn has told the Mathers this about the evening of Sept. 30, a Monday, a year ago:

It was 8:40, and Dawn and Tom were watching television. A naked man appeared in the living room, pointing a gun and

holding two pieces of rope in his hand. Tom demanded to know what the intruder wanted. He answered, "I've come to rob you," the Mathers said.

Always keeping the handgun pointed at Tom, the intruder ordered Dawn to take the rope and tie up her husband. When she couldn't do it very well, the man finished the job.

He then forced Tom to crawl into the bedroom, and then back out. In the bedroom, he ordered Dawn to remove her clothes, then tied her up in clothes. She freed herself. When Tom saw her free, he yelled for her to run. Naked, she headed out the door and up the road to the next farmhouse. She was taken in and hidden, and the Cedar County sheriff was called.

Back at the house, Tom had been shot once in the head, and his neck and wrists were slashed. Money was strewn around the room. Tire tracks were left outside.

Tom's parents heard much of the unfolding drama over their police scanner in their mobile home. They began listening after a call from the Sheriff's Department alerted them of a robbery at Tom's. Then they heard the call for the coroner. And law enforcement officers say that someone needed to tell Tom's parents of his murder.

### Puzzling details

Two aspects of the account — that the robber-turned-killer left money behind and that he entered the house naked — don't puzzle the Mathers.

He was naked, they said, so no one could describe what he was wearing. He left money strewn around, they added, because he was frightened off.

It wouldn't be the first time a criminal panicked and left cash, Sheriff Whitlatch said. And who's to say wearing nothing might not be the best disguise, he added.

He said investigators continue to seek the public's help.

They continue, he said, to seek information about a white car that reportedly stopped at Tom and Dawn's 90 minutes before the murder, asking for directions to Wellman or Wilton.

They also continue to look for a man described by Dawn as the murderer: white, about 30, about 6 feet tall, with a slender-to-medium-build and straight, bleached-blond hair that is darker toward the ends.

## Solomon: Warns against semantic sins of politicians

■ From page 1A

class" while accepting support from large corporations, said Solomon.

But the Republicans take the prize for twisting words, he said.

"In the hotly contested battle for being the leading double-speakers in this country, the Bush-Quayle campaign has won hands down," Solomon said. The Republicans' semantic sin has been to attack Democrats as "tax and spend" liberals, ignoring the fact that all governments must perform those functions, said Solomon.

Solomon said voters must accept the challenge to "deconstruct the hot air as it rises from those podiums."

**"We have to develop our own kind of BS detectors. We need to decode these buzzwords because we live in a world of unidentified flying propaganda."**

**Norman Solomon**

"We have to develop our own kind of BS detectors. We need to decode these buzzwords because we live in a world of unidentified flying propaganda," he said.

That task is difficult because

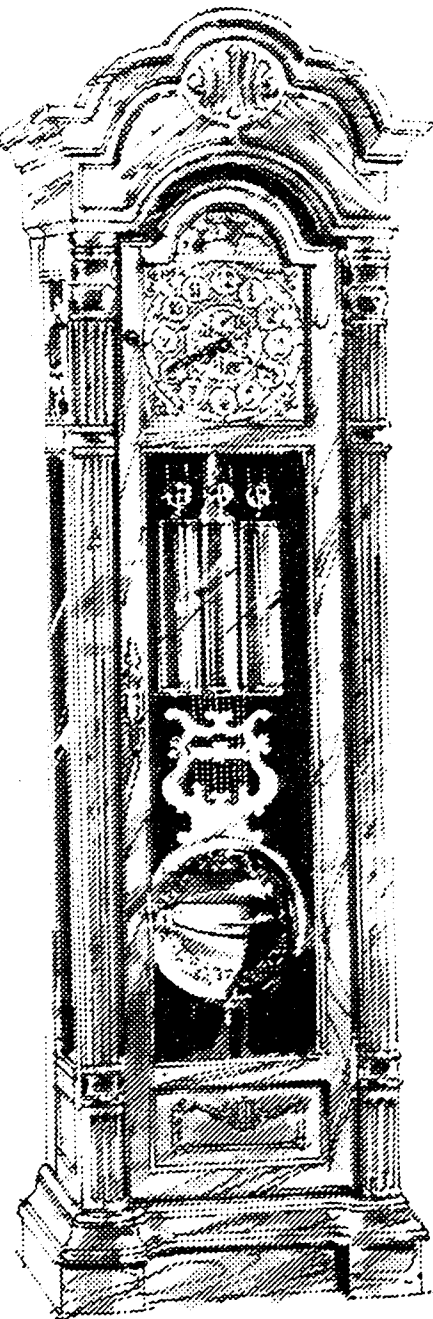
politicians want voters to remain passive in the face of empty rhetoric, Solomon said. The task is made even more difficult by media organizations that take politicians' statements at face value instead of holding candidates accountable for their rhetoric and actions, he said.

Media outlets also fail voters by packaging politicians' statements in brief "soundbites" instead of offering more extensive coverage, he said.

"Our challenge is to look at the words and look at the reality and continually compare those two and also try, as critically as we can, to look underneath the words," he said.

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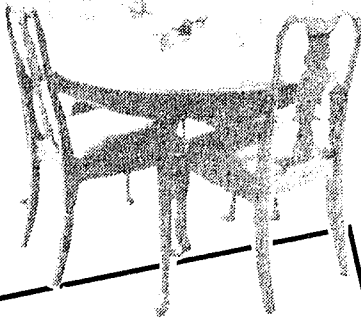
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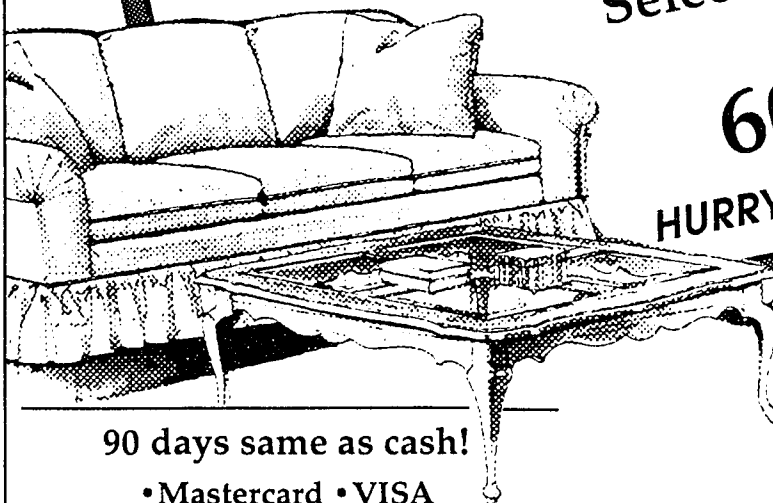
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But in America today there are almost 100,000 women physicians and 40 of them serve on the St. Luke's medical staff. In addition, there are 11 women in the Cedar Rapids Family Practice Residency Program.



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Nancy J. Hart

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Joan R. Benz  
Sharon L. Bertroche  
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