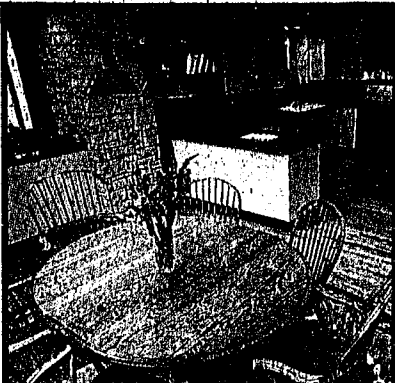


See
HOT
kitchens

Preview of homes
featured on the
Kitchen Walk
(Special section)



Call
of the
colors

The most scenic routes for
leaves; apple recipes; best
hiking trails; much more
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Death
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farm

Names change, but stories
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the same; one family's story
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Presidential treats and retreats: Quiz, page 3C

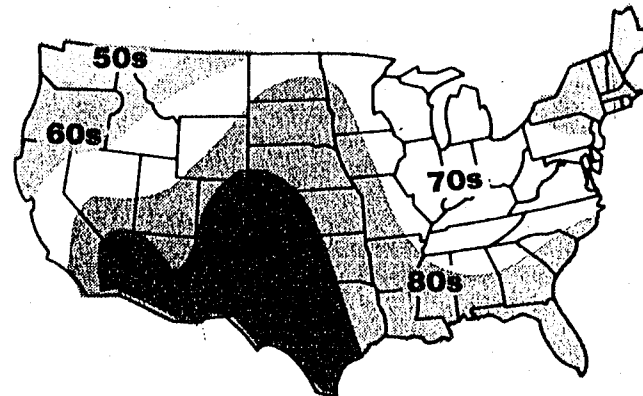
Iowa's
Newspaper
of the
Year

The Gazette



EAST
IOWA'S
WEATHER:

Sunny and warm
today. Clear and
cool tonight. Sunny
Monday. Highs, 78-
86; lows, 50-58. See
6A.



IN OUR 107th YEAR

THE GAZETTE/CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

VOLUME 107, NUMBER 251 / FINAL EDITION

'The robbing hours'

Should Cedar Rapids give up its
all-night convenience stores?

HandiMart



Gazette photos by Lisa Powell

Cathy Kloubec, the all-night clerk at HandiMart on Blairs Ferry and Edgewood roads NE, waits on early-morning customers. Because of a recent murder at a 24-hour convenience store, some say these stores should close early, have more than one clerk on hand, or perhaps install surveillance cameras.

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

Julie Brown already had jotted down the license plate of one old brown van. Its driver had come into her HandiMart early Friday, acting oddly, not seeming to know what he wanted.

Now at 3:15 a.m., a second man in a brown van pulled up and jumped out, keeping the engine running. He was in the store in a flash.

His arrival came almost to the minute of a stormy Cedar Rapids morning a week before when a robber slashed the throat of convenience store clerk Brian Schappert.

Police detectives say the murder suspect was driving an old brown van.

On this night, the 25-year-old Brown had just been talking about how drugs were changing Cedar Rapids and how the killer must have been a man desperate for drug money. Now here was a man driving a brown van assaulting her with a torrent of words.

"The police stopped me four times tonight," he was saying. "Twice they pointed guns at my head. Once that scared me so bad I (wet) my pants and had to go home and change them."

Brown, rattled by the murder just a week before, remained calm now. This man

was a familiar face to her. He worked early-morning hours and came to the store frequently.

"He's been here before. He's OK," she said.

In the coming and going of familiar faces, all-night convenience store clerks seem to find their greatest solace. A single customer can mean a crowd too big for a robber to take on.

"Especially after this murder, it's nice to see some face you know, that you see every day," Brown said.

But that march of regular customers slows and nearly ends most weekday early mornings, giving way to what all-night clerk Cathy Kloubec called "the robbing hours."

In most Cedar Rapids area stores the robbing hours are from about 2:45 to 4:30 a.m. That's the time when regular customers stop coming in and before others begin to trickle in on their way to morning jobs.

The vicious slaying of Schappert Sept. 8 took place as he clerked alone at the Kum & Go convenience store on Mount Vernon Road SE between 2:30 and 3 a.m.

A disturbing notion for Brown and Kloubec is that Schappert may have been killed by one of his familiar, regular customers, one whom



Julie Brown, a graveyard-shift employee at HandiMart on First Avenue and 35th Street NE, waits for customers to arrive.

he could have identified to police, had he lived.

ONE WEEK to the hour of Schappert's murder, the afterbars customers had slowed nearly to a stop for Kloubec, the all-night clerk at the HandiMart at Edgewood and Blairs Ferry roads NE.

Kloubec, 41, pointed to her age and experience at raising children as maturing forces when she said she feels at ease as a night clerk. In talking early Friday about the robbing

hours, she didn't take the concept altogether seriously. She said the belief in robbing hours grows as a person lets the imagination wander.

"Don't you think there's danger in any job you have?" she asked.

Still, early Friday, she was referring to the dead convenience store clerk, whom she had never met, by his first name. She admitted she had stopped going outside the

■ Please turn to 11A: Stores

Congress could be forced to live by the law

By David Lynch

Gazette Washington reporter

WASHINGTON — Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has started a movement that could force Congress to live by the same laws it passes for others.

Grassley recently won passage of an amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), making all provisions of that anti-discrimination law applicable to Congress.

Written by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the ADA would make it illegal for anyone to discriminate against another person because of disabilities, including, in some instances, AIDS.

As originally offered to the Senate, the bill exempted Congress, which has traditionally operated under its own rules.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the ranking Republican on the Senate Labor Committee that has jurisdiction over the ADA, considered offering an amendment to include Congress in the bill. But under pressure from colleagues who warned such a move could kill the bill, Hatch decided not to introduce the amendment.

Grassley, who has long been concerned about exempting Congress from civil rights, privacy and employment legislation, picked up the cause. He intro-

Congress is exempt from:

- ✓ Social Security Act, 1935.
- ✓ National Labor Relations Act, 1935.
- ✓ Minimum Wage Act, 1938.
- ✓ Equal Pay Act, 1963.
- ✓ Civil Rights Act, 1964.
- ✓ Freedom of Information Act, 1966.
- ✓ Age Discrimination Act, 1967.
- ✓ Occupational Safety and Health Act, 1970.
- ✓ Equal Employment Opportunity Act, 1972.
- ✓ Rehabilitation Act, 1973.
- ✓ Privacy Act, 1974.
- ✓ Age Discrimination Act Amendments, 1975.
- ✓ Ethics in Government Act, 1976.
- ✓ Civil Rights Restoration Act, 1988.

duced the amendment during the final hours of the daylong debate on the legislation.

Grassley made his intentions clear, but he still caught managers of the bill off-guard when he introduced the amendment. They thought once Hatch backed off, the issue was settled.

■ Please turn to 10A: Congress

Hugo charges toward islands; 'dangerous'

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Residents are bracing for Hurricane Hugo, headed straight for them with deadly winds of up to 140 mph.

Saturday they boarded up homes and stockpiled supplies as

Map on page 10A

the storm churned toward the popular resort islands of the eastern Caribbean.

Forecasters described Hugo as "extremely dangerous" and said it could be the most powerful hurricane to hit the region since Hurricane David in 1979. That storm killed an estimated 1,200 people in the Caribbean and Florida.

At 8 p.m. CDT, Hugo's center was near 16.1 north latitude and 60.4 west longitude, or about 75 miles east-southeast of Guadeloupe. It was expected to hit the French island last night, then move north toward Puerto Rico, said forecaster Martin Nelson at

the National Hurricane Center near Miami.

The hurricane was moving west-northwest at 12 mph, sending showers and gusty winds to the eastern edge of the Caribbean and threatening islands over a 600-mile arc stretching from St. Lucia to Puerto Rico.

"It's a very dangerous storm, extremely dangerous in fact," Nelson said.

The National Weather Service in Miami issued hurricane warnings at 2 p.m. CDT for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, which previously had been under a hurricane watch. The warnings were posted from Martinique northward and westward through Puerto Rico, including the British Virgin Islands and St. Martin and surrounding islands.

Tropical storm watches for the islands of Barbados and St. Vincent were discontinued, and a warning for St. Lucia was changed

■ Please turn to 10A: Storm

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

By the time your kids reach an age when they stop embarrassing you in public, you start embarrassing them.

COMING TOMORROW / Are Americans concerned for human rights in Nicaragua?

