



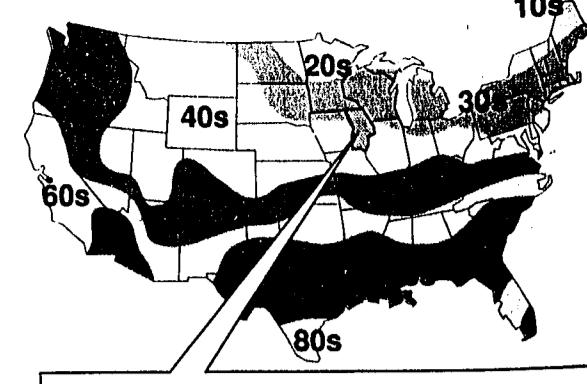
WEDNESDAY March 18, 1992



• IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
• VOL. 110 NO. 69 50 CENTS

The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



FORECAST: Cloudy with a mixture of precipitation. Highs 38-42; lows 24-28. Today's daylight: 12 hrs., 2 min. See 12C.



NEIGHBORS

Her calls for help were answered

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BRIEFLY



FACE VALUE: Charlie Fisher of Cedar Rapids put a little paint on his face to spread good cheer at the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Cedar Rapids. More photos, 12C.

Superintendent hired

College Community choice

The superintendent of the Cherokee school system in western Iowa was hired last night to head the College Community School District. Mick Starcevich, 44, will take over July 1, when Bob Bostwick retires. Details on page 1B.

Civil rights

New C.R. director picked

A Waterloo native who finished second a year ago in the selection of a Cedar Rapids civil rights director came in first this time. Jonathan Clarkson, 36, of Yuba City, Calif., on Tuesday was chosen to replace William Vaughn, who was dismissed in September. Details on page 1B.

Exec checks

Scandal bounces to Cabinet

Three Cabinet members acknowledged Tuesday that they had written bad checks while in Congress, the first Bush administration involvement in the rubber-check scandal. Details on page 3A.

Regis rolls

On to 2A semifinals

Cedar Rapids Regis beat Davenport Assumption, 77-62, last night in the Class 2A first round of the boys' state basketball tournament in Des Moines. In the semifinals Thursday, Regis will have a chance to avenge last year's title-game loss to Western Christian. Details on page 1C.

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Beaver community: village of the dammed.

TOMORROW

In the stars

Searching for proof

Other planets, other solar systems, perhaps other life. It seems likely, say astronomers who are researching the possibility of planets orbiting stars other than our own. Health and Science in Thursday's Gazette.

Clinton grabs 2 wins

Bush crushes faltering Buchanan

CHICAGO (AP) — Gov. Bill Clinton won twin victories in the Illinois and Michigan primaries Tuesday night, cementing his dominance of the Democratic presidential race. President Bush piled dual landslides atop the faltering challenge of Patrick Buchanan.

Clinton's triumphs were a major stride toward the Democratic nomination to challenge Bush for the White House on Nov. 3. "It's almost a done deal," said Democratic chairman John Marino of New

York.

Bush said his renomination was "virtually assured" following runaways in Michigan and in Illinois. The protest vote clearly was dwindling, and Buchanan seemed to be fading with it. He had centered his challenge in Michigan but had to settle for 26 percent of the vote. In Illinois, partial returns gave him only 21 percent.

Aides said Buchanan would scale back his campaign and avoid efforts that could harm Bush's chances for reelection

— but the candidate himself was conceding nothing. "We're going to keep on rolling," he told supporters. "They say Mr. Bush is a prodigal son and he's on his way home. I say it's too soon ..."

The candidate's sister and campaign manager, Angela Bay Buchanan, told reporters her brother eventually "is going to endorse George Bush and he is going to support him and want him to do well."

■ Turn to page 8A: Primaries

Afternoon of fishing turns tragic near dam in Coralville

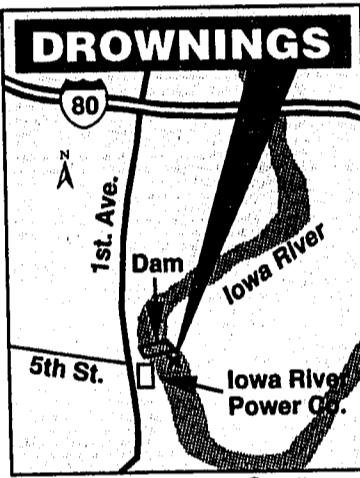
By Heather Sloman Woodin
Gazette Johnson County Bureau

CORALVILLE — An afternoon of fishing among buddies Tuesday turned into an evening of river-dragging by authorities.

Chris Ellis, 23, of North Liberty, jumped to safety when the fishing boat got too close to the dam behind the Iowa River Power Company restaurant about 4 p.m. His friends still were missing last night. They were identified as Jeff Brogan, 23, of rural Hills, and Justin Ramseyer, 18, of Iowa City.

The river search for the two men will resume at 7 this morning.

Ellis said the three had entered the river at City Park in Iowa City. They had been on the river about two hours and were fishing below the dam.



close to the east shore.

Suddenly, things were out of control and the undertow was pulling the boat closer to the dam. "By the time we started

getting sucked in it was 10 seconds until the boat flipped," he said.

Ellis jumped out of the boat and landed on the shore. One of his friends jumped in the water and was pulled under, the other tried to start the motor and was tossed into the water.

Ellis could only watch. "I saw it go under. There was no rope or nothing. All I could do was flag someone in the window" of the restaurant, which overlooks the dam.

His friends were good swimmers, but "in there it don't matter, I guess," he said, shivering and crying in the restaurant parking lot.

A waitress, who wouldn't give her name, said she

■ Turn to page 8A: Drowning



Chris Ellis, who survived the boating accident that apparently killed two of his friends, is consoled last night by his mother, Joanne Staton. Both are from North Liberty. The accident happened at the dam near the Iowa River Power Company restaurant in Coralville.

Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

'February 1st month of recovery'

WASHINGTON (AP) — New-home construction surged unexpectedly in February, and industrial production rebounded from a four-month stall, the government said Tuesday in reports hailed as unambiguous evidence of a recovery.

"I think January was the last month of the recession, and February was the first month of the recovery," said economist Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch.

Still, he and other economists cautioned against expecting growth as strong as other post-World War II recoveries. The federal government and consumers are already heavily in debt, restricting their ability to borrow and spend more.

Details of economic reports released Tuesday:

- **HOUSING STARTS:** Construction of new homes and apartments soared 9.6 percent to 1.3 million units in February, the highest level since March 1990, the Commerce Department said. Increases were registered in every region.

- **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION:** The Federal Reserve reported that total output at the nation's factories, mines and utilities advanced 0.6 percent in February. It was the first increase since September and the strongest since July.

- **CONSUMER PRICES:** The Labor Department said prices rose a moderate 0.3 percent in February, pulled up by higher

food and clothing costs. Inflation for the first two months of the year was running at a 2.2 percent annual rate.

- **CURRENT ACCOUNT TRADE:** The broadest measure of the U.S. trade deficit, including investment flows in addition to trade in goods and services, shrank to \$8.6 billion in 1991. It was the best performance since 1982.

- **CAPACITY USE:** The operating rate at factories, mines and utilities jumped to 78.2 percent of capacity in February, up from 77.9 percent the month before.

- **REAL EARNINGS:** Americans' inflation-adjusted earnings rose 1.2 percent in February.

MURDERED MISSING UNSOLVED



Victim: Michelle Martinko, 18

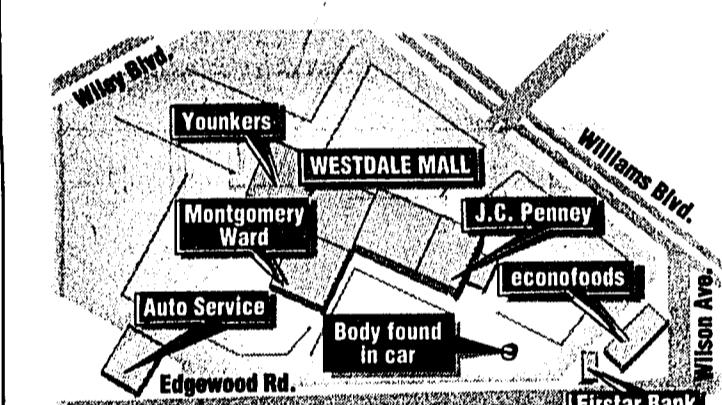
Hometown: Cedar Rapids

Classification of case: Murder

Date of murder: December 19, 1979

Place of murder: Body found in car at Westdale Mall

Do you have information? Contact Cedar Rapids Police Detective Bureau (319) 399-5048



Gazette map by Chad Willenborg

Parents lose hope on Martinko case

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

Jane Martinko knows. So does her husband, Albert. They know that investigators likely will never arrest the person who committed Cedar Rapids' most famous unsolved murder — the stabbing of their 18-year-old daughter, Michelle, a few days before Christmas 1979.

And the Martinkos say they have come to know, too, as one sad year has blended into another since then, who most likely killed their daughter. She knew him and they knew him.

Knowing, though, brings no solace. In fact, Mrs. Martinko is almost eager to see her daughter's name in the newspaper again.

Now 74, she suddenly fears that the case is slipping away, forever to be unsolved, and she can't believe it.

Over the years, in what certainly has been Eastern Iowa's most-probed homicide, investigators have always told Mrs. Martinko they can't share much information with her about the murder.

But she's never forgotten what they told her at the very first.

"They told me it was a jealousy murder," says Mrs. Martinko. "It was a jealousy murder because of the stab wounds."

Those wounds were to the face and chest.

The ones to the face, says Mrs. Martinko, were numerous. Some were severe. So much so, she confides, that the public visitation at the funeral home was delayed after she dislodged some cosmetic repair while kissing Michelle in her coffin.

"It's OK," she says, not objecting to the conversation. "I go through this every day. There were a lot of stab wounds."

That Michelle's killer did not rape her, and that he left about \$160 of hers on the floor of the Martinko car after murdering her inside it, makes Mrs. Martinko believe the murderer was no stereotypical, serial-killer stranger who stalked her, then pounced.

"He didn't want her money. He didn't want her sexually. What did he want? Just her life. It must have been jealousy. It was a jealousy attack," she says.

Declines invitation

Dec. 19, 1979, was a Wednesday, and the next day was a school day.

Michelle, a Kennedy High School senior, had attended a dress-up banquet with the high school choir that evening at

■ Turn to page 8A: Unsolved