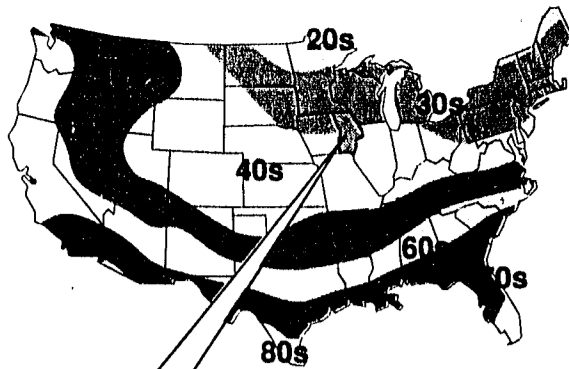




# The Gazette



THURSDAY March 19, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
VOL. 110 NO. 70 50 CENTS

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa

FORECAST: Flurries early then decreasing clouds. Highs 38-42; lows 23-27. Today's daylight: 12 hrs., 5 min. See 14D.

## Spark starts raging fire



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

Cedar Rapids firefighters attack a blaze last night at Clemens Canvas & Manufacturing Co., 839 Second Ave. SW.

### Heavy damage to C.R. business

By Donna Lee Olson  
Gazette staff writer

A fire started by only a spark last night forced Cedar Rapids firefighters to battle under threat of a collapsing roof and a potential fuel tank explosion.

But when firefighters finally reached the tank, it proved to be a non-flammable mixture instead of what was first thought to be acetylene, fire officials said.

Owner Tom Shaw was one of three people working in the machine shed of Clemens Canvas & Manufacturing Co., 839 Second Ave. SW, when the fire started shortly before 5:20 p.m.

"We were grinding some metal," Shaw, 59, said. "A spark flew up and there was foam sitting on top of a rack" and the foam ignited.

Within moments, Shaw and others were grabbing fire extinguishers, trying to douse the flames that were being fueled by wood products inside.

"We emptied four fire extinguishers, but there was no stopping it," Shaw said. His face was smeared with soot

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### HEALTH & SCIENCE

Search for other planets, other life

Page 1C

### SPORTS

Jefferson falls to Clinton in OT

Page 1D

### BRIEFLY

#### Playing it safe

Equipped for prevention

Safety means teachers and others who supervise youngsters' activities in Eastern Iowa are taking precautions to guard against the dangers of contracting diseases such as AIDS or hepatitis. Details on page 1B.

#### Murder trial

Defendant Frieberg testifies

Betty Frieberg testified in Fairfield on Wednesday that she still loved her husband and felt empty after his death. She is charged with killing him and cutting up his body last fall. Details on page 2B.

#### Private sector

Iowans respond to survey

A survey of 604 Iowans that was commissioned by the National Consumers League found that an overwhelming majority believe employers have no right to ask questions about private lives. Details on page 6D.

#### No further review

NFL sacks instant replay

The National Football League's controversial instant replay system died Wednesday in a vote by league owners in Phoenix. Details on page 1D. What's your opinion? TelUs, 2A.

#### Tall order

Hawkeyes to face Texas

Coach Tom Davis is 4-0 in NCAA tournament openers with the Hawkeye men's basketball team, but he says he has never faced a team as good as Texas right off the bat. Iowa will play Texas tonight. Details on page 1D.

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#### TODAY'S CHUCKLE

You have to be understanding of boys when they're going through that awkward age — 15 to 45.

### TOMORROW

#### Van Halen fans

Chance to win tickets

If you can answer some questions about your favorite group, you might win two box-seat tickets to the April 10 concert and dinner for two. Rules for The Gazette contest are on page 3W in Weekendl in Friday's Gazette.

## State tax refunds to be on time

By John Kirsch  
Gazette staff writer

State tax refunds are being mailed on time this year and revenue officials expect to meet the June deadline for sending all refunds to Iowa taxpayers.

In 1991, some Iowa taxpayers had to wait until July for their refunds because authorities failed to accurately determine how much money was needed to budget for refunds. The state has a June 1 deadline to mail refunds. If that deadline isn't met, taxpayers get interest along with their refunds.

"We don't have any delays," said Renee Fields, supervisor for the communications unit with the state Department of Revenue and Finance.

As of Tuesday, \$31.9 million had been refunded to Iowa taxpayers, compared with \$27.7 million at this point a year ago, said Fields.

The average refund so far this year is \$183.71. A year ago at this time, it was \$179.72.

The state has received 577,153 returns so far this year, compared with 562,326 a year ago. The number of refund returns is 476,619, compared to 457,869 one year ago.

The last day to file state tax returns is April 30, two weeks after the April 15 federal deadline.

Fields said many taxpayers wait until late April to file, causing a backlog that makes processing difficult.

Most state returns take about 10 weeks to process, Fields said. Taxpayers who filed early may have received their refunds sooner than that, she said. Errors on returns can add an additional eight weeks to processing time, said Fields.

## MURDERED MISSING UNSOLVED



**Victim:** Lynn Schuller, 26 when disappeared  
**Hometown:** Cedar Rapids  
**Classification of case:** Missing  
**Date of disappearance:** Aug. 6, 1972  
**Place of disappearance:** 3100 30th St. Dr SE.

Do you have information? Contact Dennis Fiser of the Linn County Sheriff's Department (319)398-3521



**Victim:** Denise Fraley, 30 when disappeared  
**Hometown:** Cedar Rapids  
**Classification of case:** Missing  
**Date of disappearance:** Sept. 11, 1982  
**Place of disappearance:** 107 24th Ave. SW Cedar Rapids

Do you have information? Contact Wade Kiener of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (319)396-9130



**Victim:** Jane Wakefield, 26 when disappeared  
**Hometown:** Iowa City  
**Classification of case:** Missing  
**Date of disappearance:** Sept. 6, 1975  
**Place of disappearance:** 213 Bon Aire Mobile Home Park

Do you have information? Contact Pat Harney of the Iowa City Police Department (319)356-5440

## Police suspect 3 killed but lack bodies

By Jeff Burnham  
Gazette staff writer

Jane Wakefield, Lynn Schuller and Denise Fraley were strangers in life who have become connected in what probably is death.

The three Eastern Iowa women vanished years ago, separately, under suspicious circumstances that suggested they met with foul play.

Detectives in each case have identified a prime murder suspect, but lack of solid evidence — particularly the lack of a body — makes it tough to prove murder.

Dozens of people were interviewed in

each case. Evidence, mostly circumstantial, was gathered. Psychics were consulted, ponds were drained and infrared aerial photos of the ground were taken, but no bodies were found.

Through it all, these cases have gnawed at the women's families and have stumped the area's best detectives — which is why they're asking for your help in solving them.

#### Jane Wakefield

Burning a path across the country from New York to San Francisco, Inter-

state 80 is one of the longest highways in the world.

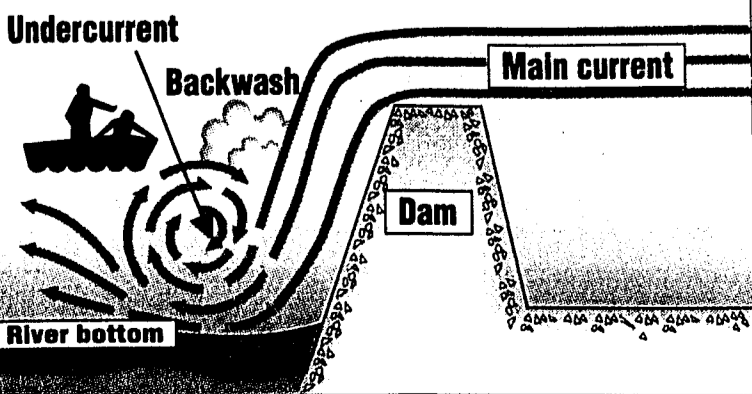
It may also be a key to one of the longest recorded searches for a missing person in Iowa history.

Jane Wakefield, a schoolteacher in North Liberty, disappeared without a trace from her Iowa City mobile home more than 16 years ago.

At first, police suspected Wakefield, 26, may have left with a "Jesus People" cult that had been camping near Coralville Lake. But Wakefield's friends and

Turn to page 8A: Unsolved

### DANGEROUS CURRENTS



Gazette graphic by Greg Good

## Dam called 'drowning machine'

By Dale Kueter and Heather Sloman Woodin  
Gazette staff writers

The U.S. Corps of Engineers calls it the "drowning machine."

Indeed, the hydraulic action produced when water rolls over a dam, the churning and swirling, is a machine that has been fatal to dozens of unwary boaters over the years.

Tuesday, just below the Iowa River dam in Coralville, the powerful backwash created by high flow pulled two fishermen

into the "machine" and to their deaths.

Missing are Jeff Brogan, 23, of rural Hills, and Justin Ramsey, 18, of Iowa City. Chris Ellis, 23, of North Liberty, had been in the boat with them, but he jumped to safety as the boat was sucked into the undertow.

The capsized boat was reported about 4 p.m. Tuesday. The rescue search was called off around 8:30 p.m. and resumed at 7 a.m. Wednesday. Searchers will be back at it

starting at 7 a.m. today. The Corps of Engineers reduced by half the water flow from the Coralville Reservoir, lowering the river level and making the water less choppy in that area of the river.

That allowed a search boat to get within about 20 feet of the dam, where the water was 10 or 12 feet deep, said Johnson County Sheriff Robert Carpenter.

The Corps had to increase

Turn to page 9A: Dams