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TRIBUTES PHOTO BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Blowin' up an Iowa dust storm

This might be titled 'Man Walking in a Cloud,' and, in the way of man walking in a cloud, perhaps he is walking in a cloud. That is the cloud in fact, and the only one Art Mahoney might be stepping in. 'The Day I Am' Mahoney, 24, of 48th Street, is an employee of the City of Des Moines Police Department. Peering through the cloud, however, the weather-

man says things are not all that bad. He said, "Since the first of the month, there has been no precipitation, a departure from normal of 21 inches. Since the first of the year, there have been 27.81 inches of precipitation. ... But normal is 24.16, so actually we're 3.65 inches above normal for the year." Besides, the weatherman adds, there's a chance of showers later Wednesday.

Gulf lobbyist: I didn't give Dole money

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Claude Wild, Jr., Gulf Oil Corp.'s former chief lobbyist, Wednesday repudiated his claim that he had given \$1,000 in 1973 to Senator Bob Dole, the Republican Vice-presidential candidate. "I have been in error and consequently have done a serious disservice to Senator Dole," Wild said in a statement. "I have immediately accepted Wild's apology, calling the matter an 'unfortunate incident.'" As news was Wild's claim to reporters earlier this week that he had given \$2,000 to Dole in 1973 to pass on to other Republican Senate candidates in that year. Dole earlier had acknowledged that he had received before a federal grand jury last March on the question of Gulf's so-called "kickbacks" from Wild either in 1973 or in 1974. Wild's statement did not speak about other allegations that Dole received illegal Gulf company funds in 1973 - but focused only the 1973 matter.

Alsagers back in court here; incest, bizarre behavior told

By Diane Graham - The children of Charles and Doreen Alsager, who were reunited with their parents this year after a six-year court custody battle with Polk County, may now be returned to home lanes if the county's latest court action is successful. Officials of the county Department of Social Services, filing a new custody petition Wednesday, said they feared for the safety of the children. They cited alleged incidences of sexual abuse and incest among the children, threats by Mrs. Alsager boys to kill two other children, a threat by Mrs. Alsager to kill the entire family and other problems plaguing the family. The petition filed in Polk County Juvenile Court charges that the parents have failed to adequately care for the seven children living at home and asks that the county be allowed to take legal custody of them. The Alsagers have been battling with Polk County since 1968, when most of the children were taken from the home. Legal custody cases leads to 1973 - and placed in foster care. Last December a U.S. district judge has declared that a Juvenile Court hearing at which parental rights were terminated had been unconstitutional. The children subsequently were returned to their parents. The petition filed Wednesday alleged that the parents are torn between their feelings of responsibility as parents, on one hand, and despair over their inability to cope with the children's bizarre and violent behavior. Two summermen and a financial counselor assigned to the family by Polk County after last October kept daily diaries of their experiences at the Alsager home. Based on those diaries, the petition alleged that: Sexual abuse and incest frequently occur among the seven children, including attempted sex between Michael, 11, and Kelly, 4, and Kelly, 4, and John, 14, developmentally retarded; Mrs. Alsager in July threatened to kill the entire family in a mass suicide by having them swallow strychnine, but said she "didn't have the guts" to go through with the plan. Young Kelly is allowed to play in a walk-in freezer and occasionally makes obscene gestures.

Say slain coed was sexually assaulted

Investigators at Waverly probe extortion link

By Denise Carliger

A 20-year-old Waverly College student from Knoxville, whose body was found in a ditch north of Waverly, Tuesday was sexually assaulted and may have died of a broken neck.



Marie Lisa Peak

Bremser County authorities Wednesday morning declined to officially give the cause of death, pending results of an autopsy later in the day. However, Knoxville Police Chief Charles Hootridge, who flew to the scene with the woman's dental records Tuesday afternoon, said investigators believed the cause of death was a broken neck and that there was evidence that the woman had been sexually assaulted. Bremer County Sheriff Bill Westcott said Wednesday that investigators were questioning the woman's friends in the village. He said that investigators were looking into possible connections between Peak's death and a sex extortion scheme in the Miami City area last year. Peak was one of the victims of that scheme.

Dr. Marie Lisa Peak, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Peak, Dr. Peak is a veterinarian and a former Knox County council member. The woman had been reported missing early Tuesday by college friends who said she indicated she was going to a sleeping center several blocks west of the village. Her body was found Tuesday morning lying face down beneath a large cottonwood tree at the edge of a ditch.

Dr. Peak is a veterinarian and a former Knox County council member. The woman had been reported missing early Tuesday by college friends who said she indicated she was going to a sleeping center several blocks west of the village. Her body was found Tuesday morning lying face down beneath a large cottonwood tree at the edge of a ditch. Bremer County Sheriff Bill Westcott said Wednesday that investigators were questioning the woman's friends in the village. He said that investigators were looking into possible connections between Peak's death and a sex extortion scheme in the Miami City area last year. Peak was one of the victims of that scheme. John and Charles told the hennepines they gave about a "bad face" by placing matches between his toes and lighting them. They also told the Alsager home was littered with dirt and garbage, signs broke out among the children and one or the other of the children ran away from the house. Alsager let his job as a statistic driver at the beginning of the year. Officials said he hasn't had a steady job since. The family - which officials said received an inheritance of about \$250,000 several years ago - is constantly having financial problems. Last winter, the family ran out of fuel oil and had to use the kitchen stove to heat the house. At the same time, the family needed interviews at a monthly cost of \$1,000. Quentin Emery, director of the County Department of Social Services, said the petition was filed after it became "quite apparent" the Alsagers "are not capable of rehabilitation." Leaving the children in the home was "not in their best interests," Alsager - Please turn to Page Six

WEDNESDAY/etc. Sounding off. . . Moose money. . . A grumpy debut

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