

# Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



It's a very proper disease, afflicts both men and women, and has a rather vague description. I had it yesterday. In fact, I get the "vapors" quite regularly these days.

Centuries ago, if a person had a bad day, complete with some disorganization, confusion, and uncertainty of mind, they had the "vapors." Many years later, the wasp-waistline became fashionable among women, and they were dropping like flies from not being able to breath through their corsets ... and were thus labeled as suffering from the awful "feminine" affliction of the "vapors." Swoning with the "vapors" was suddenly known as a female disease, greatly associated with hysterical and hyperventilating women. But, as the world becomes more fast-paced and hectic, all become candidates for this vaporous mentality ... which means each one of us are candidates today.

Let me tell you about yesterday, so you'll recognize the "vapors" right off when it happens to you ... and it will, regardless of your gender.

First of all, though I awoke to my customary slothfulness, I also bumped into the night stand, tripped over a throw rug, and poked a finger in my eye. That was just the first five minutes of the day. The rest of the morning followed course, and included such things as peeling the same potato twice, tying the bow on the cat instead of the baby gift, and feeding rabbit food to the chickens and laying mash to the rabbits ... just to name a few.

Having the "vapors" means that a great deal of your mental capacity is blocked, thereby allowing you the inability to complete a sentence or simple action. You won't remember why you crossed the room, or why you're standing in the middle of the front yard, naked.

Here are some ways you can recognize your impending case of the vapors: When you ... (1) Drive to town in your pajamas (2) Leave your purse on the top of your car (3) Arrive at the vets without the cat (4) Call the same friend you just completed a conversation with (5) Answer the phone when the door bell rings (6) Wear unmatched shoes to the wedding (7) Put your groceries in someone else's car (8) Don't recognize your mother on the street (9) Send the congratulations card to the friend in the hospital and the get well card to the new bride (10) Dress for church on Saturday morning.

I have done all of the above at some point during an attack of the "vapors." This affliction can last for one day, and a full-blown attack can run for a week. There is no definite cure except time. Like a bad cold or the flu, it must run its course, and you may as well resign yourself to it.

Victims are, like myself, those whose minds are cluttered, must make constant decisions, and have numerous projects underway. Our gray matter, at a certain point, takes action towards self-preservation, and simply malfunctions on its own. Until the "vapors" runs its course, there will be no deep thoughts. In fact, you won't have the foggiest idea of what one even looks like. However, this total mind shut-off will enable you to climb down from the roller coaster world, so take advantage of it and enjoy the "vapors" while it lasts.

When having an attack of the "vapors," you may want to look through the yearbooks and photo albums, clean out the closets, prune plants, brush the cats and sweep the yards. Whatever you do, do NOT make decisions or drive vehicles until the "vapors" goes away. You will know when that happens ... because your name will return to memory as well as your mother's face. Then, and only then, will you be ready to assume your normal state of hectic sanity.

Meanwhile, enjoy your mental gear-down. Having the "vapors" now and then is your path to sanity and self-preservation. It's the one "disease" I hope they never find a cure for.

## Know What You're Buying When Purchasing Leather

Leather garments and leather trim are popular this Fall but, before you buy, extension clothing specialists at North Carolina State University suggest you learn some of the facts about leather.

A garment made from top-grain leather uses the outermost layer of skin. It is the most expensive, the most durable and takes the best finish. Split-leather means the skins have been sliced into thinner pieces. They are less durable, porous and may stretch during the tanning process or shrink during cleaning.

When considering a particular garment, check to see that texture and color are uniform throughout. Make sure the garment is large enough. Leather tends to be more bulky and may also shrink during cleaning. Leather will also lose some color

during cleaning. Leathers tanned and dyed outside the United States may not react to cleaning the same as domestic garments.

Unfinished leathers tend to spot and stain more than finished leather. Consider the cost of cleaning when purchasing a leather or suede garment. Save all label information referring to care to show to the dry cleaner.

Regular care can prevent frequent trips to the cleaner. Suede garments should be brushed with a soft brush or terry towel, but don't brush when wet. Smooth leather may be wiped with a damp cloth, but avoid using detergents, shoe creams, saddle soap or cleaning fluids on clothing.

A quality leather garment should last for several years, becoming softer and more comfortable as it ages.

## Postal Service Offers Ways To Send Holiday Packages

**Editor's Note:** This article is being published at the request of local post offices and for the benefit of the families of the many servicemen from the area.

**WASHINGTON** — For those with relatives in the armed services stationed overseas, and those who wish to mail holiday greetings and packages to others living in foreign countries, now is the time to plan for holiday mailings, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

Parcels sent to military personnel in the Far East, Europe and Southeast Asia have to be mailed in October if shipped by surface mail, the least expensive form of shipment.

November is the month when most parcels shipped via Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) should be sent. PAL packages are airlifted domestically to a gateway facility, then airlifted on space-available basis from the gateway to the APO (Army or Air Force Post Office).

Packages up to 30 pounds and 60 inches in combined length

and girth may be sent by PAL. Mailable regular third-class or fourth-class Parcel Post rate, based on weight, to the U.S. exit port or from the port of entry plus a fee for air service. The air service fee is 30 cents for parcels weighing two pounds or less, 60 cents for parcels weighing more than two pounds but not exceeding three pounds, 90 cents for parcels weighing more than three pounds but not exceeding four pounds and \$1.20 for parcels over four pounds and not exceeding 30 pounds.

November mailers can also ship military parcels by Space Available Mail (SAM). Items shipped by SAM are transported by surface means in the U.S. and flown on a space-available basis from the U.S. to the overseas destination or from the overseas destination to the U.S. Packages weighing 15 pounds or less and not exceeding 60 inches in combined length and girth may be sent by SAM for regular Parcel Post rates to the U.S. exit port or from the U.S. port of entry.

When mailed from a military post office outside the 48 con-

tinuous states, the weight of any piece not mailed as SAM or PAL cannot be more than 70 pounds and the size cannot exceed 108 inches in combined length and girth.

The Postal Service said it also offers a new service for later mailing of holiday messages and parcels to military bases overseas. The new Express Mail Military Service is available to over 200 APO/FPO military addresses. The same rates as domestic Express Mail service apply for this two-day service: \$8.75 for up to half a pound, \$12 for up to two pounds and \$15.25 for up to five pounds. The weight limit is 70 pounds.

For mailings to non-military addresses, the Postal Service's quickest method of shipping abroad, Express Mail International Service, is available to 69 countries. Here are three calendars of suggested mailing dates to assure parcels and greetings will arrive on time. More information on international mailings is available from postmasters or post office window clerks.

OUTBOUND MILITARY MAIL						
Destination	Priority	Letters	PAL	SAM	Surface	
Africa	Nov 21	Dec 2	Nov 9	Oct 27	Oct 31	
Alaska	Dec 7	Dec 7	Dec 1	Nov 23	Nov 23	
Hawaii	Dec 7	Dec 7	-----	-----	Nov 23	
Australia	Nov 21	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 7	Oct 16	
Caribbean/						
West Indies	Dec 9	Dec 9	Nov 24	Nov 21	Nov 7	
Central and South America	Dec 5	Dec 5	Nov 23	Nov 14	Nov 7	
Europe	Dec 2	Dec 2	Nov 23	Nov 14	Oct 16	
Far East	Dec 2	Dec 2	Nov 23	Nov 14	Oct 16	
Greenland	Dec 2	Dec 2	Nov 23	Nov 14	Oct 31	
Mid-East	Nov 21	Nov 24	Nov 9	Nov 2	Oct 31	
South and East Asia	Nov 21	Nov 21	Nov 9	Nov 2	Oct 31	
INBOUND MILITARY MAIL						
Destination	Priority	Letters	PAL	SAM	Surface	
Gateway Points	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 7	Dec 2		
(more)						
OUTBOUND CIVILIAN INTERNATIONAL MAIL						
Destination	Air Parcels	Airmail Letters/Cards	Surface			
North and Northwest Africa	Nov 21	Dec 2	Oct 3			
Australia	Nov 21	Nov 24	Oct 3			
Caribbean/ West Indies	Dec 9	Dec 9	Nov 4			
Central and South America	Dec 5	Dec 5	Nov 4			
Europe	Dec 2	Dec 2	Nov 4			
Far East	Dec 2	Dec 2	Oct 14			
Mid-East	Nov 21	Nov 24	Oct 14			
Southeast Asia	Nov 21	Nov 21	Oct 3			

## ASCS Notes

### DISASTER NOTES

To qualify for disaster aid, producers must lose 35 percent of any crop. For crops in which they suffer losses of greater than 65 percent, farmers will be required to purchase crop insurance in 1989.

The signup period for the disaster program will begin Oct. 3 and run through March 31, 1989.

The program yield will be used to determine loss for program crops. Non-program crop loss will be determined according to production evidence from at least one of the last three years. Producers must keep all production separate for any farm they feel is eligible for disaster aid. Weight tickets or other official documents should be marked with the farm number.

Farmers should not mix grain from several farms unless each farmer's grain is measured first.

All combination farms will be considered combined as far as total production from all farms under the combination is concerned. Total bushels from all farms under the combination will be added together and total planted acres will be divided into the total bushels to determine if the farm has a loss.

Producers who do not sell corn may place it in separate grain bins and have the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office measure it at the farmers' expense. Any producer who decides the crop is not worth harvesting may have the crop appraised at ASCS expense. The cost of re-appraisals, however, will be levied against the farmer.

Disaster aid is available to farmers whose crop losses are attributable to drought, hail or excessive moisture. Heat-stress related losses are not eligible for aid.

Payments will be reduced by crop insurance indemnity payments and total payments cannot exceed \$100,000. No producer will be paid until it is determined how much he is due from insurance.

A producer with a loss of less than 35 percent may not receive a disaster payment but may apply for an exemption from a percentage of the advance 1988 feed grain payment.

### CROSS COMPLIANCE

Cross compliance regulations will not apply to oats again this year. Producers may plant all the oats they desire in 1989 unless they are in the oat program. Oats may not be planted on ACR or other setaside land for program purposes.

### 0/92 PROGRAM

There will be an 0/92 option for wheat and feed grain for 1989.

## They're out for blood.

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