



## Our Next KWA Meeting

**February 19**

**Rockwell Public Library  
5939 E. 9th, Wichita**

**Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop: 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Program: Colleen Kelly Johnston  
“Writing Sex for Today’s Market”**

Sex in the fiction market today runs the gamut from brief allusions to what is happening to pornography. What the writer looks for depends on what market he or she is working in as well as their target reader.

A few tricks will show you how to get your characters’ feelings and expressions on paper and feel satisfied that your words tell the story you want your readers to feel.

**Social Time: 3:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting: 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Program: Panel Discussion  
“Writing and Selling Romance”**

Patricia Davids—Shawna Delacorte—Starla Kaye  
Carrie Lower—Joan Vincent

### Help Wanted

KWA is in need of a new volunteer to take over the labeling and mailing of our monthly newsletters. The newsletters would be delivered to the volunteer already assembled and folded for mailing. Postage is paid for by the organization. Anyone interested can contact our president, Suzann at [srobinson12@cox.net](mailto:srobinson12@cox.net).

## New & Renewing Members

### New

Judy Nichols

Christina Stephens

### Renewals

Leonard Biggs

D. H. Desmond, Sr.

Keith Boscher

Orville Voth

Rachel Dayvault

## Mark Your Calendar

**Feb. 2 & 16**—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

**Feb. 5**—First Saturday Group, 1 to 4 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**Feb. 4 & 18**—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**Feb. 13 & 27**—Children’s Writers Group, 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 29th & Rock Rd in the reading area at the back of the store. For information call Hazel at 316-263-7772.

**Feb. 19**—KWA Pre-meeting Mini-Workshop, 2:00-3:00 p.m.. Social time, 3:00-3:30 p.m. Regular meeting, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Rockwell Public Library.

**Feb. 20**—Newsletter deadline for March.

**Feb. 24**—KWA Board meeting, 5:45 p.m., Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**March 19**—KWA Pre-meeting Mini-Workshop, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Social time, 3:00-3:30 p.m. Regular meeting 3:30-4:30 p.m.; program to be about self-publishing.

# Market Place

## Market News

**Arabella Romances** magazine will no longer be published. Subscribers need to go to the website to find out about getting a refund:  
www.arbellamagazine.com.

**DNA Publications** publishes magazines that accept short stories, mainly fantasy, horror and science fiction. *Absolute Magnitude* is a science fiction quarterly looking for stories 1,000 to 25,000 words in length. *Dreams of Decadence* is looking for vampire poetry and fiction or 1,000 to 15,000 words. *Fantastic Stories of the Imagination* is a quarterly looking for fantasy and science fiction stories of 4,000 to 5,000 words. *Weird Tales* is looking for stories up to 8,000 words. *Mythic Delirium* publishes poetry. Guidelines at [www.dnapublications.com/info/guide.htm#abs](http://www.dnapublications.com/info/guide.htm#abs).

**The Rocking Chair Reader** is looking for true stories, either your own or those passed down in families, of 500-1,000 words for an anthology called "Something Old, Something New." Deadline for submissions is Feb. 28. They are also looking for submissions of stories for an anthology called "Smalltown Christmas." Deadline for submissions is April 2005. Details at [www.adamsmedia.com/rocking.html](http://www.adamsmedia.com/rocking.html).

**Venus Press** is a new e-publisher of erotic romance and erotica. They are looking for everything from 5,000 to 80,000 word quick eroticas, short stories, novellas, and novels. For detailed guidelines see [www.venuspress.com](http://www.venuspress.com).

**Warner Books** is launching a new imprint, Center Street Books. They are looking for women's fiction novels that are romantic stories that appeal to women and have a clear connection to America's heartland through the setting or the subject matter. Must be agented to submit currently.

## Contests

**ByLine Magazine Contests.** For more information on all of their contests, see [www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

**Short Story** Deadline: Feb. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$40 second, \$25 third. Submission: General fiction up to 5,000 words.

**Valentine or Love Poem** Deadline: Feb. 14. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

**Short Article** Deadline: Feb. 18. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any non-fiction subject suitable for a magazine or newspaper, 1,500 words maximum.

**Winter or Snow Poem** Deadline: Feb. 28. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

**Filler** Deadline: March 5. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Short prose up to 600 words on any topic from humor to household hints, tips, original anecdotes, etc.

**Get Writing with Canterbury Tales** sponsored by BBC America. Deadline: Feb. 21. Entry Fee: None. Prizes: Winner will receive an Apple®iBook®. Submission: Story inspired by the themes (lust, greed, or revenge) of *Canterbury Tales*; 1,900 to 2,000 words in length. Details at [www.bbcamerica.com/getwriting](http://www.bbcamerica.com/getwriting).

## Chicago Tribune, Nelson Algren Awards for Short Fiction

Deadline: Feb. 28. Entry Fee: None. Prizes: \$5,000 first, \$1,500 to each of 3 runner-ups. Submission: Short stories of 2,500 to 10,000 words. Submit to Chicago Tribune Literary Press, 435 N. Michigan Ave., LL2, Chicago, IL 60611.

**Once Written Winter Poetry Writing Contest** Deadline: Feb. 28. Entry Fee: \$10 per poem. Prizes: \$500 grand prize, \$100 first; both will be published on the website and in monthly *Off the Press* newsletter. Submission: No-limits poetry. Details at [www.oncewritten.com/Contests/PoetryContest.htm](http://www.oncewritten.com/Contests/PoetryContest.htm).

## 2005 International Haiku Contest, National League of American Pen Women Palomar Branch, CA.

Deadline: March 1. Entry Fee: two poems for \$5. Prizes: \$100 first, \$50 second, \$25 third. Submission: Unpublished Haiku of any style, syllable count can be less than 17. For details e-mail contest coordinator at [wordhog1@juno.com](mailto:wordhog1@juno.com).

**2005 Kansas Voices**, Sixteenth Annual contest for Writers Living in Kansas. Deadline: March 15. Entry Fee: \$3 for each poem or prose submission. Prizes: Best poem—\$275, adults; \$75 youth. Best short story—\$275 adults; \$75 youth; \$200 total for honorable mentions. Submission: unpublished poetry or short story. No single entry longer than 20 pages. Details at [www.iwinfield.net/~wahc/events.htm](http://www.iwinfield.net/~wahc/events.htm).

## Writing Goals and Resolutions

By Louise Pelzl

Three most popular resolutions of writers:

1. Start a novel
2. Finish a novel
3. Sell a novel

Some suggested resolutions:

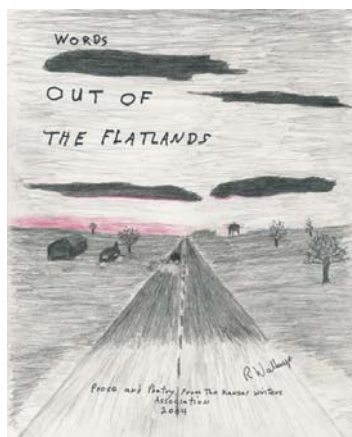
- Try a new genre, or focus on one
- Write a certain number of pages per day
- Write a set number of hours per day
- Improve a particular element of writing or skill (characterization, plot, setting, research, etc.)
- Take a course
- Join a critique group
- Get a writing partner
- Attend a conference
- Have a certain number of finished manuscripts in the mail at all times
- Enter contests
- Find new ways to promote your work

What stops us from keeping our resolutions and achieving our goals:

- Procrastination
- Lack of motivation
- The “ice storm” factor: emergencies and other unexpected roadblocks
- Inability to say NO

Tips for keeping resolutions:

- Be specific about your goal.
- Include positive resolutions like keeping track of your accomplishments and giving yourself rewards for reaching weekly or monthly goals.
- Post resolutions in visible places around your home.
- Keep a notepad and pen in each room and your car.
- Have a shortcut of your current work in progress on the desktop of your computer.
- Periodically (weekly, month) re-evaluate and reset resolutions you don't keep: In your enthusiasm you may have expected too much.



Winning Anthology cover for the 2004 Prose and Poetry Competition, created by Richard Walkup.

## Research Tips

By Mathew Curry

- You don't have to write what you know, but you MUST know what you write.
- Explore all avenues for your research, and don't hesitate to think out of the box.
- Always capture more information than you think you'll use.
- Bring your setting to life without drowning your story with facts.
- Contact a professional in the field you intend to write about and interview them thoroughly.
- Use an up-to-date atlas and realistic calculations for travel time.
- Use the television as a tool, but use it wisely—don't get caught up with dramatics, look for the information you need, then verify it via a reliable source.
- Don't let research get in the way of creating. You can always come back and tweak it later.
- Create an Inanimate Dossier (like a detailed character description) that details all of the facts about something important in a story: a particular weapon, a house or place, etc.

### Helpful Research Websites

<http://www.zott.com/mysforum/links.htm>

Mystery Writers' Resources with links to agents, forensics, law organizations, police procedure, publishers, guns, poisons and medical mafia, and much more.

<http://www.writers-free-reference.com>  
Writers Free Reference, outstanding!

<http://www.writerswrite.com/journal/feb99/gak12.htm>

Internet Research Resources for Mystery and Crime Writers

## Research Books: Romance

*The Romance Writer's Handbook: How to Write Romantic Fiction & Get It Published* by Rebecca Vinyard. The book includes how to create familiar heroes and heroines; crafting scenes, places and plot complications; the business side; a well-written synopsis analysis; creating an author website; and much more.

*Writing a Romance Novel for Dummies* by Leslie Wainger. Step-by-step guide from plotting and pacing to creating the perfect heroes and heroines. It includes how to select a pseudonym; how to find the right agent and publisher; explanations of the romance sub-genres; and much more.

*Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Your Romance Published* by Julie Beard. The book contains information about writing and promoting your romance; romance sub-genres; current trends and how to spot the future ones; and romance genre terms.

*Writing Romance Fiction, for Love and Money* by Helene Schellenberg Barnhart. Good information on getting that first sale and understanding the big picture of romance writing. It includes how to set the mood, where lovers meet, and using harsh and tender words of love.

*Writing Erotica* by Edo Van Belkom. The book provides help with getting story ideas; how to give readers what they want; how to create atmosphere and characters; the language of erotica; the elements of erotica; and using point of view effectively.

*The Joy of Writing Sex: A Guide for Fiction Writers* by Elizabeth Benedict. This is a guidebook for creating better sex scenes and covers everything from

the first time, to married sex and adultery, to sex in the age of AIDs.

*Creating Romantic Characters: Bringing Life to Your Romance Novel* by Leigh Michaels. Techniques and examples of producing provocative, exciting, forceful characters with dynamic stories.

*The Romance Writers' Phrase Book* by Jean Salter Kent. This book provides descriptive phrases and picturesque ways of describing a character by physical description, movements, facial expressions, emotion and colors.

*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Dating* by Judy Kuriansky. For getting to know your characters and their concerns and issues with dating, this is a great help. It gives strategies for meeting new people, icebreakers and opening lines, matchmaking services, the art of flirting, the first date, dating styles, dating disasters, sex stereotypes, and handling rejection and breaking up.

*The Book of Love Laughter & Romance* by Barbara and Michael Jonas. This a fun source of things for characters to do together. It talks about how to pamper each other, going places together, savoring the bath, being romantic, planning sensuous meals, everyday rituals and ceremonies, planning weekend escapades, and role-playing.

*Fine Art of Flirting* by Joyce Jillson. A good source of information about how to be a great flirt, dressing fetchingly, and more.

*Body Language Secrets: A Guide During Courtship & Dating* by R. Don Steele. The book talks about sexual signals and nonverbal communication, the essence of courtship and dating conversations, how to get noticed, and courtship tactics for both men and women.

*The Fine Art of Erotic Talk* by Bonnie Gabriel. The book explains how to make love with words, speak sensually, encourage verbally, practice erotic wordplay, do fantasy talk and role-play, use sensual words to nurture and heal, and how to express erotic afterglow.

*The Complete Idiot's Guide to The Art of Seduction* by Janet O'Neal. The book talks about looking seductive, emotional seductiveness, men and women's perspectives on seduction, romantic signals, flirting, the morning after, keeping it intriguing, and keeping a love life spicy.

*Erotic Massage* by Anne Hooper. This is wonderful for finding ways to describe all the physical and emotional elements of touch. It details how to make contact, sensual massage, intimate massage, self-touch techniques, actions in the bedroom, and games to play.

*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amazing Sex* by Sari Locker. The book talks about sex expectations, compatibility, foreplay, sexual positions, pillow talk, variety, sexual fantasies, sexy sights and sounds, toys, and birth control.

*Sensual Sex* by Beverly Engel. The book describes the joys of sensual sex, sensuality and touch, your five senses, and the various stages of passion as we age.

*The Better Sex Guide* by Nitya Lacroix. A good book for learning more about the physical and emotional aspects of female and male sexuality, massage, games and exercises, the art of wooing, positive image through body language and dress, and techniques and positions.

## Romance Panel Authors

**Patricia Davids**, aka Pat MacDonald, was born and raised in the farm country of central Kansas. As a tomboy with four brothers, Pat spent an idyllic childhood where horseback riding, baseball, church activities and a love of books formed the foundation of a rich imagination. Earning her RN and marriage to a sailor took her away from the farm, but didn't change the tomboy much. It did, however, provide her with endless ideas for stories with happy endings.

In 1997 Pat began to seriously pursue the idea of publishing a novel. That year she found RWA (Romance Writers of America) and a local RWA chapter. The Wichita Area Romance Authors. With the support of other writers and armed with information about the publishing industry supplied by RWA, Pat spent seven years gathering rejection letters.

Then, in the summer of 2004, she got "The Call." Her novel, an Inspirational Romance from Steeple Hill titled *His Bundle of Love* will be released in January 2006.

**Shawna Delacorte**, aka Sharon Dennison, has lived most of her life in Los Angeles, California. Even though she earned her living for many years by working in television production, she's always been interested in writing. However, writing novels was the farthest thing from her mind when she made her first serious attempt at putting fingers to keyboard with the hope of creating something that would catch an editor's attention. She combined her interest in writing with her long time avocation of photography and began doing magazine articles.

In 1991 Silhouette books purchased *Sarah and the Stranger*, her first published novel, for their Desire line. She

was honored with the Waldenbooks award for Bestselling Series Romance By A New Author. The award was presented at the Romance Writers of America National Conference in 1993. She has since appeared numerous times on the Waldenbooks best seller list and has been included on the USA Today Best Seller list.

In 1994, she made the career change to write full time. She also teaches fiction writing in the Continuing Adult Education Non-Credit classes department at Wichita State University, with her next class beginning February 9, 2005.

She has nineteen published novels. *In Forbidden Territory* Silhouette Desire January 2005 is currently on the shelves. Her twentieth novel, *The Sedgwick Curse* Harlequin Intrigue, is scheduled for release in May 2005.

**Starla Kaye/Kay Starr**, aka Starla Criser, is currently the newsletter editor for KWA, winner of the KWA 2004 Dale German Award, and a member of both Romance Writers of America and the local chapter (Wichita Area Romance Authors).

By day, and often into the night, she is the office manager for an accounting firm in Wichita with two offices. By degree and volunteer work, she helps coordinate a senior group that explores the cultural arts in Wichita. She also edits three senior adult newsletters, a community newsletter, and two office newsletters.

As an author, she has a romance novel, *Tug of Love*, published through iuniverse and available as a print-on-demand at any bookstore or online. Between that publication in 2000 and now, she has had two poems published in anthologies and numerous short stories published both online in print. Currently, she has a completed novella, *Crooked T Ranch*, and two ongoing novellas, *Hawke's Lady* and *If You Loved Me*, being published online

with three different divisions of ABCD Webmasters. Her website is [www.starlakaye.com](http://www.starlakaye.com).

**Joan Vincent**, aka Joan Wesolowsky, is a native Kansan. Except for a brief stint in Arkansas while her husband was in the Air Force, she has been a lifetime resident.

Inspired by her love of reading and history, Joan began writing in 1977 when the youngest of her three children was five. That summer while confined to bed several weeks with a back injury, Joan read over 200 Regencies. By the last one she decided she, too, could write one of these. In 1979 she sold her first Regency to Dell Candelight, *Thomasina*, which made a Dalton mass media list. Over the next three years Joan sold seven more Georgian and Regency works to Dell.

In 1983 she went back to teaching and taught in a self-contained sixth grade until 1991, when she both taught and developed a computer lab. She went on to gain certification as a Novell Network Administrator.

After retiring from teaching in 2000, Joan returned to writing. She attended a Romantic Times conference and a preconference writing seminar that revitalized her work. In June 2002 she sold *The Promise Rose* to Avalon Books.

Playing with her grandchildren, crocheting, quilting, and flower arranging are among Joan's favorite activities. She most enjoys finding research books on all facets of life in 18-19th century Britain, France, and Spain.

Joan's ninth book, *The Betrothal*, will be released by Avallon Books in June, 2005. Read more about her WIP—a Napoleonic spy mystery series—and other information at [www.joanvincent.net](http://www.joanvincent.net).

## President's Letter

By Suzann Robinson

The pre meeting workshop in January gave us the opportunity to share helpful ideas on writing goals for 2005. It was a great time to evaluate our accomplishments of last year and to make new writing goals for this year.

Hearing what others had done and were planning to do was an inspiration. Has everyone started on those writing goals for this year?

The panel on research gave us examples of how to use the Internet, as well as other sources for our writing. The writers on the panel gave us a wealth of information. There's something there in every genre. Now all we have to do is use it.

At our February 19th meeting we'll find out how to write love scenes and how to write and sell romance writing. It should be intriguing as well as informative. Even if you don't write love scenes and don't think you want to write romance, come and find out how the experts do it, you may change your mind.

It's amazing what you can learn from writers in other genres. They can give us a different perspective. Besides that, we have fun at our meetings, and we eat.

"A successful individual typically sets his next goal somewhat but not too much above his last achievement. In this way he steadily raises his level of aspiration."

—Kurt Lewin

## Member News

**Rachel Dayvault** now has her novel, *Toward the Sun-Rising* (A Journey to Love and Far-Away Places), in print. You can read the prologue and first three chapters free by going to [xlibris.com](http://xlibris.com) (Bookstore>Search>type author's name>click on title). She will bring "friendly author discount" trade paperbacks to the February meeting. Price—\$18. Author's signature also free!

## Sad News

KWA wishes to express its sympathy to **Gordon Kessler** for the recent death of his mother.

## KWA Newsletter Changes

From this issue forward, there will be two specific focuses each month: a particular fiction craft technique and a certain market/genre. If you would be interested in writing an article on any of these focuses, please email Starla at [starlakaye@earthlink.net](mailto:starlakaye@earthlink.net). I would absolutely **love** not doing all of the research and writing of such articles. The following list is the schedule for 2005:

| Month     | Fiction Craft Technique     | Market/Genre              |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| February  | Research and resolutions    | Romance                   |
| March     | Characters/Conflict/Setting | Christian                 |
| April     | Plotting basics             | Poetry                    |
| May       | Prologues/Epilogues         | Magazine                  |
| June      | Opening hook                | Travel                    |
| July      | Dialogue                    | Novels                    |
| August    | Exposition/Narration        | Newspaper                 |
| September | Scenes/Cliffhangers         | Short Stories             |
| October   | Black Moment/Crisis         | Crime                     |
| November  | Climax/Resolution           | Screenwriting             |
| December  | Editing/Revisions           | Memoirs/Family<br>History |

## Writing Opportunity

Any nonfiction writer out there needing an incredible story to write? A lady contacted KWA the other day who wants her story told. Once a guest on the Donahue show concerning her adoption years back, she is now a doctor who was married to a man who led a triple+ life without her or her children suspecting a thing. He was married to three other women while being married to her, and was running a South American drug operation. If you feel you might be able to help this lady out, please call Gordon at 316-685-0098, or email him at [gordon@gordonkessler.com](mailto:gordon@gordonkessler.com).

## Tips and Techniques for Improving Windows XP Performance

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

Is your PC driving you nuts by booting so slow your hands are pulling out sections of your hair? Don't go searching Dell, Best Buy or CompUSA for a replacement, like I did. A few tweaks of your operating system will speed your system up so the next time you boot up you'll wonder what happened.

Tigerdirect.com presents a ten item PC Tune-Up Guide that anyone who used the XP operating system can access. Their website is <http://static.tigerdirect.com/html/Q4-2004-Windows-XP-Tech-Tips-update.html>. Sorry MAC users. You'll have to find your own problem solver on Apple.

Three of the easiest tips should be utilized by every XP user once or twice a month.

**Visit windowsupdate.com regularly.** This is important, simple and fast. The "patches" available on a weekly basis not only provide protection for your PC, they are also designed to improve performance. Tigerdirect recommends updating at least twice a month.

**Use quick launch.** Is your Desktop cluttered with dozens of shortcuts to the programs you use the most? Get rid of them and clear your monitor. This is a common problem and easily fixed. Right-click the Taskbar, go to Toolbars, and make sure Quick Launch is checked. Then drag your favorite shortcuts to the Quick Launch bar which should have located itself at the lower left of your screen. You'll have easy access for all of them, anytime.

**Defragment your hard drive.** It's difficult to understand how often this essential PC tool is ignored by many busy computer users. Defragmentation occurs when new files are placed by the system throughout your drive, interspersed with other files and files which the user thinks has been deleted but which, in fact, has only had its directory erased. Having the system collect and realign files on your hard drive is a necessary job made simple. Here's how: Regular defragmentation can improve your machine's hard drive performance by massive amounts. To begin defragging, right-click your hard drive in My Computer, select Properties, go to the Tools tab, then click defrag. Do this without fail every month and you will enjoy smooth sailing.

These tricks are but three compiled by the editors of the Tigerdirect editors to aid computer users. I tried them and speeded up my system so much I decided I didn't need to spend money on an upgrade of mine.

## KWA: The Year Ahead

### April 16

**POETS, START YOUR ENGINES:** The April 16th meeting of KWA will feature a four hour workshop on poetry, headed by Sandy Soli, *ByLine Magazine's* poetry editor. More information will follow, but the essential facts are:

Date: 1:00—5:00 on Sat., April, 16th  
Location: Collegiate Upper School,  
1221 North Webb Road  
Cost: Members and students: \$10.00  
Non-members: \$20.00

### July 16

#### MEET THE EDITORS DAY

**Thomas Colgan**, senior editor Berkley Publishing—in charge of suspense, thrillers, mysteries, adventure, police, espionage, history, business, inspiration and biography

**Marcia Preston**, executive editor *By-Line Magazine*

Date: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Sat., July 16th  
Location: Wichita City Arts  
Cost: Members: \$35  
Non-members: \$45

### October 15

#### SCENE OF THE CRIME Workshop

Three speakers  
Terrific Information

Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters and on the website.

## KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gordon Kessler

## Newsletter

Please send all newsletter submissions of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the 20th of each month prior to publication to starlakaye@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Starla Criser, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, Wichita, KS 67207. All email attachments should have "KWA" in the subject line and can be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, Works, or rtf format.

## Join KWA For Only \$25.00

This will give you a one-year membership, our monthly newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to discounts to our various programs and seminars. Send your check to KWA, P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Visit our Web Site at: [www.kwawriters.com](http://www.kwawriters.com)

## Our Mission Statement

To inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

## KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236  
Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

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