

John Powell/Photo Intern

Bus ride leads to help

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant editor

ROCHESTER — She found an old washing machine on the curb and brought it in her house. It was great to have a washing machine — until the bottom fell out and the water spilled across her small, two-room apartment.

The washing machine went back to the curb. The clothes, back into the kitchen sink. And she had another good cry.

Christine White's life seems to go that way, from good cycles to bad. At times she's held jobs, sometimes good ones like the one at the pet store. She liked all the animals: the guinea pigs, mice, pythons, parrots, ferrets, iguanas. And she got to bring many into her house for a better life after customers grew tired of them and re-



turned them. At times she hasn't been able to hold jobs — during the past two years, for example, partly for what she says are mental issues. Some of her issues date back to school days, when she was raped. She has a tattoo she said she recently had engraved over the scar where the rapist carved his initials. Degenerative arthritis in her hips and spine keeps her from walking well. Last May she began suffering extreme pain. She learned she needed a hysterectomy and bladder surgery, and was told not to lift things. Since then she's been from doctor to doctor, and may not be scheduled for the surgery until January.

The news hit her hard, and it showed. On the bus ride home from the doctor, the

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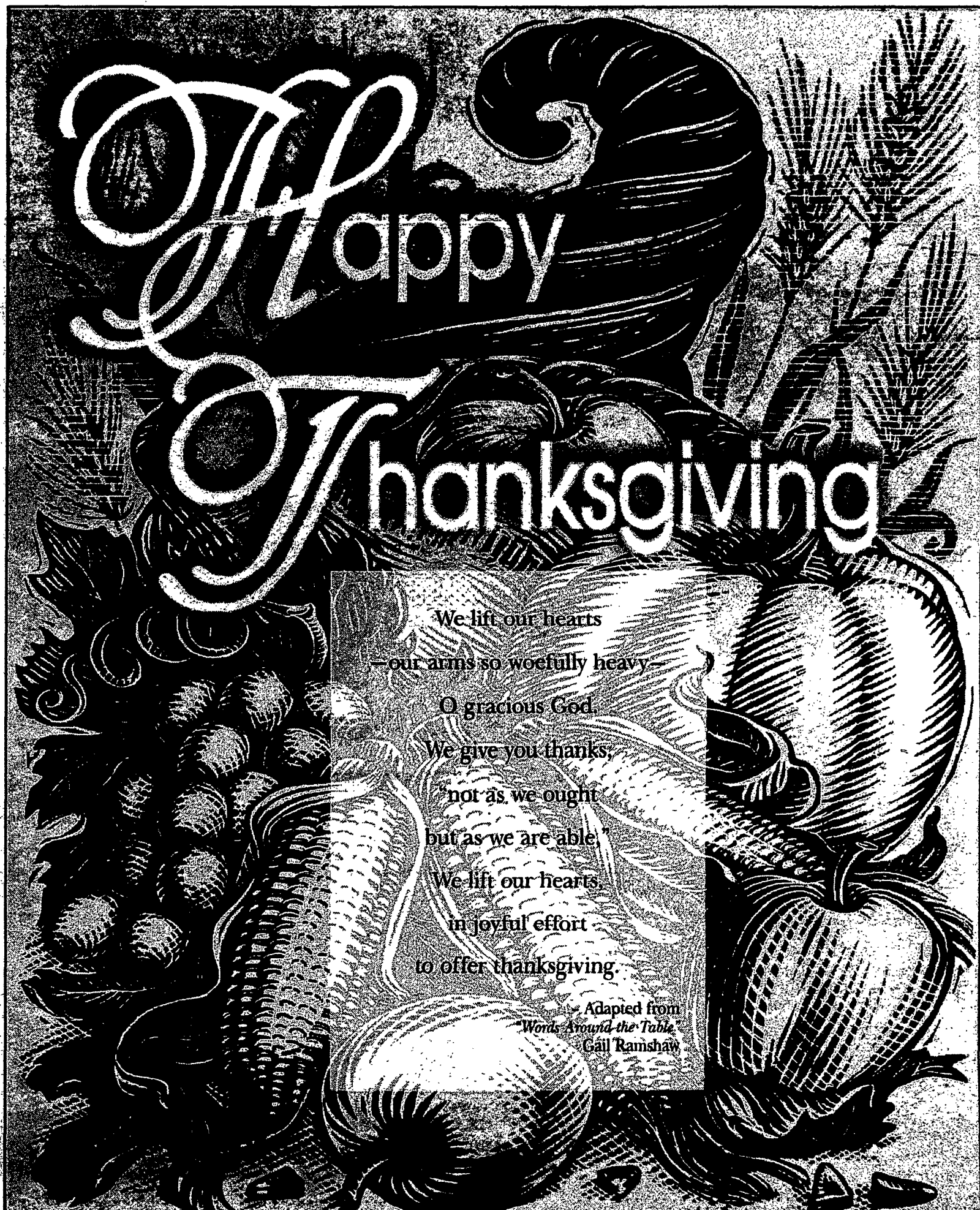


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We lift our hearts
—our arms so woefully heavy—

O gracious God,

We give you thanks,

not as we ought

but as we are able.

We lift our hearts,

in joyful effort

to offer thanksgiving.

Adapted from
"Words Around the Table"
Gail Ramshaw