



## Reagan claims plan will make tax system fair

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, winning plaudits from congressional tax writers, is proposing a vast tax overhaul with lower rates, larger exemptions and fewer deductions — a system he promises will lift the poor and make everybody's neighbor pay a fair share.

"America, go for it," he urged. "The 72-year-old federal income tax is un-American, unwise, unwanted and unfair, the president said in a nationally broadcast speech Tuesday night. "For the sake of fairness, simplicity and growth, we must radically change the structure of a tax system that still treats our earnings as the personal property of the Internal Revenue Service," he said.

"Death and taxes may be inevitable, but unjust taxes are not," Reagan said in a speech laden with praise for free enterprise, the family unit and American ingenuity. His proposal, he said, is "America's tax plan: a revolutionary first for fairness in our future; a long overdue commitment to help

working Americans and their families; and a challenge to our entire nation to excel...."

Key members of Congress were generally impressed with what details the president offered. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., whose House Ways and Means Committee must originate tax legislation, presented the Democratic Party's formal response to the president and pledged cooperation.

If Reagan's plan can deliver all

it promises, said Rostenkowski, "he'll have a great deal of Democratic support." But Democrats, who control the House, will not rubber-stamp the plan, he added.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., who heads the Senate Finance Committee, said American workers would fare well under the president's plan and added "the prospects of passage this year are excellent."

Reagan and his aides withheld

a detailed explanation of his proposal until today. But highlights include:

—Seventy-nine percent of individuals would pay the same or less tax than under present law.

—The total tax burden on individuals would be reduced by 7 percent while corporate taxes would rise by 9 percent.

—The deduction for state and local taxes paid would be eliminated.

—A spouse who is not employed outside the home would be allowed a full \$2,000-a-year tax-deferred contribution to an Individual Retirement Account, the same permitted any other worker.

—The earned-income credit, which benefits poor working families with children, would be raised from a maximum \$550 a year to \$726. This, combined with the rate reductions and increased exemptions and standard deductions would allow a couple with four children to earn \$16,000 a year before paying any income tax.

Reagan, pleading for public support for tax overhaul, noted considerable support in Congress for the goals of simplicity, fairness and growth.

"Remember, there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams...." he said. "Let's not let prisoners of mediocrity wear us down. Let's not let the special-interest raids of the few rob us all of our dreams."

### President's Plan for Income Tax Reform

- Individual Rates: Compression of tax rates to three brackets of 15%, 25% and 35%
- Exemptions: Would raise deductions to \$2,000 for self, spouse & each dependent
- Itemized Deductions: Some middle & upper income taxpayers would lose deduction for consumer interest.
- Deductions for mortgage interest on principle home would be retained
- Charitable deductions would be eliminated for those who do not itemize
- Deduction on state & local taxes would be eliminated

### How president's plan would affect you

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's tax plan would cut the taxes of a typical \$26,000-a-year four-member family by about \$500 a year but would raise the burden on a childless couple with income of \$45,000.

The biggest factor for the \$26,000 family would be the increase in the personal exemption to \$2,000 per person. Under present law, the exemption is expected to rise

with inflation from \$1,040 to \$1,080 next year.

The most pronounced effect on the other family, on the other hand, would be the loss of some deductions.

Here are unofficial calculations on how three hypothetical families with average deductions would fare if the president's plan becomes law:

Under present law, a one-earner couple with \$26,000

income and two children is allowed four exemptions worth a total of \$4,320. They have \$3,600 in mortgage interest and a \$500 deduction for charitable contributions. They pay state and local taxes of \$2,600 and union dues of \$600.

Those itemized deductions total \$7,300; subtracting the standard deduction leaves an excess of \$3,630. Subtracting that

See TAX, Page two



UP IN THE AIR — Two Pampa girls take advantage of Tuesday's warm evening as they glide on the Swinger ride at the Pampa High School Band carnival which continues

through Saturday at the Coronado Center parking lot. (Staff Photo by Cathy Spaulding)

## House debates health care proposal

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House was prepared for what could be a climactic vote on the indigent health care bill that forced a special session of the Legislature. Speaker Gib Lewis, claiming "overwhelming" House support, predicted the special session could end today after a two-day run.

However, he predicted the House debate would last "a minimum of two or three hours." Shortly after the Senate voted 29-1 Tuesday for the \$70 million program, House conservatives met to figure out how to kill it. The Conservative Coalition meeting included talk of a program that would grow without control. There also was talk of a program that isn't needed.

"I have a problem believing we have people dropping" from lack of health care, said Rep. Jan McKenna, R-Arlington.

The indigent health care plan died as the clock ticked away in the House Monday night. Gov. Mark White called lawmakers into special session Tuesday.

"I was very pleased to see the Senate took very prompt action on our request for a special session. I have just spoken to Speaker Gib Lewis and they will move very quickly to address the issue," White said after the Senate vote.

The Conservative Coalition voted 54-4 against the measure, probably short of the number of votes needed to block approval.

"No matter how much money we scrape out of the barrel, there is never going to be enough to go around," said Rep. Alan Schoolcraft, R-San Antonio. "This isn't going to solve the problem."

"These programs don't work," he said. "Did

the War on Poverty eliminate poverty?"

The House Public Health Committee, with Lewis watching closely, Tuesday cleared the Senate-approved bill for House debate.

Schoolcraft made two attempts to amend the measure, each failing 6-3. Each involved a new funding plan based on the money saved by putting a limit on the number of state employees hired.

Schoolcraft said his plan would provide a better funding system that would provide more in the future. He said there had been estimates the state could save up to \$400 million in the next three or four years by requiring more efficiency in state government with fewer state employees.

Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen, said the conservatives are "supportive of the program, but concerned about the cost."

## Drive pipes law approved on split vote

By LARRY HOLLIS  
Staff Writer

Pampa city commissioners gave final approval Tuesday morning to the driveway pipes ordinance despite two negative votes.

Approved on second and final reading, the ordinance sets the distance between the bottom of the curb gutter line and the bottom of the pipe above it at 5½ inches, as amended last week.

But Commissioner Clyde Carruth, who was absent from the meeting last week, objected to the lower distance, saying it would be so low as to interfere with proper flow of water along street curbs.

He said the lesser requirement would also be so low "nearly anyone could put one (a pipe) in."

Carruth said he realized the ordinance also would help to replace some of the pipes removed last summer in the controversial action, and he had no objections to that. But he said he didn't like the ordinance "legalizing" what could become a widespread use of the driveway pipes, something the city was trying to prevent.

The distance standard for the placement of pipes over the gutter has vacillated back and forth since the ordinance was proposed. In his initial proposal, City Manager Bob Hart had recommended a minimum of 6½ inches. Later five inches was discussed, but an amendment set 6 inches as the standard. Then last week the 5½-inch standard was approved.

Commissioner Bob Curry echoed Carruth's feelings, saying he felt the higher standard would be best for the streets.

But Commissioner David McDaniel moved for adoption of the ordinance as presented Tuesday, with Commissioner Joe

Reed seconding the motion. McDaniel and Reed voted approval, with Carruth and Curry voting against the ordinance. Mayor Sherman Cowan broke the tie by voting affirmatively.

In other matters, the commission approved on second and final reading an ordinance setting the time for the regular meetings at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The first evening meeting under the new ordinance will be held June 11.

The commission engaged H. V. Robertson and Co., Amarillo certified public accountant firm, to prepare the 1984-1985 audit and a comprehensive financial report.

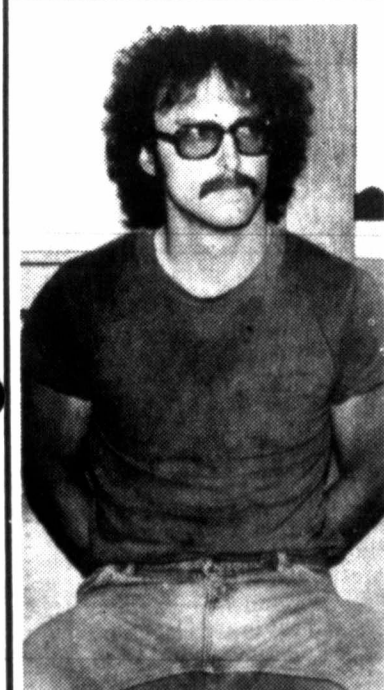
Hart said the new firm could complete the audit and the report at a cost between \$26,000 and \$28,000, less than had been charged by the previous auditing firm. He said its financial report would meet all government requirements.

Mayor Cowan said he had seen a sample copy and felt it was better and more detailed than previous financial reports presented to the city. He said the audit also should be ready to submit to the commission in November.

Commissioners awarded three bids for the purchase of materials for traffic signs to Hall Signs, Inc., for \$2,470.20; Vulcan Signs, \$18,571.01, and 3M Company, \$3,169.80, for a total of \$24,211.01. The materials will be used for the replacement of signs in the city, including green street signs with gold lettering around Pampa High School.

The commission also awarded a bid of \$4,613.35 to Texas Printing Co. for the purchase of printed paper goods for the city. Hart said

See CITY, Page two



DAVID BRIAN PATTERSON

## Two charged with bogus robbery

BY JEFF LANGLEY  
Senior Staff Writer

The arrests of two Pampa men have cleared three reported armed robberies here this month, police said.

Of the three local robberies reported in May, just one of the incidents has been confirmed by police as a real hold-up.

Both suspects participated in an armed hold-up of a local service station police said today. But the men, co-workers at a local restaurant, faked another robbery in order to take their employer's cash, police said. The third reported robbery this month, that of a local convenience store, remains under investigation, police said.

David Brian Patterson, 29, 205½ N. Nelson, assistant manager of the Pizza Inn, 2131

Perryton Parkway, and Michael Anthony McGee, 27, 1068 Varnon Dr., a restaurant employee, were arraigned today on charges of theft by taking in connection with what police called a bogus robbery of the Pizza Inn May 19.

Police said they have confirmed that Patterson and McGee pulled a real armed robbery about 6 a.m. May 11 at J-Bob's Gulf Service station, 210 E. Brown.

A black man and a white man armed with a knife and a gun and wearing nylon stocking masks robbed station managers W.C. and Geneva Woodruff, according to initial reports.

"C'mon, grandma, don't do anything," one of the bandits reportedly warned.

Justice of the Peace David Potter today arraigned Patterson

on two counts of aggravated robbery in connection with the J-Bob's hold-up. McGee was charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of robbery in connection with the same incident.

Potter set bonds totaling \$35,000 for Patterson and \$45,000 for McGee.

A report of a May 4 armed robbery at the Allsup's convenience store, Hobart and Alcock, remains under investigation, police said today.

"Through investigation, it was determined that there was actually only one armed robbery," police said about the three reports in a prepared statement.

Authorities said McGee put on a stocking mask, "in case there were any customers around,"

and "robbed" Patterson in the incident at the Pizza Inn.

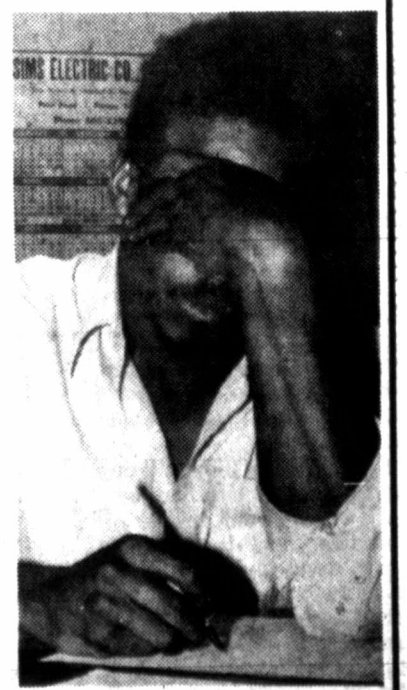
Patterson had told police that a black man wearing a stocking mask and armed with a long-barreled revolver robbed him as he prepared to close the restaurant about 1:05 a.m. that Sunday.

The assistant manager said the man pointed the weapon at him while shouting, "Back off, ... back off!"

Patterson told authorities that the bandit made off with money bags and \$5 from the assistant manager's wallet.

The employee said the robber pushed him to the floor and threatened "to kill him if he moved before the suspect was out of the door."

See ROBBERIES, Page two



MICHAEL ANTHONY MCGEE





# VIEWPOINTS



**The Pampa News**  
EVER STRIVING FOR TOP O' TEXAS  
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher  
Publisher

Wally Simmons  
Managing Editor

## Opinion

### Nicaragua embargo will only hurt U.S.

The French philosopher Frederick Bastiat once noted that "when goods do not cross borders, armies will." Like all simple maxims, it is not necessarily true in every instance. But it expresses an important and generally valid insight succinctly.

Certainly the announcement that President Reagan doesn't want Nicaraguan goods to cross U.S. borders and vice versa—that there is to be a trade embargo—is an expression of overt hostility if not outright war. The major reason arms are not openly crossing borders into Nicaragua is that Congress wouldn't approve it.

In a sense, then, the trade embargo is a vicarious substitute for war rather than an inevitable precursor of war in the near future.

The government, for various reasons, has been prevented from having a jolly little war in Nicaragua and even from financing a third-party war-cum-revolution. In a fit of petulance, it does the next best (or worst) thing. That'll show 'em.

It won't, of course. The world is more complex than Europe in the last century, when Bastiat wrote. Nicaraguan goods may not cross U.S. borders licitly, but they will cross other borders. If anything, the move is likely to accelerate the Sovietization of Nicaragua, to make the country more dependent on the communist world, to arouse sympathy for a tiny Central American country oppressed by the Yankee Colossus.

All these unfortunate results will ensue without serious damage being done to the Nicaraguan economy—certainly not as much damage as has already been self-inflicted by halfhearted adherence to a latinized breed of quasi-Marxism. Indeed, Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista brethren could hardly have devised a policy more likely to tighten their grip on the unfortunate and troubled country over which they rule.

Some commentators have debated the pros and cons of an embargo, seeking to assess wether it will, on balance, help the United States more than it will harm us. As the question is usually put, it is literally unintelligible.

The United States is not a mystical entity, but the people who live within its borders. A few individuals—those who now trade with Nicaragua to the tune of between \$59 millions and \$100 million per year; not much, but a significant number of jobs—will be hurt.

Will any individuals be helped? Some congressmen and administration hawks may feel better, but none of them will gain anything of value from an embargo. Is a temporary feeling of petulant satisfaction a sufficient trade-off for having to assume responsibility for a policy that is bound to fail and hurt other individuals in the bargain.

Perhaps some politicians think so, especially if they can force people other than themselves to pay the price of their vainglorious foolishness.

A trade embargo, besides being philosophically objectionable in an administration so conspicuously and opportunistically devoted to free-enterprise principals, can only do harm. It will harm U.S. citizens who want to trade with Nicaraguan enterprises. Most of all, it will harm ordinary Nicaraguan citizens forced to live under the Sandinista regime by strengthening the hold the regime has on the country and by limiting Nicaraguan citizens' trading choices.

### About opinions

The views expressed in the opinion column on this page are those of The Pampa News or Freedom Newspapers. Opinions expressed by the syndicated columnists are their own.

**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
(USPS 781-540)

Serving the Top 'O Texas 77 Years  
Pampa, Texas 79065  
403 W. Aitchison  
PO Box 2198

Circulation Certified by ABC Audit

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Subscription rates in Pampa and RTZ by carrier and motor route are \$4.21 per month, \$12.62 per three months, \$25.23 per six months and \$50.46 per year. THE PAMPA NEWS is not responsible for advance payment of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the News Office any payment that exceeds the current collection period.

Subscription rates by mail are: RTZ \$12.62 per three months, discount offer \$25.23 per six months and \$50.46 per year. Outside of RTZ, \$14.19 per three months, discount offer \$28.38 per six months and \$56.77 per year. Mail subscriptions must be paid in advance. No mail subscriptions are available within the city limits of Pampa. Servicemen and students by mail \$3.28 per month.

Single copies are 26 cents daily and 53 cents Sunday. Includes state sales tax. The Pampa News is published daily except Saturdays and holidays by the Pampa News, 403 W. Aitchison Street, Pampa, Texas 79065. Second-class postage paid at Pampa, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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## Local tyrants our real enemy

BY BUTLER SHAFFER

One of the most abused words in the English language is "anarchy." Whenever any suggestion is made regarding even the slightest diminution of political authority, some nitwitted news commentator, politician, corporate official, or other defender of the institutionalized order, is quick to warn us of the dangers of "anarchy." Whenever one group out of power uses violence as a means of achieving political power, the same people will charge that "anarchy" is increasing.

Thus it is that so-called "terrorist" groups are labeled as "anarchists" when they employ bombs, machine guns, and threats against men, women, and children. One searches in vain, however, for a similar description of the much wider and more gruesome violence perpetrated by governments against people.

Thus it was that, when one major newspaper reported that the C.I.A. had been conducting "counterterrorism" action in Lebanon - action that led to the bombing of a building by C.I.A.-backed forces resulting in the death of 80 innocent civilians - the establishment press was quick to label the activity a "disaster." The alleged "terrorists," of course, were promoting "anarchy," according to these choices, while C.I.A. prompted bombings were only "disasters"!

One saw a repeat of the same litany in Philadelphia Local police, responding to complaints from neighbors about the unneighborly behavior of members of a group called MOVE, came out in force to remove this group from their home. Technically, the police were there to enforce local health codes, but when the MOVE members resisted the city's gestapo tactics, the police responded with the kind of all-out violent attack that the more vicious "terrorist" groups only dream of. By now you know that at least eleven persons - four of them young children - were killed in this attack; that sixty-one homes were burned to the ground - causing some \$5 million in damages and destroying the home life of some 250 neighbors.

In the face of this most vicious attack upon persons whose greatest offenses seem to have been (1) their obnoxious - though apparently non-violent - behavior toward their neighbors, and (2) their non-conforming political and social beliefs, city officials were quick to blame the victims.

MOVE members were labeled as "terrorists" - presumably because they were armed - while city officials - who brought far more firepower to the scene, dropped a



bomb on the MOVE house, and apparently allowed the fire caused by the bomb to remain burning in order to get into the building (a strategy that led to the destruction of the entire neighborhood), were cast in the light of defenders of law and order!

At least one official was heard to recite the Orwellian proposition made famous during the Vietnam war: "the neighborhood had to be destroyed in order to save it!" Yet another police official added his contribution to the decline of public wisdom when he declared: "the law had to be enforced in order to protect the neighborhood!"

Whenever one discusses alternatives to our present politically-dominated madness, the frightened rabbits who have never been able to think beyond the bromides fed to them in the public school system reply: "but if we didn't have a government, there would be disorder in society, and we would be taken over by foreign governments." Events in Philadelphia and Beirut should suggest to any thoughtful, intelligent human being that we have disorder in society because we have government; that we need no longer fear being "taken over" because, in fact, we have already been "taken over" by tyrants of local origin.

When all the smoke cleared this past week, who did the residents of this Philadelphia neighborhood have greater reason to fear: some five adults and twelve children who

annoyed their neighbors with loudspeakers and garbage in their yard, or the local government which bombed and burned out the neighborhood? Whose activities sent "terror" through the minds of local residents? How many corpses were contributed by the MOVE members?

City governments are armed occupiers of most major cities, with the police functioning as what they have always been intended to be: military enforcers of political authority. The Los Angeles police has its armored tank with which to enforce the will of city rulers; every major city has its storm-trooper SWAT teams; some cities employ armed boats in their enforcement strategies; many police departments employ so-called "intelligence" agents to spy on the personal and public lives of anyone even remotely suspected of being less than enamored of the institutional order; police departments have bazookas, armored helicopters, machine guns, and other high-powered weapons in their arsenals; and now, apparently, the city of Philadelphia has its own air force to do strategic bombing!

I fear that we may one day hear government officials arguing for the use of ICBM missiles (or, at the least, tactical nuclear weapons or neutron bombs). Should that day come, I am certain the well-conditioned defenders of the institutional order will be heard to argue for such weapons as

necessary to "protect" us all from the menace of "terrorists" and the specter of "anarchy"!

More intelligent people, however, must surely come to the understanding that, just as national governments have become far too dangerous to the health and survival of human beings, so have local governments become intolerable. We must, if we are to survive as a species - whether in cities or elsewhere - learn how to live with one another without the kind of institutionalized violence that has, in this century alone, led to the murders of some 200 million persons. The political system has exceeded its tolerable outer limits of violence: it simply must be abandoned.

We must learn - as the MOVE members and their neighbors learned so expensively - that governments cannot tolerate any form of dissent that threatens to call into question the carefully-trained obedience of citizens. Governments always have and always will insist upon having their authority obeyed, and will kill or destroy to whatever degree it deems necessary to have its will enforced upon others.

As Philadelphians discovered, it is not "terrorist" bogey-men out of power we need fear, but those in power who are prepared to use as much terror as necessary to stay there.

Schaffer teaches law at a California college.

### Today in History

By The Associated Press  
Today is Wednesday, May 29, the 149th day of 1985. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:  
On May 29, 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norkey of Nepal became the first to reach the summit of the 29,000-foot Himalayan mountain.

On this date:  
Ten years ago: Addressing a NATO meeting in Belgium, President Gerald R. Ford said the alliance could be endangered by what he called "partial membership or special arrangements." It was a warning apparently directed at Portugal.

Five years ago: National Urban League president Vernon E. Jordan Jr. was shot and seriously wounded in a motel parking lot in Fort Wayne, Ind.

One year ago: The United States announced it had sold 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia.



"There's a bunch of special interest groups to see you - are you in a mood to do something about Amtrak, oil depletion, Social Security, or getting Bobby back on 'Dallas'?"



**Paul Harvey**

## Abolish the home run?

The game of baseball has evolved over the generations in the nations in which it is played.

There is at least a minor modification of the rules of baseball every season. Trifling things, such as allowing a pitcher to blow his breath on his hands on a cold day.

But for anybody to dare to suggest any major change in the game; most fans would give up their hot dogs first!

Yet we have a Knox College professor, Hermann Muelder, daring to recommend that we abolish the home run.

Prof. Muelder's rationale is this: baseball is the only game in which it is the person, not the ball, which does the scoring.

In football, it's the ball which must cross the goal line.

In hockey, it's the puck which must enter the net.

In basketball, it's the ball which must pass through the hoop.

In baseball, however, it is the player, the batter, who must himself traverse the bases and run home in order to score.

Except, says Prof. Muelder, in the case of the home run. Then the ball does the scoring, traversing the bases is a formality.

Running the bases is ritualistic. The score does not come when the ball crosses the outfield wall; the score comes when the player crosses home plate.

The professor says that's "not fair," that the defensive player has no chance to interact with a ball hit over the fence or into the stands.

There is no possible defensive response to a 450-foot George Brett moonshot.

Prof. Muelder would call it "a strike."

He says the real batting skill in baseball is to "hit 'em where they ain't," thus to challenge the defense. The full lines are there to give the defensive player a reasonable chance of interacting with the ball.

But against the home run there is no defense. I asked Stan Isle, senior editor of Sporting News, about this proposal.

He said it is not preposterous, but he says whatever merit there may be to such a suggestion, the home run has become too significant and too exciting ever to be abolished.

There's too much spectator appeal for the going, gone wallop that ends up downtown.

I asked sportscaster Harry Caray what did he think about abolishing the home run.

He said, "Holy cow!"

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# Gunman kills three in shooting spree



**SWORN IN** — Alexandra Isles, former mistress of Claus von Bulow, takes the oath at Providence Superior Court Tuesday. Mrs. Isles 1982 testimony was cited by jurors as a key reason for the two attempted-murder convictions of von Bulow in 1982. The convictions were overturned last year on state constitutional grounds. (AP Laserphoto)

ST. JOHN, Ind. (AP) — A man with a semi-automatic weapon opened fire on traffic along a highway, then shot his way into a department store Tuesday night, killing three people before he was slain in a shootout with police.

James Koslow, 31, who worked in the production department of the Chicago Sun-Times until he suffered a back injury several months ago, was killed by police, Lake County Sheriff's Detective Bernie Johnson.

The others killed were a motorcyclist, a woman store employee, and a woman who had been a customer in the store, said Lake County Sheriff's Department Lt. Mike Higgins.

While in the store, Koslow, of St. John, shouted, "I am no cripple. You're going to pay. This is for all

the people in the hospital," Johnson said, quoting witnesses.

Police do not know if Koslow had been hospitalized, but his father, Edward, "claimed he had a back injury and it stopped him from working for the past two or three months," Johnson said. Johnson said the younger Koslow had complained of being in pain and was "kind of despondent."

Six people were wounded in the attack, including a tow truck driver, a small boy, and three women shoppers and one male shopper. Two were listed in critical condition.

The gunman was standing in a field along U.S. 41, across the highway from the discount store when he opened fire on traffic, striking a northbound motorcyclist, Higgins said.

The cyclist, identified by Lake County Coroner Daniel Thomas as George Murr, of St. John, ditched his motorcycle in a driveway about 50 yards from where the gunman stood. Several people, including the tow truck driver, attempted to help the cyclist, but the gunman then began firing on them, Higgins said. The boy was shot in the arm.

The gunman then raced across U.S. 41 and into the front doors of a K mart store. He then began spraying people inside the store with at least 60 rounds from his semi-automatic HK-93 weapon, Higgins said.

Police said they did not know how long the gunman stood at the front of the store, blocking the entrance.

"He was spraying, attempting to

spray, the inside of the store. And he was attempting to hit some people — definitely," Higgins said.

The gunman then left the store, turned around about 15 feet from the entrance, and began spraying the storefront with gunfire.

Higgins said the gunman made his way through the parking lot, crouching and firing as he headed back across U.S. 41 near St. John, which is about 30 miles south of Chicago's Loop.

At that point, Higgins said, police spotted the gunman and took off after him on foot behind St. John Auto Center and Home Center.

"He fired at the officers and they returned fire," Higgins said. "He was shot in the head and pronounced dead at the scene."

# Mexican government reiterates oil aid pact

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government says it has not cut off the supply of petroleum to Nicaragua although that country's leftist Sandinista government is having difficulties meeting its payments.

In a statement, the government said it "has maintained and maintains the supply of petroleum particularly on those occasions when emergency has required them."

The statement, released jointly Monday night by three Cabinet departments, said Mexico recognizes the difficult economic conditions facing Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced last week that the Soviet Union has promised to provide his country with 80 percent to 90 percent of its oil needs this year.

"The supply of crude oil to Nicaragua has been continuous in agreement with the volumes needed," the Mexican statement said. "Nicaragua has exercised its right to look for other options which might permit it to face the difficult economic situation it is experiencing."

Mexico and Venezuela, both rich in oil, have been providing oil to eight Central American and Caribbean nations since 1980 under the San Jose Pact that provides easy credit terms.

The pact was signed by the region's two major petroleum exporters during the prosperous years of the oil boom. With both Mexico and Venezuela in economic difficulties following the world oil glut, a renewal of the pact last August tightened those terms.

Venezuela cut off its supply of oil

to Nicaragua after that country's economic woes put it far behind in payments, and there had been reports that Mexico had followed suit.

But the new statement said that although Mexico has reduced its petroleum supply to Nicaragua, it sent an emergency shipment in March of 250,000 barrels of oil to that country.

The statement from the Foreign Ministry and Treasury and Energy departments noted that "economic difficulties of recent years have affected some aspects of the operation of the (San Jose) agreement" and at least half of the participating nations have had trouble making payments at one time or another.

"In the present year, Nicaragua has not been in conditions to comply with the requirements of

the operation of the agreement," the statement said. "In conclusion, the agreement of San Jose remains in effect."

Mexican officials have criticized the Reagan administration for announcing May 1 a trade embargo against Nicaragua.

In Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, Agriculture Secretary Eduardo Pesquera said this week that the pressure of the embargo "put in serious danger regional peace in Central America."

A statement released by the Mexican Embassy in Managua said the commission is meeting "to find a new spirit of solidarity between the two countries through economic, commercial, technological, scientific, agricultural, educational and cultural exchanges."

# Isles testimony a repeat and more

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Claus von Bulow's former mistress lashed out at a defense lawyer and said she is ashamed that she continued to see the socialite even after he told her how he watched his wealthy wife sink into a coma to the edge of death.

Alexandra Isles said Tuesday that she had not revealed what von Bulow had told her about his wife's coma when she testified at his 1982 trial on two counts of attempted murder because she "couldn't bear to think about it."

Mrs. Isles became the final witness for the prosecution after Superior Court Judge Corinne P. Grande refused to allow Martha "Sunny" von Bulow's longtime banker to testify.

"And then he said that the next day when she was unconscious that he watched her knowing that she was in a bad way, all day, and watched her and watched her," Mrs. Isles said.

"And finally, when she was at the point of dying he said that he couldn't go through with it and he called (the doctor) and saved her life."

Von Bulow, who fidgeted with a pen throughout his former lover's testimony, shook his head as Mrs. Isles recounted the conversation. The two glanced at each other occasionally throughout her nearly two hours of testimony.

The defense was expected to open its case when the trial resumed today.

One day after her sudden return from Europe to testify in von Bulow's retrial, Mrs. Isles recalled what the Danish socialite said after Mrs. von Bulow slipped into the first of two comas her husband is accused of inducing with insulin injections.

In 1979, von Bulow had said "he would be a free man after Christmas ... because he would have come to an understanding about divorce with his wife," said Mrs. Isles, a former soap opera actress, who had told von Bulow she would end their relationship if he did not leave his wife.

In January 1980, von Bulow detailed the circumstances leading to the first coma, saying he and his wife had been arguing and talking about divorce as his wife drank alcohol-spiked egg-nogs and took a barbiturate, she said.

Mrs. Isles' testimony in von Bulow's first trial was cited by jurors as a key reason for his conviction on two counts of attempted murder. The convictions were overturned last year by the Rhode Island Supreme Court on state constitutional grounds.

The state charges von Bulow wanted his wife dead so he could inherit \$14 million of her \$75 million Pittsburgh utilities fortune and marry Mrs. Isles. Mrs. von Bulow, 53, recovered from the 1979 coma, but doctors say a second coma she suffered a year later is irreversible.

Under cross-examination from defense lawyer Thomas P. Puccio, Mrs. Isles revealed that after the first trial she wrote von Bulow a letter suggesting they resume their relationship.

"When I wrote that letter, I didn't know what I was doing," she said.

# Survey shows ground water is contaminated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Almost 20 percent of the nation's ground water wells show evidence of contamination and 6 percent exceed recommended standards, according to an Interior Department survey released today.

That contamination was in the form of inorganic nitrogen compounds, the main sources of which are septic tanks, livestock waste and fertilizer, said the second annual National Water Summary from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Similar inorganic nitrogen

compounds showed widespread increases in surface waters in the East and Northwest between 1974 and 1981, the report said.

The report said 24,000 of 124,000 wells for which nitrate concentrations are available — or 20 percent — showed concentrations greater than three milligrams per liter, "the level considered indicative of the effects of human activity on the ground water."

Water from about 8,200 wells, or 6 percent, showed concentrations above 10 milligrams per liter, the maximum recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

# Dwindling ranks of survivors recall flood

By BOB DVORCHAK  
Associated Press Writer  
JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Elsie Frum was 6 years old when her father burst into the house to save her and two sisters from a seething, churning wall of water that destroyed Johnstown in the great flood of 1889.

"I remember father grabbing us and running out of the house hollering, 'For God's sake, get out and get up on the hill. The dam's broke.' We got out just in time," the 102-year-old Mrs. Frum said.

Mrs. Frum is one of 22 known living survivors of the catastrophe that reshaped the city's image. Filled past the brim by heavy rains, the South Fork Reservoir burst from its earthen dam and razed the city. The flood killed 2,209 people — or one out of 10 then living in the valley.

downtown diner. "The older people seem to dwell on it. It's something to talk about. All the mills are closed. You have to talk about something."

The flood's story has been retold in a Hollywood movie, a Mighty Mouse cartoon and a number of books.

The real story is that a dam was built on the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River for the state canal system. After it was abandoned, it was converted into a

resort by some of Pittsburgh's wealthiest tycoons — including Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon and Henry Clay Frick — seeking to escape the city's heat and dirt.

The dam was badly maintained, and warnings that it would break were as perennial as spring floods. At 3:10 p.m. on May 31, 1889, it gave way and unleashed 20 million tons of water — as if Niagara Falls had been turned on for 36 minutes.

The 40-foot high killer wave took 57 minutes to thunder 14 miles

down a mountainous river valley to Johnstown, which was washed away in just 10 minutes. Much of the valley was scraped down to the bedrock.

The Johnstown Flood National Memorial, visited by 45,000 people annually, was created by Congress in 1964 at the site where the dam — 72 feet high and 931 feet across — washed away.

In 1936, torrential rains again wrecked Johnstown.

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**HUSSEIN IN WASHINGTON** — Secretary of State George Schultz walks with Jordan's King Hussein after he arrived in Washington on a four-day working visit. King Hussein was to meet with President Reagan today. (AP Laserphoto)

## Rescuers fight to prevent epidemic

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)** — Survivors of a killer storm in the Bay of Bengal lined up for cholera vaccinations today, corpses were pushed into mass graves and helicopters ferried water pumps in a hurried effort to prevent disease from taking more lives.

A government official said navy vessels, army helicopters and Red Cross rescue teams by Tuesday had reached all areas hit by Saturday's storm that killed thousands of people and stripped coastal areas clean of trees and homes.

Reporters saw people lining up for inoculations, and the helicopters brought in small hand

pumps to restore sources of clean water.

Estimates of the number killed in the storm varied widely, and the government said it had no list of the missing. It said many of the people living on hundreds of islands in the Bay of Bengal were squatters.

The government, which has revised its figures up and down several times, said 1,400 deaths are confirmed. The Red Cross says at least 5,000 were killed and that the figure could increase significantly.

Today, the Bangladesh Observer newspaper said the death toll might reach as high as 50,000, but it did not say how that estimate was

reached.

In Geneva, the International Red Cross quoted Ali Quoreshi of its Bangladesh chapter as saying 6 million people were affected by the storm and that 275,000 "have lost everything."

On Urir Char, an island where nothing was left standing, Navy Cmdr. Iqbal Mujtaba watched the mass burial of 900 people Tuesday. He said many of them had not been identified.

Mass burials also were reported elsewhere as rescue workers tried to prevent the spread of disease among the weakened survivors.

The Indian Express newspaper reported today that rescue workers

in Urir Char used one needle to inoculate about 300 people against typhoid and tetanus. It quoted a naval officer as saying: "You cannot change the needle. We cannot afford it. God will give them resistance."

Warning of the storm had been given as early as Thursday, but the island people had "no place to go and no way to get there. All they could do was sit there thinking almighty God would help them," Mujtaba said.

Mujtaba commands two navy ships that brought rice, beans, milk and clothing to survivors. He said 1,119 people were evacuated after the storm.

## Shells hit Gemayel's palace, start fire

**BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)** — President Amin Gemayel's palace sustained two direct hits by artillery shells today and caught fire, but Gemayel "miraculously" escaped unharmed, state radio said.

The two shells set Gemayel's private wing and his office on fire as he was eating lunch in an adjacent dinroom, the radio said. There was no immediate report of casualties, but the palace sustained extensive damage, the radio said.

Beirut radio stations had reported earlier in the day that Gemayel, a Maronite Christian, was preparing to go to the Syrian capital of Damascus to ask President Hafez Assad for Syrian military intervention to stop 10 days of fighting between Shiite Muslims and Palestinian refugees.

Shiite militiamen and armored units of a mainly Shiite army unit pounded a Palestinian refugee camp on Beirut's southern edge with mortars and tank fire today, officials said. Thirteen shells hit the Beirut airport.

The shells exploded on the

airport tarmac as passengers boarded a flight bound for Europe, civil aviation sources said. The passengers sprinted back to the terminal, and there were no reports of casualties.

Palestinians responded to the Shiite assault on Bourjel-Barajneh camp with machine guns and armor-piercing rockets, police said.

Palestinians said they were keeping the Shiites from mounting

a push into the three besieged camps which had a population of 120,000 before the fighting began.

Police reported 19 people were killed and 48 were wounded overnight, raising the toll to at least 408 dead and 1,803 wounded. The two sides have accused each other of massacres, but there has been no independent confirmation of the charges.

The Syrian army left Beirut during Israel's 1982 invasion of

Lebanon to crush the Palestinians. But Syria has maintained an estimated 30,000 soldiers in northern and eastern Lebanon under a peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

Arab mediators continued efforts in Beirut and Damascus to work out a compromise between Shiite demands that the camps be disarmed and Palestinian vows to fight to the last man.

Libya sent envoys to both Beirut and Damascus, and government ministers from Kuwait, North Yemen and South Yemen were in Damascus.

Backed by a four-hour barrage of gunfire, the Shiite militiamen halted a Palestinian counterattack at Sabra on Tuesday, and retook a key building.

Sabra's defenders sneaked through a series of tunnels and surprised Shiites.

Palestinian spokesmen confirmed the Shiites had regained the nursing home, but said the guerrillas recaptured other smaller positions and regained control of Sabra's main northern entrance.

## Defense: Agca 'fooling' with justice

**ROME (AP)** — Defense attorneys say the erratic behavior of Mehmet Ali Agca during the papal plot trial shows the state's star witness has "been fooling with Italian justice for three years."

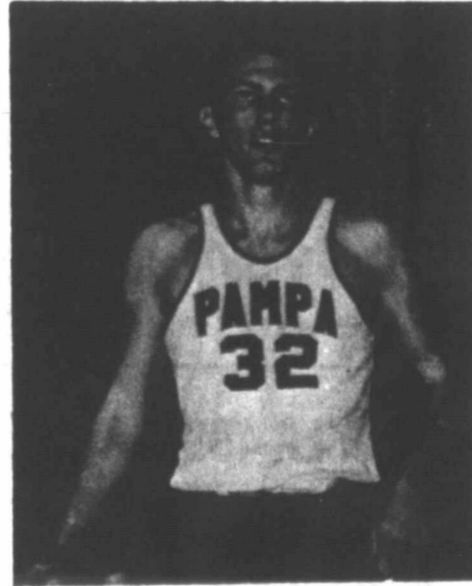
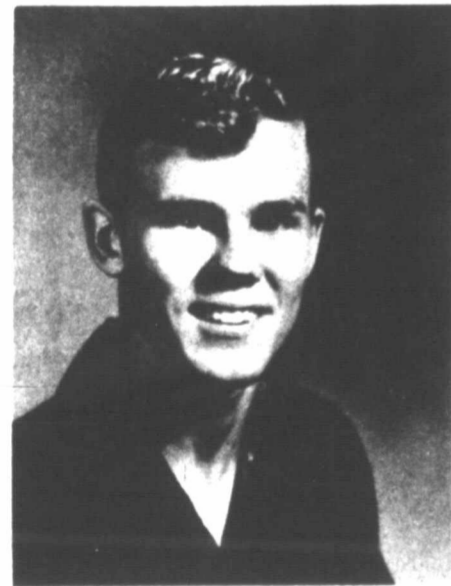
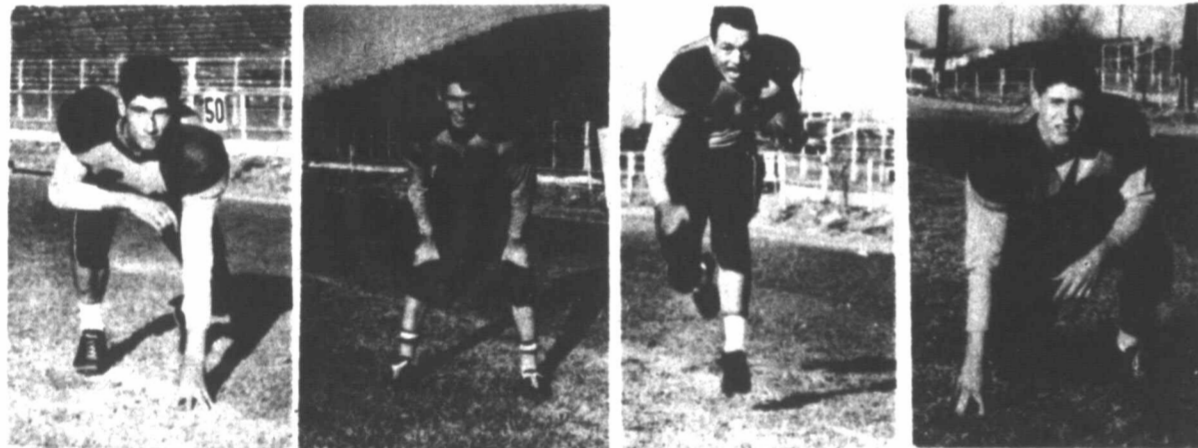
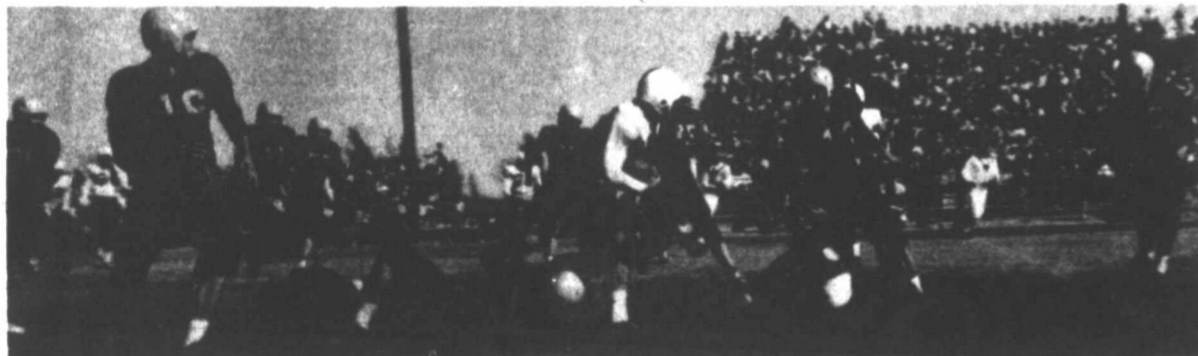
In the first two days of the trial, Agca, 27, has claimed he was Jesus Christ, predicted the end of the world and refused to say where he got the pistol he used to wound Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

"This is a man who has been fooling with Italian justice for

three years," attorney Giuseppe Consolo, who represents the only detained Bulgarian defendant, said of Agca after Tuesday's session.

"He has been playing with innocent people who are in jail because of this fellow's lies," Consolo told reporters.

Agca was called to testify against three Bulgarians and four Turks charged with conspiracy in connection with the shooting. All seven defendants face life sentences.



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# It sounded clear, simple; but many are still to be heard

**By DONALD M. ROTHBERG**  
AP Political Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is opening his tax simplification campaign as a populist battling the "politics of envy," while the Democrats gingerly unwrap his package, unsure whether it will prove as simple or as popular as he described it.

support for rewriting the tax code to make it simpler and fairer. Yet, there remained a sense in the capital that a long, hard fight was ahead with no certainty that it would produce legislation that would end what Reagan called the "gobbledygook and loopholes designed for those with the power and influence to hire high-priced legal and tax advisers." At best, tax simplification still was viewed as a long shot. One reason was that while Reagan's speech was powerful political salesmanship, no one was

sure what his product looked like. Rostenkowski, the Illinois Democrat who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, which will make the first detailed **An AP News Analysis** examination of the White House proposal, talked about supporting Reagan "if the president's plan is everything he says it is." He had other "ifs" in mind. "If the president's plan provides real relief for middle-income

taxpayers," said Rostenkowski, "Democrats will follow his lead and try to hold his package together." What the president said he was offering was a tax code that would be fairer with rates that would be lower. "I'll start by answering one question on your minds," he told his television audience: "Will our proposal help you? You bet it will." Obviously some people aren't going to feel helped. "There is one group of losers in our tax plan — those individuals

and corporations who are not paying their fair share, or for that matter, any share," he said touching the new populist rhetoric so popular among Republican speakers these days. "These abuses cannot be tolerated. From now on they shall pay a minimum tax. The free rides are over." The president's speech left many questions. Yet, one political fact is clear: The Republicans believe there is a well-spring of support for tax simplification and that it could be the issue the GOP could ride to

majority status. Frank J. Fahrenkopf Jr., chairman of the Republican National Committee, issuing his praise of the Reagan speech, concluded by saying, "The president's speech will go down tonight as a watershed in American history and will go a long way toward making the Republican party the majority party in this country." In his response to the president, Rostenkowski appeared determined that the Democrats not be left behind.



**CHAIRMAN BRIEFED** — Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., left, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III, head to a luncheon meeting on Capitol Hill where Baker briefed the chairman on the contents of the president's tax reform package. (AP Laserphoto)

## Who wins, who loses? speech provides clues

**By JIM LUTHER**  
AP Tax Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The fabled "three-martini lunch" — long the target of those who call themselves tax reformers — would be watered down in President Reagan's tax plan. Perhaps to about a 2½-martini meal. The president's tax-overhaul plan, outlined in a nationally broadcast speech Tuesday night, would let businesses continue deducting the full cost of business-related meals and drinks — up to \$25 per meal. But they could only deduct half the cost above that threshold. The three-martini lunch — a rarity, restaurateurs insist — became a symbol of

expense-account living when President Carter attempted unsuccessfully to curtail such deductions. That Democratic president ran into a flurry of criticism from such people as Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., then-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, who insisted that such deductions are as important to business people as fertilizer is to a farmer. But Reagan is undeterred. High living at the expense of the taxpayer has got to stop, he said. And that also would mean an end to the common practice of taxpayers subsidizing companies' purchase of season tickets to sporting events to give to their clients. There are other losers in the

president's proposal. For example, medium-size oil companies would have to give up their prized percentage depletion allowance, which permits them to automatically exempt from tax 15 percent of their income on grounds the oil eventually will run out. But the oil industry would retain the special writeoff for labor and similar "intangible drilling costs." Spouses who labor at home without pay would win a bigger tax break on an Individual Retirement Account. Present law permits an unemployed spouse to set aside up to \$250 a year in a tax-deferred IRA; the "working" spouse is permitted a \$2,000 contribution. Reagan's bill would let the stay-at-home spouse set aside

\$2,000 a year as well. The poor, who did not fare especially well under Reagan's 1981 tax cut, would benefit from his new proposal. The earned-income credit for poor working families would be expanded. Raising the personal exemption and the standard deductions would also provide proportionally larger benefits to those at lower-income levels. In 1986, a four-member family could earn as much as \$12,798 and pay no tax; an elderly couple with no Social Security could earn \$17,667 tax-free. The 22.5 million couples and individuals who do not itemize deductions but still claim a writeoff for charitable contributions would lose that benefit.

## Tax plan plays to generally good reviews

**By CLIFF HAAS**  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Praising President Reagan's tax-overhaul initiative, leading members of Congress are expressing optimism that the goal of a clear, simple and fair tax code can be achieved this year. "If the president's plan is everything he says it is, he'll have a great deal of Democratic support. ... This time, I really think we can get tax reform," Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in the Democrats' nationally broadcast response to Reagan's tax address Tuesday night. Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, who had demanded that the president back away from an earlier Treasury Department plan to tax employee fringe benefits, said the American worker

does well under the proposal. "The prospects of passage this year are excellent," he added. However there also was grumbling from groups that would have to shoulder a greater burden under the plan and from legislators who endorsed the president's goals but said his aim is off target. William A. Schreyer, chairman and chief executive officer of Merrill Lynch & Co. said his firm supports the president's tax program. "However," he said, "some areas concern us. As a corporation which made a major commitment to remain in New York, we are dismayed by the impact that the elimination of deductibility of state and local taxes would have on New York in general and our employees in particular." Concern about Reagan's plan to eliminate the deduction for state and local taxes also were voiced by

American Federation of Teachers, who said the move would reduce state and local spending for education. "President Reagan, in his quest to simplify the tax system, has lowered the boom on education," Shanker said. Meanwhile, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Democrat, said the proposal to drop the deduction for state and local taxes, including

property taxes, "punishes states that are trying to provide essential services in the face of massive federal spending cuts." Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., said the president's plan does not go far enough in lowering personal income tax rates. "I cannot support the plan as long as the top income tax rate remains at 35 percent," Kemp said.

### April 15 and without a tax deadline?

WASHINGTON (AP) — For many Americans, what would April 15 be without a midnight deadline? Without a desk cluttered with tax forms, tax tables and tax returns? In his nationally broadcast speech Tuesday night, President Reagan talked of a tax system so simple that most people would not even file returns. He talked about that, but he is not proposing that in the tax overhaul plan he outlined. "We envision a system where more than half of us would not even have to fill out a return," Reagan said. "We call it the Return-Free System and it would be totally voluntary. "If you decided to participate you would automatically receive your refund or a letter explaining

any additional tax you owe," he added. He also talked of taxpayers being able to file a regular form if they disagreed with the tax figure calculated by the government. However, the idea apparently is nothing more than a vision of the future. Reagan was careful in his speech to avoid saying he actually was proposing such a filing system, and a fact sheet the White House released in connection with the speech said only that if all the president's proposals are adopted it would be possible to administer such a system. Reagan has talked of such a plan before and the Treasury Department has conducted studies of the idea. But it never has gone beyond that, and, apparently, still has not.

### World should have adequate energy

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — The demand for energy by Third World nations will surpass that of industrialized western nations after the turn of the century, an energy analyst said. F.S. Patton, director of engineering at Martin Marietta Energy Systems in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said that booming populations of the Third World will fuel the energy demand. Patton spoke at an international conference on Water and Water Policy in World Food Supplies Tuesday. "These population forecasts indicate that the Earth's present 750 million capitalists will have increased to about 825 million by the year 2020 while the inhabitants of the Third World nations will have approximately doubled from today's 2.5 billion to near 5 billion," he said.

Patton said that, while there is plenty of energy for the next 20-30 years, the surplus will eventually end with potentially unmanageable consequences for the poorer nations. But Patton also said that conservation measures in the western world might stave off a worldwide energy crisis predicted a decade ago. When experts predicted an energy crisis, they failed to consider the economic effects of rising prices, he said. "In the United States energy conservation has exceeded all expectations," Patton said. "Oil consumption has dropped from 16.5 million barrels a day in 1973 to 14.5 million barrels per day in 1983, natural gas consumption from 22.5 trillion cubic feet per year to 17 trillion feet.

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# Vietnamese youths take crime on the road

DALLAS (AP) — "Gangs" of Vietnamese youths who prey on their own people have been traveling between Asian population centers and recently have been making Texas a stop on their crime spree, police in California and Texas say.

Although only a minute percentage of the estimated half million Vietnamese who have come to the United States are involved in crime, law enforcement officials say loosely organized groups of Vietnamese youths are cropping up in several cities.

In Austin, a Vietnamese man was killed and two others injured May 8 when assailants bound, gagged, shot, stabbed and robbed six Vietnamese living in an Austin apartment.

Four suspects have been charged with capital murder, and at least two linked to Vietnamese gangs in California.

"The Austin incident dramatizes

in a shocking way this phenomenon of violence," said Douglas Zwemke, an intelligence officer with the San Jose, Calif., police department.

"What happened there is a carbon copy of what has happened in San Jose, Portland, Ore., Arlington, Va.," Zwemke said.

In Texas, Houston claims the largest Vietnamese community with about 60,000 people. Austin police estimate there are about 5,000 Vietnamese there, and Dallas has about 40,000. California, on the other hand, has more than 40 percent of the nation's Indochinese, or about 250,000.

The youths rob, steal cars and extort money from individuals and businesses, police said. They travel from city to city in loosely organized groups, and prey on Vietnamese communities.

Investigators said the travel has been between Los Angeles and San Jose, Calif., Portland, Ore.,

Arlington, Va., New Orleans, Houston and other large cities with sizeable Vietnamese population.

Lt. Ken Adair of the Garden Grove Police Department in Orange County, Calif., said police investigating crime rings have concluded "there is some sort of relationship between all the high-Vietnamese population centers" because the criminals seem to move easily between the areas.

"It is not unusual to see these Vietnamese pull a violent robbery in San Jose, then go to Portland, New Orleans and Houston," Zwemke said. "The Vietnamese dimension is singularly different compared to other groups. They pose unique challenges to law enforcement."

Vietnamese youths, many of whom came to the United States without language skills, family or jobs, steal "to pay the rent, to gamble with, to buy drugs with"

like any other criminal, said Houston Police Officer Robert Casey, a liaison with the Asian community there.

"There has been documented by law enforcement agencies all over the country that there is an apparent pattern in the Vietnamese criminal element — young males that come together and victimize their own people," Casey said.

Casey and others speculate that the Vietnamese youths travel simply because they don't want to be caught. In war-torn Vietnam, transience was a way of life.

"We're not going to get a definitive answer next week or next year" to the question of why it happens, Casey said.

Asian community leaders and social workers say that incidents such as the killing in Austin and the migratory gang activity reported by police only show that the Vietnamese are no different from anyone else.

"News of what happened in Austin makes my blood boil. It just proves Vietnamese are like any other people. We have good ones and bad ones," said Dr. Phap Dam, president of the Vietnamese Community of Greater Dallas.

"We have undesirables, too. They may have fought in the (Vietnam) war, they may be out of work, they may not have a family, so they turn to crime. They may think they can get away with

murder because these (Vietnamese) people can't speak English" and go for help, Phap said.

The Vietnamese youths most likely to get into trouble, officials said, are from the "third wave" of immigrants — those who came in the late 1970s, spent time in relocation camps and usually don't have families in this country or marketable skills.

"Their survival hinges on joining with others in the same position, since they lack job skills," said Houston's Casey.

"I don't think there's more criminals in Vietnam than in Thailand, Ohio or Mexico," said Charles Kemp, board chairman of Dallas-Fort Worth Refugee Interagency. "Basically, any young man's crazy. They drive fast, they fight. When they don't have someone (like a family) to mediate their actions, they get in trouble."

Although Austin police will not tie the May 8 attacks conclusively to a Vietnamese gang, they are not discounting the possibility, either.

"I was told by sources in California that two of the assailants are attached to a group known as the Warriors" there, said Austin police Sgt. Howard Hall.

"I'm investigating it as both a robbery and revenge," he said.

Officers in San Jose and Houston who are actively involved in law enforcement in Asian

neighborhoods said the Austin crime has the earmarks of a gang. Instances of "multiple suspects, heavily armed" have also been documented in Houston, Casey said.

Dallas has had little gang activity, Phap and Dallas police said. Phap said good relations between the Vietnamese community and police may help head it off.

Cpl. Ronald Cowart, a Dallas police officer who is liaison to the refugee community, said police here were quick to recognize the Indochinese needed special attention.

The department is currently trying to hire Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian interpreters, and Cowart continually reminds the refugees to report any extortion or burglary attempts.

Casey, who testified before the President's Commission on Organized Crime last year, began building a network to aid Vietnamese in Houston about a year ago. In February, Houston graduated two Vietnamese officers from its police academy.

In the Austin attack, three or four people entered the apartment, with at least one armed with a machinegun. They tied the victims hands with tape, stuffed socks in their mouths and "began slaying them," Hall said.

## Cafe owner retiring, but not shy

By NITA THURMAN  
The Dallas Morning News  
PONDER, Texas (AP) — "Hey, Pete. How does it feel to retire?" a customer, dressed in jeans and work boots, shouted across the restaurant tables.

"I don't know. I haven't started yet," 80-year-old Pete Jackson shot back as latecomers to lunch helped themselves to cobbler and coffee.

Mrs. Jackson — although her customers say Pete is more appropriate — is relinquishing management of the popular Ranchman's Cafe that has given the tiny Denton County town of Ponder a reputation as a mecca for steak lovers.

But Pete still remains a daily presence and has written an iron-clad "no-changes" clause into her lease with the new manager, Dave Ross.

That's how Ross wants it, too. A restaurant designer and consultant, Ross got his first restaurant job at the Ranchman's in 1974.

"You don't change success," he said.

Pete stopped by the cafe one day last week before going to the

beauty shop to have her curls touched up for a photograph to be taken later that day to hang in the Ponder museum.

That Hanchman's now is listed in the European edition of a Berlitz guide to American restaurants and cited regularly as steak heaven by everyone who writes about food.

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# LIFESTYLES



## Dear Abby

*Two trips down aisle  
make an odd anniversary*

By Abigail Van Buren

© 1985 by Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: I'm sure there are other couples with this problem, but no one we know has been able to come up with the answer.

I was married six years ago at a big church wedding. After three years we decided it wasn't working, so we got a divorce. We both dated other people and had our flings for a year and a half, then we realized that we really loved each other and belonged together, so we got married by a justice of the peace in a five-minute ceremony.

Our question: Which wedding date should we celebrate as the official one?

Also, how should we figure our special anniversaries? Should we include the time we put in from our first wedding? Or do we have to start counting the years beginning with our second marriage? How about the year and a half we weren't married? Do we have to subtract that from the total of the two marriages? It gets rather complicated.

TWICE WED, SAME GUY

DEAR TWICE: Celebrate your wedding anniversary on the date of your first marriage. Conveniently forget the year-and-a-half break in marital relations. Call that time off for bad behavior.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college senior, soon to graduate. I've invited my mom and brothers and a couple of friends to come up for commencement and a celebration afterward. My brother told me my father has been hinting that he expected to be invited, so just to be sure he didn't come, I wrote him a letter and asked him not to, but he called and said he was coming anyway.

My parents have been divorced since I was in the eighth grade. He stopped being a father after the divorce. I called him a couple of times when I needed a favor (a ride to school, bring me lunch when I was sick), but he never came through. The divorce devastated my mother. He left her for his office affair. My mother put him through graduate school by sewing Barbie doll clothes

and baby-sitting. I let my father know it would be uncomfortable for both me and my mother if he came. The truth is, I don't want him here. I don't like him pretending to be a part of my life. I'm not proud of him, and I don't want to introduce him to my professors or my friends. He hasn't helped with my education. (He doesn't even know what I'm majoring in.)

Should I just tell him he hasn't earned the privilege of coming, and let him take it any way he wants to?

JUNE GRAD

DEAR GRAD: Leave nothing to chance. Tell him that you do not want him at your graduation, and tell him in straightforward language so he will know exactly how strongly you feel about it.

\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 years old. I bought a motorcycle. It is not registered, is not insured, has no inspection and has my father's old plates from his motorcycle. I've been keeping it at a friend's house because my father wouldn't let me have a motorcycle. He said they're too much trouble.

Well, I was riding it and hit a brand-new car, and I'm being sued for \$3,000. I don't have enough money to pay it. If I tell my father, I will get into trouble. What should I do?

ALL LOUSED UP

DEAR LOUSED: Tell your father, and the sooner the better. You're in trouble both ways, and since your father is responsible for you (you are a minor), there's no way you can keep it from him. Confess, take your lumps, and good luck.

(Every teen-ager should know the truth about sex, drugs and how to be happy. For Abby's booklet, send your name and address clearly printed with a check or money order for \$2.50 and a long, stamped (39 cents) self-addressed envelope to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 38923, Hollywood, Calif. 90038.)



SCHOLARSHIP - Teresa Perkins, daughter of Mrs. Mary Perkins, is presented a \$500 scholarship by Karan Swan, education chairman of the Pampa chapter of the American Business Women's Association, which presents an annual scholarship award. The recipient plans to attend Amarillo College this fall and take a two-year business course, majoring in work processing. (Staff photo by Revina Smith)

## Hotline helps with homework

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Hey kids, it's 4 o'clock and time for Homework Hotline, the show where you can get an answer from the teacher in the comfort of your own home without even raising your hand.

A simple telephone call will bring your question into the studios of the Jackson Education Service District's Instructional Media Center, where two junior high school teachers are waiting with the answers to your problems in grammar and math.

Broadcast once a week in Jackson County on the McCaw

Cablevision public access channel, the one-hour show is aimed at giving an extra helping hand to first-through ninth-graders, especially those who are alone and waiting for Mom and Dad to come home from work, says George Raw, who runs the TV studio at the media center.

Raw brought the idea back from a conference last January, where he heard about similar programs in Tacoma, Wash., and Los Angeles. By late February, Homework Hotline was on the air and part of a growing phenomenon. "They've been gaining in

popularity for the past three or four years," said Nancy Kochuk, spokeswoman for the National Education Association in Washington, which has been actively promoting the idea.

"It's a real nice way to give (students) help, but it also has good public relations value. It shows teachers are willing to take the time to help students out."

It's hard to say how many kids watch the show, but 20 calls on a sunny day when many youngsters would rather be outside indicates a fairly good audience, said Candy Grubestic, an eighth-grade English

teacher at Hedrich Junior High School in Medford. Rainy days bring about 40 calls.

It is up against shows like Happy Days and The Cisco Kid.

"We're not going to get any Emmies for mass appeal, but I think this is an important service for kids who come home and Mom and Dad aren't back from work yet and there is no one around to ask," she said.

Mrs. Grubestic is one of four English teachers and three math teachers who take turns teaming up on the show.

## Club News

**Progressive**  
Progressive Extension Homemakers Club met May 16 in the home of Faye Harvey with members making plans for summer meetings and hosts.

Faye Harvey also presented the council report. Lace net darning was the subject of the program. Next meeting is to be hosted by Helene Hogan on June 6. Hostess gifts were won by Crystal Cruzan and Belle Golden.

**Lefors Art & Civic Club**  
Lefors Art & Civic Club met for the last meeting of the year and installation of officers May 6. The following officers were installed by Lendi Jackson: Edythe Mullins, president; Stephanie Klein, first vice president; Lou Story, second vice president; Carole Watson, third vice president; Helen Allison, secretary; Mary Alderson, treasurer; Opal Hall, parliamentarian; Betty Hannon, Federation Counselor; Betty Jackson, yearbook chairman and Lendi Jackson, reporter.

Edythe Mullins received the "Clubwoman of the Year" award, presented by Edythe Mullins. Next meeting is to be Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lefors Civic Center.

**Worthwhile**  
Hypertension was the topic of the program for the May 17 meeting of Worthwhile Extension Homemakers Club. Donna Brauchi, county extension agent, presented the program.

Members discussed a picnic in Lefors soon. Janice Carter was nominated as delegate to the Texas Extension Homemakers Association (TEHA) meeting, Sept. 23, in Longview.

Next meeting is June 7 at 2 p.m. in the Energas Flame Room. Everyone is welcome.

**Rho Eta**  
Rho Eta's end of the year party began with a dinner at Dyer's Barbecue, followed by a meeting at Karen Lang's new home. Charms were passed out to members having perfect attendance. Joyce Pulse and Jan Parks received charms for the best program — a presentation on Down Syndrome by Gary and Margaret Haynes.

Plans were finalized to sell rodeo banners to local businesses for a ways and means project. Secret

sisters were revealed and new secret sisters were picked for the coming year.

**Varietas Study Club**  
Varietas Study Club officers for the 1985-86 club year were installed by Mrs. W.A. Bahat at a luncheon held recently in the Pampa Country Club.

New officers include Mrs. La Don Bradford, president; Mrs. Rue Hestand, vice president; Mrs. J.B. Ayres, secretary; Mrs. W.A. Bahat, treasurer; Mrs. B.G. Gordon, parliamentarian; Mrs. L.B. Penick, reporter. These officers will assume their duties in September.

Mrs. Georgia Mack, out-going president, reviewed the programs and activities of the past year and expressed her gratitude to the club for their cooperation during her term of office.

**El Progreso**  
El Progreso Club members met in the country home of Mrs. Glenn Dawkins for a covered dish luncheon and for the installation of officers for the 1985-86 year.

New members, Mrs. John Pontious and Mrs. Bill Winningham, were welcomed to the club by outgoing president Mrs. Charles Ford.

The installation of new officers was done by Mrs. Ford with Mrs. Grundy Morrison being installed as president; Mrs. Bruce Riehart, vice president; Mrs. Max Presnell, secretary and Mrs. Tom Perkins, treasurer.

Mrs. Morrison named the committees for the ensuing year: program committee — Mrs. Bruce Riehart, Mrs. Glenn Radcliff, Mrs. Max Presnell and Mrs. Faye Harvey; social committee — Mrs. Charles Ford, Mrs. Glenn Dawkins, Mrs. Tom Bates, Mrs. Bill Winningham; budget committee — Mrs. Tom Perkins, Mrs. Tom Bates; membership and telephone — Mrs. Glenn Radcliff, Mrs. John Pontious; bylaws and parliamentarian — Mrs. Kermit Lawson; report — Mrs. Max Presnell.

Next meeting is to be Sept. 10.

## High blood pressure a matter of concern

AUSTIN — Although health awareness should be a year-round concern, the American Heart Association is urging residents to consider a special health matter in May — high blood pressure.

High blood pressure — or hypertension, as it is sometimes called — is a major cause of heart attack and stroke. It significantly reduces life expectancy, and the higher the blood pressure, the greater the reduction in length of life.

In terms of dollars, high blood pressure costs over \$8 billion a year, half in medical care spending and half in lost work output.

Association in Texas is urging residents to consider a special health matter in May — high blood pressure.

High blood pressure — or hypertension, as it is sometimes called — is a major cause of heart attack and stroke. It significantly reduces life expectancy, and the higher the blood pressure, the greater the reduction in length of life.

In terms of dollars, high blood pressure costs over \$8 billion a year, half in medical care spending and half in lost work output.

Before the show, all participants will have been judged by area home economists on the following points: personal appearance, posture, poise, grooming, accessories, suitability of garment for age, currentness of fashion, pattern and fabric selection, and quality of workmanship.

Following the show, awards are to be presented and refreshments served by the Gray County Extension Homemakers.

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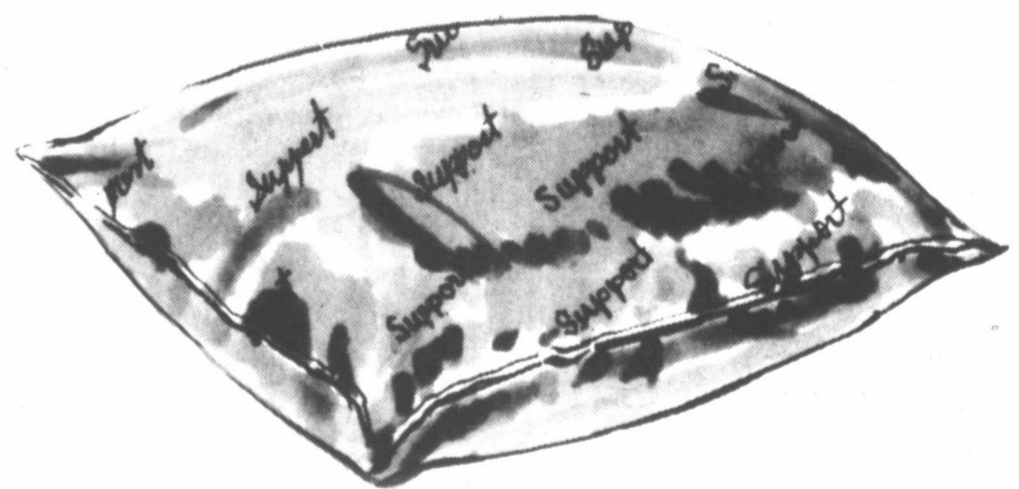
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# Today's Crossword Puzzle

Release in Papers of Wednesday, May 29

### ACROSS

- 1 Dog, for short
- 4 Boat rope
- 8 Hawaiian instruments
- 12 "I like"
- 13 Son of Ruth
- 14 Butte
- 15 Before (pref.)
- 16 Wobbles
- 17 Dinner item
- 18 Makes money
- 20 — complex
- 22 Possessive
- 24 Malay ape
- 25 Ambiguous
- 29 Hare (Lat.)
- 33 Kentucky blue grass
- 34 River in Hungary
- 36 Father
- 37 Buddhist shrine
- 39 Civil disorder
- 41 Mug
- 42 Ready for action (2 wds.)
- 44 Most profound
- 46 Japanese currency
- 48 Sunbeam
- 49 Tool
- 53 Trolleys
- 57 Exist
- 58 Leslie Caron role
- 60 Bang (sl.)
- 61 Shoshoneans
- 62 City in Utah
- 63 Actress Balin
- 64 Am not (sl.)
- 65 Seize
- 66 Adenosine triphosphate (abbr.)

### DOWN

- 1 Smoker's item
- 2 Vegetable
- 3 Sea (Ger.)
- 4 Kind of sea food

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	M	O	G	I	T	E	S	M	E	W
Y	O	U	R	D	O	E	Y	O	Y	O
N	A	S	A	L	A	R	S	L	O	E
E	N	T	I	C	E	D	S	T	E	T
X	E	R	E	S	C	L	I	M	B	E
M	E	E	D	S	L	I	P	I	T	O
A	L	I	I	T	E	A	S	C	A	B
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	R	E	E	L
R	I	T	E	S	I	N	C	I	N	C
S	C	O	W	I	O	N	E	C	T	O
V	E	L	A	S	A	I	T	E	A	S
P	R	E	Y	O	R	C	E	S	T	E

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15				16					17	
18				19					20	
21				22					23	
24				25					26	
27				28					29	
30				31					32	
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39				40					41	
42				43					44	
45				46					47	
48				49					50	
51				52					53	
54				55					56	
57				58					59	
60				61					62	
63				64					65	
66				67					68	

STEVE CANYON



VAL ELTON TRANSLATES



By Milton Caniff



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



EK & MEK

By Howie Schneider



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong



MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson



KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright



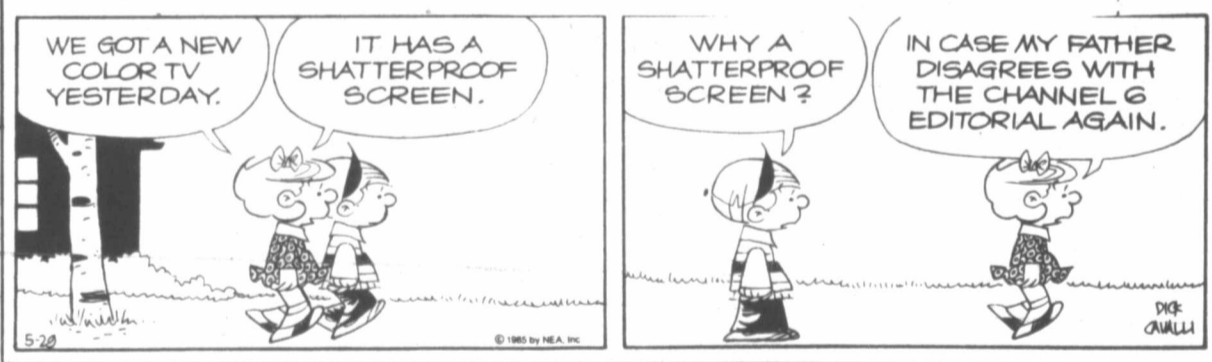
ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue



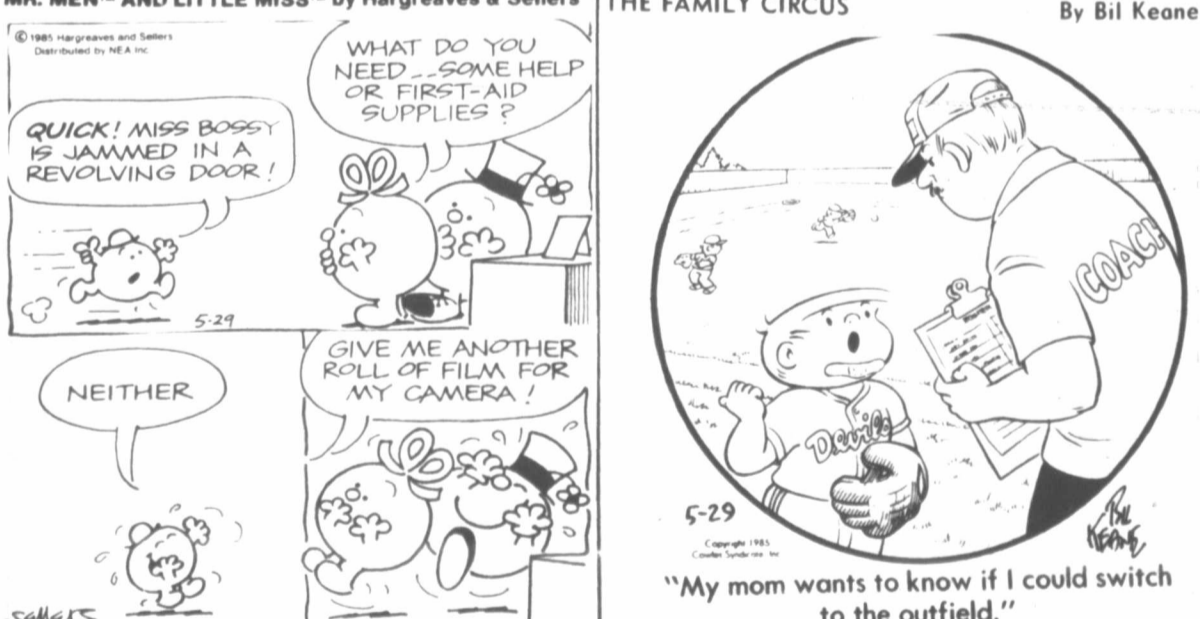
WINTHROP

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By Bob Thaves



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schultz



GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



## Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

May 30, 1985

Advancement in your chosen field is a strong possibility in the year ahead. When you are asked to take on greater responsibilities, do so willingly because these will provide you with opportunities. **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Regardless of how well you conduct yourself today, you will still be judged by the company you keep. Avoid people of questionable repute. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker set instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Astro-Graph, Box 489, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019. **CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Keep in mind today that blood is thicker than water. If you are injected into a sticky situation, take sides with a family member over an outsider. **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Protect your principles today. It's OK to bend a bit to get along better with others, but do so without lowering your standards. **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** This is one of those unusual financial days. On one hand, you're apt to make gains; on the other, you may throw them away. **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** You'll be willing to pull your own weight in collective involvements today, but this might not be equally true of people with whom you are associated. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Normally you're not the type of person who looks for a free handout, but today you might demand a piece-of-the action that you don't deserve. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Beware of tendencies today to reward the undeserving while ignoring those to whom you owe a great deal. Keep your priorities in proper order. **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Your chances for worldly gains look excellent again today, but, because of misplaced pride, you might trip over your own ego. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Assessing situations realistically today is not your problem. The trouble begins when you act contrary to your better judgment. **PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Watch your step in commercial dealings today. Someone you may have to do business with could be a might sharper than he appears. **ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Your energy level will be in high gear today and you'll be eager to get things done. However, a sluggish associate could hamper your progress. **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** The work you perform today will be worthy of proper compensation, so ask for what you feel you're entitled. Don't let a smoothie grind you down.

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)

# FOOD

## Summer salad is full of beans

By Aileen Claire  
NEA Food Editor

Beans in all their varieties have been staples in many diets in the world. Italians like their beans in soups, antipastos, stews with rice and even pasta. In warm weather, they enjoy them cold, with even the thick minestrone soup served at room temperature. Beans appear in many antipastos — those colorful and multi-flavored hors d'oeuvres or appetizers served with Italian meals. Antipastos traditionally were served with the midday meal, especially when there was to be no pasta. Here are some variations on Tus-

can bean antipastos — created easily using canned beans.

### ANTIPASTO BEAN SALAD

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon tarragon leaves, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/16 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 can (19 ounces) red kidney beans, drained
- 1 can (19 ounces) chickpeas, drained
- 3/4 cup diced, roasted red peppers

**2** ounces sliced salami, cut in 1/4-inch strips

**2** ounces sliced ham, cut in 1/4-inch strips

In a medium bowl combine olive oil, vinegar, salt, tarragon, onion and garlic powders and black pepper. Add kidney beans, chickpeas, red peppers, salami and ham; mix well. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight. Serve at room temperature over lettuce, garnished with Tuscan pepper, if desired. This kitchen-tested recipe makes 4 to 6 portions.

### TUSCAN CHICKPEA SALAD

- 1/3 cup tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons

**1** red wine vinegar

**1/2** tablespoon olive oil

**1/2** teaspoon salt

**1/2** teaspoon oregano leaves, crushed

**1/4** teaspoon garlic powder

**2** cans (19 ounces each) chickpeas, drained

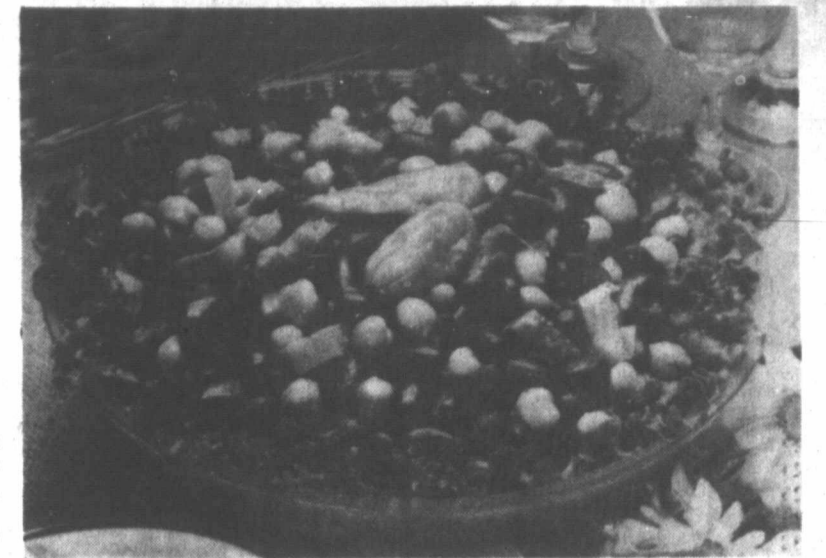
**1/2** cup sliced celery

**1/2** cup diced green pepper

**1/4** cup chopped red onion

**1/2** cup diced fresh tomato

In a medium bowl combine tomato sauce, vinegar, olive oil, salt, oregano and garlic powder. Add chickpeas, celery, green pepper and red onion. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Bring salad to room temperature and stir in tomato just before serving.



Beans and vegetables with Italian dressing make a summery antipasto to go with many dishes.

## Soups popular across world

By TOM HOGE  
AP Wine and Food Writer

Most people enjoy soup, with favorites ranging from robust vegetable to delicate herb broth. The country folk of France and many of their city cousins consume vast amounts of soup in the course of the year, from the classic French onion soup to a wide range of vegetable types and, for the gourmets, frogs' legs in white wine, with stock and egg yolks. Germany is a nation of soup lovers, with favorites that run the gamut from marrow dumpling and turnip with duck to eel soup and a type in which beer is the chief ingredient. Britain does not have too wide a selection, but what they have is good, from a thick pea soup made in Lancashire to Scotland's famed

cock-a-leekie. This is more like a stew, containing a whole chicken, simmered with leeks, onions, rice and prunes. The countries of Scandinavia make a dazzling array of fruit soups in summer, many of which can be served either hot or cold. They feature such ingredients as elderberries, blueberries, plums and peaches. Most are sweetened and some Americans and other Westerners prefer to eat them as desserts. Italy is known as the birthplace of minestrone, but there are other fine soups, such as a robust rice and bean mixture and an egg and cheese consommé. Spain is the creator of the famed hot weather soup known as gazpacho, a delightful mixture of raw vegetables, almonds and spices, served ice cold. Russia, of course, is famous for its borscht, which ranges in type from a light clear beet broth with a dollop of sour cream for summer to

a winter mixture of beef chunks, salmon or veal, with an assortment of vegetables, hard cooked eggs and mushrooms. China offers a number of soups, from the meat and noodle won ton served in Chinese restaurants here to strange mixtures of dog and snake meat, which probably find few fans in the West. The United States, of course, is a treasure trove of soups, ranging from chowders to Yankee bean and such gourmet soups as turtle. Here is a tasty fruit soup from the Soviet Ukraine. **1** pound pitted sweet cherries **2** cups water **1/2** stick cinnamon **2** ounces orange juice **1** lemon, thinly sliced **1/4** cup sugar, or more if desired **1/4** cup sweet white wine

**1** tablespoon cornstarch **Sour cream** Put half the cherries in pan with water. Bring to boil and simmer until tender. Rub cherries through strainer into another pan. Return to heat. Add cinnamon, orange juice, lemon and remaining cherries. Simmer 3-4 minutes. Add sugar and half the wine. Simmer, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Dissolve cornstarch into remaining wine, adding water if needed. Stir into soup. As soon as soup thickens, remove from heat, and serve with sour cream. Serves 4.

(To obtain other recipes, taken mostly from Tom Hoge's Gourmet Corner over the past years, send \$2 for your copy of "101 Recipes" to Gourmet Corner, A.P. Newsfeatures, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.)



Bake peaches with Parmesan chicken cutlets for flavorful change.

## You can use chicken cutlets to fashion a 'peachy' meal

Fresh fruits highlight the flavors of meat, poultry or fish and fit into the trend toward less heavy meals. An interesting combination marries peaches with chicken cutlets. These cutlets were dredged in a Parmesan cheese-bread crumb mixture, sauteed briefly and then baked. Serve with steamed green beans with lemon and mixed sherbets for dessert.

### PARMESAN CHICKEN CUTLETS WITH PEACHES

- 4 half breasts of chicken, boned, skinned
- 3/4 cup fine soft bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/8 teaspoon paprika
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon tarragon, finely crumbled
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 tablespoons each butter and oil
- 2 large fresh peaches
- 2 tablespoons white table wine (or apple juice)

Loosen small inner muscle of each chicken breast along inner edge and fold outward to flatten breast. Pound lightly between sheets of waxed paper. Mix crumbs with cheese and paprika. Beat egg with water and turn into pie pan. Mix flour with tarragon, salt and pepper. Dip chicken breasts on each side in flour mixture, shaking off excess. Dip in egg to coat both sides lightly, allowing excess to drip back, then roll in crumb mixture. Heat butter and oil in 10-inch skillet; brown cutlets slowly on both sides. Meanwhile, halve and skin peaches; cut into thick slices. Roll in remaining crumb mixture. Place browned cutlets in single layer in shallow baking pan and arrange peaches at edges. Drizzle any pan drippings and wine over chicken. Bake in 350-degree oven for 15 minutes. This kitchen-tested recipe makes 4 servings. (NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)

## Stuff squash with herbs and cheddar

Squash is a multifaceted vegetable. It is especially good when stuffed. Here is a version with an unusual combination of cottage cheese, tomato, bread crumbs and herbs. Baked with a Cheddar cheese topping, the stuffed squash serves as an appetizer, a lunch or dinner vegetable.

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 tomato, peeled and diced
- 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup cottage cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon basil leaves, crumbled
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/16 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup grated Cheddar cheese

### HERBED CHEESE STUFFED SQUASH

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut zucchini in halves lengthwise. Scoop out pulp, leaving 1/4-inch thick shells. Chop pulp; set aside. Place shells, cut side down, in a large skillet. Add water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer covered until just tender, about 5 minutes. Drain. Arrange shells, cut side up, in a greased 12-by-8-by-2-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon of the salt. In the same skillet melt butter. Add reserved zucchini pulp and tomato; saute for 5 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in bread crumbs, cottage cheese, egg, parsley flakes, onion powder, basil leaves, garlic powder, black pepper and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Spoon mixture into reserved shells. Cover and bake for 20 minutes. Remove cover; sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Return to oven and bake uncovered until cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. This kitchen-tested recipe makes 4 to 6 portions. (NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)

One half the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other. Jane Austen

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**TIRE MAN** — Frank Prasifka stands among stacks of used tires in his southeastern Dallas County workplace. Prasifka has collected about four million tires, hauled from area tire companies to be eventually recycled. (AP Laserphoto)

## East Texas farmer sees nation's farm problems in personal terms

By PAT ROLLINS  
Greenville Herald-Banner  
FLOYD, Texas (AP) — Maynard Cheek and his wife, Hilda, have farmed for 30 years on his old family farm near this Hunt County town. They have raised cotton, milo and wheat on the 1,300-acre spread owned by his family since 1872.

And Cheek says he has seen crop prices stay virtually the same during these decades, while expenses have skyrocketed.

"In 1982, I had the second best cotton crop of all my time in the business. After it was over, I sat down with the calculator, and I found that it cost me \$265 an acre, and I got \$256 an acre, losing \$9 in the process.

"Even in this good year, I had to depend on a government subsidy to break even. My greatest cost per acre was interest on borrowed money," Cheek said.

The vicious cycle of rising costs and small increase in price for farm products has forced Cheek and others into a credit-based existence, a downward spiral that gets worse each year, he says.

"This is a credit-based life. In my mother's time, if you made your crop with a profit and no loans from the bank, you were successful. Now, virtually every farmer and rancher bases his life on credit," Cheek said.

"I only know one or two farmers who have surplus cash at harvest time now. Harvest time comes, and

you pay the notes and hope you can pay them off. We do not save money for the next year anymore because we never get our loans paid off from the last year. It's a downward spiral for most of us. No bank wants the farmer anymore."

He says the increased prices consumers pay for farm goods have not trickled back to the farm to any great extent.

"Wheat is the most dramatic example... since 1954, wheat prices are still about the same now. With wheat, five percent of each dollar spent on a loaf of bread goes to the farmer. You could give your wheat to the store, and it wouldn't make any difference in the consumer's price. A man's cotton dress shirt goes for about \$40 now, and the farmer gets maybe 35 cents of that. Somebody is making a killing, not the farmer."

"We farmers keep hearing about free markets, but there is no such thing anymore. I believe 15 percent of the Department of Agriculture's budget goes to the farmer, all the rest of it goes to many other such programs such as food stamps. I do not want to specifically pick on the food stamp program. The main point is that the farmer gets so little."

He says in recent years the financial strain has begun to tell in his family's lifestyle.

"We do not have a boat or a recreational vehicle. We used to take a trip every year or so, but in the last five years it has been

impossible. We rarely go out to eat," Cheek said. "If things continue like this, in 15 or 20 years, farms will be taken over by the big corporations and its anyone's guess what will happen to food prices in the supermarket then."

City dwellers often see the farm as a place of quiet solitude, where the pace is slow and life is good.

But Cheek says the farmer in today's business climate is under stress... worrying about the bills, even taking the ultimate step, suicide, in the face of pressure.

"Living with the constant stress of paying back loans is taking the joy out of farming today. I get real depressed at times, but come out of it later. I know one man, four or five years ago, who took his life over debts," Cheek said.

For more than a century, the Cheek farm has been a family tradition carried through the generations by a love of the land and of the practice of farming.

"I care for the soil. I want to leave it in a better condition than I found it. After generations of farming it gets to be a part of you," Cheek said.

Whether the Cheek legacy continues is not yet certain. There is a daughter, Jennifer, but a son died in an auto accident several years ago.

Perhaps the depth of Cheek's feelings on the farming situation might be understood by his answer as to whether or not he would have wanted his son to take his place.

## Entrepreneur discovers new purposes for old tires

By ALAN VAN ZELFDEN  
Dallas Times Herald  
DALLAS (AP) — The Firestones, Goodyears, Michelins, Uniroyals and Goodriches lie buried beneath the sandy loam, their graves unmarked by tombstones or epitaphs.

The graveyard is congested with them. Some went to their burial plots with ruptured steel belts. Some got slashed; others failed to make the rubber meet the road.

Some just couldn't hold their air any longer.

Tires. Millions of them. They arrive by truckload as factory cast-aways, their battered bodies dumped onto growing volcanic mounds of rubber that smell faintly of creosote.

And every day the great tire baron of the Southwest rides herd over his 100-acre dump, where his brood is offered a brief respite before being shipped to distant

lands to assume some of the oddest duties ever imagined.

To Frank Prasifka, rubber is the quintessential black gold.

During the past six years, Prasifka has amassed enough old, abandoned tires in a southeastern Dallas County gravel pit to outfit just about every car in the Dallas area. So far, he has collected almost 4 million tires. It may sound like a strange profession, but rubber has made Prasifka independently wealthy.

Canadian and German shipping companies, interested in melting the tires to reclaim their oil, have offered to buy the graveyard for "substantial sums." And although Prasifka could retire if he accepted the offers, the 55-year-old Dallas native isn't selling.

"I didn't sell because I don't believe anybody could carry on my tradition of disposing of tires," said Prasifka, who operated three

smaller such graveyards since 1955 before digging the pit near Hutchins in 1979.

"My sons might sell out when I'm dead and gone, but until then, it stays. It was a different challenge every day. People call me from all over the world wanting to use the tires for all kinds of things."

More than 300 tons of used tires are dumped in the graveyard every week, adding to the bulky mountains of rubber that fill the pit. Crews battle the mounds daily with bulldozers, burying thousands of the poorer quality tires, which will be unearthed later for reincarnation.

Better quality tires, however, are treated with more respect.

Once unloaded, they are separated from the 2,000-pound truck tires that rest along the yard's northern perimeter. Some of the tires are so large the treads are as wide as a man's arm, and a

child easily could stand inside them.

And as long as the internal combustion engine survives, the graveyard — the only one in the county and, Prasifka claims, one of the largest in the Southwest — is destined to be a moneymaker.

Five Dallas-Fort Worth tire companies pay Prasifka as much as \$300 for every 40-foot trailer of used tires he hauls from their warehouses. To top it off, they even go through the trouble of loading the trailers.

But the real profit comes from dismembering the tires and selling the parts. A used 21-inch truck tire, for example, can bring anywhere from \$6 to \$80 or more.

When such tires arrive, crews separate the good inner tubes from the bad. The good tubes are reconditioned and sold for \$1,000 a ton for rafting and swimming purposes; the bad tubes are

bundled and sold to rubber companies for about \$120 a ton. If the tubes are bad, the stems are cut out, melted and the brass sold to wrecking yards.

Crews then extricate the tires' inner flaps — a wide slab of rubber stripped along the inner surface to separate the tube from the tie. If the inner flaps are good, they are resold to tire companies for about \$10 apiece. The bad ones are sold for \$6 apiece to oil companies, which use them to protect plastic pipe stacked in pipe yards.

Once the tubes and flaps are taken out, if the tire itself is good, Prasifka regrooves the tread surface and sells it for \$50 to \$80 to "the poor people who can't afford the new ones."

Bad tires are recapped and sold for \$25, or shipped to companies that pay about \$16 a ton for the rubber.

The bad tires, more than half of

which are buried for later use, are even pressed into service for foreign duty.

In past years, Prasifka has shipped thousands of tires to the Gulf Coast and to Saudi Arabia, where they are lashed to shrimp trawlers and oil rigs as bumpers. Others are sent to Detroit, where a company punches holes in the sidewalls and uses the rubber plugs to separate metal joints in vehicles' suspensions.

Smooth-soled aircraft tires are reconditioned and sold for \$350 apiece to plantations in Mississippi, where they are used on sugarcane buggies and road graders.

Prasifka is proud of the graveyard; he likes the Yankee ingenuity that goes into turning spent tire rubber into something useful. And just as important, he likes turning a quick buck where others think they can't.

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