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Manchester Herald

Manchester — A City of Village Charm

Friday, Jan. 16, 1987

30 Cents

Panel planning new skate site, renewed skiing

By George Lovna
Herald Reporter

While Thursday's warm temperatures may have turned people's attention toward spring, the Manchester Advisory Park and Recreation Commission Thursday discussed preliminary plans to resume skiing at Northview, skating on Union Pond and improving Center Springs Park for skating and other uses.

Recreation Director Scott Sprague reported during a Lincoln Center meeting that his budget proposal for the next fiscal year includes a proposal to dredge Center Springs Pond, put edging along the banks and build a parking lot for visitors.

Sprague didn't estimate the cost of the work. He said he would like to see an engineering study of the park, and a specific proposal drawn up for improving it.

In a related matter, Parks Superintendent Robert Harrison said he was not aware that plywood nailed to the lodge at the park had been torn down. He said that as of last Friday, the lodge was still boarded up.

On Wednesday, a resident who lives near the park, Robert Samuelson, complained that without the boards, the building represented a safety risk.

The lodge was damaged severely in an October fire that also destroyed nativity scene figures stored there.

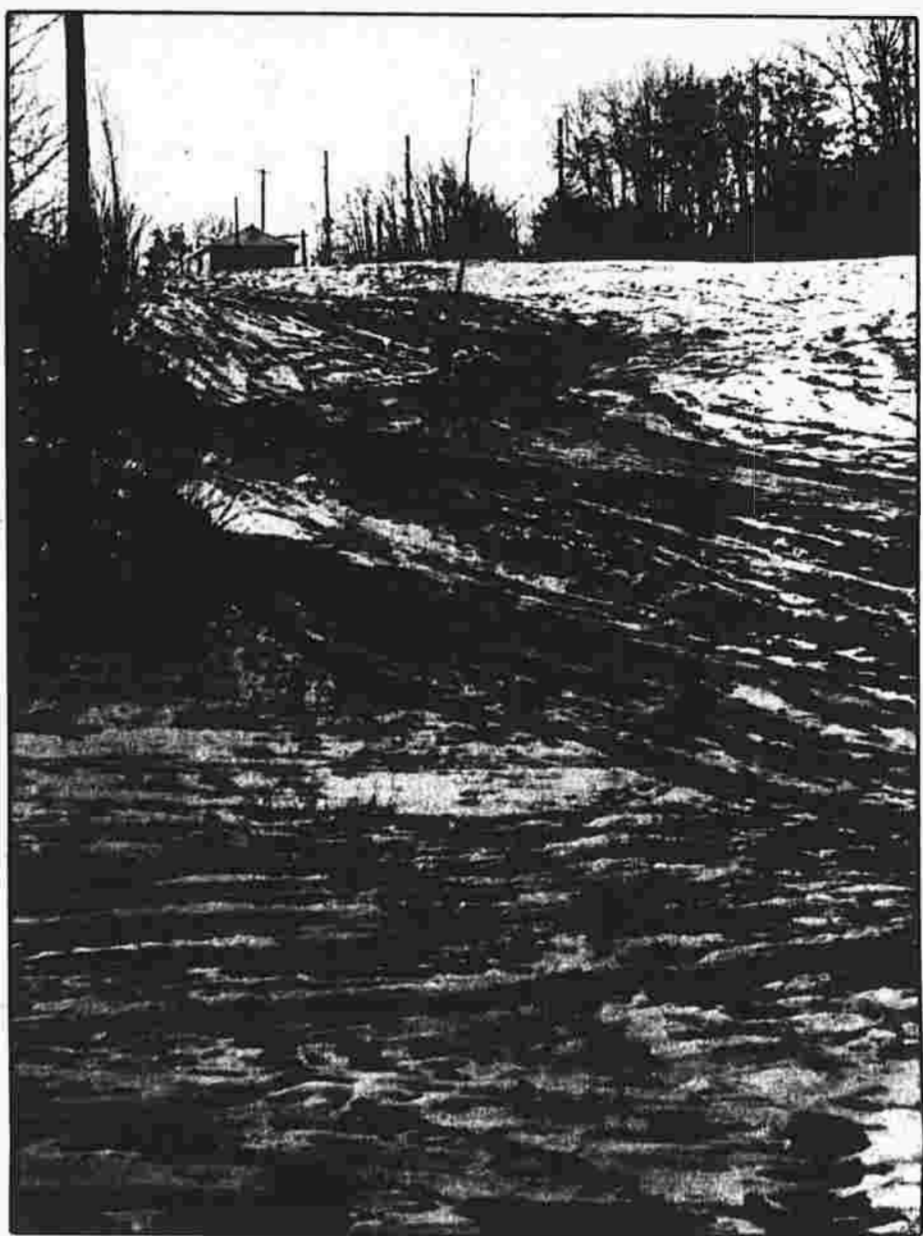
Public Works Director George Kandra said today he instructed crews on Thursday to replace any plywood that was torn down. Kandra said he hopes to incorporate lodge repairs into an overall improvement plan for the park he will propose for the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Advisory Park and Recreation Commission members said that the lodge might be expanded as part of improvements to the park.

On Union Pond, Harrison said the town has plans to build a sealed-off skating area. However, he said the town is waiting for repairs to the Union Pond Dam, so that the water level will be known.

The proposed skating area is now too shallow and would have to be dredged to provide ice thick enough for skating. The dam work is set to go out to bid, but the town is waiting to do the work to see if a company is interested in building a hydroelectric power facility at the dam.

As for skiing, commission member William O'Neill said it would be viable to resume skiing at the Northview Ski Slope, which has been inactive for the past eight years. While it would take some money to



Herald photo by Tucker

Manchester's Northview Ski Slope could again be filled with skiers, some members of the Advisory Park and Recreation Commission believe. The slope, opened in 1969 and located off Hercules Drive in southwest Manchester, has not been used by skiers in eight years, although vandals have repeatedly driven vehicles on the slope, leaving deep ruts.

Please turn to page 10

Stock market blazes ahead for tenth day

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market's historic rally, in which trading volume has reached new highs along with prices, continued to blaze ahead today.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks jumped an additional 17.15 points to 2,087.88 in today's opening hour of trading after surging 35.72 to 2,070.73 Thursday — the average's ninth straight record finish and its 10th advance since New Year's Day.

Over that period, the widely followed average soared 174.78 points. And it was the first time since July 1973 that the Dow Jones industrials had advanced for 10 straight sessions.

The rally also produced unprecedented trading volume Thursday, with 253.12 million shares worth more than \$10 billion changing hands on the New York Stock Exchange.

The activity was up from 214.23 million shares Wednesday and broke the previous record of 244.68 million set last Dec. 19.

Some investors took advantage of the market's surge to sell and take profits Thursday, shaving about 12 points from the Dow Jones industrial average's best level of the day.

Still, several other broader market indexes also set highs as two stocks rose in price for each one that fell overall on the NYSE.

The rally has been attributed to several factors. Analysts say it partly reflects investor expectations that economic growth and corporate profits will improve more rapidly this year than previously thought.

Stocks have drawn additional support from declining interest rates in the credit markets, and from the dollar's recent slide.

In other financial news today, the government reported that production at U.S. factories, mines and utilities rose a solid 0.5 percent in December.

The Federal Reserve Board said the December gain followed an even better 0.6 percent November increase and a 0.3 percent October rise.

Even with the strength at the end of the year, industrial production was still just 0.9 percent ahead of where it was in December 1985. That weak gain over the past 12 months emphasized the fact that American manufacturers have suffered through another year in which stiff foreign competition limited growth in U.S. industries.

Added to these problems was a steep slump in activity in the oil and gas sector, which faced heavy layoffs as petroleum companies cut back on drilling and exploration plans in the wake of falling oil prices.

Today's report said production

AIDS drug faces 1st major test

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — An experimental AIDS drug which is far better than any other along the regulatory path to general approval is taking another major step with formal consideration by a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee.

The maker of the drug AZT has sought permission to make it available for prescription by physicians, and the advisory panel's recommendation on the request is expected to carry heavy influence with the FDA.

Today's meeting comes a day after Surgeon General Everett Koop told a Senate panel that education about the disease's deadly consequences remains the best weapon against AIDS even though fighting it is the government's No. 1 health priority.

The FDA advisory committee was devoting a day-long meeting to consideration of AZT, or zidovudine, with presentations from FDA staff members and the company to be followed by several hours of discussion and, perhaps, a vote late in the day, on what recommendation to make.

The FDA approved expanded, even better 0.6 percent November increase and a 0.3 percent October rise.

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Today's report said production

Dinner honors 'a man of peace'

By John F. Kirch
Herald Reporter

It was the sixth annual dinner and featured a short performance by the Sacred Dance Group of the North United Methodist Church, and four speakers who reflected on King and the message he died for.

"This is more of a family dinner," said Joan O'Loughlin, a member of the council who helped organize the supper. "These are people who care about each other and care about Dr. Martin Luther King. They come to celebrate someone who made a difference in their individual lives. And he did."

Gladys Stringfellow, another council member who helped organize the dinner, saw a significant difference in her life because of

changes with my eyes. What joy it was to go back South and be able to stop at a Holiday Inn and not have to go through the back woods of Georgia."

Shirley Zachery, one of the four speakers at Thursday's potluck, outlined the changes that have taken place. Because of King, she said, a black family can move into a white neighborhood without fear; people from all races can run for political office; and people of different races can marry or adopt a child of another color.

"Certainly eating in the restaurant (of your choice) or riding in the

Please turn to page 10

Utah collision fuels air-safety debate



AP photo

Firefighters search through the wreckage of one of two planes that collided Thursday over southwestern Salt Lake County, Utah. Ten people died in the

crash, which is expected to renew criticism over the air traffic control system.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The second collision in five months of a private plane with a commercial aircraft is expected to give new ammunition to critics who say air safety is eroding at the hands of an inadequate air traffic control system.

Federal Aviation Administration officials have maintained that the skies are as safe as ever and point to a sharp decline in accidents in all segments of the aviation industry last year. Nevertheless, the critics contend an increasing number of accidents are waiting to happen.

The National Transportation Safety Board has only begun to examine the collision of a Skywest commuter plane and a small private aircraft Thursday over Salt Lake City, Utah, but in some ways the accident has a familiar ring.

Last Aug. 31, another small plane, which had just taken off, collided with an Aeromexico jetliner making an approach to Los Angeles International Airport. There were 82 people killed in the accident; 10 people died in the Utah aerial tragedy.

In both accidents the commercial

Please turn to page 10

TODAY'S HERALD

Shake-up in China
Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang resigned in disgrace today after weeks of student protests and a crackdown on pro-Western intellectuals whom he reportedly backed. Premier Zhao Ziyang was elected to replace him. Story on page 7.

Backup brakes urged
The federal board probing last week's fatal Amtrak collision near Baltimore is calling for automatic brakes on all trains sharing tracks with passenger traffic in the busy Northeast corridor and says regulators should have required such a backup device long ago. Freight trains such as the Conrail locomotives that smashed into the Amtrak train Jan. 4 are not required to have the devices. Story on page 7.

Bill on the move
A bill making the state's prescription program available to more of the low-income elderly and all of the state's disabled residents is moving swiftly toward passage. The changes, including a stipulation that no participant pay more than \$4 for any prescription, would be effective April 1. Story on page 4.

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AP photo

Grisly search

Connecticut State Police work inside a tent while searching a wooded area in Southbury for further clues to a bizarre murder case. A Newtown resident was charged earlier this week with murder after authorities found parts of his wife's body. The suspect, Richard Crafts, is a part-time police officer and an Eastern Airlines pilot. His wife, Helle Crafts, was a flight attendant for Pan American World Airways.

Connecticut In Brief

Jury finds ex-mayor's son innocent

WATERBURY — A Superior Court jury has found William C. Rado Jr. innocent of one count of eve-dropping in connection with telephone calls in and out of Naugatuck High School between 1983 and 1985 that he had been accused of recording. Rado, the son of former Naugatuck Mayor William Rado, had originally been arraigned in December on three counts of eve-dropping stemming from an ongoing grand jury probe of alleged corruption in Naugatuck. However, Superior Court Judge Ann Dranginis acquitted Rado of two of the counts on Wednesday, saying the prosecution had not presented sufficient evidence in its case. The remaining charge involved an April 1984 phone call between the Mayor and candidate Terry Buckmiller and his girlfriend, Naugatuck High School physical education teacher Roberta Ruccio.

November sales tax revenues lag

HARTFORD — Revenues from the state sales tax in November were slightly lower than officials expected, but should be more than offset by year-end buying aimed at blunting the impact of new federal tax laws. Edward C. Balda, chief of economic and revenue forecasting in the governor's budget office, said Thursday that officials had expected a 16 percent increase in sales tax revenues in November, compared with November 1985. Instead, it was 14 percent, he said. "That still is a very strong performance," Balda said. "We expect December to be even stronger ... but then we're anticipating a slowdown in the first quarter of 1987." Under the new federal law, effective Jan. 1, sales tax payments will no longer be deductible on federal income tax returns. Because of that, consumers flocked to buy big-ticket items, especially cars, before the end of the year in order to preserve the deduction, Balda said.

Defense questions wiretap permit

HARTFORD — Defense attorneys in the \$7 million Wells Fargo robbery case have asked that the chief federal judge for Puerto Rico be ordered to testify about the apparent misdating of a document needed to authorize the use of electronic listening devices. Federal prosecutors Thursday told U.S. District Court Judge T. Emmet Clarke they did not know why U.S. Chief District Judge Juan Perez-Gimenez notated a document received on Jan. 11, 1985 to say he received it nine days earlier. Defense attorneys Thursday asked Clarke to throw out 18 tape recordings and to order Perez to testify about the five-page document he dated to show he received it Jan. 2, the same day he authorized planting a listening device in the home of one of 16 defendants in the case. Clarke said he would consider permitting defense attorneys to go to Puerto Rico to interview Perez under oath. Perez authorized 51 telephone wiretaps and the planting of listening devices in the homes and cars of the defendants.

Gas spill closes I-95 rest area

MILFORD — A rest area off Interstate 95 was closed for three hours after a tanker sideswiped a guard rail and discharged a large amount of gasoline, state police said. The accident occurred about 3 p.m. Thursday in the rest stop on the eastbound side of I-95 in Milford. The driver, A. Balgie, was jockeying the truck into position to make a gas delivery when he scraped the guard rail, state police said. The side of the cylindrical tank ripped away, exposing the gas lines. Police estimate the truck was moving at about two mph. The McDonald's restaurant at the rest stop was evacuated, and fire crews, the state Department of Transportation and a private clean-up firm worked together to transfer the remaining gas to other trucks and soak up the gas film in the parking lot, authorities said.

Hartford shooting victim dies

HARTFORD — A man found Tuesday laying in a pool of blood in a city parking lot died Wednesday at Mount Sinai Hospital, according to a hospital spokesman. Roger Picart, 29, of Hartford, was shot once in the head, police said. There were no witnesses to the shooting, and police have no information or possible motives in the case, Captain Jesse Campbell said.

Striking Colt workers plan rally

HARTFORD — Thousands of labor union members and labor supporters are expected to rally Jan. 24 on the first anniversary of a bitter strike against Colt Firearms, labor leaders said. "We believe this is going to be the biggest labor rally in this area in recent memory," said Keith Stover, director of field services for the state AFL-CIO. "If the weather cooperates ... a turnout of at least 4,000 persons is not an unreasonable goal," he said. Phillip Wheeler, assistant director of United Auto Workers union Region 9-A, said members of more than 100 unions will attend from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Panels prescribe drug program

By Judd Everhart
The Associated Press

HARTFORD — A bill making the state's prescription program available to more of the low-income elderly and all of the state's disabled residents is moving swiftly toward passage. The changes, including a stipulation that no participant pay more than \$4 for any prescription, would be effective April 1. The changes were unanimously approved Thursday by two legislative committees. One more committee must act on it next week and the House and Senate are slated to take action the following week. Democratic Gov. William A. O'Neill supports the changes and would be expected to sign them into law. Busloads of senior citizens attended a joint hearing before the

Public Health and Human Services committees at the Capitol to testify on the proposal. Charles F. Johnson, 94, of Hartford, had the audience, as well as some legislators, clapping and cheering by the time he finished extolling the virtues of the proposed changes. "I'm so happy today that you saw fit to make this program work," he said. "God bless you. You know, when you get to be 94 years old, you don't have much time left. But I know I'm going to die happy." As he left the witness table, Johnson turned and waved to the crowd and—then went around shaking hands like a politician half his age. "You're the greatest!" one elderly woman with tears in her eyes told him. Under the program, which began last year on an experimental basis,

those over 65 who meet income guidelines get discounts on prescriptions. For a single person, the maximum allowable income would go from \$8,000 to \$13,500; for a married couple, the maximum would go from \$12,000 to \$18,000. Under the new bill, participants would pay no more than \$4 for any prescription; currently, they pay half the cost of each prescription. In addition, the \$15 fee participants must now pay to register would be eliminated under the new proposal. The bill also contains incentives for pharmacists to use generic, rather than brand-name drugs and extends the program to the disabled. Commissioner on Aging Mary Ellen Kilnick estimated the changes would cost about \$2 million more a year, for a total of \$12 million

annually. Harry Cunningham of Hartford told the committee the changes would "help me pay my way in this society. I want to be like a human being. I want to be able to do all those things that an average, normal human being does." Ray Baginski of Southington, a member of a group known as United Seniors in Action, the previous guidelines "left too many seniors out of the program." Helen Johnson of Waterbury said the changes are "great because they meet the needs of all and will help a lot more people." "We've taken care of you, so now you take care of us," she told the lawmakers. The Appropriations Committee is expected to take up the bill next week. House and Senate action are tentatively set for Jan. 28.

Legislator takes aim at lemon-like parts

HARTFORD (AP) — The lawmaker who championed Connecticut's first-in-the-nation lemon law has taken up another cause, but this time he's aligned himself with the automakers. State Rep. John J. Woodcock, D-South Windsor, on Thursday proposed legislation that would prohibit automobile insurers from insisting that body shops use

inferior replacement parts just because they are cheaper. Woodcock said many automobile insurers have started refusing to cover the cost of more expensive external body parts made by the car's original manufacturer, despite studies that found off-brand parts are often inferior. Woodcock said off-brand parts often don't fit as well, aren't as

sturdy, don't meet federal standards and are not as safe. He also said the off-brand parts could void a car's warranty. A spokesman for the insurance industry dismissed Woodcock's charges. "Off-brand parts like fenders, door and hoods, most of them made in Taiwan, are not what the consumer bargained for when he paid his

automobile insurance premium," Woodcock said. "Let's say you had a rug at your home that got water damaged and you put in a claim through your homeowners policy for replacement of that damaged rug," he said. "I don't think anyone would stand for someone coming in and putting in an imitation, inferior rug."

State man champions memorial

By Linda Stowell
The Associated Press

DANBURY — Leo Vogel is shooting for the stars with his plans to honor the seven astronauts killed aboard the Challenger space shuttle that blew up last Jan. 28. He has taken a leave of absence from his position as executive officer of U.S. Chutes Corp. in Brookfield to raise money for two monuments — one that can be viewed by the public and one that will orbit the Earth.

"There is no more fitting tribute to pay them ... It will finalize their dreams of reaching the stars," Vogel said. "This is one of the few things in history that needs to be commemorated because it can never be allowed to happen again." Vogel has formed a corporation called The Challenger 7 Space Monument Project Inc. and plans to raise money by selling one ounce silver commemorative coins for \$25 each. He said he has contracted with a Philadelphia mint company to make the coins.

Vogel said he does not know how much his project will cost, but estimates it will be about a million. Vogel, who said he originally wanted to form a non-profit company but couldn't get enough support, said that 50 percent of the money after expenses will be split between the projects the Challenger astronauts' families support and his project. He said about 42 percent will go back to the original financial backers of the project, and his business partner will keep the remaining 8 percent.

"We wanted to raise the money ourselves but we met with a lot of resistance because this is out of the ordinary," Vogel said. "And, we found that there are particular projects endorsed by the families of the Challenger and we didn't want to dilute them." On the front of the coins will be the earth in space with the shuttle in flight. On the back will be an eagle holding a banner with the surnames of the seven astronauts who died and an American flag.

Day-care space lags behind need

HARTFORD (AP) — Space in day-care facilities in Connecticut lags far behind demand despite a steady increase in the number of licensed centers and registered homes, according to a report released by the state Department of Human Resources. "The bright side," DHR Commissioner James G. Harris Jr. said Thursday, "is that the day care has become a major public priority in Connecticut as its importance to families, employers and the economy grows more apparent." Facilities today can accommodate about 70,000 children, the report found, while the number of children under the age of six likely to need day care was 93,640, according to the most recent available figures. The 51-page report also noted increasing numbers of "underground" day-care centers — those that are not licensed and monitored by the state. Part of the reason is ever-increasing liability insurance rates, according to the report. However, Harris said the insurance industry is working with his department to "develop reasonable and realistic solutions to what both parties consider a problem: high rates and limited coverage on one hand and the possibility of liability claims on the other."

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The historic, 118-year-old Notre Dame Academy in Waterbury will close its doors in June. Declining enrollment and a soaring deficit proved too hard for the convent to combat.

Dedicated fight fails to save historic convent in Waterbury

WATERBURY (AP) — Four years ago, the Notre Dame Academy enlisted the help of consultants to suggest solutions to its declining enrollment and soaring deficit. Last March, a committee made up of parents, alumnae, teachers and board members stepped up recruiting, publicity and fund-raising efforts. But in spite of the long and dedicated fight for survival, Sister Dorothy Flanagan, the school's principal, tearfully announced Thursday that the school will close for good in June. Faculty and staff had been notified Wednesday afternoon, as were the parents of the students. The approximately 200 students of the all-girls school cried and

clung to each other for support. In group meetings after the announcement they asked teachers about what will happen next to both the students and the teachers. Sister Karen Sautter, the school's vice-principal, told students she had contacted the two other Catholic schools in the city. She said the principals of the schools agreed to make efforts to accept Notre Dame students who wish to transfer to them. Joseph Robitaille, Superintendent of Waterbury schools, said anticipated no problems absorbing Notre Dame students who wanted to transfer to public schools. Sister Sautter also told students that aid will be offered to the teachers, and the archdiocese will assist in placing those who wish to teach in another Catholic school.

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SNAFU by Bruce Deatle



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schultz



CAPTAIN EASY by Crooks & Casale



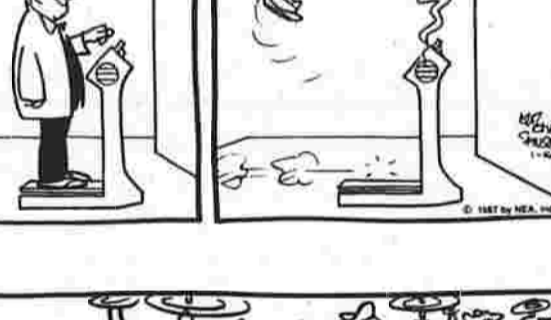
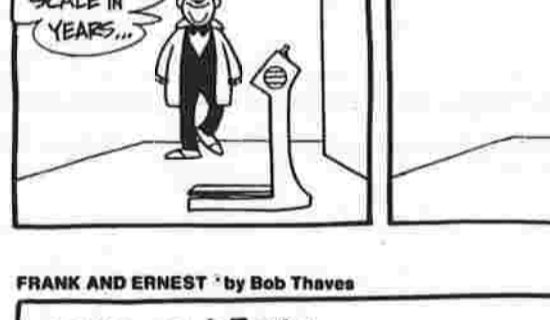
ARLO AND JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



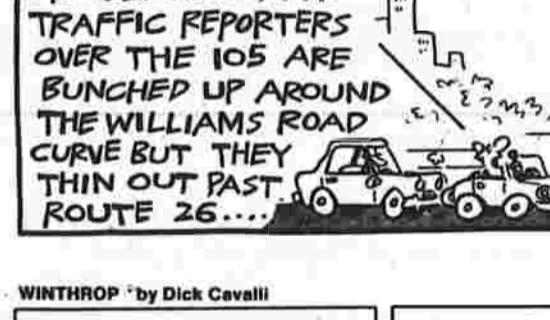
ALLEY OOP by Dave Graue



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST by Bob Thaves



WINTHROP by Dick Cavalli



Puzzles

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Astrograph

Astrograph column with horoscopes for various zodiac signs.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity cipher puzzle with a grid and clues.

Bridge

Bridge column with a hand and analysis.

Looking for alternatives

Bridge column with a hand and analysis.

Bridge

Bridge column with a hand and analysis.

Bridge

Bridge column with a hand and analysis.

Bridge

Bridge column with a hand and analysis.

Real estate advertisement for Jackson & Jackson, 647-8400.

Real estate advertisement for Joyce G. Epstein, 647-8895.

Real estate advertisement for Blanchard & Rossetto, 646-2482.

Real estate advertisement for Strano Real Estate, 647-4400.

Real estate advertisement for Realty World, 646-7709.

Large real estate advertisement for Sentry Real Estate, featuring new homes starting at \$179,900.

Real estate advertisement for James R. McCavanagh, 649-3800.

Real estate advertisement for D.W. Fish, 643-1591.

Real estate advertisement for U&R Realty Co., 643-2692.

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Research prevents surprises over brokers' fees

QUESTION: I wish to register a complaint against a brokerage firm about the handling of my mutual fund account, which I recently initiated and now am canceling.



Investors' Guide

William A. Doyle

Although the broker did talk of the 7.5 percent cost to invest in the fund, he did so in an indirect fashion of verbalization. He never said I would have to pay \$750 up front in order to put \$10,000 into the fund. In response to my questions about up front costs, he just referred to the 7.5 percent charge mentioned in the fund's prospectus.

Can you print the address to which complaints of this nature should be directed?

ANSWER: The address you seek is Office of Consumer Affairs, Securities and Exchange Commis-

sion, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549. That's where all gripes against brokers should be sent.

However, based on your letter, it's unlikely you have a legitimate

complaint.

You admit the broker talked about the 7.5 percent charge and referred to that charge in the prospectus, which is a "disclosure document," the broker was required to give to you. You paid \$10,000 to buy shares of the mutual fund. Easy arithmetic shows that 7.5 percent of \$10,000 is \$750.

Your unhappiness about paying that commission is understandable. You should have done some research on mutual funds, before visiting the brokerage office.

You bought into a "load" mutual fund, on which a big commission is levied at the time of purchase. You could have invested in a true

"no-load" mutual fund, on which there is no commission at the time of purchase, no redemption fee at the time shares are cashed in and no 12b-1 plan. The latter results in a continuing charge against shareholders' investment values.

Of course, brokers don't sell shares of true no-load mutual funds. When you want to invest in that type of fund, you deal directly with the fund.

QUESTION: In November 1985, I invested \$3,000 in a mutual fund through a broker, who assured me it was a no-load fund. Now, I noticed on the statements I receive the following: "Amount reserved for

contingent deferred sales charge \$87.84."

Does this mean that, if I sell my shares, I will be charged \$87.84? Is so, this does not appear to me to be a true no-load fund.

ANSWER: You're correct about the charge and your feelings about the fund.

The only way you can sell mutual fund shares is to redeem them — turn them back to the fund. That "contingent deferred sales charge" is the redemption fee you would pay if you redeem your shares.

Arrangements on redemption fees — also called rear-end loads, because they are kicks in the rump

to shareholders who cash in — vary greatly. Many start out at 5 or 6 percent for the first year after shares are purchased and then decline by 1 percentage point annually. You'll have to study your fund's prospectus to know exactly where you stand.

You're very right about that fund not being a true no-load fund. It has a rear-end load. In newspaper listings, you'll find "r" next to the name of every fund with a redemption fee.

Doyle welcomes written questions, but he can provide answers only through the column.

JAN 16 1987

Nabisco to sell Heublein

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) — RJR Nabisco Inc. has agreed to sell Heublein Inc. to Grand Metropolitan PLC for \$1.2 billion in cash, a move company officials say is the final major step in restructuring RJR.

Announcement of the sale came one day after the RJR Nabisco board of directors voted to move the company's headquarters from Winston-Salem to Atlanta.

Heublein, based in Hartford, Conn., markets nearly 100 brands of spirits, wines and imported beers. Its major brands include Smirnoff vodka, Inglenook and Lancers wines.

The company said the recently announced purchase of Almaden Vineyards Inc. would be included in the sale to Grand Metropolitan, which is headquartered in London.

Grand Metropolitan has interests in spirits and wines through its subsidiary, International Distillers and Vintners. Its major products include J&B Scotch, Glibbey's gin and Bombay gin.

IDV and Heublein have been partners since 1953, with IDV handling Smirnoff vodka in many international markets. Heublein markets IDV's Black Velvet Canadian whiskey in the United States.

"The sale of Heublein will enable RJR Nabisco to substantially strengthen its balance sheet, and at the same time increase our focus on our tobacco and foods businesses," said F. Ross Johnson, president and chief executive officer of RJR. "This has been a key part of our strategy to enhance RJR Nabisco's position as one of the world's premier consumer products companies. With the sale of Heublein, we have accomplished the final major step in this restructuring process."

The sale, which must be approved by Grand Metropolitan shareholders and government regulators, should be completed by March, company officials said.

GE says 1986 was 'landmark'

FAIRFIELD — Calling 1986 a "landmark year," General Electric Co. has reported net earnings for the fourth quarter were \$730 million, up 14 percent from \$638 million in 1985.

Earnings per share were \$1.60 for the fourth quarter of 1986, up from \$1.40 for the last quarter of 1985. Net earnings for 1986 were about \$2.5 billion, up from \$2.3 billion in 1985.

Sales for the 1986 fourth quarter were about \$12.3 billion, up from \$8.7 billion in the same period in 1985. Sales for the year were \$35.2 billion, up from \$28.3 billion in 1985.

GE's sales included about \$2.6 billion from RCA operations in the fourth quarter and about \$5.7 billion since June 1.

"1986 was clearly a landmark year for GE," said Chairman John F. Welch in a prepared statement. "We completed the acquisition of RCA and exceeded our timetable for an effective integration resulting in RCA having a positive impact on the company's earnings for the fourth quarter and total year."

Welch also said that the mid-year acquisition of Kidder, Peabody & Co., added directly to the company's 1986 earnings and "substantially expanded GE's already broad financial offerings."

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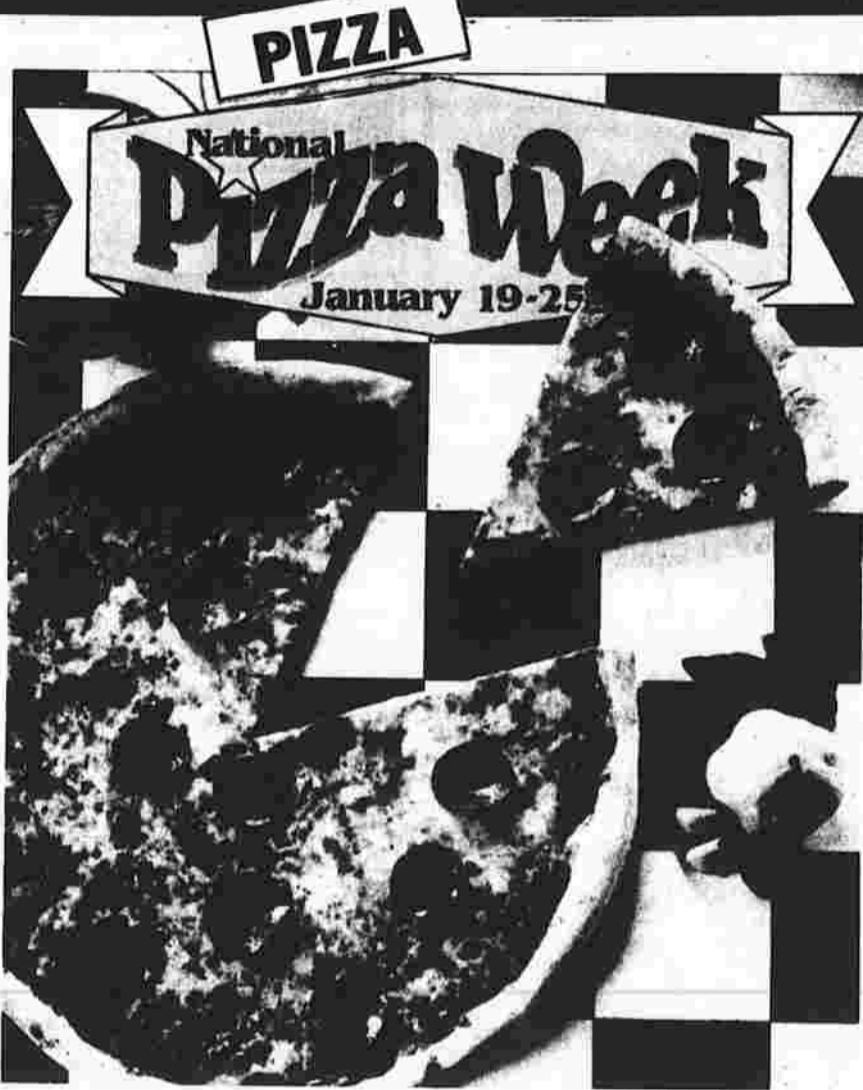
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