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### No complaints

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### Brain dead

Doctors confront confusing issue /21

# Manchester Herald

Friday, April 21, 1989

Manchester, Conn. — A City of Village Charm

Newsstand Price: 35 Cents

## Over 100 residents mobilize to fight increase in burglaries

By Maureen Leavitt  
Manchester Herald

More than 15 burglaries in the last two months have led to the formation of a neighborhood crime-watch group by residents of the area bordered by Center and Adams streets and Middle Turnpike.

Homes have been broken into during the day while residents were at work and other burglaries have occurred at night while residents have been sleeping, police said.

The residents met Wednesday night at South United Methodist Church to organize the crime watch. About 110 people attended the meeting. It was advertised by residents distributing 300 fliers door-to-door.

Ann Kibbe, of St. John Street, who has been elected to lead the group, said today many people were at work and other burglaries have occurred at night while residents have been sleeping, police said.

She is optimistic her neighbors want to work together to stop the crimes. "A lot of people are willing to take it on," she said. There's just too much happening right here, and I think people are scared."

She said she is concerned because there are a number of elderly people living in the area of the break-ins. "I talk to my neighbors, but you'd be surprised the number of people who don't. If you don't talk to your neighbors, you're going to have problems."

## Spill fears boost prices of crude oil

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil futures prices are at the highest level in more than three years after a platform explosion in the North Sea added to the supply worries prompted by the Alaskan spill.

O'Neill asks for probe of gas prices ... page 5

The May contract for West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark grade of U.S. crude, soared a record \$2.94 to finish at \$24.65 a barrel Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That price was the highest since Jan. 15, 1988, and almost double the Nov. 11 rate.

Trading began today on the June contract, and prices were down this morning. Analysts said jitters over the explosion earlier this week in the North Sea, and last month's Alaska spill, came against a background of factors that normally would drive prices down—overproduction by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and a softening in demand.

"The market is so overbought due to the psychological impact of these events that there's a lot of room for a fall in prices," said Ken Miller of the petroleum consulting firm of Purvin & Gertz.

Since gasoline prices already have increased in response to the 10.1 million-gallon spill in Alaska, the latest jump in crude prices may have only a minimal impact at the consumer level, analysts said.

The \$2.04 rise topped a \$1.74 hike on Aug. 4, 1988, to become the largest one-day increase since trading of crude futures began on the New York Mercantile Exchange in March 1983.

Thursday's frenzied buying of near-term oil contracts was triggered by a comment from British Energy Minister Cecil Parkinson that a vital North Sea oil pipeline could be shut down up to a month.

An explosion Tuesday at the Cormorant Alpha platform disrupted production of nearly 500,000 barrels of oil, or about a quarter of the North Sea's oil output. The light North Sea Brent is favored for making gasoline in the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

Since the explosion, crude prices have surged nearly 15 percent. Officials of Shell U.K. Ltd., operator of a platform, said Thursday that inspection of the damage is continuing.

Exxon spills oily waste in Louisiana swampland

BAYOU SORRELL, La. (AP) — A tank ruptured as it was unloaded from an Exxon barge early today and spilled 300,000 to 400,000 gallons of oily waste into the Grand River, state police said.

Environmental officials from Exxon tell us that the material is about 90 percent water, 7 percent alcohol and 3 percent oil," said Lt. Ronnie Jones of the state police.

No one was injured, Jones said. The spill happened at a remote area about 35 miles southwest of Baton Rouge on the edge of the Atchafalaya Basin, a vast hardwood swamp and marshland that is a breeding ground for a variety of fish and wildlife.

John Reidy, a spokesman for Exxon, said officials at their New Orleans headquarters had little information about the spill, but would have a statement as soon as possible.

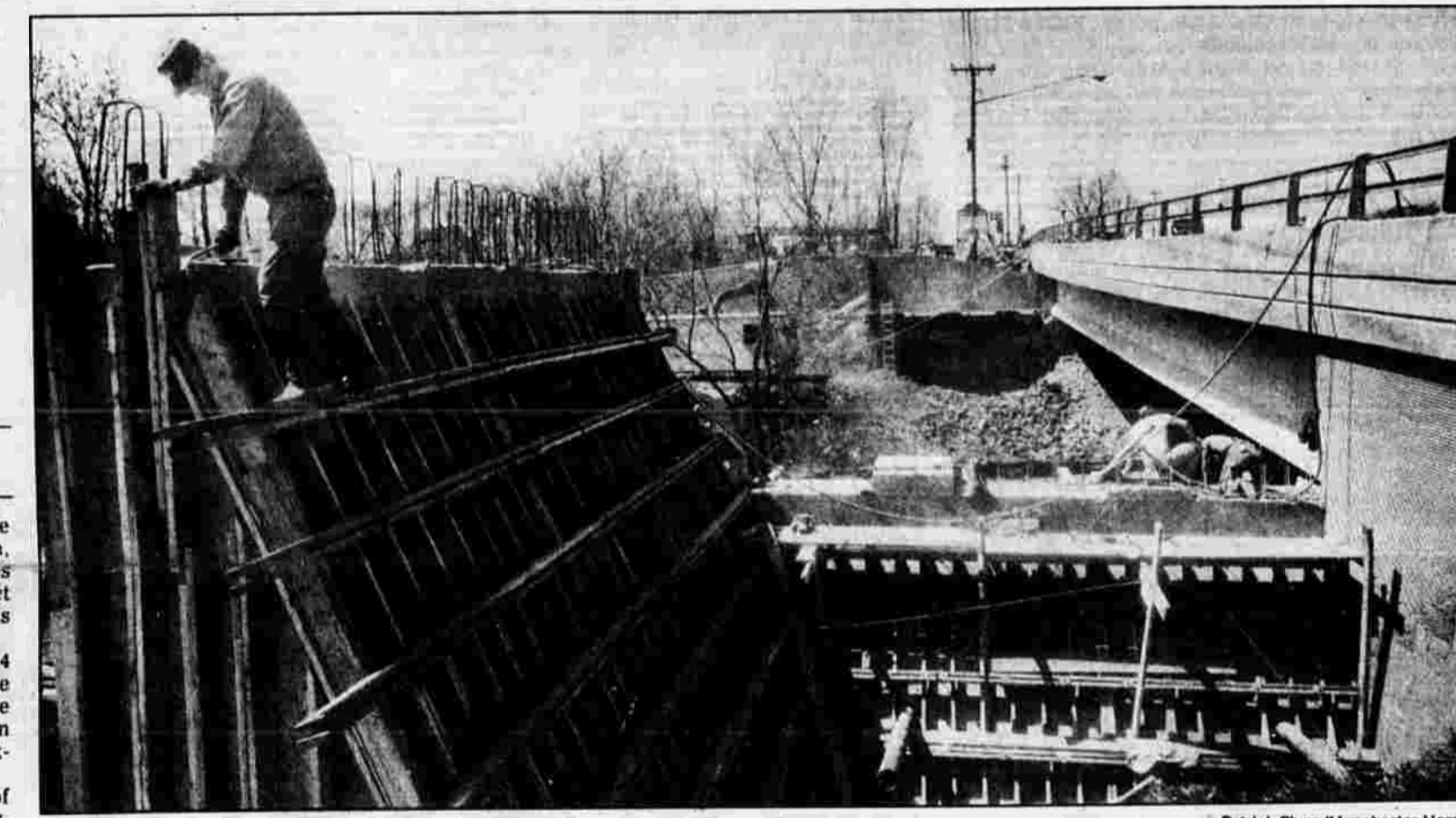
Jones said crews quickly surrounded the spill with booms, adding, "We believe we've got most of the material contained in one area."

He said there is little chance of fire or explosion, but "from an environmental standpoint, this could be a dangerous spill. Anytime you get 400,000 gallons of anything into a river, you've got a serious situation."

The incident comes four weeks after an Exxon oil tanker hit a reef and ruptured in the waters off Alaska, spewing 10 million gallons of crude oil.

After today's spill, Exxon dispatched a cleanup crew from New Orleans. The Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies were also sent to the site, Jones said.

The tank ruptured about 4 a.m. The barge was carrying three tanks of the waste, Jones said. Workers removed the tanks from both ends of the barge, causing the barge to buckle and rupture the middle tank, Jones said.



ROAD WORK — George Brndir of Ashford works Thursday on the widening of the Deming Street (Route 30) bridge near the Route 83 intersection. The project is one of a series of road improvements being done in the area in preparation for next year's opening of the Pavilions at Buckland Hills. Story on page 3.

## EPA tells schools: Better test for radon!

By H. Josef Hebert  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — School officials across the country are being advised to test for radon after the federal government found unhealthy levels of the odorless, cancer-causing gas in half the schools examined in spot checks from Maine to Washington state.

Based on measurements taken in 3,000 schoolrooms in 16 states, it appears that elevated levels of radon gas can be found in schools throughout the United States, EPA Administrator William K. Reilly said Thursday.

He called indoor radon, which is emitted from natural radioactive decay in the ground, "one of the major environmental health threats facing Americans" and urged that officials nationwide test their schoolrooms for the gas.

The testing, he said today on "CBS This Morning," would cost "anywhere from \$5 to \$25 for a room. And if it turns out there's a problem, the costs of doing something about it are not very high. They're in the range of \$500 to \$10,000 maximum."

The EPA, which last year issued a similar warning to homeowners after a spot check around the country, said that of 130 public schools tested in 41 communities, 54 percent of the schools had at least one room normally occupied by students or staff that registered unhealthy levels of radon.

The agency has said that any level of 4 picocuries per liter of air should be considered unhealthy and warrant additional tests and likely corrective action. In schools in five of the states the level was 20 picocuries or more and in a school in Tennessee it was found to be 136 picocuries.

By comparison, federal standards for uranium mining call for miners to wear protective equipment when radiation levels are 18 to 20 picocuries per liter of air during continuous work periods.

See RADON, page 12

## Insect parts, rat hairs OK in moderation

By Deborah Mesce  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Insect parts, rodent hairs and maggots don't sound appetizing, but when tossed with a salad, churros or tomato sauce or baked in bread they're not bad at all, the government says.

The Food and Drug Administration says that though vermin and their residues are "aesthetically unappealing," within prescribed limits they are "harmless, natural and unavoidable" in food.

Under FDA standards, for example, 3.5 ounces of tomato sauce can have up to 30 fly eggs, 11 ounces of wheat flour can have up to 450 insect fragments and a half pound of canned or frozen spinach can have as many as 100 aphids, and a pound of cocoa beans can contain up to 10 milligrams of rodent feces.

These limits are in the FDA's manual of "food defect action levels."

According to the manual, the levels "are set because it is not possible, and never has been possible, to grow in open fields, harvest and process crops that are free of insects and other pests."

See FOOD, page 12

## Tour to explore heritage of Cheney mills

By Maureen Leavitt  
Manchester Herald

You can take a trip back into the history of Manchester Saturday during the 11th annual Cheney Historic District Walking Tour.

Those who complete the tour will have the opportunity to view an exhibit on immigration to Connecticut, located at the Manchester Historical Society Museum on Cedar Street where the tour will end.

The exhibit is kind of a nice way wind up the tour," said John F. Sutherland, director of Manchester Community College's Institute of Local History and a professor of history at the college.

The exhibit was produced by the Connecticut Humanities Council, Sutherland said.

Sutherland and Thomas R. Lewis, a geography professor at the college, will conduct the tour. It will begin in front of Cheney Hall on Hartford Road and will include a walk through the Cheney Brook mill area and portions residential neighborhoods of the West Side.

The tour, which is scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m., will last about an hour and a half, Sutherland said.

The tour will not include the Connecticut's Firemen's Historical Society Museum, located in the old firehouse at Pine Street and Hartford Road, because the museum is being renovated, Sutherland said.

Sutherland said the tour will include the Ribbin Mill Apartments.

Last year, about 150 people walked the tour, the largest in 10 years, Sutherland said.

Sutherland said he couldn't make a prediction on this year's crowd.

In recent years, members of the crowd have included people who live in the converted mills, Sutherland said.

### TODAY

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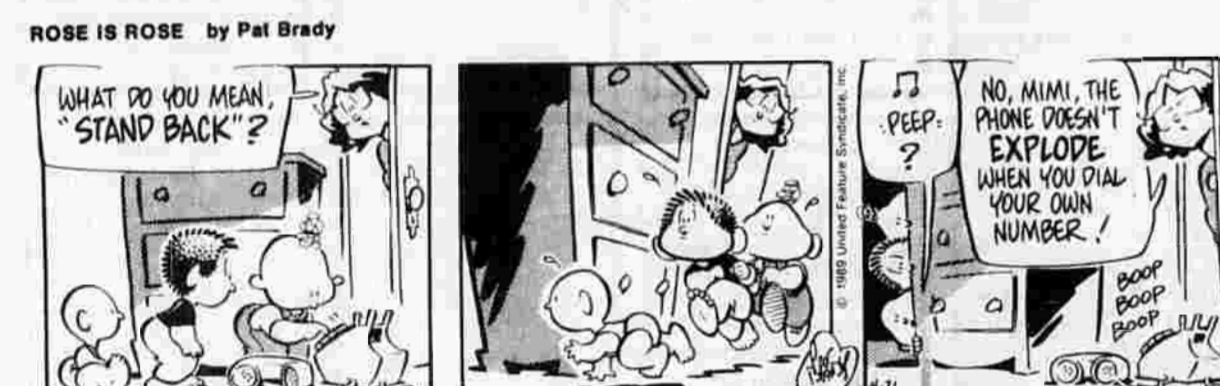
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk & Sy Barry



BLONDIE by Dean Young & Stan Drake



ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady



ON THE FASTTRACK by Bill Holbrook



THE GRIZZLELLS by Bill Schorr



NORTH

WEST EAST SOUTH

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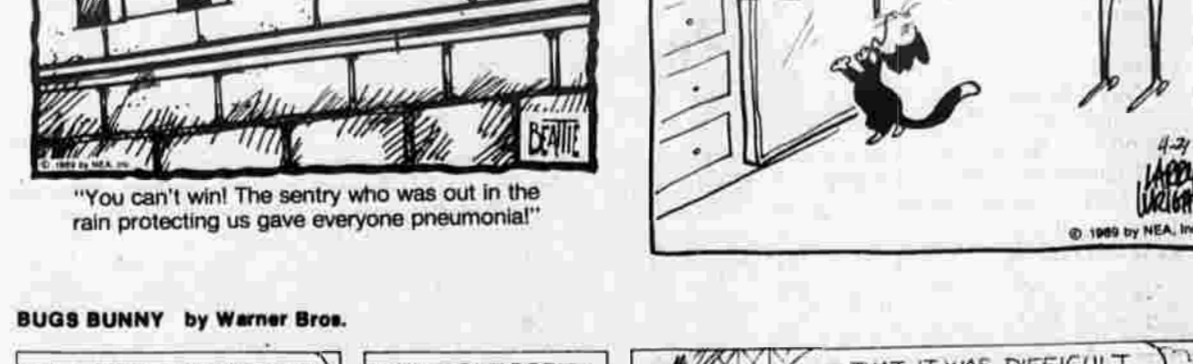
Bridge

By James Jacoby
With good reason there is a big question mark in the bidding box...

SNAFU by Bruce Beattie



BUGS BUNNY by Warner Bros.



LFL ABNER by Al Capp



ARLO AND JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



ALLEY OOP by Dave Graue



THE BORN LOBER by Art Sansom



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CHUBB AND CHAUNCEY by Vance Rowlett



WINNING WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD EITHER!



IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST I DIDN'T EVEN CATCH THE NAME OF MY DEFENSE LAWYER.

KIT 'N' CARLYLE by Larry Wright



SCIENCE & HEALTH

Fetal-tissue use OK

BOSTON (AP) — Doctors can ethically use tissue from aborted fetuses for research and medical treatment...

Oceans getting warmer

NEW YORK (AP) — The world's oceans and seas have been warming at about one-fifth of a degree Fahrenheit a year...

Fish oil good for heart

BOSTON (AP) — Three evil-tasting tablespoons of herring oil each day can lower mildly elevated blood pressure...

'Brain death' confuses doctors

Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh

Confusion and delays amongst health-care personnel might be necessary to organ retrieval...

Health professionals have personal concepts of death that vary widely and are often confused and self-contradictory...

Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh. Confusion and delays amongst health-care personnel might be necessary to organ retrieval...

Health professionals have personal concepts of death that vary widely and are often confused and self-contradictory...

Confusion and delays amongst health-care personnel might be necessary to organ retrieval...

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