

Catch up with Dick Tracy

The world's top crime stopper makes his debut today in the Manchester Herald ... Turn to page 21 to catch up on Tracy's latest thrilling adventure

Manchester Herald

Friday, May 12, 1989

Manchester, Conn. — A City of Village Charm

Newsstand Price: 35 Cents

Troops on move to Panama bases

By Terence Hunt  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Combat troops moved out today bound for Panama from U.S. air bases, part of President Bush's order to protect American lives as the United States mobilizes diplomatic pressure to force the ouster of military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The president also said he was ready to explore ways to entice Noriega to step down on his own. Diplomatic moves included a meeting today in Washington of the Organization of American States to consider a proposal by Venezuela for OAS foreign ministers to discuss the Panama situation next Tuesday, diplomatic sources said.

"I will do what is necessary to protect the lives of American citizens and we will not be intimidated by the bullying tactics, brutal though they may be, of the dictator, Noriega," Bush said.

At the same time, Bush's national security adviser questioned both the likelihood of a real confrontation with Noriega and the efficacy of the president's action in forcing Panama's de facto ruler from power.

"He is a thug but he clearly operates with some prudence when he has to," said Brent Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser. He called the troop buildup "precautionary as much as anything else," although Bush had said in his news conference, "I'm worried about the lives of American citizens."

Scowcroft all but acknowledged that Bush's action would do little to force Noriega from power.

"We can always hope he will see the error of his ways and we are looking at ways to help convince him to recognize the will of the Panamanian people," Scowcroft said.

Asked if it would be acceptable for Noriega to still be in power a month from now, Scowcroft said, "I don't see why not."

The deployment of two Army battalions, one Marine company and dozens of armored personnel carriers began late Thursday, and the Pentagon said it likely will take a week or more to complete.

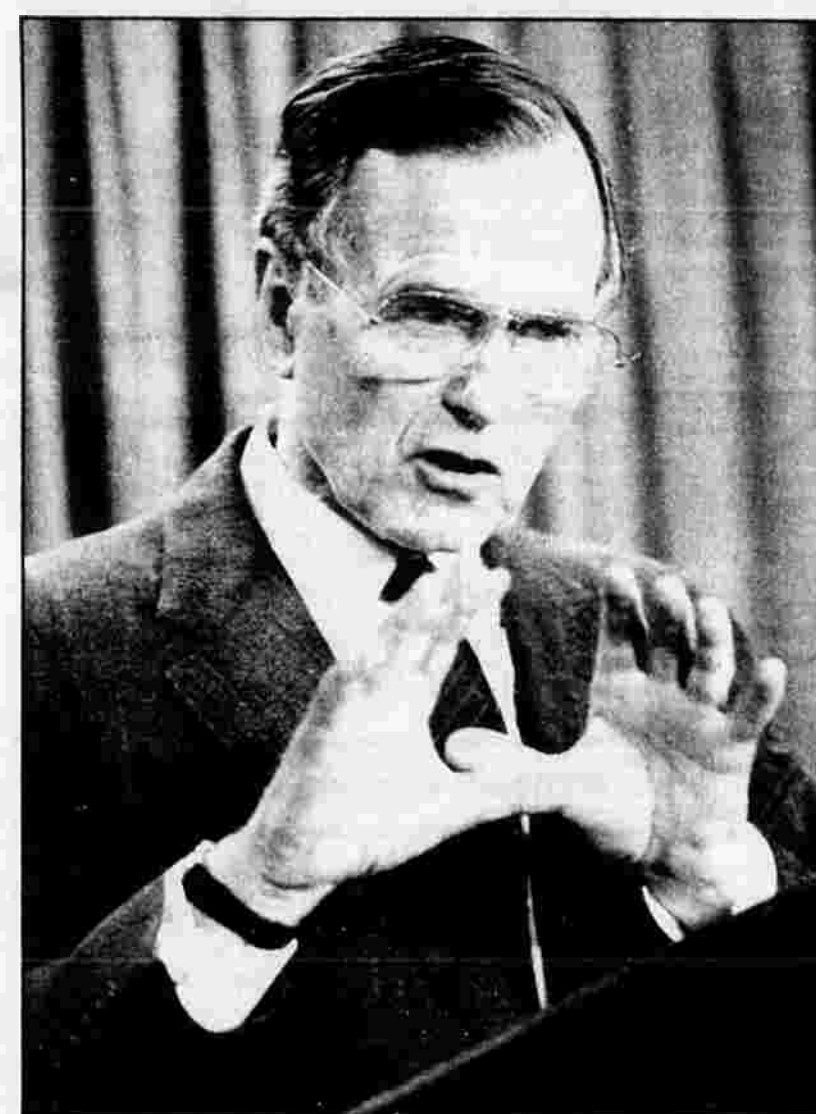
For 15 months, the United States has been frustrated in its efforts to force Noriega from power following his indictment in Florida on drug-trafficking charges.

The latest steps, containing no new economic sanctions or orders for direct military action, drew bipartisan praise in a joint statement from congressional leaders as "measured and deliberate steps to assist the Panamanian people in restoring democracy to Panama."

However, some lawmakers grumbled Bush did not go far enough and said tougher action was needed to drive out Noriega.

A number of lawmakers had urged Bush to invade Panama or to break the treaty with Panama which commits the United States to turn over control

See PANAMA, page 12



EXPLAINS DECISION — President Bush talks with reporters at the White House Thursday after announcing he is sending combat troops to Panama to protect American citizens from election-related violence.

Coventry meeting is set for tonight

By Jacqueline Bennett  
Manchester Herald

COVENTRY — Residents will meet tonight to discuss the \$14.5 million budget in an Annual Town Meeting that has been adjourned to a referendum.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 in the gymnasium of Coventry High School.

Town Clerk Ruth Bennett said that Roland Green of Ripley Hill Road submitted petitions with just over the 200 signatures needed calling for the adjournment.

Yoters can still speak at the meeting on the proposed budget for fiscal 1989-90, which begins July 1. However, the meeting will be held just to set the date and time of the referendum.

Bennett said the referendum will probably be held May 23.

The \$14,520,016 budget represents a 14.3 percent increase over this year's budget of \$12,682,789.

If adopted by townspeople, it will raise the current tax rate from 37 to 39.5 mills.

Included in the budget is about \$9 million for the Board of Education.

The largest portion of the general government budget, about \$1 million, goes to public works and around \$850,000 is earmarked for public safety.

Town Council Chairwoman Joan Lewis said, "The council tried this year to concentrate on repair of town roads, so there is a lot in there (budget) for that."

Also included is a request for an additional police officer. Starting salary for the position is \$24,419. Currently the town has 10 officers, plus a recently hired marine patrol officer. If the additional regular full-time officer position is approved, Police Chief Frank Traskos said he will put the marine patrol officer into it.

However, that officer will continue to patrol Coventry Lake until Oct. 15.

There is also a request to increase the director of recreation position from part-time to full-time, with a salary increase from \$11,500 to \$23,000.

See MEET, page 12



NO KIDDING — Jeff Talbot, 10, a fifth-grader at Martha School speaks with Soviet reporter Sergio Kukhlanidze this week in downtown Manchester. Talbot said he read a book about Mikhail S. Gorbachev in order to learn more about the Soviet leader.

Visiting Soviet reporter's poll finds stereotypes are popular

Editor's note: Sergio Kukhlanidze is a reporter for Moskovskaya Pravda, a 700,000-circulation morning daily newspaper in Moscow. He is working this week at the Manchester Herald as part of an exchange sponsored by the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and the Union of Soviet Journalists.

By Sergio Kukhlanidze  
Manchester Herald

"And how many seasons of the year do you have in your country?" a teen-age girl asked me during an improvised news conference at New Hope Manor Inc. Wednesday.

"Do you have telephones?" another girl asked as I visited the drug and alcohol treatment center for young women on Hartford Road.

Their questions didn't surprise me at all. For

the four weeks I've been in the United States, I have met people older than these girls who were absolutely sure that in the Soviet Union it's raining all year round and that there's no sun. It is only one of the stereotypes that some Americans have about my country. By the way, many Americans refer to the Soviet Union as Russia. That's not correct. Russia is only one of 15 Soviet republics. It's the biggest one, but not the only one.

I'm not going to deliver a lecture. It would be better to listen to what Americans know about the Soviet Union. The question those teen-age girls asked gave me the idea to conduct a poll in the streets of Manchester.

Here are their answers to my question, "What do you know about the Soviet Union?"

See VIEWS, page 12

TODAY

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Wholesale prices rise 0.4%

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale prices rose a moderate 0.4 percent in April, despite the sharpest rise in energy costs in nearly 2 1/2 years, the government said today.

The rise in the Labor Department's Producer Price Index reflected a steep jump in gasoline prices, counterbalanced by a substantial drop in auto prices and broad declines in food costs.

It followed an identical 0.4 percent gain in March and large, back-to-back 1 percent jumps in January and February.

The April report is likely to cheer financial markets, where traders were braced for a much worse number, in the neighborhood of 0.7 percent.

Economists were paying particular attention to the inflation rate for goods other than the volatile food and energy categories, which edged down 0.1 percent in April following a 0.3 percent rise in March. It was the first drop since and identical fall in October 1987.

A 0.8 percent decline in food costs was the biggest since a 1.1 percent decline in December 1987 and represented the first substantial price relief since last year's drought.

See PRICES, page 12









# OPINION

## Governor out of tune on budget

The best musicians in the world can't play a symphony together without a composer's musical score and a conductor. The best of attempts will be doomed to noisy, chaotic failure.

There's a parallel in what's going on in Hartford. Lawmakers have been trying to put together a state budget without any help from the composer or the conductor — Gov. William O'Neill in both instances. The governor has provided neither the sheet music nor the steady direction needed to draw harmony and strong performances from legislators.

In presenting his budget, O'Neill did little more than fulfill the legal requirement that he give a budget to the General Assembly. The content of the governor's proposal was so weak his own budget director, Anthony Milano, referred to it from the start as "an imperfect document." It's impossible to believe that O'Neill expected lawmakers to support an increase in spending of more than 10 percent financed primarily by taxing utility bills.

Although the governor wasn't leading them, lawmakers managed to avert a fiscal crunch by approving taxes to wipe out the deficit for the current budget year. That was the last sign of any budget harmony.

Without the governor's guidance, legislative leaders tried their own to tackle next year's budget deficit, with revenue plans based on taxing nearly anything anyone could think of.

The budget process requires that a governor give the legislature steady encouragement supported by confidence in the revenue and spending plan he has composed. That never was evident in Hartford this year. Instead, O'Neill initiated unfocused confusion that left our lawmakers hunting in all directions for some semblance of a unifying theme.

— Greenwich Times



...and the Alaskan branch of our paper-towel division will show a SUBSTANTIAL profit this quarter.

## Manchester Herald

Founded in 1881

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 DOUGLAS A. REYNOLDS.....Executive Editor  
 MARIE P. GRADY.....City Editor  
 ALEXANDER DIBELL.....Associate Editor

### Open Forum

#### Trying to improve downtown Andover

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading Maureen Lavitt's article in the Manchester Herald concerning the Andover Plaza. I would like to mention that if she had investigated the information that she wrote about, she would have realized that many of the trees that were cut down in the plaza were no larger than five inches in diameter, and some of them were dead with branches falling every windstorm.

Part of the area had become overgrown with brambles and was a catchall for everyone's trash from their cars, and quite frankly was an eyesore for many of the town's residents. The original plan by removing these trees, contrary to belief, was not to kill redwood forest, but to make room for an addition on the plaza and to landscape the area so that it would be more appealing to customers. Most of the town residents feel that the plaza is downtown Andover.

When the residents of Aspinall Drive complained to the PZC a compromise was worked out with the building inspector to replace these trees with almost twice the amount of trees that had been removed, but still these people were not satisfied. Instead of the 60 trees that we were going to plant, they wanted 30, plus a 10-foot-high fence to hide their

view of the plaza. I really don't believe the reason that these people object is because of the loss of the trees as Ms. Lavitt implies, rather that they no longer want to view the plaza or they would have been satisfied with 60 trees instead of 30 with a fence.

This whole issue is really a shame for many of the residents who are losing much more than a few trees, as negotiations were in progress to install a drug store in the new addition, which is much in need and wanted by many of Andover's residents. A new store would have increased the amount of revenue the plaza pays in taxes, thus decreasing property taxes paid by residents.

I would also like to mention some innocent bystanders who have been hurt by this. Mr. and Mrs. Caron, who have applied for permits to open and operate a video store and a drop-off dry cleaner in the plaza. These people have been held hostage for more than a month by not being issued a permit to operate because of the complaints against the plaza, which have nothing to do with them. This has resulted in much lost income to them.

As owner of the Andover Plaza I would like you to know that we are investing close to \$100,000 to improve the appearance of downtown Andover. Because of all the problems created by a handful of residents, we feel that maybe we have spent enough.

Henry Botticello  
 209 Hilltown Road, Manchester

## Changing channels on the Hill

By John Hood

After 8 years of a laissez-faire FCC, Congress is in the mood to re-regulate

Friz Hollings, Democratic senator from South Carolina, could never be mistaken for a liberal. Americans for Democratic Action gave the Commerce Committee chairman a "liberal quotient" of only 35 last year. But Hollings was not an fan of the Reagan revolution, and he is now leading an effort to roll it back. At a March hearing on Capitol Hill, he criticized a Federal Communications Commission plan aimed at partly decoupling AT&T's profits.

"As you know, I have been visited often since this proceeding began by the telephone industry all singing 'Don't Worry, Be Happy.' I have also heard from the Wall Street crowd, going around whistling the theme from 'Bonanza.' And last August we kept on hearing the chairman of the FCC sing to us, 'I'll Do It My Way.' Well, I am convinced, as a telephone ratepayer, that 'I've Got Plenty of Nothing'..."

During the Reagan years, the FCC chipped away at government control of telecommunications and broadcasting. The most conspicuous move was a 1987 decision to revoke the Fairness Doctrine. The doctrine, because it often intimidated stations into putting members of Congress on the air, was popular on Capitol Hill. In retaliation for the move, Congress cut the FCC's budget last year.

That bit of wing-clipping is only on reason the FCC may seclude down its ambitions in the Bush era. First, Chairman Dennis Patrick, an avid deregulator, is leaving for private industry. His frequent sparring partners in Congress — led by Hollings and Rep. John Dingell — will be more assertive with Patrick gone, since President Bush's appointees to the commission are likely to be less ideological and more cooperative than the Reagan holdovers.

In addition, the very industry Patrick and his predecessor Mark Fowler helped deregulate has become increasingly wary of freedom. Telecommunications companies, cable systems and broadcasters, like everyone else, welcome federal interven-

## Not enough space for Coast Guard

By Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta

The U.S. Coast Guard has a bizarre problem. The slips and lifts at the Coast Guard Fifth District maintenance facility won't hold craft that are longer than 41 feet and more than half of the boats in the fleet are too big to fit in the repair shop. Since the boats were around long before the \$2.1 million maintenance facility was built, the Coast Guard is at a loss to explain the goof. The Coast Guard may get around to remodeling the maintenance facility this year. In the meantime, boats needing repairs are being sent to Coast Guard support centers for repairs at a cost of 60 to 90 percent more than it would have cost to fix them at the maintenance facility, if they had fit.

### Spring fever

Glasnost is popping out all over, particularly at the State Embassy in Washington, D.C. The grim, gray building used to keep its heavy wooden doors shut even on party nights. An embassy security guard lurked outside, discouraging anyone from coming in to have a drink. Now, the doors are often open well into the evening to welcome guests and a bulletin board out front invites passers-by to linger over color photos of life in the Soviet Union. The gardener at the embassy, however, remains unimpressed. The tulip arrangement is in revolutionary red.

### Quayle's handicap

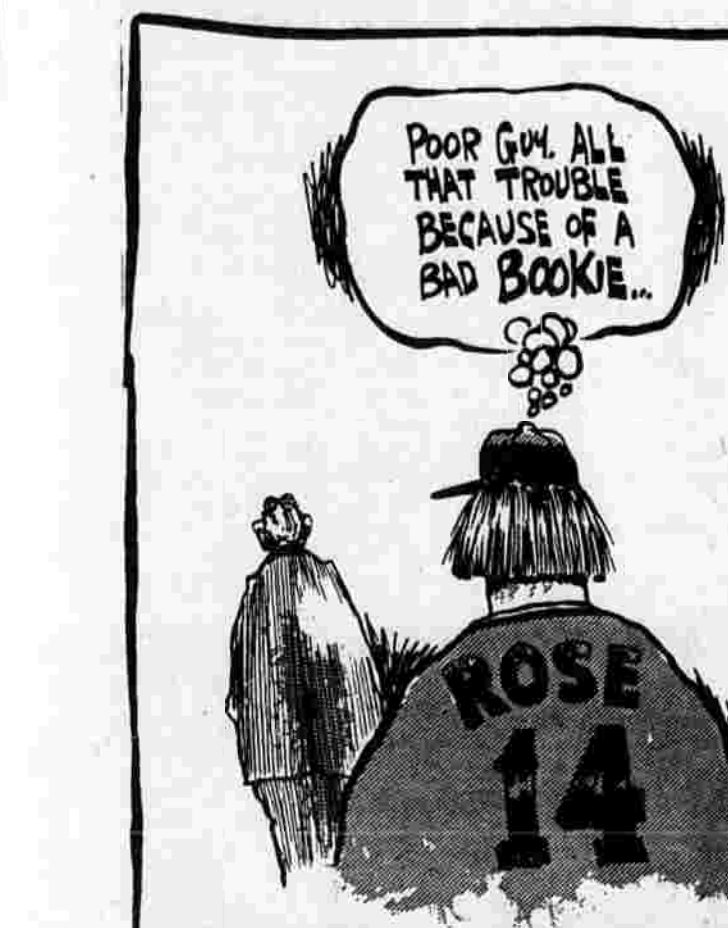
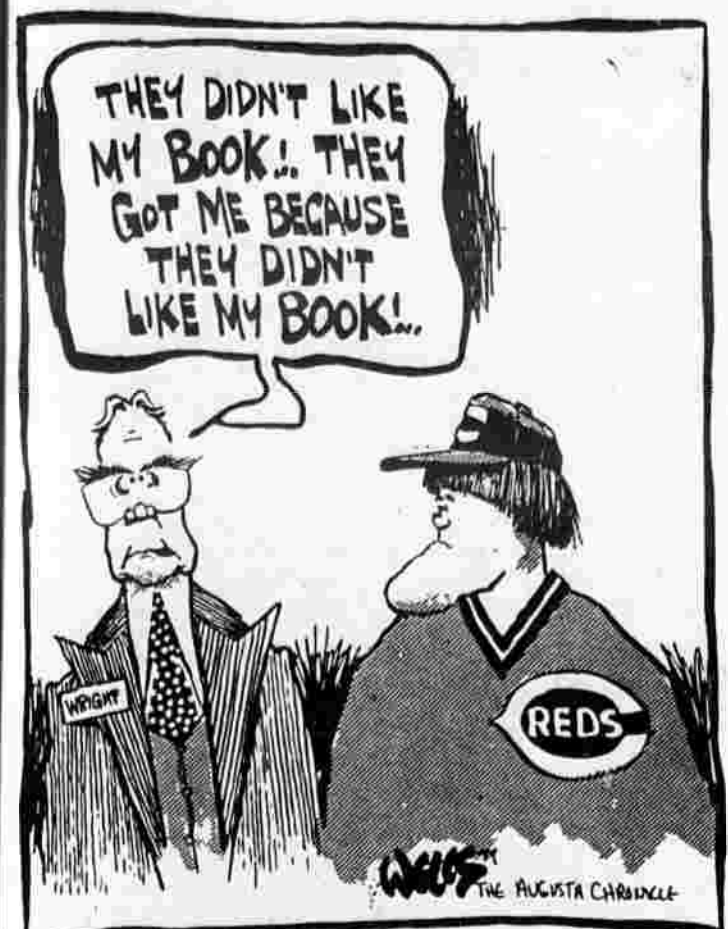
Vice President Dan Quayle would love to put on a disguise and head for the golf course. But a close friend of Quayle's told us that the vice president knows he must avoid spending too much time on the fairways if he is ever going to shed his pampered clubhouse image. Quayle loves golf, and plenty of vice presidents before him have frequented the links and, his friend said, "He recognizes that the day he steps on the golf course that's all that'll write about." Until Quayle's credibility gets out of the rough, his advisers would rather see him practicing his putts in the privacy of his office.

### Open-door policy

The federal government has what amounts to an open-door policy at nuclear power plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is supposed to check the backgrounds of potential employees at power plants to make sure they aren't the type of people to steal secrets or jeopardize safety. But the system of checks isn't working.

The NRC allows many workers to begin their jobs before background checks are completed. Congressional investigators have uncovered cases where employees in sensitive positions had serious sexual, drug or financial problems. One worker got a security clearance and an NRC background check failed to turn up his record. He has failed to file income taxes, abused his wife and children and had been in treatment for alcohol abuse.

Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta are syndicated columnists.



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 Manchester 06860.

### Open Forum

#### Internal debate healthy in GOP

To the Editor:

It was with great despair that I read Marshall Taylor's attack on my wife in Tuesday's Herald. Good question, since he is laying "The real problem with Bolton GOP."

The first thing my wife asked me when she told me of the letter was "Who is Marshall Taylor?" Good question, since he is laying "The real problem with Bolton GOP."

As far as the issue of running three candidates for Board of Education when only two can win, this is a time-honored tradition among Bolton Republicans. In each of the last two elections, there have always been more Republicans running than there are positions available to them. This speaks well of all the candidates for running while knowing that they may not be able to serve even if the electorate chooses them.

However, Mr. Taylor neglected to mention that the issue of two or three candidates was debated hard and long at the nominating caucus. You're right, Mr. Taylor, nobody likes to lose. But giving the electorate a choice as Republicans consistently do, is worth the personal heartbeat of winning but losing. I don't see how the Republican Party can be criticized for encouraging the expansion of the democratic process.

Concerning the three-part campaign ad, the ad had the following logic behind it: Only two Republicans could be elected so to vote for three would mean that an individual voter would have no choice as to which Democrat would be elected; to vote in such a fashion would throw away a valuable prerogative. Hence the ad urged voters to retain their say and to actually choose a Democrat. The ad aimed at Republicans suggesting that the position of Jim Marshall, a very powerful candidate and an experienced leader of the Board of Education

### Open Forum

#### Internal debate healthy in GOP

and Democrat Dennis Esslinger. The ad aimed at unaffiliated voters suggested that unaffiliated voters were raised with Mrs. Wickersham as they came up. That a public expression of the controversy waited until after the election is a normal political decision; that it got into the press at all is unfortunate because the press is not the proper place to resolve these issues. The Republican Town Committee executive committee, on May 7, wisely chose to postpone any action to allow the controversy to recede back into the Republican Town Committee where it could be resolved out of the limelight. It was disarming to see that decision overturned by your vicious, unwarranted personal attack.

My wife isn't the problem with the Bolton GOP. Mr. Taylor mistakes the current uproar for a problem when it really is a sign of the normally healthy disagreement over agenda and responsibilities that is inherent and desirable in a vital, active organization. The real issue is what are the bounds on the personal activities of the chairperson of the Republican Town Committee, chief spokesperson of the party, on a matter which is holding that office. It is normal and natural for anyone to resist the placement of a candidate in a vital, active organization. The real issue is what are the bounds on the personal activities of the chairperson of the Republican Town Committee, chief spokesperson of the party, on a matter which is holding that office. It is normal and natural for anyone to resist the placement of a candidate in a vital, active organization. The real issue is what are the bounds on the personal activities of the chairperson of the Republican Town Committee, chief spokesperson of the party, on a matter which is holding that office. It is normal and natural for anyone to resist the placement of a candidate in a vital, active organization.

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 REGISTRATION FEE \$10.00

Between 8:00 and 9:00 PM many screenings and demonstrations will be available to you, including: Find out what percent of your body is fat vs. lean tissue with a Body Composition Analysis Machine. Our physical therapists will help you test the strength and flexibility of your joints on the Biodes Machine. Have a quick blood pressure check to see whether your exercise program is keeping this important indicator under control. Using spirometry, our respiratory therapists will help you evaluate the health of your lungs. Exercise can have a beneficial effect on serum cholesterol levels — have yours checked with a simple finger stick test (\$2.00 fee).

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**  
 Between screenings, attend an interesting, informative discussion presented by sports medicine experts:

6:30-7:30 PM "Sprains, Strains, Pulls and Tears: Dealing with common exercise injuries" Speaker: Dr. Barry Messinger, orthopedic surgeon and official team physician for UConn athletes.

7:45-8:45 PM "The Benefits of Exercise in Weight Control" Speaker: Dr. Judy Siegel, exercise physiology and nutrition specialist.

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tened or under attack, that friendships forged over the years have been shaken or broken, is the sad, unfortunate element of an otherwise healthy undertaking.

One further point, Mr. Taylor. In the future please name names, the "elected official who is also a member of the Republican Town Committee" is Robert Chapman, the "unsuccessful Republican candidate" is Anne Rickards, and the "one Republican candidate" who got left out of the ad and eventually won is Sally Lessard. The dignity and prominence these people have requires the respect of their names, not vague references.

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**Spa Lady**  
 Manchester

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 \*Based on EFT payment method, 1st time visitors only, 18 yrs. or older.

Prices

The biggest drop in categories other than food and energy came in autos, where prices fell 2.8 percent, the result of manufacturers' incentives to lure customers into showrooms...

Views

Florence Gregory, 204 High St., a clerk at the Savings Bank of Manchester: "That (Mikhail S.) Gorbachev is the head of it, that he has a very attractive wife and he seems to be doing a great deal to help us in our relationships..."

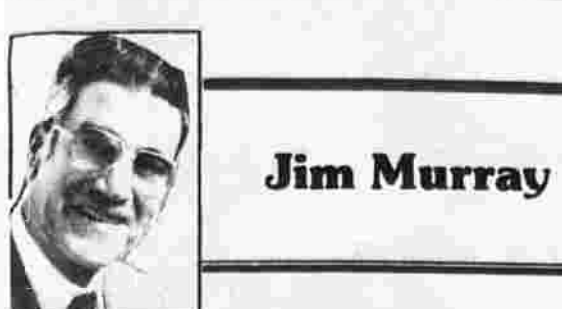
Troops plan 'to clean up the streets'

The president waited as the huge C-5 Galaxy cargo planes, the Air Force LI. Steve Turner said more than a dozen planes were available at Travis today for the airlift...

Panama

of the Panama Canal at the end of the century, said Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., the Senate's deputy Democratic leader...

SPORTS

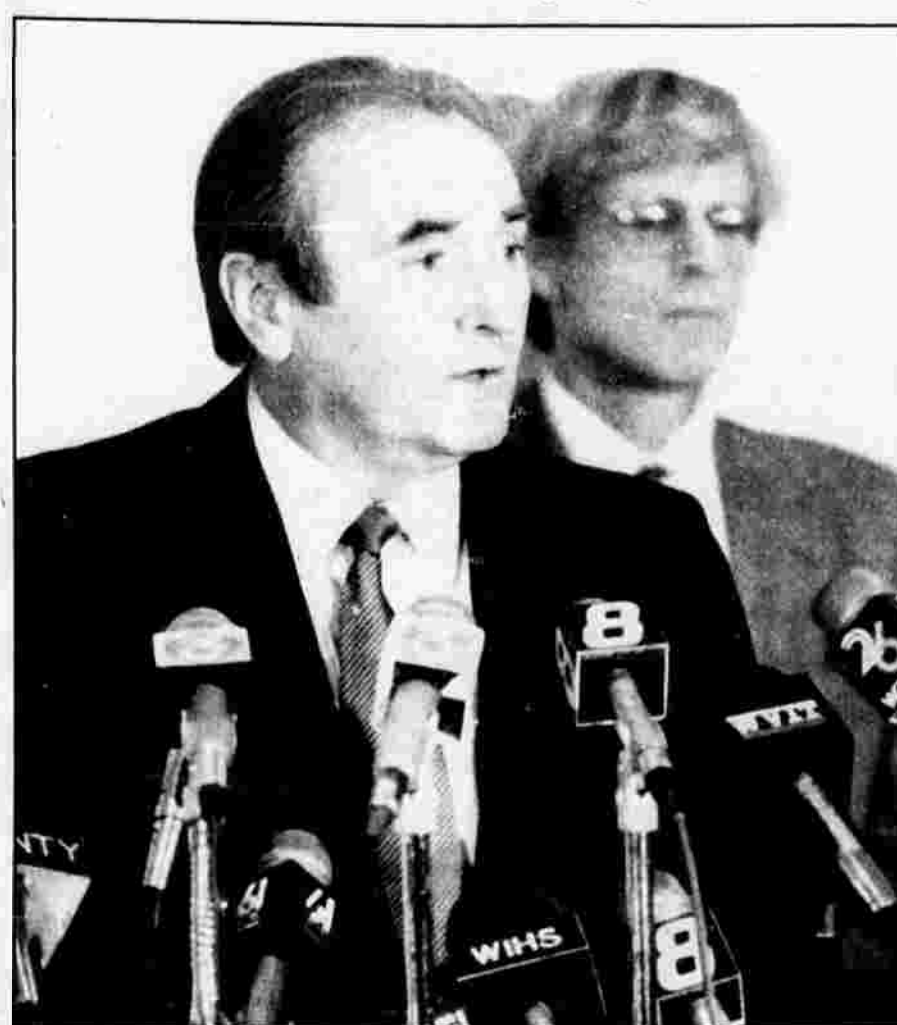


Life kicked back at this star kicker

If someone asked you who was the leading scorer in San Diego Chargers history, don't answer right away. Don't be sure you know.

Johnston will make changes Fate of Coach Larry Pleau very much in question

By Jim Tierney Manchester Herald



NEW GM - Ed Johnston answers questions at a news conference in Hartford Thursday when he was named new general manager of the Hartford Whalers.

Hired as the general manager of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Johnston, who was a goalie in the National Hockey League for 16 years, including 11 with Boston in which time the Bruins won two Stanley Cup championships...

He's 50, c'mon, that's got to be a mistake

The trouble began innocently enough with a story out of Ontario in which hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull was discussing his son, Brett, who plays for the St. Louis Blues. It identified Hull as being 50 years old.

He's 50, c'mon, that's got to be a mistake. Then came Marine Lt. Billy Mills, who won the 10,000-meter race at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

Knicks hold down Jordan to square series

don't know what was better, our offense or our defense. They were both spectacular. Patrick Ewing scored 23 points, Mark Jackson 20 and Kiki Vandeweghe 18 for the Knicks, who shot 57.3 percent from the field to 43.5 percent for the Bulls, Jackson also had 16 assists and Vandeweghe was 9-for-10 from the field.



REBOUND STRUGGLE - The Knicks' Sidney Green, right, and the Bulls' Horace Grant battle for a rebound in their NBA playoff game Thursday night at Madison Square Garden. The Knicks won, 114-97, to even their best-of-seven series.

kept it close," Jordan said. "He had to sit for almost the whole quarter and he's not used to that." Phippen said, "It affected his game and the whole team's because he's the backbone of the team."

EXPLOSIVE STOREWIDE CLEARANCE!!! Save! Fun for all! Special appearance Joel Quinville, Dave Tippett of the Hartford Whalers. Al Siefert's Super Discount Center. 445 Hartford Road, Manchester, Conn.

Meet

The largest portion of the \$9,058,312 Board of Education budget, \$5,446,580, goes to certified teachers' salaries. That budget also includes an increase in the business manager's salary from \$35,000 to \$41,500 and an increase in the salary for the director of pupil and staff support services from \$47,775 to \$59,500.

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DILLON by Steve Dickenson



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Dik Browne



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk & Barry



BLONDIE by Dean Young & Stan Drake



ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady



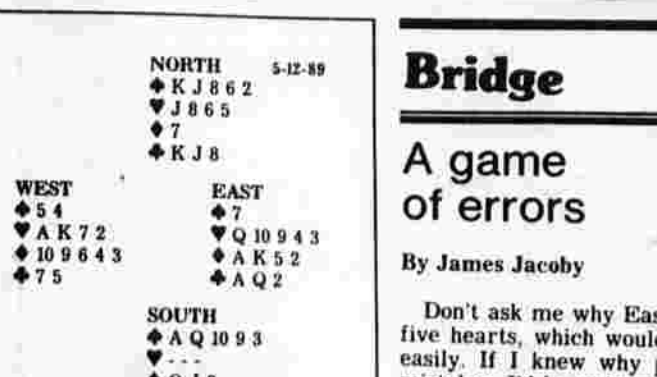
ON THE FASTTRACK by Bill Holtrop



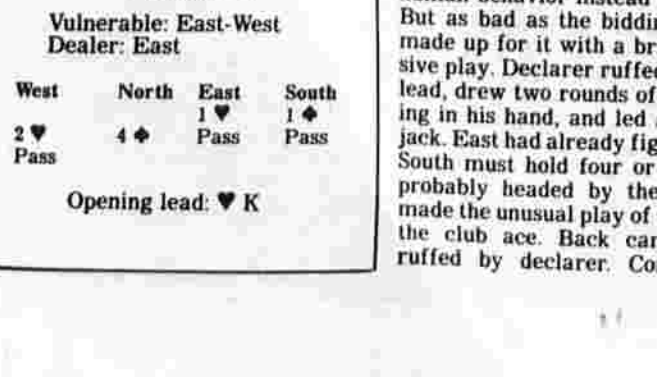
THE GRIZZLEWELLS by Bill Schorr



WINTHROP by Dick Cavalli



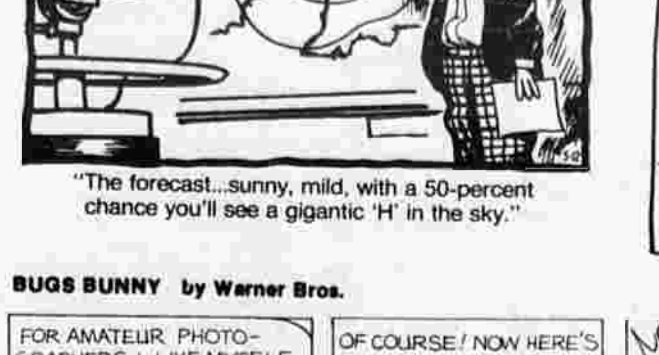
CHUBB AND CHANCEY by Vance Rodevahl



SNAPU by Bruce Beattie



BUOS BUNNY by Warner Bros.



LFL ARNER by Al Capp



ARLO AND JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



ALLEY OOP by Dave Graue



THE BORN LOBER by Art Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST by Bob Thaves



WINTHROP by Dick Cavalli



CHUBB AND CHANCEY by Vance Rodevahl



KIT 'N' CARLYLE by Larry Wright



THE BORN LOBER by Art Sansom



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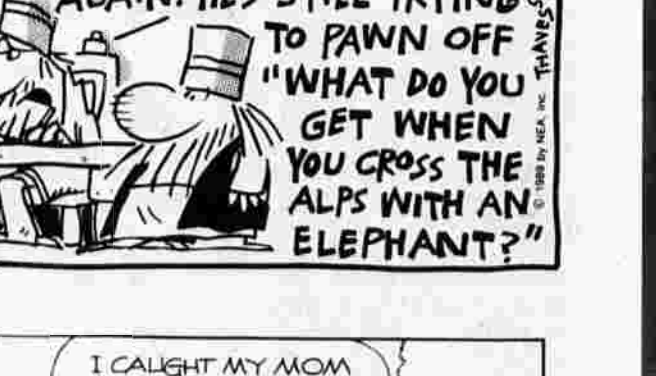
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DICK TRACY by Dick Locher & Max Collins



# BUSINESS

## Bush vows again he'll veto \$4.55 minimum wage plan

By John King  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic congressional leaders are hoping political pressure will convince President Bush to scuttle plans to veto legislation raising the minimum wage, but an administration official says Bush will not budge.

A veto would send a signal to workers and the more than 80 percent of Americans who support a minimum wage increase that George Bush doesn't care," Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., said Thursday. "He and the members of his party can judge the impact of that decision in 1990."

Hawkins, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, commented shortly after the House voted 247-172 in favor of raising the hourly minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$4.55 by October 1991.

The legislation, drafted by a House-Senate conference committee, could clear the Senate as early as next week and then will be sent to the president.

Shortly after the House vote, Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole said Democrats were wasting a chance to raise the minimum wage by their refusal to accept Bush's offer of a more modest increase — to \$4.25 by January 1992.

And she said any attempt to change Bush's stance would fail. "House Democrats said 'no' to a compassionate, reasonable increase in the minimum wage," Mrs. Dole said. "Instead it appears there will be no increase. The House insisted on sending President Bush a bill that would cost hundreds of thousands of Americans the opportunity to work — a bill he most certainly will veto."

The contention will be the first between the Congress and Bush on domestic policy, and the fight has gained symbolic meaning far beyond the differences on the minimum wage.

Administration officials have said Bush will not allow Democrats to seize the momentum of a longly agenda that includes proposals to establish mandatory benefits for the White House.

While Democrats have the votes to pass the measure in the Senate, they are short in both houses of Congress of the two-thirds majority needed to override Bush's expected veto. Sponsors of the bill insist they will attempt to override, but their chances appear dim.

The leadership plans a mock signing ceremony after Senate passage as part of its effort to put pressure on Bush, who is also being urged to stage an elaborate veto ceremony in a community with a large number of low-wage workers.

The House debate Thursday mirrored the discussion earlier then the chamber first passed Hawkins' bill.

Democrats said Bush was trying to help the wealthy by spending billions to bail out savings and loans and proposing new tax breaks on capital gains but was unwilling to compromise on an issue affecting 4 million working poor.

Republicans argued that Bush had made a reasonable offer and that only the provision in the administration proposal allowing new hires to be paid a subminimum wage for six months would prevent massive job losses if the minimum wage is increased.

"There can be no further compromise that throws people out of work," said Rep. Steve Bartlett, R-Texas. "President Bush has offered the compromise."

In rejecting Bush's offer, Democratic leaders said Bush's proposal increased too small and also assailed his "training wage" because the provision requires no actual training. In their final bill, Democrats allowed workers with less than 60 days of work experience to be paid a subminimum.

## Thrift withdrawals increase

By David Skidmore  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Withdrawals from the nation's thrift institutions remain near record levels as depositors seek alternative investment opportunities, economists say.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board said Thursday that depositors withdrew a net \$8.5 billion in March compared with \$9.2 billion in February and a record \$10.8 billion in January.

It was the 12th month in a row in which thrifts lost ground and the fifth of withdrawals in excess of \$7 billion.

"I don't know that the withdrawals can continue at these levels for the rest of the year without threatening the solvency of major institutions. Almost by definition it has to get better, but it won't get that much better," said economist Paul Getman of the WEFA Group, a Bala Cynwyd, Pa., forecasting firm.

Net withdrawals for the first three months of 1989 totaled \$25.5 billion, more than triple the \$8.4 billion outflow for all of last year. From October 1987 through April 1988, money had moved into S&Ls as stock market investors sought the safety of federally insured accounts.

Getman said he sees little prospect of improvement in the two main factors driving the withdrawals: shaky public confidence in S&Ls and rising interest rates at competitors such as mutual funds.

Interest rates, after a temporary lull, will begin rising again this year, he predicted. And he said he doubted confidence will improve because President Bush's proposed S&L bailout will increase the rate of thrift takeovers and closings.

"Thrifts are going to be in the news in a negative sense as far as the eye can see," he said. "That's not to say the Bush plan is not a good thing. It is. But depositors don't make fine distinctions."

However, James Barth, the bank board's chief economist, said, "Apart from a few isolated instances, there is no evidence that the outflows reflect a loss of depositor confidence."

## Suit would stop Seabrook tests

By Christopher Callahan  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A utility spokesman in New Hampshire says the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a request for an emergency stay against low-power testing at the Seabrook nuclear plant. The Massachusetts general's office says it isn't so.

Opponents of the \$6 billion Seabrook nuclear reactor Thursday sought an emergency court order barring low-power atomic tests at the embattled plant.

A request for an immediate stay to block a low-power license pending further judicial review was filed at the appeals court by Massachusetts Attorney General James Shannon, Hampton, N.H., the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League and the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution.

Ron Sher, a spokesman for New Hampshire Yankee, Seabrook's builder, said late Thursday the utility's lawyers argued a court clerk as saying the filing was rejected.

But Shannon spokeswoman Mary Brestauer said the opponents' strategy of ensuring a stay, low-power operation will immediately cause severe environmental and financial harm to residents of New Hampshire and

court has a 20-page limit and the opponents filed a 77-page brief. "What the court did is allow our petition to stay but asked us to get back to him a streamlined version and that's what we will do," she said.

Seabrook opponents anticipate that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will reject their pleas for a regulatory stay and issue the license soon. Late Thursday, NRC counsel Gregory Berry recommended that the commissioners reject the stay request. That issue is the final in a long series of regulatory obstacles for a plant that New England utilities say is needed badly to meet the region's energy needs into the 21st century.

Seabrook critics, who believe the coastal towns near the plant could never be evacuated safely, fear low-power tests will provide momentum as Seabrook pushes for a full-power commercial license.

In court papers, opponents argued that the difficulties of evacuating nearby coastal communities in southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts, coupled with the plant's financial problems, make it nearly impossible for the utility to ever operate commercially.

## Crash-test results are released

By Tim Bovee  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drivers who crash in a Dodge Spirit 4-door sedan have the least protection against head injuries among seven vehicles tested so far this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says.

The cars were smashed at 35 mph into a fixed barrier, and the resulting stresses were measured by sensors on human-shaped dummies protected by seat belts or, when sold as standard equipment, air bags.

Stresses on the head were reported as an index referred to as the head injury criterion. The car was the Spirit, which is in the large- and mid-size car category, produced a head-injury criterion of 1.63 in the driver's position. NHTSA said

Small differences in test results shouldn't be considered significant, NHTSA said. Only one vehicle of each type is tested, and slight variations in construction or test conditions could produce differing results in additional tests, the agency said.

Previous test results, by weight class, were:

- Subcompact: Mitsubishi Mirage 4-door sedan, 950.
- Compact: Mitsubishi Galant 4-door sedan, 971.
- Large and mid-size: Eagle Medallion 4-door sedan, 745.

Automakers are required to safety certification under federal regulation, but the results are rarely made public.

NHTSA began its own assessment program for public release in 1978.

### Bridge

A game of errors

By James Jacoby

Don't ask me why East did not bid five hearts, which would have made easily. If I knew why people make mistakes, I'd be writing a column on human behavior instead of on bridge. But as bad as the bidding was, East made up for it with a brilliant defensive play. Declarer ruffed the opening lead, drew two rounds of trumps ending in his hand, and led a club to the jack East had already figured out that South must hold four or more clubs, probably headed by the 10, and he made the unusual play of winning with the club ace. Back came a heart, ruffed by declarer. Confident that

West must hold the club queen, South played a club to dummy's eight. East won the queen and played another heart. South could ruff and play to the lone king of clubs in dummy, but there was no way for him to return to his hand to score up the remaining clubs to make his contract.

Of course there's no real excuse for declarer failing to make his contract, since playing to the king of clubs and back guarantees making 10 tricks. Some of the people I played with years ago might well have won the club jack with the ace rather than the queen just because they pulled a wrong card. But that's probably another area for the human behaviorists to ponder.

—James Jacoby's books "Jacoby on Bridge" and "Jacoby on Card Games" are now available at bookstores. Both are published by Plume Books.

NORTH 5-10-30		WEST 1-1-3	
♦ J 8 6 2	♠ 10 9 3	♣ 8 7	♥ 10 9 4 3
♠ 10 9 3	♥ 10 9 4 3	♣ A Q 2	♦ 7 5
SOUTH 4-10-9-3		WEST 4-10-9-4-3	
♠ 10 9 3	♥ 10 9 4 3	♣ A Q 2	♦ 7 5
Vulnerable: East-West		Dealer: East	
West	North	East	South
2 ♠	4 ♠	1 ♠	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♥ K			



