#### Lily Tomlin: her laughs last and last

Lily Tomlin, who has evolved from a comedienne to awardwinning actress, is on a one-woman "Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe," her new show opening soon at the Shubert Theatre. Plus a look forward to the 10th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival starting this week in Grant Park and a look back at the first nine. In Arts.



#### A closer look

#### Improved liquid-protein diets return

Remember liquid-protein diets, guite the rage in the late 1970s? They're back, and better formulated, experts say. In Tempo.



### 'The winner is. . .'

"The 40th Annual Emmy Awards" will be telecast again this year on the Fox network on Sunday night. In TV Week.

### Scare at O'Hare

A jet makes a belly landing at O'Hare International Airport when its landing gear would not descend. Section 2.

#### Special genius

They are called savants: severely retarded or mentally handicapped persons with an uncanny gift for music or mathematics. In SUNDAY.

#### Sports

#### Pico throws 4-hitter, Cubs top Braves

#### Making a splash

Janet Evans is the brightest female star to arrive on the U.S. swim scene in nearly a decade. With a smile as winning as her swimming, she could become America's Olympic sweetheart.

### Big 10 still trying

Twenty seasons ago, Woody Hayes led Ohio State to the national championship, the last for the Big 10. But why? Plus, a preview of the 1988 Fighting Illini.



### Weather

CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Sunday: Partly cloudy, chance of an afternoon sprinkle; high 70 degrees; Sunday night: Clear; low 47. Monday: Increasing cloudiness, afternoon shower likely; high 70. Maps and other reports in Sec. 2, pg. 6.

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# Poland may relent, talk with Solidarity

By Paula Butturini Chicago Tribune

GDANSK, Poland-The government of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, reversing longstanding policy, has agreed in principle to meet with the banned Solidarity trade union, sources close to the delicate negotiations said Saturday.

But the two sides still have to overcome a serious obstaclewhether talks can begin as long as the current 12-day-old wave of strikes continues, sources in Warsaw said.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, barricaded since Monday in the striking Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, slipped out of the yard early Saturday for strategy sessions with senior advisers at nearby St. Brygida Church.

Walesa declined to discuss the negotiations, saying only that striking shipyard workers thought the government offer "is a step in the right direc-

Asked when the strikes might end, Walesa said, "I would like to know." The union leader added that it was possible he would participate in the talks, "but it is not important who personally meets with whom."

Eleven strikes continued at mines, ports, shipyards and factories throughout Poland on

The labor turmoil is the worst to sweep the nation since Jaruzelski outlawed the union and declared martial law in December, 1981. The latest unrest comes only three months after a smaller wave of walkouts, which also were sparked by worker anger over steep price increases that were part of the government's floundering economic reform.

Interior Minister Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak, authorized to represent the government, is demanding the cessation of the strikes before any meeting, while Solidarity officials want

See Poland, pg. 12

# Loss of missiles stings Afghan guerrillas

By Terry Atlas Chicago Tribune

PESHAWAR, Pakistan-U.S.supplied Stinger antiaircraft missiles, used with devastating effectiveness by Afghan resistance fighters in the struggle to drive Soviet forces out of their homeland, no longer are reaching the guerrillas, resistance leaders say.

These officials also said the resistance has received few of the promised long-range heavy mortars that

give them the capability to deliver damaging blows to Soviet or Afghan garrisons while remaining at a safe

have very few," said Haji Din Mohammad, a top military commander for the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami faction. "We would

The Afghan resistance, known as the Mujahedeen, apparently continues to receive other, more conven-

distance from return fire.

"They are very effective, but we like to have many more."

tional arms supplies as in the past, rebel and Western sources said. The Mujahedeen, which consists of seven guerrilla groups, has been supplied through Pakistan by the U.S., Saudi Arabia and China.

(Meanwhile, rebel forces near the Afghan capital of Kabul opened fire with rockets and heavy mortars Saturday on the city's international airport and on troops of the Sovietbacked government outside the city, according to news reports and West-

ern diplomats.

(Foreign diplomats in Kabul said the airport attack, in which the runway was damaged and all flights diverted, was the most severe assault on the airstrip to date and an intensification of the guerrilla war against the government of President Najib.

(But diplomats and Afghan officials said there was no imminent threat that the capital would fall or that the government was en-

See Afghans, pg. 16

CHICAGO ON HOLD: POLITICS OF POVERTY

# 'Reform' takes costly toll

# Group lays waste to vital projects

By John McCarron Urban affairs writer

Chicago is being paralyzed by a self-serving political movement fueled by the fear of displacement and orchestrated by leaders determined to stop change in neighborhoods that need change the most.

One by one, projects and programs vital to the city's future are being shouted down or delayed to death by an assortment of innercity politicians, preachers, professional organizers and populist ideologues in key positions.

It is a diverse group, but one united in opposition to any devel-

First in a series on the people and politics that have stymied urban renewal in neighborhoods that need it the most.

opment that might upset the inner-city kingdoms over which they preside.

The turf they guard includes neighborhoods, like Ald. Helen Shiller's (46th) political base in the North Side community of Uptown, and institutions, such as high-rise public housing or Chicago's failing public school system.

Some defenders of the status quo have familiar names, like Ald. Timothy Evans (4th), a leading candidate for mayor in next year's special election.

Evans has managed to block nearly all private development initiatives in the poorer sections of his ward—the sections he relies upon to produce the votes he



Tribune photo by Chris Walker

Uptown community groups picket earlier this year St., claiming that such neighborhood imoutside a renovated building at 4601 N. Malden provements displace lower-income tenants.

needs to get re-elected. Evans is trying to keep a shopping mall and a high-rise apartment complex from being devel-

oped in his South Side fiefdom. His opposition to the latter, unless overridden by the Chicago City Council, threatens to cost the city \$4 million in federal housing funds. Evans also is stonewalling a developer's proposal to replace vacant public housing high-rises in his ward with a racially mixed

community of town houses and low-rise apartments.

Integration could improve the lot of the desperately poor blacks in the 4th Ward's Oakland neighborhood, Chicago's poorest. But it also would eliminate Evans' political stranglehold on the Chicago Housing Authority high-rises. The last time he faced serious opposition, in 1983, the high-rise precinct in question gave Evans 158 votes, and

2 to his closest competitor.

Another inner-city political boss, Ald. William C. "Bill" Henry (24th), opposes Evans politically but has been just as effective at chilling private investment in his poverty-stricken West Side ward.

Henry last year involved himself in two projects, both of which collapsed shortly thereafter.

In one case, an "incubator" factory that was supposed to nurture

new business was bankrupted before See 'Reform,' pg. 20



Tribune photo by Paul F. Gero

### The dream is relived

Coretta Scott King, Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis march in honor of the 25th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"

speech Saturday in Washington. An estimated 55,000 people gathered to commemorate the event. Story on Page 5.

# Requiem for a national treasure

By James Coates Chicago Tribune

YELLOWSTONE NATION-AL PARK, Wyo.-Much of this beloved natural wonderland died this summer.

The death came in the form of wildfire—mammoth, ravaging blazes, the likes of which, experts believe, haven't been seen in the Wyoming high country since the 1600s. As a result, the face of Yellowstone National Park probably has been changed forever.

In the long run—decades or perhaps centuries—the fires of 1988 may be just what Yellowstone needed.

In fact, experts note, large segments of the Yellowstone forest are reaching advanced old age. That may explain why so much of the park went up in flames in a single summer in an area where, for more than a century, there were virtually no forest

"Fire is very much part of the life cycle of the lodgepole [pine] forest, and much of the park area is covered with what amounts to elderly lodgepole stands," said John Varley, chief scientist on the Yellowstone park staff.

From 1900 through last year, all the fires in the park covered only 4.5 percent of its total acreage. By contrast, fires this July and August alone have

See Wildfire, pg. 22

# Indictments raising sports tampering fears

By Maurice Possley and James Warren

New York sports agent Norby Walters sat in front of his television set on April 28, 1987, watching the National Football League draft of college players, and his stomach was churning.

Six of the 28 players picked in the draft's first round had at one time signed agreements with Walters that permitted him to negotiate their professional contracts.

But they had dumped him. Now, watching the draft unfold, Walters realized that he and his partner, Lloyd Bloom, had lost out on hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"I'm throwing up on my television," the silver-haired Walters told reporters.

Each year, more than 1,000 sports agents descend upon hundreds of college football players in hopes of being chosen as the bargaining agents for athletes who are seeking a share of the millions of dollars paid out annually by the National Football League.

Norby Walters reached for—and almost grabbed—the brass ring. He eventually negotiated for two first-round picks-Temple's Paul Palmer and Missouri's John Clay, but the six others, unhappy with the deals they already had cut with Walters and Bloom hired new agents. Some of those players subsequently told federal investigators they were threatened with physical harm for breaking those Walters-Bloom deals.

Instead of the instant wealth they had hoped for, Walters and Bloom became the targets of an 18-month federal grand jury investigation that last week resulted in charges that they had used the money and the muscle of organized crime to illegally secure agree-

ments from college athletes for their New See Agents, pg. 22 

#### From Page 1

# Wildfire

Continued from page 1

covered nearly 420,000 acres—or almost 20 percent of it.

On Saturday, a shift in wind direction in Yellowstone created a 250-acre spot fire about five miles from Old Faithful, the park's most popular attraction, where nearby structures earlier were threatened by flames.

Linda Miller, a fire information officer, said the spot fire was created when wind fanned flames on the southern end of the 114,000acre North Fork fire. Yellowstone officials appealed for private helicopters and crews to help fight the blazes.

Officials now say that it is likely that fire will have covered a full quarter of Yellowstone's land area before the first snows bring desperately sought relief.

They also admit that the fire

managers—adhering to a 16-yearold policy of letting most wildfires burn naturally—failed to account for the unprecedented dry conditions that allowed this summer's blazes to grow into unstoppable monsters before suppression was ordered in earnest. To illustrate the tremendous size

of the areas now burned, Bob Martinez, a leader of the firefighters combating the 167,000acre Clover Mist fire, told a town meeting in Montana last week that it took two tanks of gas to fly his helicopter around the perimeter of the blaze.

The fires of 1988 were predicted early this summer by members of the pro-logging American Forest Council, which circulated maps to reporters showing that large amounts of Yellowstone's timber was very old and very dry.

"Yellowstone was doomed to burn," said John Benneth, longtime voice of the Forest Council, which lobbies for the country's major timber cutting interests. "It's a park that had to burn, and there's a lesson here in forest ecology."

Benneth, whose clients are frequently criticized for removing work.



thick smoke while manning a roadblock at Norris Firefighters Andy Garrett (left) of Lake Bluff, III., Junction in Yellowstone National Park. and Greg Zem of Northridge, Calif., peer through

trees that take almost a human lifetime to grow back, added: "Most people believe that by setting lands aside in parks and wilderness, they may preserve them forever unchanged.

"But forests are living biological entities that are ever changing, and for most North American forests, fire is the agent for periodic renew-

Benneth emphasized that he doesn't advocate timber cutting in Yellowstone, but said the story here can be applied where loggers do

And for once Benneth's chain-saw set finds itself in substantial agreement with the staunchest of the forest preservationists, the staff biologists in the park.

Experts here are explaining to stunned tourists gaping at Yellowstone's charred landscape that the stage for this summer's troubles was set some 400 years ago, about the time the Pilgrims settled in the New World.

At that time, the forests that now are dying were being born in the ashes of another holocaust comparable to what exploded here over the past two months, explained Don DeSpain, chief forest biologist on the park staff.

Fire is so much a part of the life cycle of the lodgepole pines that make up much of Yellowstone's forests that the pine cones often won't release their seeds unless subjected to temperatures created in full-blown forest fires, DeSpain ex-

Thus, the Pilgrim-era trees just consumed are giving way to virgin forests, and the cycle will begin anew. It will take about 60 years for the new trees to reach full growth.

WYOMING 20 Miles Chicago Tribune Map Robert Barbee, superintendent of them and advises, "The cycle likely Yellowstone, is circulating a letter to the few visitors still coming to the park that calls the fires "a virtual rebirth of this ecosystem and its in-

South entrance

"Where trees are killed by fire," said Barbee, "open areas will develop. In a sunshine-filled forest floor, seeds will germinate more readily; new growth will spring up, and more varied shrubs and trees will emerge, and wildlife will return in even greater numbers than at present."

credible resources."

Fan fire

ID.

North Fork fire

"This," he added, "produces the natural forest mosaic so characteristic of Yellowstone, and so rare in our modern world."

A recorded message being broadcast on radio to cars moving about inside the park under almost constant clouds of smoke tells tourists about the continual birth, death and rebirth of the forest going on around

will repeat itself sometime in the 23d or 24th Century."

Mink Creek fire

WYOMING

**MONTANA** 

YELLOWSTON

Cub fire

Red-Shoshone fire

That fact did little to salve the irritation of local business people, who must think in terms of fiscal quarters rather than centuries, and of tourists whose vacation time runs in days or weeks instead of epochs.

Operators of businesses in the communities along the highways leading into the park report trade is off at least 50 percent, and oncecrowded tourist stops inside the park now are all but smoke-shrouded ghost towns as the traditional tourist season winds down.

Said Joan Anzelmo, chief spokesman for the park: "People should really be told that these fires mean that coming here next year and in the years to come will be a tremendous treat. Come and see the new Yellowstone."

# Agents

Continued from page 1

York firm, World Sports & Entertainment.

The indictment alleged an indifference by these two agents—reflecting perhaps on scores more to collegiate as well as federal regulations in the agents' pursuit of the huge salary dollars in professional sports.

More ominously, some investigators fear, the charge that organized crime was involved financially raises the specter of possible tampering with athletes and the outcomes of sporting events.

Gambling of all types in this country, legal and otherwise, has been estimated to involve "hundreds of billions of dollars" each year, according to President Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime.

U.S. Atty. Anton Valukas, in announcing the indictment of Bloom and Walters last Wednesday, said "it would be unfair" to suggest that the continuing investigation focused on point-shaving or gamefixing.

However, the allegation that Michael Franzese, a now-imprisoned top member of New York's Colombo organized crime family, invested \$50,000 in Walters' firm raises the possibility of mobsters infiltrating college and professional athletics. Franzese was named in the charges against the agents as

an unindicted co-conspirator. There is no evidence in the indictment that such infiltration exists, but the mere mention of Franzese's name or any link to organized crime raises suspicion among law enforcement officials.

Furthermore, professional gamblers don't need to absolutely "fix" a game—ensuring a winner or a loser by seeing to it that someone will drop a pass or fumble a handoff. Gamblers would, and probably do, pay dearly for accurate information on the status of players, especially unreported injuries or other ailments likely to diminish the performance of a player.

FBI Agent Frank Storey told the organized crime commission at hearings in New York City in 1985 that gambling was the largest single source of mob income in the Northeast and generates half of all organized crime revenues. That translated to about \$1.5 billion a year from numbers games and sports betting rings in the New York area alone.

The FBI, while reluctant to hang a dollar figure on the handle of illegal gambling, has acknowledged that some organized crime experts have put the sum at "between \$26 billion and \$30 billion annually."

"A substantial part" of that money, the commission reported in 1985, is controlled by organized crime families and is used to corrupt law officials as well as fi-

nance rackets. In Chicago, profits from illegal sports and horse race wagering are clearly the mob's No. moneymaker, said Gary Shapiro, head of the Justice Department Strike Force on Organized Crime here. The FBI's Chicago spokesman, Robert Long, said, "It [gam-



New York sports agent Norby Walters was in- ner used mob money and muscle to illegally se-

bling] is the prime moneymaker for the mob."

innocent to charges of racketeering, mail fraud and extortion. A trial tentatively has been scheduled for Feb. 27.

They are accused of showering cash, trips, hotel expenses and other gratuities on the players before their athletic eligibility had expired—a violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association

"The athletes were wined and dined; taken to Beverly Hills, introduced to Prince and Whitney Houston, put up in hotels," one sports agent said.

Indeed, the indictment charges that athletes were flown to New York, traveled in limousines and were given tickets to concerts where they were introduced to

Walters and Bloom entered the sports agent business in 1984, apparently lured by the escalating salaries and signing bonuses dished out each year by the 28 professional football teams. In 1982, average pay was \$90,000. By last year, it had reached \$218,000, in no small measure due to the competitive forces generated by the fleeting existence of the now-defunct United States Football

Th potential lure of grabbing and representing first-round draft data obtained from the National Football League Players Association that will be released soon in a

choices is underlined in financial quarterly newsletter. First-round picks in the 1988

draft signed contracts with an av-

erage first-year salary of \$480,000.

The players association certifies

agents and sets maximum fees to be charged by agents for negotiat-Walters and Bloom have pleaded ing contracts. For example, under recently altered guidelines, an agent is allowed to charge players up to 5 percent of the contract amount above the minimum salaries set by the NFL's union contract for the first three years of a player's contract.

dicted last week on charges that he and his part- cure agreements from college athletes.

Minimum salaries for the first three years are \$50,000, \$60,000 and \$70,000. The fee guidelines thus mean that if a second yearcontract is \$260,000, an agent can take no more than 5 percent of \$200,000, or \$10,000. Most reputable agents take about 4 percent.

However, such rules have applied only to agents who represent veteran players, not to those representing college athletes bargaining their initial NFL contracts. Thus, they did not apply to Walters' and Bloom's disputed deals. The union believes it now has the legal authority to close the loophole and will do so by extending its rules to all negotiations, effective Oct. 1.

A look at some of the deals players signed with Walters and Bloom reveals several possible motivations for switching to other agents. Some athletes signed for 6 percent and paid the commission on their entire package, even if some of the salary amounts were for later years and were not guaranteed. Perhaps more importantly, some gave up virtually all control of their financial future by granting Walters and Bloom powers of attorney over an extraordinarily wide range of activities, including the cashing of checks.

The union has something of a symbiotic relationship with agents, offering salary data to many in the hopes its members ultimately will

But even before the indictments, union officials were critical of the few contracts actually negotiated by Bloom and Walters.

They negotiated pacts for two first-round choices in 1987: Clay, an offensive tackle drafted 15th by the Los Angeles Raiders, and Palmer, a running back drafted 19th by Kansas City. Both agreements were sub-par, according to the union, when one takes into account where they were drafted in the first round and what comparable players received the previous

Indeed, the union attributes subsequent holdouts by several firstround choices, who were not Walters-Bloom clients, to those poorly bargained pacts. That's because the Walters-Bloom deals were seen as prompting some teams to lower offers to their choices.

"Clay and Palmer simply had two of the worst first-round deals," said M.J. Duberstein, director of research for the union, alluding to four-year contracts worth \$1.3 million and \$1.6 million, respectively.

For example, when Palmer signed with the Kansas City Chiefs, he was paid \$450,000 on the spot as a signing bonus. sloom and Walters received a commission of \$78,000 on the entire \$1.3 million, even though more than \$400,000 of the money wouldn't be paid for two or three years and only if Palmer made the

First-round draft picks that slipped through the hands of Walers and Bloom by securing new agents include Auburn University running back Brent Fullwood, who signed a \$1.5 million three-year

package with Green Bay; Washington State defensive end Reggie Rogers, who signed a \$1.8 million four-year contract with Detroit; and Purdue University defensive back Rod Woodson, who agreed to a nearly \$1.9 million four-year pact with Pittsburgh.

A flat 6 percent of those three contracts, paid up front, would have generated \$318,000 for Bloom and Walters. Once again, they would have skirted the union's rules for agent's fees, which allow an agent to only to take his percentage once the money is actually paid the player by the team.

"The good agent should get paid his percentage over the term of the contract, not up front," said Steve Zucker, a Chicago sports agent who represents Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who grosses more money in commercial endorsements than any other NFL player.

Zucker said, "Usually a good hunk [of the money] will be in the signing bonus and the rest is in one-year contracts spread over

three or four years." More agents are lured to football, Zucker said, because about 150 to 200 new players are signed to professional football contracts annually, while there are only about 30 in basketball. Baseball players usually spend years in the minor leagues at a low salary before hitting the six-figure salary

range. "First-round [NFL] draft picks normally gravitate toward the better agents," Zucker said. "The first-round draft picks receive anywhere from several million for the first two or three [picks] down to about \$2 million by the 10th pick, and about \$1.2 million or \$1.3 million for the rest of the first

Zucker said the second-round picks generally get packages involving about \$900,000 and third-round picks get about \$800,000.

Ethan Lock, a professor of business at Arizona State University who helped negotiate a dozen NFL contracts this year, notes that while the lure of money is clear for prospective agents, the field is a difficult one to crack and the startup costs can be daunting.

There are perhaps 100 agents who represent 80 percent of the NFL players. But turnover is great—the average career in the NFL is just over 3 years—and only 4 percent of the players have contracts whose full duration are financially guaranteed.

An agent may sign a nice-sounding, four-year pact, but if a player gets cut or suffers a career-ending injury in the first year, it's likely he won't get a penny from the deal's final three years. Bloom and Walters sought protection from that fate by getting their money up front, according to the contracts.

Getting clients can be exhausting and very expensive, mandating extensive travel and frequent attempts to curry favor with the college athlete and his family. Trying to curry favor with 10 athletes may result only in 1 or 2 coming into the agent's fold. And unless a potential superstar is involved, the money is

still not that great. "It's real expensive. That alone was enough to force me to say

don't want to make that sort of financial commitment and expend that much energy," said Lock, who represents Bears defensive back Mike Richardson by himself and serves as a consultant to Bruce Allen, a Phoenix agent and son of former NFL head coach George Allen.

Why do people become agents? Lock says it's part money, part the perceived glamor of bigtime sports.

The union's Duberstein says it's 70 percent money, 30 percent glamor—and the glamor wears off quickly when one finds out that the players aren't much different than anybody else, in some cases decidedly less intelligent and appealing.

Jack Childers of Talent Services Inc., Skokie, said negotiating contracts is the most lucrative branch of his business, which includes financial planning and outside business interests such as endorsements. Athletes sign separate contracts with Childers for financial planning and outside interests.

Childers said he quit soliciting rookies because of the increased necessity of paying under the table.

Coaches liken the agent selection process to the recruiting of star high school athletes. In many cases, legitimate agents will contact coaches and family members first because they have the most influence with the

"It's like the recruiting process all over again," Boston College coach Jack Bicknell said. "They sit down with the parents and try to sell them on their services. . . . There are some really good ones out there that are really looking out for the kids. . .

"It gets illegal when they start taking them out for dinner," Bicknell said. "I have no problem with them writing every day or calling them." Coaches said most schools tell

athletes to avoid contact with agents until after their final college game, and most legitimate agents are willing to keep their distance.

Schools have taken some measures, though coaches concede not enough, to try to warn players against unscrupulous agents.

At the University of Washington, Huskie players listen to periodic lectures from alumni in pro football. "The big message that our [former] players are telling them is that they just don't need an agent until they're drafted," coach Don James said.

Still, agents find ways to reach the Huskies "in locker rooms, at away games, at the hotels," James said.

And Charlie McClendon, who coached Louisiana State for 27 years, said it is almost impossible for coaches to shield their players from outsiders. "We can't be in every closet or with them every waking moment," said McClendon, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association. "There's got to be some understanding of what's right and wrong."

Childers said he eventually became exasperated with the process and gave it up. "We haven't been on a college campus in two years," he said. "It's obvious that no matter how good you are, you're not going to get players if you don't give them something. Walters and Bloom are the tip of the iceberg."

Also contributing were John O'Brien, Andrew Bagnato, Don Pierson and Jody Temkin.

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Sunday, August 28, 1988



# Depending on the capital of strangers

BUSH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID

Is the Loop falling into foreign hands? Is the Rust Belt turning into the Sushi Belt? Is all of America selling out?

For decades, U.S. multinational corporations grew by setting up joint ventures or building plants overseas to be close to customers and avoid trade barriers. In European capitals, officials cried about the awful Americanization of their politics and culture.

Now, due to the decline of the dollar, the political and economic stability of the United States and its few restrictions on direct foreign investment, the tables have turned. Since 1980, foreign purchases of American office buildings, farmland and factories have tripled. Foreigners own 10 percent of the country's manufacturing base and huge chunks of several major cities, including Los Angeles and Washington. Wellknown "American" names like CBS Records, Brooks Brothers, Firestone, Hardee's and Standard Oil of Ohio are foreign-owned.

As Tribune financial reporter Stanley Ziemba documented recently, foreign investors also have discovered Chicago. In the last five years they have snapped up downtown office buildings, hotels and other properties and now own about 10 percent of the commercial real estate market. Experts predict billions of dollars more will pour into this city and others as foreigners look for places to park their dollars and make more.

This surge of investment has touched a xenophobic nerve in many Americans who worry they're losing control of their economy. Meantime, state governments, led by globe-hopping governors, compete intensely to attract foreign investment, giving away land and other incentives to garner jobs, tax money and support for sagging regional economies. Is this the answer to our economic ills, or are we slowly selling our soul and our independence to other countries?

Although the transfer of American assets is picking up, foreign investment is still relatively small. By most estimates, it totals about \$1.5 trillion, but the bulk is in "passive" securities such as U.S. Treasury notes, bank deposits and corporate stock. About \$260 billion is in direct investments, but that constitutes only 2 percent of corporate assets and a scant 1 percent of American farmland. And the leading investors are our

strongest allies, with Great Britain the largest holder of U.S. assets followed by the Netherlands, Japan, Canada, France, West Germany and Switzerland.

Despite the obvious benefit of preserving and creating jobs (about 3 million Americans work for foreignowned firms), direct investment also can bring with it new technology, innovative management techniques and capital. And without foreign investment, Americans would be forced to finance the nation's budget deficits themselves; interest rates would jump.

This doesn't mean no one should pay attention to foreign investment, or that foreigners should be free to do whatever they want with America's assets. In the name of national security, the government restricts foreign investment in several critical industries, including nuclear power, broadcasting and air transportation. Although no formal review mechanism exists, 16 agencies collect data on foreign investment and an interagency committee periodically reviews key investments that may have security implications.

But this information is not put together in any cohesive form. No one in Washington, or anywhere else, knows precisely how much of America foreigners own or what impact this may have on the U.S. economy. Rep. John Bryant, a Texas Democrat, wants foreign concerns to register significant purchases with the Commerce Department and make annual reports of financial and other proprietary information not required of U.S. companies. His proposal was dropped from the 1988 Omnibus Trade Bill, but he vows to pursue it. The registration requirement, at least, should be enacted. It places no burden on investors—other +countries have more stringent requirements—and it would provide the information U.S. policymakers need to make intelligent decisions.

There is a sure way to lessen fears about overdependency on foreign capital, but few politicians are talking about it this campaign season: Cut the budget deficits and revise tax laws to encourage Americans to save and invest so this nation will not have to rely on other countries to support its economic growth.

Until we practice fiscal restraint and discipline, we will need foreign capital to pay our bills and drive our economy.

# Two collegiate sports scandals

Wherever major college sports are found, scandals are never far away. But the indictments of 3 professional sports agents and 44 former college athletes represent a new low. The indictments concern illegal payments and threats of violence used to induce players to sign secret management contracts, in violation of NCAA rules. But this is only part of a larger and clearly visible scandal.

Federal prosecutors got 43 of the athletes to admit their guilt in exchange for light sentences and testimony against two agents. The agents are accused of using cash, cars, hotel rooms and other goodies to persuade college athletes to violate their eligibility rules by signing with them while still playing.

Two of the agents, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, are also charged with using another means of persuasion: a warning that those backing out would have their legs broken by a Mafia thug.

All involved, if guilty, deserve to be punished. But they're not the only villains. Scandals like this would be far less likely if colleges would stop exploiting kids for financial advantage.

The reason some collegiate players are so tempted by illicit offers is that they get so little compensation for what they do—despite its huge financial value to the schools they represent. Many of them never even get a degree, and many more fail to get an education that really prepares them for life after sports.

College sports scandals result from the pretense that these lucrative pastimes are just old-fashioned amateur competition. The way to get rid of them is to return to the practice of putting real students on the field, as most smaller colleges do, or else to start paying players like the professionals they have become.

# Taxpayers, the joke's on you

"Whereas, Chicago has become a comedy capital . . . Whereas, the rapid growth in popularity of comedy has been evidenced in Chicago . . .

In case you missed it, August has been comedy month in Chicago. Mayor Sawyer proclaimed it to promote a cocktail mixer and several new laugh clubs. But though the mayor listed several comedy clubs in his proclamation, he left out the longest-running, raunchiest, funniest one of all—the Chicago City Council.

How could Sawyer's proclamation writer have forgotten Ald. Robert Shaw's slapstick routines about opening gas station washrooms to the public and declaring the city seal racist because it has a ship on it?

How could the mayor's writer have overlooked Ald. Richard Mell, a real stand-up comic, who jumped onto his council desk to get the chairman's attention during the all-night selection of Mayor Sawyer?

There's Ald. Burton "I don't get any respect" Na-

tarus, the Sad Sack of the council, and Ald. Dorothy Tillman, who announced to the council in general and Ald. Sheneather Butler in particular that she could swing a mean fist because she didn't play with dolls as a little girl. And the gaggle of aldermen who tried to arrest a painting at the Art Institute. And the bigger gaggle who kicked Ald. Lawrence Bloom out as chairman of the Budget Committee because he was coming up with ideas to trim the budget.

They are magicians, too. When one of them introduces an ordinance dealing with zoning reform or building code reform or requiring aldermen to account for their \$1,940 a month in expense money, the others

can make it disappear forever. In a few months, members of the City Council Comedy Club will be deciding how to spend nearly \$3 billion in tax dollars during the next year. Maybe they're not so funny after all.

Voice of the people

# The case for nationalizing baseball

CHICAGO—The past 21/2 years of new stadium grabs orchestrated by the Reinsdorf-Einhorn regime, culminating in our state's adoption of their stadium bill, have agitated to the point of critical mass the social consciousnesses of a growing number of what can only be called damaged sports fans.

Overloaded with doubts regarding the sickened condition of major league baseball, beyond being appeased by those marketing consultants and media relations directors in whose fruitless hands baseball has been wrecked from within, we, the Coalition for a Nationalized Sports Culture see beneath baseball's glistening crown the unholy commercial exploiter of its fans.

Already our group's doubts have begun to sound in a common, singularly critical voice in favor of instituting some fundamental changes in the way we finance, stage, cover and, most importantly, misconstrue the value of and reason for staging public ball games. For isn't it more than obvious that baseball has grown into such a financial behemoth that whatever great blessings it once may have promised to our social life have now taken on such monstrous proportions that they've become greater burdens instead?

Consider well the gross nature of the gargantua that baseball is. It has geared itself up so that its franchise owners can force from the public precisely those financial concessions that we have witnessed being forced by the Reinsdorf-Einhorn regime. Simultaneous with this, ticket prices continue to rise and will not cease their unwelcomed ascent. The need for luxury seating accommodations increases annually, and cannot be deterred by silly questions about the propriety of it all. And row after row of less expensive

bleacher seats are being eliminated in every new stadium that the franchise owners have built for themselves, with monies gained from the very

same people who would have filled those seats. Baseball has become a system strained to the breaking point by a highly rationalized business mind-set for which the staging of public ball games is interpreted primarily as a means to making money—an end other than and alien to civic values, questions of ethics and concerns about the ideal relation of the sport to the good and true life of man in society.

All of which leads the coalition to affirm that baseball is a thing out of joint, that fundamental changes in the way our nation stages public ball games are necessary, and that any change adopted with the intent of setting things right must cut to the root of the problem by first of all reorganizing the present system of private franchise ownership.

The coalition believes that since franchise owners now find survival more and more difficult without backing from social wealth, their franchises should be purchased by the states in which they operate, thereby rendering them in body and right, no less than in heart and soul, the possession of the people whose labors produce that wealth.

As the first and most necessary step along the road toward realigning the twisted and warped framework of our nation's overall system of public games, the franchises of major league baseball should one by one be municipalized by the communities in which they are situated. After which time, in an across-the-board move, they should be eventually nationalized.

Robert Bonner

### Media arrogance?

DECATUR, Ill.—The news media appear to be trying to usurp the Constitution by establishing the qualifications for the presidency and the vice presidency. The objectivity of the news niedia, with few exceptions, in the Quayle affair should be the only criterion in this case instead of the tangents created by disoriented minds.

Though Americans may strive for certain ideals, the facts of life are that the ways are greased more for those with wealth, power and influence. This is inherent in the American way of life and is practiced on a relative basis throughout our society, even by journalists. Though journalists understand and use this societal phenomenon, they still try to manipulate naive minds to degrade this activity to peddle their craft and to shape history. Based on the journalists' unseemly portrayal of the American way of life, the unwitting might believe that all aspects of our society are corrupt.

E.E. Connon

# Important job

RIVERDALE—People ridicule the vice presidency as insignificant. It is not. if you're willing to make a man vice president, then you're willing to make him president.

Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson: All these were men who succeeded dead presidents. Whether you admire these men or not, they were hardly insignificant.

The vice presidency also is important symbolically. Spiro Agnew's own scandal at the height of Watergate was the last thing we needed.

J. Danforth Quayle must never become president or vice president. His perspective is twisted. He is a hawk who avoided combat, a jingoist and a hypocrite.

Janet Stockey

## 'Didn't run'

DANVILLE, Ill.—I have been a reader of your paper for the past 50 years and have always found that your political policy was quite fair and unbiased. However, the great humanitarian Mike Royko has bent over backwards to cast doubts on the patriotism of the fine senator from Indiana, has set himself up as judge and jury and has convicted a very fine man of dodging the draft.

At least Sen. Quayle joined the National Guard and did not run and hide like thousands of others who elected to go to

I would be the one to make remarks about Sen. Quayle, for lost an only child on

Guadalcanal in '42. John P. Shaffer

### Immature?

PARK FOREST—If a man old enough to run for the U.S. Congress, and qualified enough to be elected, felt that he had to ask his Daddy for permission before he could agree to run for office, how mature and secure was he?

But see-how 12 years in the House and Senate have matured Dan Quayle. When Vice President George Bush invited him to be his running mate, there is no record of his having to ask his Pa.

Edgar Peara



### King's politics

WHITING, Ind.—Those who insist that only a black person should be mayor of Chicago ought to heed the advice of Martin Luther King Jr.

King declared that "any program that elects all black candidates simply because they are black and rejects all white candidates simply because they are white is politically unsound and morally unjustifiable." ("Where Do We Go From

He urged that "we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have the moral and ethical principles we can applaud with an enthusiasm that enables us to rally support for them based on a confidence and trust. We will have to demand high standards ... " ("Black Power Defined").

Ald. Lawrence Bloom, Ald. David Orr and George Munoz exemplify these high standards of character; why dismiss them because of the color of their

Daniel L. Levin

### Registration COLUMBIA, Mo.—As

President Reagan moves into the twilight months of his presidency, he might well ponder the deep opposition he expressed to draft registration during his 1980 candidacy when he wrote Sen. Mark Hatfield "

... Only in the most severe national emergency does the government have a claim to the mandatory service of its young people. In any other time, a draft or draft registration destroys the very values that our society is committed to defending."

Although in the eight years since the re-establishment of draft registration we have not seen the start of actual forced inductions into the armed forces, the series of so-called Solomon amendments which prohibit young men who have not registered from receiving government-funded grants or loans for higher education or job training or from holding certain jobs adequately demonstrate that Reagan's fears about the destruction of our values are, indeed, in the process of becoming reality.

There is still time for the President to act to end "...a draft registration [which] destroys the very values our country is committed to defending."

John C. Schuder

### Meese's gift

PALATINE—Your paper said "Meese leaves 'gift' on his last day—special prosecutors—for Congress."

Meese's leaving office was the

best gift of all! June D. Moberg

### 'Not valid'

BARRINGTON—There has been much self-righteous talk coming from the Democratic headquarters these days (fueled by the prospects that after eight years of a Republican administration they might actually have a chance at the Oval Office). Some of their statements are valid ones while others are not.

But no issue has been more overblown than that constant question, "Where was George?" They are, of course, implying that Bush was not a major force in the policymaking of the present administration nor a proper deterrent to its legal problems. The Democrats are probably right. But this is truly an unfair question to raise, for Mr. Bush has had plenty of company throughout history in

While serving as our very first vice president, John Adams complained (as have most vice presidents) that the country "has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived . . . " When it came to matters of policy, Adams had no more power and influence than have had his successors. One might just as easily have asked, "Where was John?"

To discover the true George Bush, one must look at what he has done before taking on the thankless job of second-incommand in 1980—from flying fighter planes in the Pacific war, to being a success in business, to heading the CIA. But the Democrats' question "Where was George?" during the past eight years should not be considered a valid issue.

### Dukakis, defense

**Brad Schaeffer** 

CHICAGO—As outlined in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, a primary obligation of our government is to provide for the common

Ronald Reagan has met this obligation commendably. George Bush understands and addresses this obligation.

Michael Dukakis, with his lack of any foreign policy or military experience, with his pacifist antidefense stand, has opposed every major weapons system and even opposed the submarine-launched missile warning network in his home

Would we be as secure a nation under Michael Dukakis? John Clinton

### 'Thin-skin' Bush?

CHICAGO—Mr. Bush has referred to the "Where was George?" and "silver foot in his mouth" jokes as "vicious personal attacks." If that is his idea of a vicious personal attack, Mr. Bush has some growing up to do; or he lacks a sense of humor; or he has been taking lessons in paranoid politics from Richard Nixon; or he is too thin-skinned to be president; or all of the above. He could never stand up to the Russians. John S. Shea

We invite our readers to share their ideas in these columns. Please write us at Voice of the people, Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Include your name and address. The more concise the letter, the less we will have to edit it to fit our

space.