

# News from the wires

## Naphtha causes Ohio explosion

AKRON, Ohio (UPI) — Three thousand gallons of highly volatile naphtha, believed poured into the city sewer system by striking rubber workers, exploded in Akron yesterday, rocketing manhole covers into the air, blasting out the stained glass windows of a cemetery church and leaving a two-mile scar.

"The area looked like it was hit by an earthquake," said police Capt. David E. Whitmire. "I saw a crater 80 to 90 feet right after the explosion."

No one was injured when the explosions erupted in the west side of this Northern Ohio city of 272,000. Police moved in city buses to evacuate about 75 persons until the explosive liquid was flushed from the sewers with water. The evacuees were able to go home about five hours later.

The explosion ripped up Glendale Cemetery, shattering the stained glass windows in its 100-year-old chapel, but a cemetery spokesman said no graves were damaged.

"What I thought was that the world was coming to an end," said Brindley Ferguson, 19, who with her four-month old daughter was among those evacuated to a National Guard Armory. "I thought to myself, 'Oh Lord, the world is coming to an end.'"

"It sounded like a bomb," said Queenie Gordon, 17, a student at South

High School "That's the only thing I can think of. It just went boom and it boomed for a long time."

"The streets looked like they were bombed," fire department Lt. Robert E. Lord said. The explosion also ruptured a water main and gas main and damaged another church, the Church of God.

Lord said the liquid naphtha, which is used in the repair of tires, was traced to the Patch Rubber Co., where employees are on strike.

## Recall campaign gains ground

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A campaign to unseat the judge who said the sexually permissive atmosphere and the provocative clothing women wear invited rape has gathered enough signatures to force him into a recall election, leaders of the drive said yesterday.

Sponsors said 21,570 people have signed petitions calling for the recall of Judge Archie Simonson, whose remarks from the bench last month infuriated local feminists. State law requires 21,049 names.

The remark, "Should we punish severely a 15- or 16-year-old boy who reacts normally to it?" came at a disposition hearing for a 15-year-old boy found to have participated in a sexual assault.

The victim in the case, a 16-year-old girl who was attacked by three youths in

a stairwell at a local high school, was said to have been wearing slacks and a shirt over a turtle-neck sweater.

Simonson ordered the 15-year-old boy, who had pleaded no contest, to spend a year at home under court supervision.

## U.S. fears veto computer deal

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The administration yesterday blocked an American firm's plan to sell the Soviet Union a sophisticated computer because of fears in Congress and the White House that the system would be used for military purposes.

The Soviets tried to buy the \$13 million system — known as Cyber 76 — from Control Data Corp., of Minneapolis for use in weather research and forecasting.

The Commerce Department rejected a request for an export license after President Carter expressed strong reservations about the proposed sale and several House members urged that the transaction be stopped.

William Schneider, a private consultant on defense uses of computers, has said the Cyber 76 system could be used by the Soviets "to build better nuclear weapons, more efficient missiles and would permit them to interconnect all of their air defenses to effectively block an American second strike which would follow any surprise attack on the United States."

The Pentagon uses the same

generation of computers for missile guidance and other military uses.

A spokesman for Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., R-Calif., a leader of the group against the sale on Capitol Hill, said the sale "would have been a horrendous mistake."

A Commerce Department statement said the export license was denied "because it is far more powerful than any computer known to be available to the Soviet Union and the likelihood of diversion to military or strategic uses is of serious concern."

Commerce's Office of Export Administration, which has the responsibility of issuing licenses for American firms to sell products overseas, said it allows exports "only when it can be satisfactorily determined that the transaction would not make a significant contribution to the military potential of those nations that would be detrimental to U.S. and Western security."

## Pa. coal mines closed by strike

By The Associated Press

A wildcat coal strike that began in West Virginia spread into Pennsylvania yesterday.

Roving pickets, apparently protesting a cut in health benefits to United Mine Workers, shut down at least 11 western Pennsylvania mines, idling an estimated 2,200 workers in Cambria and Indiana

counties.

Affected were operations owned by North American Coal Co., Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Co. and Tunnelton Coal Co.

The Pennsylvania strikers joined about 31,000 Appalachian coal miners in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky who stayed off their jobs despite pleas by union officials to return to work.

The protest centers on a decision by the UMW's Health and Retirement Fund's decision to require members to participate in hospital and doctor costs.

UMW District 2 president Frank Kulish called the walkout "totally unjustified" and he asked members to return to work.

## Suspected child abuse cases up

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Under the Child Protective Services Act implemented last year, Pennsylvania recorded three times as many cases of suspected child abuse as it had in 1975.

To the state, the law is a success, although Pennsylvania still does not qualify for federal child abuse program funds.

The government considers the state's definition of child abuse too narrow. It suggests a broader interpretation, including the psychological battering that leaves no marks.

## Court says con union not right

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court, sharply limiting the rights of convicts, ruled 7 to 2 yesterday that states may outlaw prisoner union activities within the walls.

The majority opinion by Justice William Rehnquist said any right prisoners might have to associate freely must give way to the need for corrections officials to maintain discipline and prevent violence.

Thus, the opinion said, authorities may prohibit inmate unions from soliciting members or holding meetings inside a prison and from bulk-mailing newspapers to prisoners.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, joined in dissent by William Brennan, called the ruling "a giant step backward" for prisoner rights that cuts sharply into the 1st Amendment rights of free speech previously afforded inmates.

But Rehnquist, speaking for the majority in a North Carolina case, said the need to maintain order overrides those rights.


Inmate unions have been formed in Rhode Island, Delaware, Minnesota and California. They are restricted in federal prisons and in several states. Yesterday's ruling also could have an impact on groups such as Gay Liberation and the Young Lords, which have appeared in prisons in the last decade.

# OUR APOLOGIES

The PENN STATE BOOKSTORE will close for inventory the week of June 27th. This includes all of our stores. To our loyal customers, our apologies for the inconvenience.

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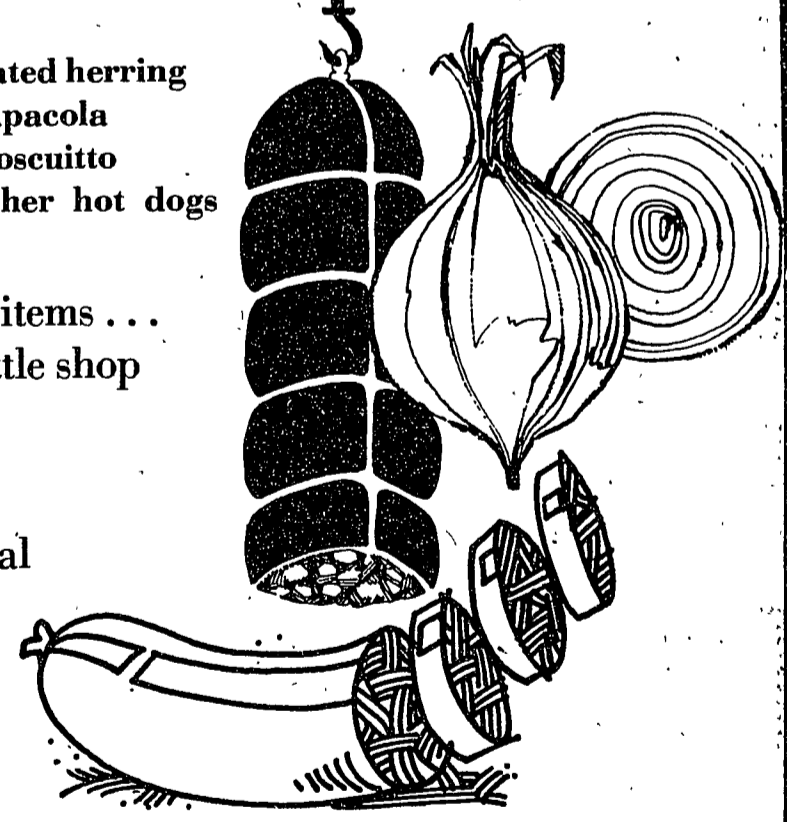
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