## state news briefs

### Dwyer widow won't run

MEADVILLE (AP) — Joanne Dwyer, widow of late state Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, said she will not run for election to the state legislature.

Dwyer said several months ago that she was considering a Republican campaign for state representative in the Sixth District.

Her husband shot himself at a news conference in Harrisburg on Jan. 22.

### Court: Phone rates unfair

HARRISBURG (AP) — Commonwealth Court yesterday rejected part of a 1986 Public Utility Commission decision that allowed Continental Telephone Co. to charge customers outside its Emmaus exchange higher rates.

The Office of Consumer Advocate appealed, arguing that the decision allowing the company to set up the charges was discriminatory and unreasonable.

Assistant Consumer Advocate Daniel Clearfield said the court rejected "what we thought was an extremely troublesome decision."

Clearfield said Emmaus was exempted from a rate boost because of poor service in the district. However, he said the company was allowed to make up the lost revenues by charging other customers an average of 27 cents more each month.

"It's not other customers who should pay that difference," Clearfield said.

### Report confirms sleeping at TMI

HARRISBURG (AP) — A shift supervisor at the dormant Three Mile Island Unit 2 power plant was fired last week after an investigation found the employee occasionally slept on duty for almost five years, officials said Monday.

According to an independent investigation commissioned by TMI's operator, GPU Nuclear Corp., the supervisor was involved in "a longstanding pattern" of sleeping on the job and in general showed inattentiveness to responsibilities.

The investigation concluded that the supervisor, whose name was not released, was sometimes away from the reactor control room for extended periods, showed a periodic lack of knowledge of plant conditions and sometimes read aviation materials and personal business papers while on duty.

### 4 family members found slain

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Police found four family members slain in their home yesterday and speculated the man shot his wife and two sons, then turned the gun on himself.

The bodies were discovered at about 2 p.m., police said. Investigators remained at the scene Monday night. Further details were unavailable.

Neighbors and relatives identified the four as Sam and Barbara Blair and their sons, Chris, 5, and 1-year-old Justin.

## nation news briefs

### Major quake rocks Alaska

PALMER, Alaska (AP) — A major offshore earthquake rocked south-central Alaska yesterday, prompting thousands of people to flee low-lying coastal areas for the second time in two weeks.

There were no reports of major damage or injuries in the quake, which measured at least 7.4 on the Richter scale. It shook the ground for a full minute and was felt more than 300 miles from the epicenter, in Anchorage and the Yukon Territory.

### Burnley named transportation sec.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Senate approved the nomination of James H. Burnley IV to be secretary of transportation yesterday, promoting an official who has had repeated clashes with lawmakers over federal safety and economic policies.

Although the vote was a lopsided 74-0, some legislators who supported elevating the Transportation Department's No. 2 official into the top post emphasized that their feelings toward him were mixed.

### Students borrowing more

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — College students borrowed $10.1 billion last year, received $9.7 billion in grants and earned $662 million on subsidized campus jobs, the College Board said yesterday.

In all, students received a total $20.5 billion in aid from state and local governments and the institutions themselves, or $535 million more than was available in 1985-86.

The College Board said the pool of available student aid has grown by nearly 21 percent since 1980-81, when students received $17 billion in assistance. After rising to $17.9 billion in 1981-82, it fell the next year to $16.6 billion but has climbed each year since then.

College costs, however, have been climbing at twice the general rate of inflation in the 1980s. Taking inflation into account, the pool of student aid has shrunk by 6.1 percent over the past seven school years, the College Board said.

In constant 1982 dollars, the pool of aid fell from a high of almost $19 billion in 1980-81 to $16.3 billion in 1982-83, then began rebounding. It is currently the equivalent in 1982 dollars of $17.8 billion.

One major reason for the steep drop in 1982-83 was that Congress and the Reagan administration phased out $2 billion in Social Security benefits for college students. Also, as Vietnam-era veterans exhausted their eligibility for college aid, veterans' educational aid has shrunk from $1.9 billion to $448 million a year.

## world news briefs

### France, Iran swap diplomats

PARIS (AP) — France and Iran ended their 4½-month embassy standoff by trading a pair of diplomats yesterday, days after pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon freed two Frenchmen.

Officials called the events a coordinated effort to mend a rift between the two nations.

President Francois Mitterrand said the process should lead to freedom soon for the three remaining hostages.

### 22 die in train fire

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A gasoline can ignited aboard a moving passenger train and the wind-whipped flames spread through an entire compartment, killing 22 people and injuring 16 others, according to news reports.

The blaze broke out Sunday as the train was traveling through the western state of Rajasthan from Ajmer to New Delhi, the United News of India said.

S.S. Tripathi, a district magistrate in Ajmer, said 22 bodies had been recovered from the charred train.

### Fire attributed to short circuit

PORLAMAR, Venezuela (AP) — Officials said yesterday a short circuit blew down a wall and started a hotel fire that killed an American groom and his Venezuelan bride as a wedding reception was ending just before dawn.

Nine other people died with newlyweds Christopher Scipione, 24, of Stanford, Conn., and Roxana Fermin, 22. All were trapped in a hallway and asphyxiated.

They included the bride's parents and the best man, Mike Buzzeo of Stanford; the bride's brother and sister-in-law, married only two months; and her 11-year-old sister, Carla, the flower girl.


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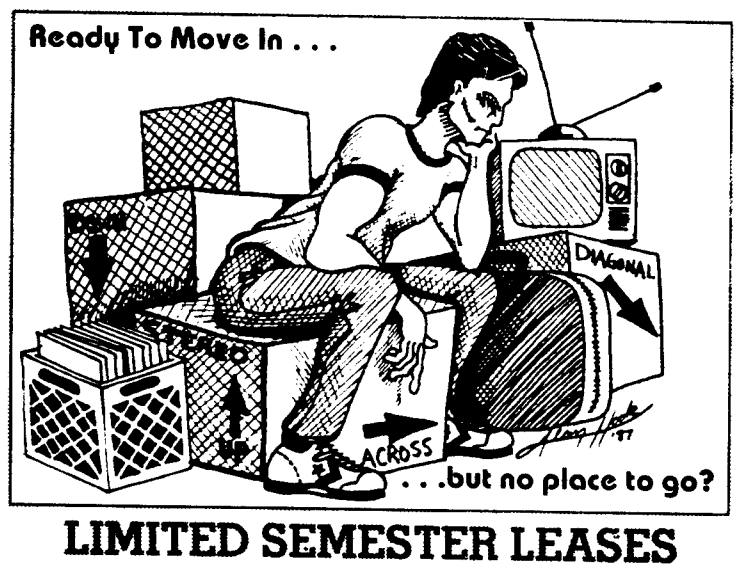


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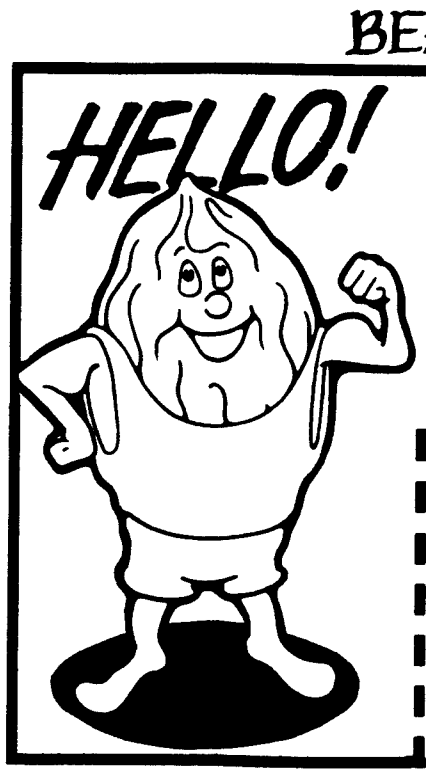


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