

**Saving the rebate . . .
Tax burden . . .
N-test fallout**

THE FRONT PAGE

FIGHTING THE FLOOD — Floodwaters burst through dikes in towns along the surging Red River. Water gushes 8 feet deep through some sections of Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn.

IRANIAN ATTACK — Two men are arrested in an assassination attempt on Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and his Cabinet at the funeral of a murdered general.

"SPEED" VALENTINE — Paul "Speed" Valentine, 82, has been repairing bicycles for several generations of Des Moines area bike riders.

SAVING THE REBATE — State officials are trying to write the tax rebate bill so that Iowans will not have to pay federal income taxes on the \$50 million they will receive.

ROCKWELL CITY BLAST — An explosion early Tuesday leveled a Rockwell City, Ia., service station.

BETTING REJECTED — The Iowa House rejects a bid to legalize pari-mutuel betting.

IOWA

TAX BURDEN — The chairman of the Iowa House Ways and Means Committee says that shifting the tax burden off commercial property by limiting growth on its value could result in residential and farm property owners having the value of their property boosted by as much as \$10 million. (Page 11)

"WILDROWS" — A class of Adel-DeSoto High School students has delved into the history of the area and come up with a magazine that celebrates the people, crafts and heritage of rural Iowa. (Page 3)

THE NATION

N-TEST FALLOUT — An official of the federal Environmental Protection Agency says radiation from 600 atomic tests in Nevada in the 1950s and early '60s drifted off-site 129 times, sometimes reaching as far as the Canadian border and the Mississippi River. (Page 5)

THE WORLD

RHODESIA ELECTION — Bishop Abel Muzorewa is elected Rhodesia's first black prime minister, but his competitors are charging "gross irregularities" in the polling. (Page 13)

EGYPTIAN CONDEMNATION — Egypt condemns the Israeli shelling of Palestinian guerrilla bases in Lebanon and says the action could have a negative effect on the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. (Page 13)

EXTRA

HOMEBUYING IN DES MOINES — The housing market in Des Moines is "unbelievable," with Iowans buying and selling at a rapid pace, say local real estate experts. Extra has put together a special section that looks at housebuying from the consumer's viewpoint.

ON OTHER PAGES . . .



TELEVISION — NBC's Fred Silverman is hinting he'll soon begin tinkering with the "NBC Nightly News," says critic Gary Deeb. Silverman is making nasty noises about moving either John Chancellor or David Brinkley onto a back burner. Deeb criticizes NBC plans to change a newscast he calls a masterful, "well-oiled" program while hanging onto such video junk as "Supertrain." (Page 15)



EDITORIAL — As the oil-producing countries again raise their prices, the consuming nations "sit by in a groggy stupor, hooked on their expensive habit," says Hobart Rowen of the Washington Post. Spiraling oil prices and Western nations' self-destructive competitive bidding for the fuel is leading the world down the path to economic ruin, Rowen says. The only route to survival is to kick the habit, and the United States, as the biggest consumer, should lead the way, he says. (Page 15)



SPORTS — Todd Van Deventer of Ankeny has had a life-long problem of people misspelling his name. But now that he's started to make a name for himself on the track, those days are numbered. The blazing sprinter will be seen in action this weekend at the Drake Relays. The key to his success, besides talent, is a hungry drive to win. (Page 17)



BUSINESS — In the past few years, activist stockholders have peppered company executives with questions of a political and social nature. As the season of the annual corporate meeting moves into high gear, look for stockholders questioning executives' pay and perks. The reason: A new Security and Exchange Commission rule requiring more detailed disclosure of executive salaries and perquisites. (Page 21)



THE BACK PAGE — Novella Bredbenner is a Des Moines schoolteacher, but her real home is in Klemme, Ia., in a house older than the town in which it sits. The house is filled with family and town memorabilia, and with orderly collections of dolls, butterflies and bugs.

California madness — it's contagious

By Mike Royko
579 Chicago Sun-Times
A few years ago, someone wrote a book that became a surprise best seller among Californians and other mentally unbalanced people. It was a fantasy, set in the future. California and other parts of the West Coast had seceded and become a separate nation. This utopian new nation had become ecologically pure, self-sufficient in energy, and everybody was cool, laid back and growing on good nature, good sex, good dope and good vibes.

It was one of the most stupid books I've ever read, but I enjoyed it. Not because of its simple-minded visions. But the idea of California becoming a separate nation appealed to me. That would be one of the nicest things that could happen to the rest of the country. We could build a high fence around California and post psychiatrists at the border gates. Nobody would be permitted to leave it without passing a sanity test.

Many studies have been made to determine why one state has such an abundance of flaky people. The most popular theory is that throughout our history, the nation's oddballs have headed west, looking for the land of their dippy dreams — and the oddest of the oddballs finally float down in California.

Major export

Whatever the reason, for years California's major export to the rest of the country has not been its fruits and vegetables, it has been craziness. It comes in many forms — bad TV shows, bad architecture, junk food,

auto worship, and creepy life-styles that have ranged from the doped-up flower children to the souped-up motorcycle gangs, the Manson family to the Jones cult, the Symbionese Liberation Army to the Synanon brain shrinkers. You name it. If it bubbles and its eyeballs are glazed, it probably comes from California.

Among its strangest exports are its politicians. What other state has elected a retired soft-shoe dancer to the U.S. Senate, or provided a B-movie actor as the leader of the



Mike Royko

nation's conservatives? This is the state that gave us Richard Nixon, the nation's heart. And now, even before that migraine has subsided, California is threatening us with Gov. Jerry Brown, the position-leaping, buzz-wording, tripe-talking, science-fiction candidate who wants to bring his moonbeam ideas into the White House.

I long ago gave up trying to figure out what Governor Moonbeam stands for or believes in, besides getting his pretty mug on TV and confusing people into voting for him.

But when it comes to grabbing publicity, no other politician in the country can match him. The past weeks are an incredible example.

There are 50 governors in this

country, and most of us don't know who they are or what they are doing — even our own.

But everybody in America knows what Governor Moonbeam has been doing. He's been on network TV night after night, in all the papers, and this week is splashed across the cover of Newsweek magazine.

African safari

He did this by going to Africa, which in itself isn't much, since nothing even bit him while he was there. If anything, it was funny to see the governor of California visiting the leaders of Third World nations and acting as if he were negotiating peace treaties and trade agreements.

But Governor Moonbeam managed to turn the trip into one of the spring's biggest non-news events by bringing along Linda Ronstadt, a rock warrior, who is said to be his friend, or his good friend, or his very good friend, or his very best special good friend, or whatever the hell they call that kind of modern relationship.

The national press, especially the excitable Washington branch, is quivering over the political meanings of the Brown-Ronstadt trip.

It's the talk of the Washington dinner parties. The pundits are deep in their analysis of it. The political protologists have their fingers on the nation's pulse, or wherever they put them.

They are pondering whether the nation will accept a presidential aspirant gadding about with a rock star as his companion.

That's what I mean about the madness of California politics. Here we have a 41-year-old intellectual hustler, whose main gifts are that he looks a little like Montgomery Clift and Bobby Kennedy, and can jabber so nimbly that nobody can figure out who he's talking about.

So how does he make a huge national splash? With a profound Lincolnian speech? With a thoughtful program for the nation's future? With

any kind of program for anybody's future?

No. He does it by vacationing with a famous female person he's not married to, after lengthy discussion with his political advisers about what the impact of the trip will be on voters. They probably told him not to worry because there are more rock fans and lecherous 41-year-old men than prim, disapproving old ladies.

If we were thinking clearly, we wouldn't care if he went to Africa with Linda Ronstadt, to a motel with someone from the secretarial pool, or to bed with his teddy bear. Personally, I don't care if he marries Linda Ronstadt, or if they just remain good and dear friends and have eight children and name them all after astrological signs or herbs.

Political menace

There has to be some way we can defend ourselves against the political menace of California, but I'm not sure what it is. Fencing the whole place in is something to consider. We could still have trade relations with them. They could sell us wine, and we could sell them straitjackets.

Unfortunately, that would take time. Besides, many Californians could fly over the fence just by flapping their arms.

Or we could have a national Proposition 13½, which would forbid any Californian from seeking national office until further notice.

But what we'll probably do is nothing. We'll just watch as Gov. Moonbeam runs amok through the whole country and hope that his friends will eventually throw a net over him and take him home to his floor mattress.

Maybe that's the most sensible approach. Wait, remain calm and don't panic. But I'll probably panic anyway I can't help it. I saw the movie "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers," which was set in California.

And I'm still convinced it was a news documentary.

Agency on aging expects to get nearly \$1 million

By The Associated Press

The Central Iowa Regional Association of Local Governments Area on Aging said Tuesday it expects to receive \$422,850 for social services and \$565,158 for meals under the Federal Older Americans Act of 1978. The funds are to be used in the eight-county area of Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren counties during the 1980 fiscal year.

The agency said it will accept proposals from local government units and non-profit agencies for nutrition and social services for persons 60 years and older. The deadline for proposals is May 18.

D.M. man arrested in Grinnell incident

The Tribune's Iowa News Service GRINNELL, IA. — Ransall Oxford, 26, of Des Moines was arrested here Monday night and charged with public intoxication and four counts of assault in connection with an incident at the Dew Drop Inn. There were no serious injuries, police said.

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Dinner Thursday to honor Doolittle

Gen. James Doolittle, who led a squadron of B25s on the first bombing raid on Tokyo in 1942, will be honored at a dinner Thursday night at the Des Moines Center of Science and Industry.

He is scheduled to arrive at the Municipal Airport at 4 p.m. Thursday and visit the Iowa Air National Guard's flight simulator.

The public may welcome him at the south end of the terminal and see Harold Lossner of Des Moines fly a World War II primary training biplane.

Pinball tourney Friday at Ankeny

Iowa college students will compete for the title "1979 Pinball Wizard" at the third annual pinball tournament beginning at 1 p.m. Friday on the Ankeny campus of Des Moines Area Community College.

The tournament, hosted by the student activities division of the college, is designed to recognize those who know pinball is a game of skill and to reward their talents.

The first place winner will receive \$100, second place \$50. There is no admission charge for spectators.

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