

National

HOWDY PARTY
at the
Baptist Student Union
Friday, June 5, 7PM
featuring **Lance St. Clair**
& **Keith Josey** in concert
noon bible studies - every tues.
and wed. at 11:45 am

Sewage may be effective as fertilizer

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Forest Service researchers have discovered that sludge left over from processed sewage can be used to increase the rate of growth of forests and reclaim barren land.

They envision that sludge will be valuable for "energy plantations" of trees grown for firewood and for conversion to alcohol or other alternative fuels.

Alcohol fuel produced from corn has received the most publicity, but many Americans see great potential as well in the use of wood for alternative fuels.

Americans have been able to

treat and dispose of sewage waste for years, but billions of tons of a left-over, mud-like pollutant called sludge continue to present problems.

Sewage treatment plants in the United States produce about 6 billion dry tons of sludge a year.

Only part of it can be turned into fertilizer and the rest is usually placed in landfills, but seepage from landfills can create environmental problems if it pollutes underground water.

Although about 95 percent of sludge is water, it contains minerals like zinc, nickel and copper, which can harm some crops in heavy concentrations, and cadmium, which can be harmful to animals that eat the crops.

Sewage sludge cannot be used

to fertilize many vegetables and fruits, but there is no danger when it is used to fertilize trees.

"Sewage sludge traditionally has been dumped into rivers, and more recently in landfills, but because of concern over the buildup of pollutants in the earth's water supply, these disposal methods no longer are acceptable," said Jim Evans, a research hydrologist with the Agriculture Department.

He said research has begun to prove that sludge, with its valuable nutrients, "can be extremely useful in getting vegetation to grow in areas with infertile soil or with severe erosion problems."

Over the past 10 years, studies in South Carolina and Georgia have showed trees fertilized with sludge grow more dramatically

than other trees.

Three years ago, Charles Berry and Donald Marx of the Forest Service's Southeastern Forest Experiment Station planted loblolly pine seedlings in soil mixed with sewage sludge. They are still growing rapidly.

When the researchers applied a half-inch layer of sludge to the soil, even the most severely eroded or barren areas gained enough nutrients to support grass and pine trees, Evans said.

"On sludge-treated plots, the biomass, or the total weight of the seedlings from their roots to their needles, is about 20 times greater than the biomass of seedlings grown without the use of sludge," Evans said.

Forest Service researcher Dean

Urie of the North Central is growing hardwood and trees in Michigan to determine how sludge and wastewater can be used to spur growth of the large tracts of forest land.

"Although our research has proven that sewage sludge is a valuable resource, additional work is being done to find ways to make the best possible use of it," Evans said.

He said improperly disposed sewage is difficult to clean up because it produces an unpleasant odor when it is applied to forests.

"Properly treated sewage, however, produces an odorless, musty odor that most people consider to be inoffensive,"

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Parties split over tax bill decision

Multi-year tax bill discussed

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A key group of House Democrats is moving toward a tax-cut compromise that would split the difference between President Reagan's three-year plan and the Democrats' preference for a one-year bill.

Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee met for two hours Tuesday. Although they failed to reach agreement, Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said they discussed "the possibility of a multi-year bill" — something the administration considers essential to any compromise.

Rostenkowski planned to talk tax-cut strategy with all House Democrats at a closed caucus this morning and to resume discussions with the 21 Democrats on his committee later in the day.

Earlier Tuesday, Reagan left the door open for more tax-cut negotiations during an hour-long meeting with GOP congressional leaders including Senate Finance Committee Chair-

man Robert Dole, R-Kan.

Dole said the president "made it clear the door is still open." He added: "The next move must be theirs (the Democrats)."

Rostenkowski told reporters he hoped to reach a compromise acceptable to all Democrats — including conservatives — to assure a Democratic victory in the House.

Rep. Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., who attended the Ways and Means caucus, said the Democrats were favoring a two-year tax cut rather than Reagan's three-year approach. "There was a reluctant recognition that is where we have to go," he said.

Meantime, the Conservative Democratic Forum met to discuss its own tax cut stand. The forum, comprised of 47 Southerners, was largely responsible for the president's recent budget victory and is expected to be wooed by the administration again if no compromise with Democratic leaders materializes.

But the 34 forum members who attended

the meeting failed to reach agreement on details. I think he's made that decision to continue negotiating with the leadership.

At the White House, acting press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan "has come out on the other side."

"It's obvious time's running out," Speakes said.

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Food prices at lowest levels of 1981

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Now may be the best time for shoppers to buy steaks and chickens because prices are at or near their lowest levels of the year.

Eggs, another good source of protein, also may be at their best bargain prices for 1981. Producers of all three food items are losing money because their costs are surpassing their income.

The Agriculture Department Tuesday issued a "food marketing alert," advising officials at institutions such as schools and hospitals

to "buy and use beef, broilers and eggs during June due to expected heavy supplies of these items."

The food marketing alert said there has been a sharp increase in cattle slaughter in the last few weeks, primarily of cows and grass-fed animals.

With the slaughter of cows and grass-fed animals expected to re-

main relatively high, "total production could be up about 10 percent from the level of a year earlier," the department said.

Prices of cattle fattened by grain fed in feedlots in late May were to \$3 per 100 pounds higher than a year ago, but "for most products they are still below this year's higher cost of production," the department said.

Broiler production, meanwhile, is about 3 percent above the record levels of a year ago. Although current prices, producers are losing 2 to 6 cents per pound for broilers produced, but economists predict prices will rise and producers should be able to break even later in the year.

Egg production is a little above last year's levels and producers "are losing money in a depressed market," the department said.

Egg prices are about 14 cents per dozen above depressed prices of a year ago, but producers are losing about 2 to 4 cents a dozen.

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All children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Thursday
ALL THAT JAZZ

Friday
THE ROSE
BETTE MIDLER
ALAN BATES

Saturday
THE ELECTRIC HORSEMAN

Sunday
Murder by Death

Monday
The Return of the PINK PANTHER

Tuesday
Gates Open 8:00
JACK NICHOLSON
ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

Wednesday
Showtime 8:45
DUCK SOUP