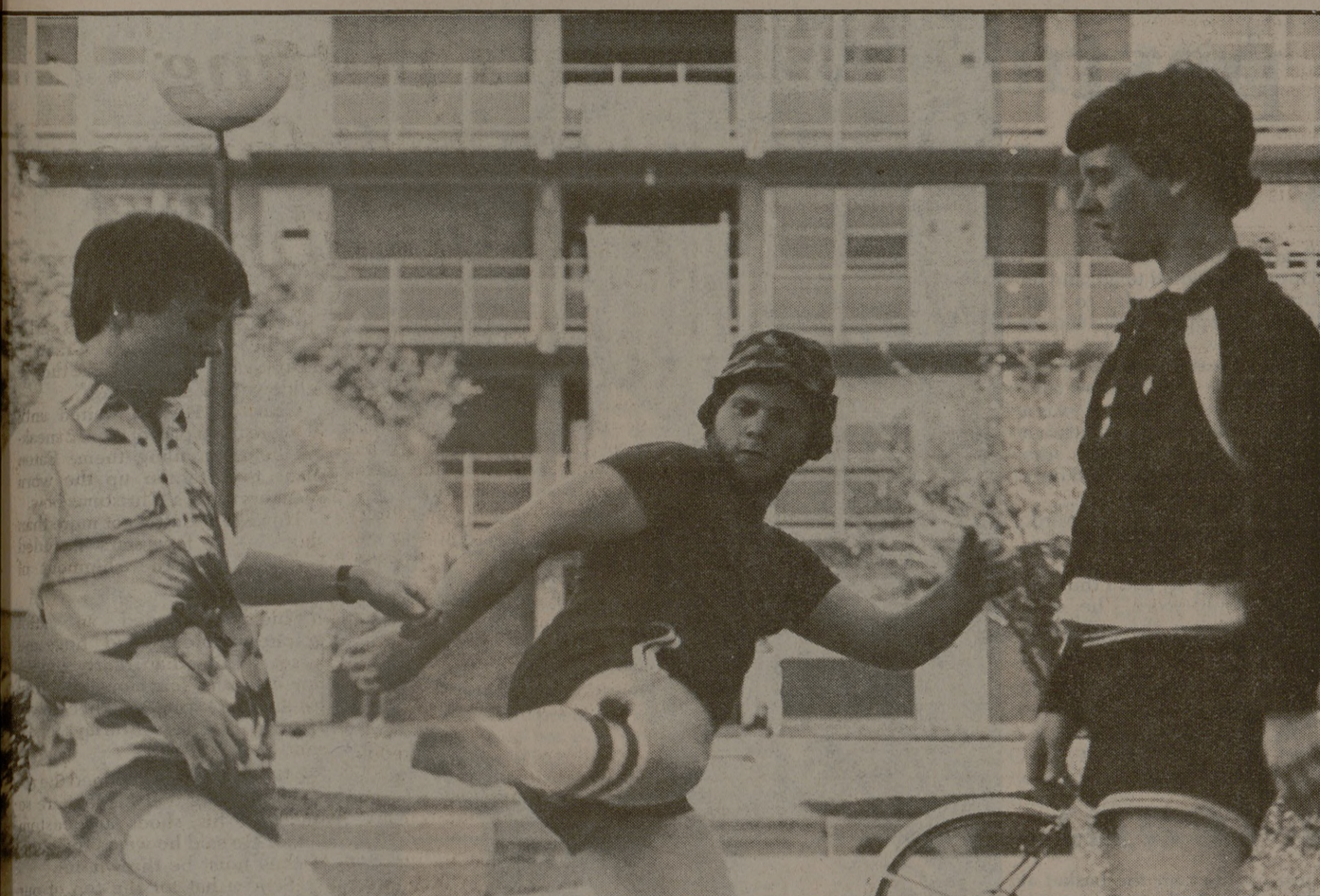


National

# Senate leaders work on new funding plan



Keep it up!

Staff photo by Daniel Sanders

Jeff Cooper, left, a freshman pre-dentistry major from Houston, Bob May, center, a freshman general studies major from Houston, and Jay Hightower, a sophomore accounting major from League City, are all playing a fast-growing game called hackysack. The object is to keep the ball in the air using only your feet.

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — With a tentative agreement in hand, administration officials and Senate leaders are fine tuning a funding plan they hope will avert a repeat of last month's partial government shutdown.

"I think it will fly," said Senate Appropriations Chairman Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. "But that's only my personal observation."

Hatfield said representatives of the administration and Senate leadership Wednesday reached the tentative accord that would fund the government when emergency appropriations expire Dec. 15.

He said the document was drawn up at the staff level after three days of negotiations. But, he stressed it was "only a technical draft not locked into concrete."

The plan was to be presented to key Republican senators Thursday.

It was drawn up by House and Senate Republican staff members and budget director David Stockman. It would cut about \$4 billion from domestic spending programs for the remainder of the current 1982 fiscal year that ends Oct. 1.

Unless Congress approves a stopgap funding bill by Dec. 15, the government will again be out of money — the way it was last month that forced a one-day, partial shutdown of the government.

The crisis occurred when President Reagan vetoed a funding bill covering the rest of fiscal 1982 because he believed it did not cut federal spending enough. With the government technically out of money, Reagan shut down the "non-essential" parts of the government for a few hours Nov. 23.

Congress and Reagan then agreed to extend the deadline until Dec. 15 to give the lawmakers time to develop a new plan.

Hatfield said the new proposal calls for about \$4 billion in domestic spending cuts "in a selective yet across-the-board manner" through the remainder of the fiscal year. Defense spending and most "entitlement" benefits, like Social Security, would be exempt from the cuts.

Hatfield could not guarantee that the president would sign such a bill but he said Stockman has participated and feels the document is worth pursuing.

Hatfield said the draft document was "the first step in extrajudging ourselves from the current circumstances" of funding the government through so-called "continuing resolutions." Reagan has criticized that practice.

Hatfield said he hoped the proposal would help get the appropriations process back on track and called the draft "a very encouraging first step."

## Divorcees' remarriage rate high

United Press International  
CHICAGO — People who get divorced may have been better off getting married in the first place, divorce attorney Herbert A. Gliberman says he has the statistics to prove it.

The high remarriage rate among the divorced — 75 percent — and the high divorce rate among those who remarry point to reality that people may actually be happier in their first marriage than they realize, said Gliberman, who has been a divorce lawyer for 28 years.

Gliberman, who has authored several books on the subject, said Census Bureau figures show 75 percent of those who remarry end up in divorce court again, compared with 33 percent of those divorcing for the first time. Research indicates that in most cases, "you marry the right spouse the first time," Gliberman says.

## Club owner hopeful gift will be hit

United Press International  
SAN FRANCISCO — The owner of one of the city's comedy clubs is offering the ultimate gift people hoping for something a little different for Christmas — a "Bottle of Hope."

And he says he hopes his idea will be a big enough seller to put the Pet Rock craze in the Stone Age.

"We wanted to come up with something that promoted optimism and humor," Bob Ayres said. "The six-inch 'Bottle of Hope' is accompanied by a detailed operation manual, which recounts the story of the magical bottle and offers suggestions on when to put it to practical use."

One suggestion is to sprinkle some of the contents on your television set when you're hoping Howard Cosell will go away. Or, when your hairdresser thought you said "punk."

So far, thousands of mail orders for the unusual gift have come in from a small newspaper advertisement placed by Other Productions. Ayres, owner of the Other Cafe, showcase for standup comics, said he grew up a Los Angeles Dodgers fan and, "All I can say is the Bottle of Hope worked for me during the World Series."

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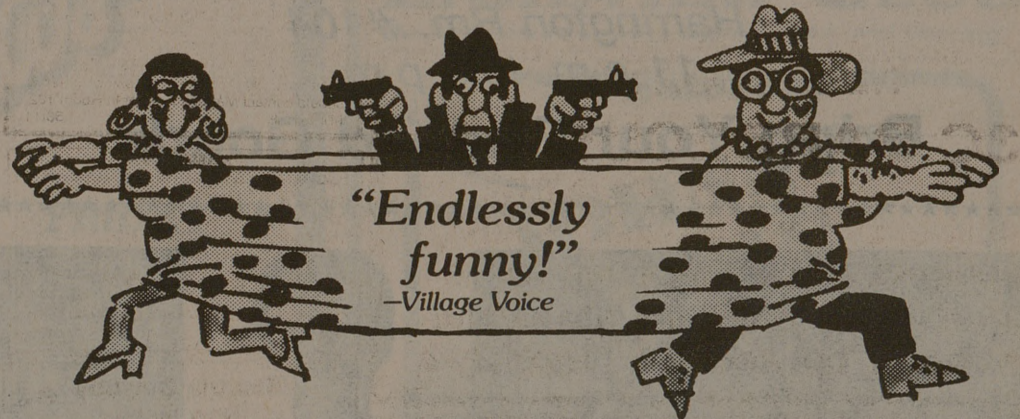


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