

Taking the victory plunge

staff photo by Irene Mees

After the Aggies beat the Baylor Bears Saturday, the freshman cadets gave the yell leaders the traditional dunking in the Fish Pond. Here, Tom Joseph, foreground, is on his way into the pool while the cadets ready Todd Kronsage for the plunge.

AFL-CIO crusade today

Unions hit voter apathy

WASHINGTON — The AFL-CIO is gearing up for a massive "get-out-the-vote" crusade aimed at combating voter apathy and defeating pro-Reagan congressional candidates.

The 14.9-million-member labor federation blames President Reagan, in large part, for the nation's 10.1 percent jobless rate and wants to send a message to the White House on Election Day.

AFL-CIO leaders plan to be at plant gates nationwide today pleading their case against Reagan's economic policies and urging union members to show their displeasure in the voting booth.

Federation President Lane Kirkland will lead the political offensive of about 60 officers of major unions.

He noted only 36 percent of potential voters have turned out in the last two non-presidential elections, and only 54 percent voted in the presidential years of 1976 and 1980.

"The AFL-CIO is deeply concerned about this problem," said Kirkland. "We trust the decision of the people more when more people participate in the decision."

Kirkland said he and his colleagues will urge trade unionists to register, to turn out and to vote for candidates endorsed by

COPE (Committee on Political Education), the AFL-CIO's political education and action arm.

Nearly all candidates endorsed by COPE are Democrats. Kirkland is scheduled to appear today outside the Kopper Co., Inc., a piston plant in Baltimore whose workers are represented by the Machinists and Aerospace Workers union.

Kirkland's appearance will be part of a nationwide "leaflet day" designated by the AFL-CIO to encourage union members to vote.

The federation earlier dubbed Election Day "Solidarity Day II," a successor to Solidarity Day in September 1981, when more than a quarter-million union members and others marched in Washington to protest Reagan administration economic policies.

While Kirkland distributes handbills in Baltimore, and later attends a rally for Sen. Paul Sarbanes, and Reps. Parren Mitchell and Barbara Mikulski, all Maryland Democrats, other AFL-CIO officials will be doing the same for candidates in other states.

Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Donahue will be at a Leviton Manufacturers plant in Warwick, R.I., pushing for election of Senate candidate Julius Michaelson who opposes incumbent Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I. Later Donahue will be at a

plant in Westbrook, Maine.

Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride, representing some of the workers hardest hit by the recession, plans to pass leaflets at steel plants in the Pittsburgh area.

Machinists President William Winpisinger will be in five cities in Oregon; Autoworkers Presi-

dent Douglas Fraser at a rally in Indianapolis; Rubber Workers President Milan Stone at a Uniroyal plant in Eau Claire, Wis.; Food and Commercial Workers President William Wynn at a warehouse in Columbus, Ohio; and Paperworkers President Wayne Glenn at a pulp and paper plant in Clarksville, Tenn.

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Wright: Lower taxes must go to cut deficit

United Press International RALEIGH, N.C. — House Majority Leader Rep. Jim Wright said Monday that next year's scheduled 10 percent income tax cut must be dropped or delayed in order to save the deficit-ridden federal budget.

"We've got to have the moxie, gumption and common sense to face the facts," the Texas Democrat told reporters. "We're not going to have a balanced budget so long as you drain off \$96 billion to \$120 billion every year (with the tax cut)."

Wright came to North Carolina to campaign for several

Democratic congressmen and speak to the state's Savings and Loan League. Though he did little boosting to the 175 S&L members, he was much more partisan with the press.

"In North Carolina you have a splendid, strong Democratic delegation in the House — and may their tribe increase," he said.

Wright attacked President Reagan's economic programs and said Reagan should not blame those who ran the White House before him.

"I don't recall Harry Truman blaming his predecessors for the problems he had. I don't recall

Jimmy Carter blaming Gerald Ford," Wright said.

He then ticked off some Democratic alternatives:

- Press the Federal Reserve Board to return to a policy that keeps interest rates at a decent level.

- Revive efforts to pass legislation to boost the home building industry. Congress passed a similar bill earlier this year, but President Reagan vetoed it.

- Set up a standby program to repair and restore roads, bridges and other public works.

- Boost job training and re-training programs.

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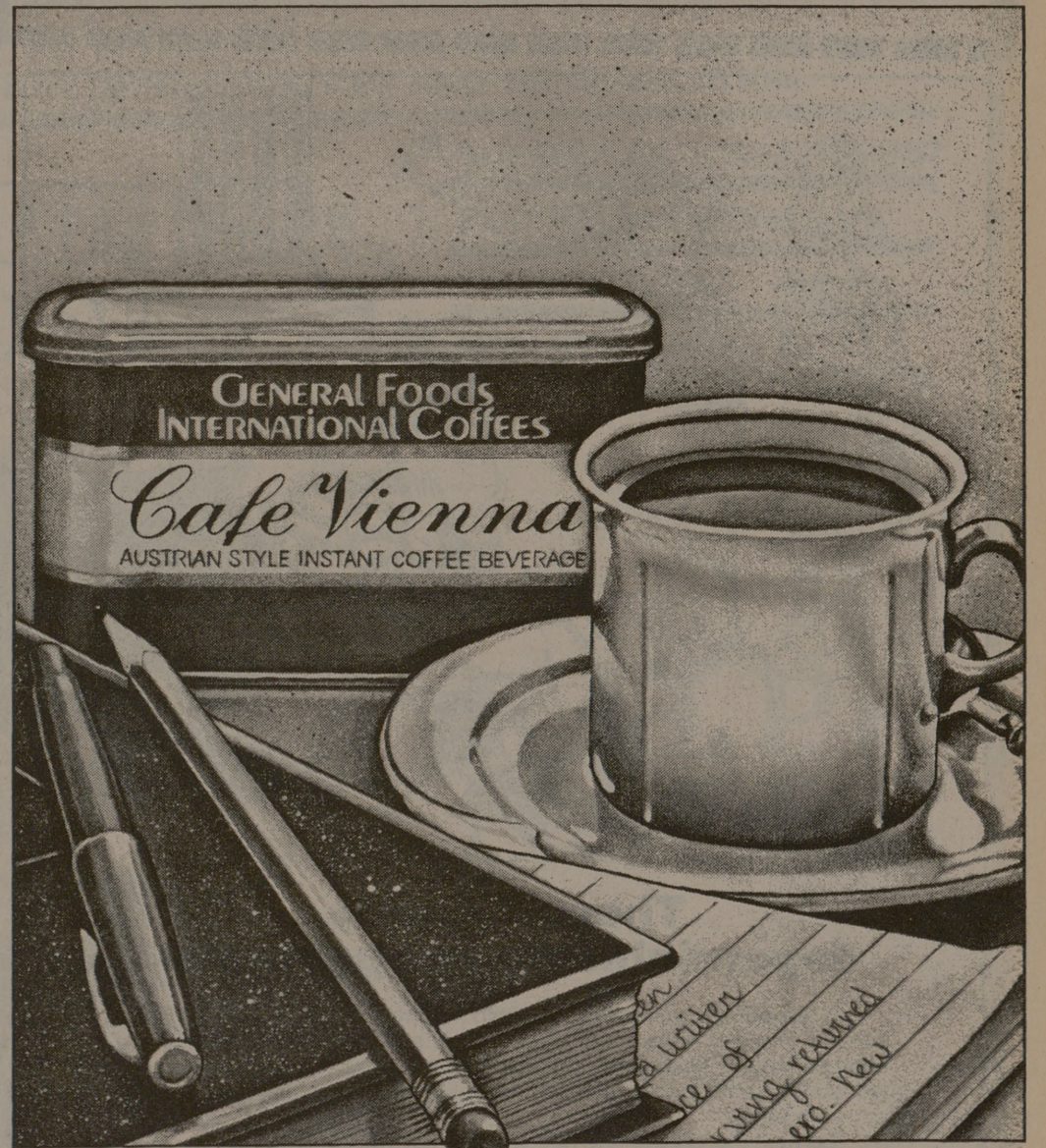
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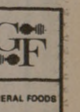
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