



Birthday cakes for sale

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

This Garfield cake, along with other custom-made cakes, are for sale at the Memorial Student Center Cafeteria. Cakes are available for all occasions.

## Squash seeds date U.S. agriculture

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Researchers using a new carbon dating technique on ancient squash seeds say agriculture in the eastern United States developed at least 7,000 years ago, about 2,500 years earlier than previously believed.

The scientists at the University of Rochester, Northwestern University and the Center for American Archeology in Kampsville, Ill., dated carbonized remains and seeds of cultivated squash plants from archeological digs in Illinois using a new radio carbon dating technique.

The technique puts the development of agriculture in the eastern United States at around 5,000 B.C., 2,500 years earlier than previous evidence had indicated, the scientists said.

"For the eastern United States, that would be the earliest date for agriculture. It does date earlier in Mesoamerica (Central America) and elsewhere in the world, in the Near East particularly," said David Asch, an archeological botanist with the Kampsville archeological center. "The significance is a regional one."

People began cultivating previously wild plants for food at least 8,000 years ago in Central America and as early as 16,000 years ago in the Nile Valley in Egypt, Asch said. Central American techniques carried over into the southwestern United States.

The researchers said the mea-

surements, using an accelerator, were the first done on a plant specimen. The technique can be used on plants a thousand times smaller than those required in traditional methods.

These include carbon-14 dating, which measures the amount of radioactive carbon-14 remaining in a substance. This requires a sample of at least a gram, or .035 oz.

"Critical specimens of plants remains are simply too small to be dated by traditional techniques," said James Brown, an anthropology professor at Northwestern University.

In the latest experiments, carbon-14 in the seeds was extracted for analysis by processing them at great speed in the University of Rochester's tandem accelerator, one of three machines in existence, said Gove, director of the accelerator lab and a physics professor at Rochester.

The other machines are at the University of Arizona at Tucson and in Zurich, Switzerland.

The team said the experiment also confirmed corn was important in early northeastern culture than originally thought. Squash and a weed known as marsh alder or sump weed, whose seeds can be ground like wheat, were more prominent.

The researchers speculate squash seeds were dropped to a camp fire where the seeds were charred by the fire, carbonized and preserving them.

Most of the seeds were three to six years old at the time and Napoleon Hollow sites along the Illinois River.

## Reagan plans to erase sexism

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan embarks on a campaign to mend fences with women Thursday by proposing a series of initiatives to erase discriminatory federal laws.

The president arranged a meeting with Attorney General William French Smith and other legal advisers to get the go-ahead to

move with Congress to wipe out sex discrimination in the statutes.

His decisions will be based on a review of a 50-page report prepared by a Justice Department Task Force. Barbara Honegger, a former aide who worked on the task force, was instrumental in moving the White House to action with her charges Reagan had reneged on his promises for equality

for women. Honegger called tardy administration efforts to rectify inequities in the law against women a sham. She indicated Justice Department officials were thwarting efforts to move ahead on the problem.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said a White House aide will be consulting with Honegger. However, no one apparently has

contacted her yet.

An aide said the attorney general will discuss with Reagan 18 cases dealing with discrimination his department is reviewing.

The aide indicated Reagan will announce 50 more instances of obsolete federal statutes that make a sex-based distinction between men and women. They would be added to an omnibus bill covering 100 other laws that Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., already has introduced.

Speakes told reporters the president "will receive a report on the administration's efforts on behalf of women."

A panel is considering other legislative initiatives to eliminate economic discrimination against women in the fields of pensions, insurance and pay, particularly in government jobs. However, aides indicated more work needed to be done on these matters.

## East Texas town boycotts Soviet imports in protest

United Press International  
MARSHALL — The city council of this East Texas city has unanimously approved a resolution calling on its 21,600 citizens to boycott any imports from the Soviet Union in protest of last week's downing of a South Korean airliner.

Mayor Lane Strahan said he did not know whether any Russian

products ever reached Marshall, but if they do, that citizens are being urged not to buy any of them.

"Whether this be vodka or some other form of liquor or equipment or tools or whatever is available for purchase in our city, we are calling on our citizens to boycott the purchase of these items to show our support to our

national leaders. President Reagan and local congressman, to the entire Texas congressional delegation that we are behind the action that is being taken," the mayor said.

"We deplore the terrible loss of life in the shooting down of the Korean airliner, the loss of all lives, but especially because we had some Americans on board."

## Child still awaits liver; returning to Abilene

United Press International  
MINNEAPOLIS — Tiny Ashley Bailey, who has been awaiting a new liver at University of Minnesota Hospitals since May, is well enough to return home to Texas, doctors said Thursday.

Despite two presidential pleas for a new organ for Ashley, no suit-

able donor organ has yet been found for the 1-year-old child who needs a relatively small liver. Ashley, who weighed about 9 pounds when she was admitted to the hospitals, now weighs more than 13 pounds.

Dr. John Najarian, chief of surgery at the hospitals, said

Ashley is stable and can be transferred to a hospital in Abilene. Her life is no longer in immediate danger, he said, although there is no way to estimate how long she can go without a new organ.

The child will be rushed by jet back to Minneapolis as soon as a suitable liver becomes available, Najarian said.

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