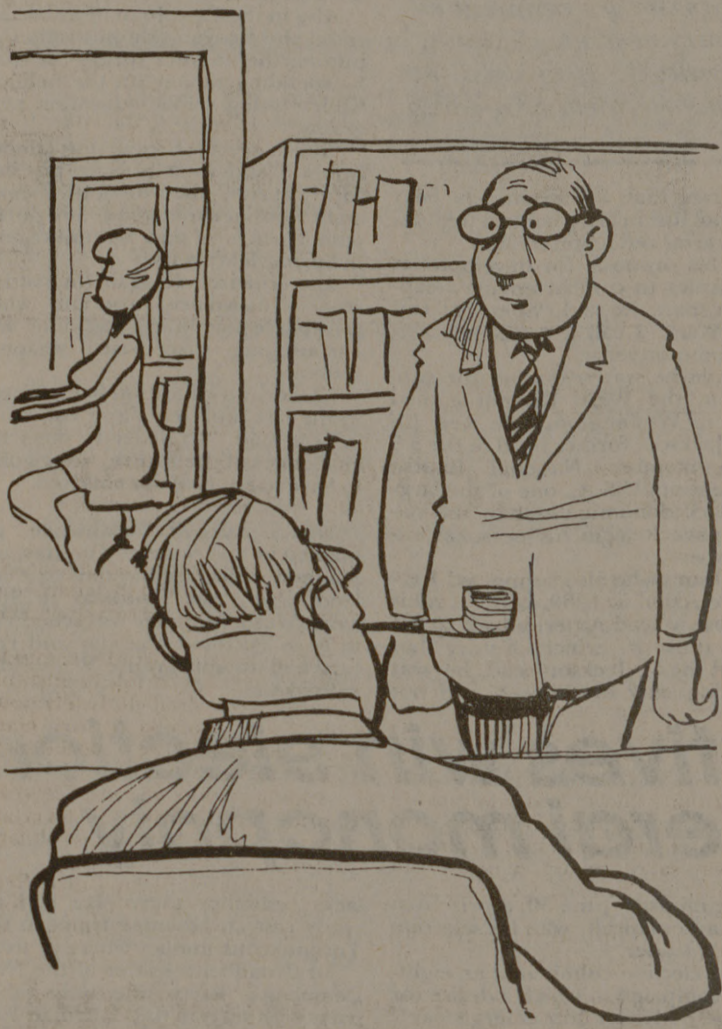


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I think I've been threatened. He said that he wanted to take the course under me, no matter how many times he fails."

# Military officials unveil bomber to replace B-52

**United Press International**  
PALMDALE, Calif. — The first operational B-1 bomber, the \$220 million aircraft intended to replace the nation's aging B-52 force, was unveiled Tuesday, less than a week after the crash of a prototype of the strategic jet.

Tommie Douglas Benefield, 55, Rockwell International's chief test pilot who died in last Wednesday's crash of a B-1 prototype, was praised as the man who kept faith through the project's stormy progress from drawing board to flight pad.

Gen. Lawrence Skantze, head of the Air Force Systems Command, said that the bomber rolled out Tuesday was the dead pilot's legacy.

"Doug, wherever you are, we are going to follow through and we are going to do it damn well," Skantze said during a 50-minute ceremony attended by 1,500 civilian and military guests at Rockwell's Palmdale facility.

Flags at the plant flew at half-mast. Outside, a dozen picketers marched with signs reading "Stop the nuclear arms race" and "Reagan '84, war '85."

The Air Force is scheduled to purchase 100 B-1Bs and spare parts at a cost of \$20.5 billion, figured in 1981 dollars. The first contract in the embattled B-1 program was awarded in 1970.

The B-1B will be the first long-range, heavy-strategic bomber to join the Air Force inventory since the B-52 entered service in 1953.

In a message read by Air Force secretary Verne Orr, President Reagan hailed Tuesday's unveiling as "a benchmark in the defense of our nation."

"The B-1 will significantly enhance our nation's deterrent strength and is a symbol of our determination to keep freedom's lamp burning," Reagan's message said.

"May it never fly in anger," Orr added.

Reagan resurrected the B-1 program in 1981 after President Jimmy Carter killed the project in 1977 for being too costly. Critics of the bomber maintain it is obsolete and contend it will be vulnerable to Soviet air defenses.

The Air Force says its advantages over the B-52 include a smaller size, making detection more difficult, and ability to fly lower and faster with a larger payload and a need for fewer crewmembers, four versus six.

In addition, the B-1B can fly overseas and return without refueling.

Two bombers, the one rolled out Tuesday and another to be built next year, will be stationed at nearby Edwards Air Force Base as part of the flight test program. Aircraft No. 1 will fly for the first time in October when it makes the short hop from Palmdale to Edwards.

Four bombers will be delivered to the Strategic Air Command in 1985, 32 in 1986, 48 in 1987 and 14 in 1988. The program currently is five months ahead of schedule.

The dark green and gray bombers, colored for camouflage in the European theater, will be stationed at Air Force bases in Texas, Kansas and the Dakotas.

An investigation is in progress in the crash of a B-1A that killed Benefield. Two crew members are recovering from injuries suffered in the accident near Edwards.

# Teachers' strikes leave students idle

**United Press International**  
Public school students in Chicago enjoyed a final day of summer vacation Tuesday following a decision by teachers to extend contract negotiations, but more than 138,000 students were idled by school strikes in six states.

Nearly 77,000 students were kept out of classrooms in nine other Illinois districts, including Rockford, the state's second largest.

About 54,000 students were idled in nine Michigan districts, and 5,700 were affected by strikes in two Pennsylvania districts. Strikes also af-

ected smaller numbers in Louisiana and New Jersey.

Wages, fringe benefits, class sizes and transfer policies were among the major issues in the strike-bound school districts.

Students in Chicago, the nation's third-largest school district, got ready for their first day of school. A decision reached Monday between the union and the school board guaranteed school will open on time Wednesday for 433,000 students in the state's largest district.

CTU President Jacqueline Vaughn said the union's House of

Delegates voted to honor the contract that expired at 12:01 a.m. Saturday until Nov. 1 and continue to negotiate with a mediator.

"We're just delighted school is open and it gives us a chance to continue negotiations," said Superintendent Ruth Love, who has not been rehired by the board and is fighting to keep her job in the final seven months of her contract.

Still at issue is whether the school board will continue to pay for medical and dental insurance for union teachers even though the 1984-85 budget called for shifting 25 percent

of the cost of health insurance to employees.

Chicago schools opened on time last year, but a three-week strike was called in October when contract negotiations failed.

Among the strike-bound districts in Michigan is Grand Rapids, the state's second largest with 1,800 teachers and 34,000 students.

And in the South Fayette School District in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, 74 teachers are into their second day at the picket lines.

## MSC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

1st General Committee Meeting  
Thursday, Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m.  
in Rudder 407

Persons interested in increasing International Awareness at A&M please attend.

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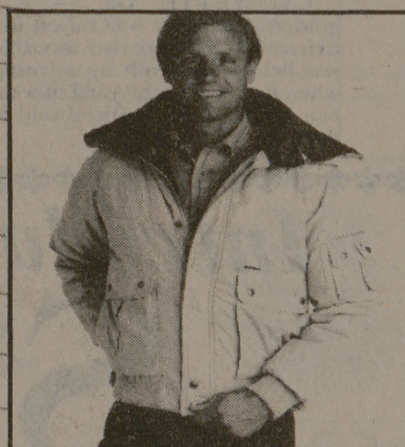


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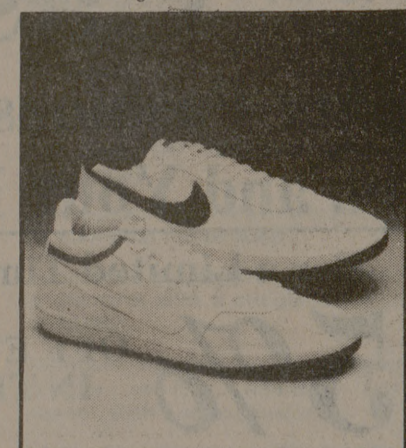
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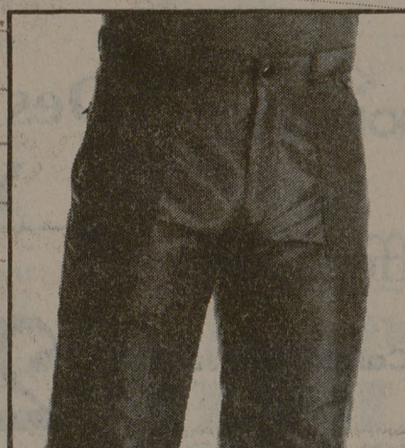
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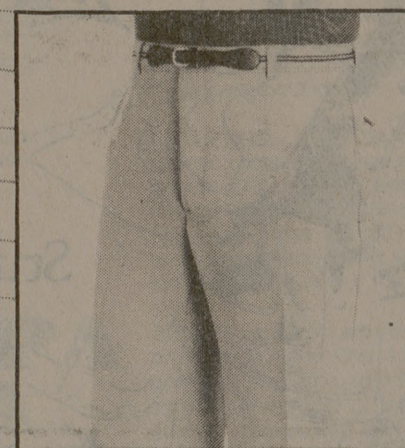
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