

**MSC Camera Committee  
General Meeting**

**Monday, April 3  
Room 302 Rudder  
7:00 p.m.**

**Featuring**

- ★ Pick up your photos from Salon photo contest
- ★ Slide show
- ★ Information on current events

**Sunday Night  
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5-10 pm

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**Attention All  
General Studies  
Students**

Please come by  
101 Academic Building  
NOW thru April 12  
to pick up a  
pre-registration form!!

**Discerning joke  
from real thing  
hard in Britain**

Associated Press

LONDON — This April Fools' Day the Foreign Office had the boss, Sir Geoffrey Howe, attending a fish-hanging ceremony, while the Department of Energy unveiled a thermal necktie to keep you warm.

Some laughed, some har-rumped, and a few were taken in. After all, in Britain one can't always readily distinguish the real thing from the spoof.

Would a thermal necktie really stand out in a land where judges still wear shoulder-length wigs?

If foreigners think Britons are an eccentric lot, it is partly because the British cherish their traditions long after they have outlived their usefulness.

Thus in the age of the atomic clock, the ball still comes down the pole every day at Greenwich Observatory signaling the stroke of noon to non-existent ships' captains on the Thames.

And every night at the Tower of London, Beefeater guards in red coats and frilly collars enact the following tableau:

Sentry: "Halt, who comes there?"  
Chief Yeoman Warder: "The Keys."

Sentry: "Whose keys?"  
Chief Yeoman Warder: "Queen Elizabeth's keys."

Sentry: "Pass Elizabeth's keys and all's well."

The Tower hasn't held a prisoner since the Nazi defector Rudolf Hess was locked up there in 1941.

Cynics might suspect the rituals are kept up to attract tourists. Certainly not, retorts Jonathan Hawkins, manager of the Eccentric Club, where London's upper-crust oddballs hang out. "If they did it only for tourists, they wouldn't do it every night including dreary winter nights

when there's not a tourist in sight," he said in an interview.

And Brig. Kenneth Mears, deputy governor of the Tower, argued that whether it still housed prisoners was immaterial.

"The only reason it hasn't held a prisoner since 1941 is that we haven't had a war since," he said. "If we did, the tower might be used as a prison again."

Meanwhile, he said, "We have formal ceremonies that just have to be done. It's a question of 700 years of English history."

And since legend has it that if the ravens ever desert the Tower, disaster will befall Britain, six ravens are kept on the premises, their wings clipped to keep them from flying away.

Jilly Cooper, who writes about English society, believes that English eccentricity springs from the aristocracy. Mainly because it alone feels secure enough to parade its idiosyncrasies without being held up to public ridicule.

To her, the finest example of this was the father of the late prime minister Sir Anthony Eden hurling his barometer out of the window one rainy day shouting: "See for yourself, you bloody thing!"

April Fools' Day sometimes seems like a parody of a parody, and this year even the government joined in.

Foreign Secretary Howe's official diary for April 1 included attending "a fish-hanging ceremony at Billingsgate Market" — which no longer exists.

The Energy Department showed reporters what officials described, with barely a quiver of the upper lip, as "a thermal tie." Its purpose, buried in a five-page statement in dense official jargon: to keep the neck warm.

**Extension of benefits  
voted down in Senate**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday rejected, 58-34, legislation that would have extended federal jobless benefits for six months as it prepared to consider a bill to phase out the program for 339,000 unemployed Americans.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said he was "fairly certain" President Reagan would sign the \$160 million phase-out bill as long as it contained no amendments to extend the program.

The phase-out bill, approved in the House on Tuesday, was to go immediately to the White House for Reagan's signature pending Senate approval.

The defeated legislation was in the form of an amendment proposed by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. He said the bill was necessary to "protect unemployed workers throughout the country who through no fault of their own cannot find jobs."

But Senate Finance Committee Chairman Robert Packwood, R-Ore., urged defeat of the amendment, saying it would only "ensure that the president would veto the phase-out plan."

Before taking up the phase-out bill, the Senate was to consider another amendment that would make it easier for states with high unemployment to offer jobless benefits for longer than 26 weeks.

The Federal Supplemental Compensation Program provides up to 14 weeks of payments to jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of state benefits. The president wanted to let the three-year-old program die when it expires Saturday.

The House approved the phase-out plan Tuesday on a voice vote hours after its Ways and Means Committee endorsed it. The rush tactics were necessary so that the bill could be sent to Reagan before the Easter-Passover recess begins Thursday.

Under the phase-out plan, unemployed workers already receiving benefits as of this week would continue to get their checks after the program expires. If Reagan vetoes the bill, no checks can be written after Saturday.

But Packwood said the phase-out, estimated to cost \$160 million to \$180 million, is the costliest proposal Reagan and Republicans in Congress would accept.

**Deadline approach  
for Ohio bank bids**

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio bankers facing a deadline for matching an out-of-state offer to buy the closed Home State Savings Bank met privately with state banking officials Wednesday, hinting afterward that an Ohio institution might make a counter-offer.

Ralph Bolen, executive vice president of the Ohio Bankers Association, said the bankers were briefed in general terms about an offer from an out-of-state institution — reportedly Chemical Bank of New York — and that the Ohio bankers "are now on their own."

Gov. Richard Celeste said on Tuesday that an out-of-state offer had been received for Home State, of Cincinnati, whose closing March 9 triggered a panic among some Ohio savings and loan customers and prompted the governor to close 69 privately insured thrifts March 15.

Celeste, however, gave Ohio banks until Wednesday afternoon to meet or beat the out-of-state offer.

Bolen said early Wednesday afternoon that "it's a possibility" that an Ohio bank or group of banks would come forward with an offer.

Another bank spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be identified by name, said he expected one or more offers from Ohio banks.

Twenty-eight bankers — most of them from Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland — met for 90 minutes with Raymond Sawyer, Celeste's chief of staff; Savings and Loan Superintendent Robert B. McAlister; and Commerce Director Kenneth R. Cox.

Celeste was in Washington to testify about Ohio's savings and loan crisis before a U.S. House subcommittee.

Although Celeste refused to identify the out-of-state firm, Sawyer did not correct reporters who asked him whether Ohio bankers were given the terms of a Chemical Bank offer.

Chemical Bank, with \$52.2 billion in assets, said in a statement that there had been "no agreement regarding purchase of Home State by Chemical. There are substantial regulatory, legal, and other issues that would have to be resolved before any basis for acquisition could be developed."

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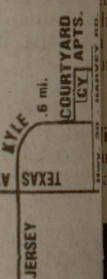
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