

World and Nation

History today

Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1985.

On this date:
In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire began in Mrs. O'Leary's barn. However, the popular story that a cow had kicked over a lantern was untrue. By the time it was over, the fire had claimed more than 200 lives and burned more than 2,100 acres.

In 1918, Sergeant Alvin C. York almost single-handedly killed 25 German soldiers and captured 132 in the Argonne Forest in France.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was indicted for murder in the death of the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that the secret of the atomic bomb would be shared only with Britain and Canada.

In 1956, Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game ever in a World Series as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers, 2-0.

In 1970, exiled Soviet author Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.

In 1980, Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed a 20-year cooperation treaty with Syria. At a Moscow dinner for Syrian President Hafez Assad, Brezhnev warned the West to stay out of the Iran-Iraq war.

In 1982, the Polish parliament banned all labor organizations in Poland, including Solidarity.

British police threaten use of tear gas in riots

Associated Press
LONDON — Police threatened on Monday to use tear gas and plastic bullets against street rioters, after some of the worst urban violence in Britain since 1981. One policeman was stabbed to death and 232 fellow officers were injured.

Twenty civilians also were hurt when more than 500 youths, some armed with shotguns, machetes and staves, battled police Sunday night and early Monday in the racially mixed north London district of Tottenham.

Police Commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman told a news conference the riot — the fourth major outbreak of urban violence in Britain in a month — was the first in mainland Britain in modern times in which guns were used and a police officer was killed.

bullets and tear gas to the scene at the height of the violence, but the riot was contained without using them.

"But I wish to put all people of London on notice that I will not shrink from such a decision should I believe it a practical option for restoring peace and preventing crime and injury," he warned.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, the Cabinet official in charge of the police, said he fully supported the use of plastic bullets "if police find themselves being attacked by petrol bombs."

knives and an axe. Police on Monday recovered a knife found near the scene of the attack.

Scotland Yard said 69 injured policemen were treated at hospitals and 163 were treated at the scene for less serious injuries. Five were reported in serious condition, including one officer who was hit on the head by a slab of concrete and was suffering from kidney failure.

British police have never used plastic bullets in riots outside Northern Ireland, and tear gas has not been used since the 1981 disturbance in the Toxteth district of Liverpool.

Except for Northern Ireland, where all police patrols are armed, police in Britain traditionally carry

only night sticks and go into riots protected by body-length plastic shields.

The rioters, blacks and whites, appeared to be aiming at police, whom they blamed for the death of Cynthia Jarrett, a 49-year-old black woman who collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack during a police search of her home on Saturday night.

Newman said Patrolman Keith Henry Blakelock, a 40-year-old father of three, "was savagely murdered" during an attack by about 100 youths wielding machetes,

Seven people, including two policemen and four journalists, suffered shotgun wounds and one civilian suffered serious stab wounds.

Rioting in 20 towns and cities in 1981 injured hundreds of police and rioters, caused millions of dollars in damage and led to 4,000 arrests. In the past month, riots have swept Birmingham, where two Asian brothers were killed, and London's Brixton district. There also was serious unrest in Liverpool.

Study shows steroids may aid in cystic fibrosis treatment

Associated Press
BOSTON — Doses of steroids appear to protect young victims of cystic fibrosis from lung damage, the single greatest cause of illness and death in this commonly inherited disease, researchers say.

The study, conducted at Harvard University and Children's Hospital in Boston, showed that children who took the drug had healthier lungs and spent less time in the hospital than did a comparison group.

After four years, "we felt we had to stop the study, because it was be-

coming so obvious that the steroid group was better. We felt we needed to open it up and let people know," said Dr. Harvey S. Auerbach, who directed the study.

Steroids reduce inflammation, but they can cause serious side effects. The researchers said they do not recommend the drugs for routine use in cystic fibrosis until their findings are confirmed by a larger study.

"We are very encouraged," said Dr. Robert Beall of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He said the foundation will finance a major study to

check and expand the Harvard results.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common fatal genetic disease of whites. One in 20 Americans carries the gene for cystic fibrosis, and the disease occurs whenever a child inherits the gene from both parents. It strikes about 1 in 1,800 whites.

Victims secrete thick mucus that clogs the airways of their lungs. They are also susceptible to lung infections, and most patients die of respiratory failure. They typically live until their early 20s.

The latest study, published in the Sept. 28 issue of the journal *Lancet*, was conducted on 45 children. They were randomly assigned to receive either a cortisone-like steroid drug called prednisone or dummy placebos.

The two groups were alike when the study began, but after four years, there were significant differences. The steroid patients' lungs were virtually normal, while various measures demonstrated that the comparison group's lungs were about 15 percent below normal.

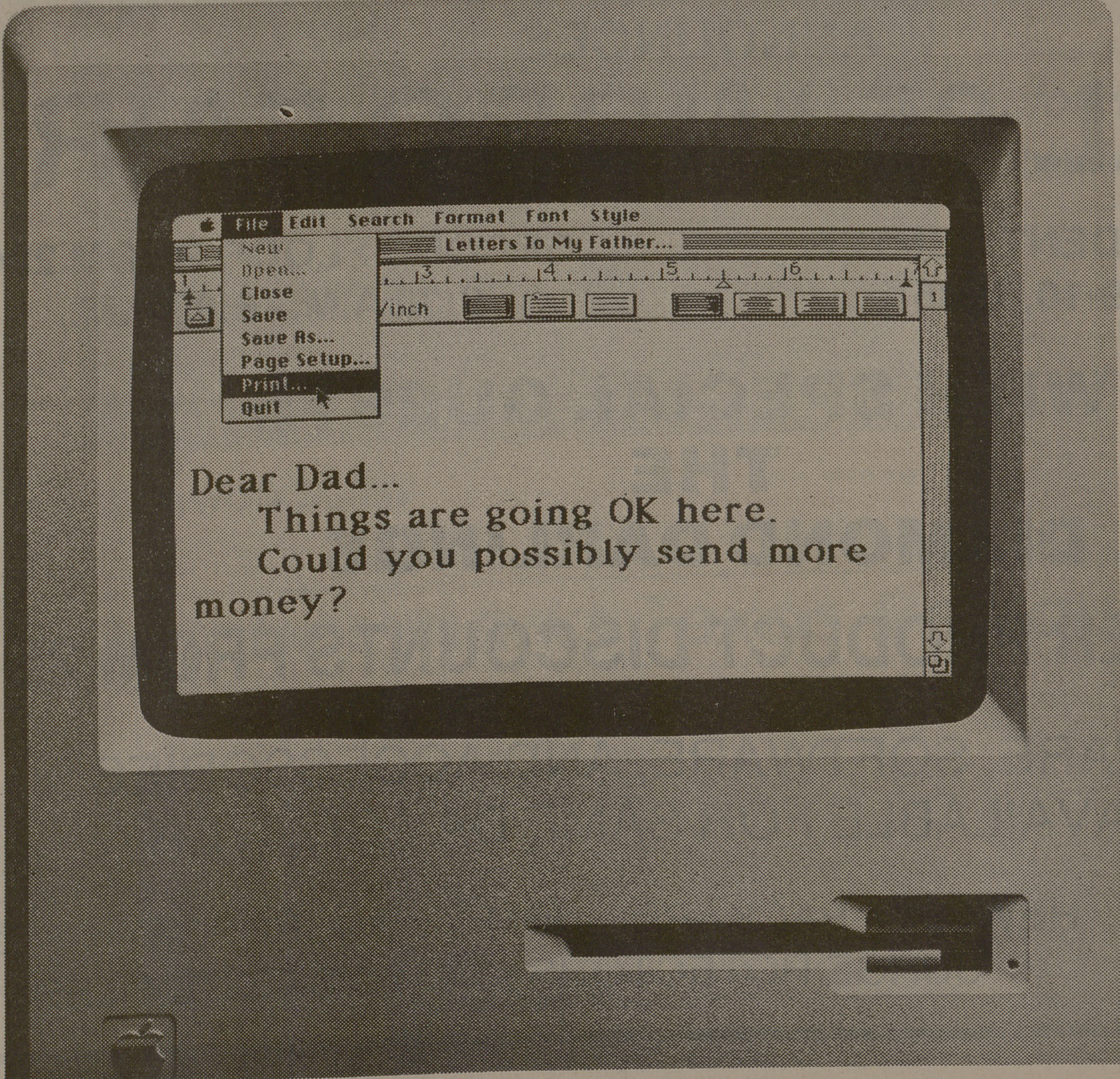
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