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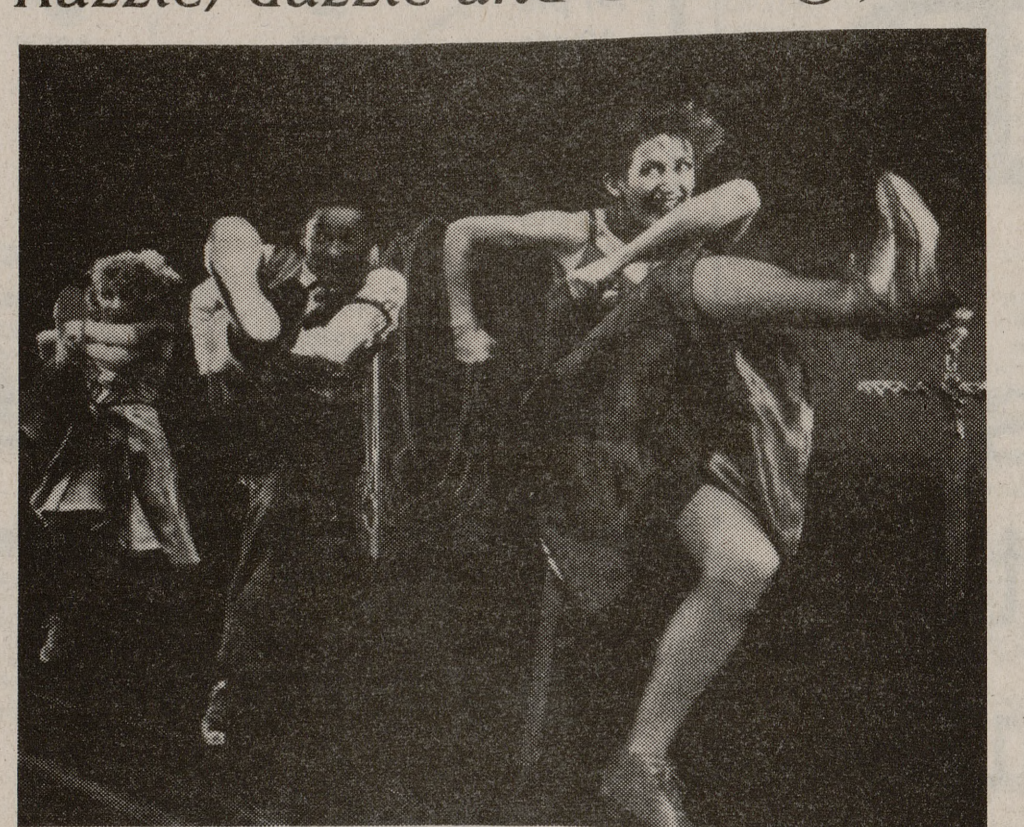
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**SHOE** by Jeff MacNelly



Foreign competition is ruining American industry like steel.

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In fact, soon we'll be left with only one basic industry that we still lead the world in...

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**Mexican opposition party says mayoral races rigged**

Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico — The opposition National Action Party accused the government Monday of vote rigging in Nuevo Leon state municipal elections and said the system that allowed such practices was responsible for the low turnout.

The government's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, claimed victory in all 51 mayoral elections held in the northern state Sunday.

But National Action, known as PAN, said its candidate, Jose Luis Coindreau, defeated the PRI's Luis M. Farías for mayor of Monterrey, Mexico's third-largest city.

It also claimed that Alejandro Paez defeated Alejandro Chapa of the PRI in the wealthy suburb of San Pedro, and that Luis Prieto defeated the PRI's Roberto Campos in another suburb, San Nicolas.

The results must be certified by the PRI-controlled State Electoral Commission to be official.

Under the front-page headline, "Abstentionism and Anomalies," the Monterrey newspaper El Porvenir said, "Abstentionism was the major winner" in Sunday's elections.

"Elections leave a bitter taste," said a headline in the newspaper. "There was everything, but not cleanliness," it said.

Official figures had not been released, but local newspapers that received copies of voting results said Monday that about 75 percent of the more than 1 million eligible voters in the Monterrey metropolitan area stayed away from the polls.

Gov. Jorge Trevino, commenting on Sunday's lack of voters, said, "It's a constitutional right to vote or not, and the act of abstaining is not penalized by law."

Speaking at a news conference Sunday, Trevino said, "If there is valid proof that fraud exists, it will be corrected."

PAN candidate Coindreau called the abstentionism "a pity." But he said, "the system is worse. When a good government arrives in power we're going to wake up the people."

Despite new election procedures implemented by Trevino to quell the cries of fraud, local newspapers Monday were filled with stories about voting irregularities.

Reporters assigned as poll watchers for the daily newspaper El Norte said they saw PRI supporters steal ballot boxes after the polls closed, detected "tacos," the term used for a bunch of illegal ballots stuffed together into the box, and saw PAN representatives being forcibly evicted from the polls.

Jesus Cantu, managing director of El Porvenir, said he voted with a false credential to prove how easily it was to stuff the ballot boxes.

Prieto, state PAN president, charged that PRI-orchestrated fraud in the July 7 gubernatorial race resulted in Sunday's low turnout.

He said citizens failed to go to the polls because they felt their vote was not respected in the summer elections when the PRI's Trevino triumphed.

Scattered outbreaks of fistfights and clubbings throughout the state marred an otherwise peaceful election, but the Monterrey metropolitan area, where about 75 percent of the state's 3 million people live, was quiet Monday.

**Report: U.S. can endure key mineral embargo**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has stockpiled enough of the four most strategic minerals to weather a 14-month cutoff in imports, a group of private defense analysts said Monday in a report designed to minimize fears of future foreign embargoes.

The report also said the Reagan administration should increase the stockpiles and get new overseas metal sources so it can reduce the level of spending on military forces built to protect existing foreign supplies.

"Even if short-run economic costs were high, a cutoff would not constitute a threat to national security," said the report by the Center for Defense Information. "In a national emergency, no economic cost would necessarily be high enough to force fundamental security concessions."

The center is a liberal-oriented research group directed by several retired military officers and is frequently critical of administration defense policies.

Interest in strategic minerals policy has been heightened in recent months by warnings from leaders in South Africa — whose relations with the United States have worsened — that a cutoff in sales of key strategic minerals would hurt this country.

The report said that in 1983, the United States imported \$1.8 billion in minerals from South Africa — 51 percent of U.S. chromium consumption, 35 percent of manganese and 50 percent of platinum metal groups. South Africa is not the key supplier of the other most critical material, cobalt.

Chromium and manganese are important for steel production and platinum metals are used in electrical circuitry and as catalysts in chemical reactions.

"Cutoff risks for the four most critical minerals are substantially reduced by the fact that their present stockpile levels are sufficient to meet emergency demand for at least 14 months," the report said.

**History today**

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 1985. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On Nov. 12, 1920, baseball got its first "czar" as Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis was elected commissioner of the American and National leagues.

On this date: In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

One year ago: Space Shuttle Discovery astronauts Dale Gardner and Joe Allen snared the wandering satellite Palapa B-2 in history's first space salvage.

Thought for Today: "Considering how dangerous everything is, nothing is really very frightening." — Gertrude Stein, author (1874-1946).

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