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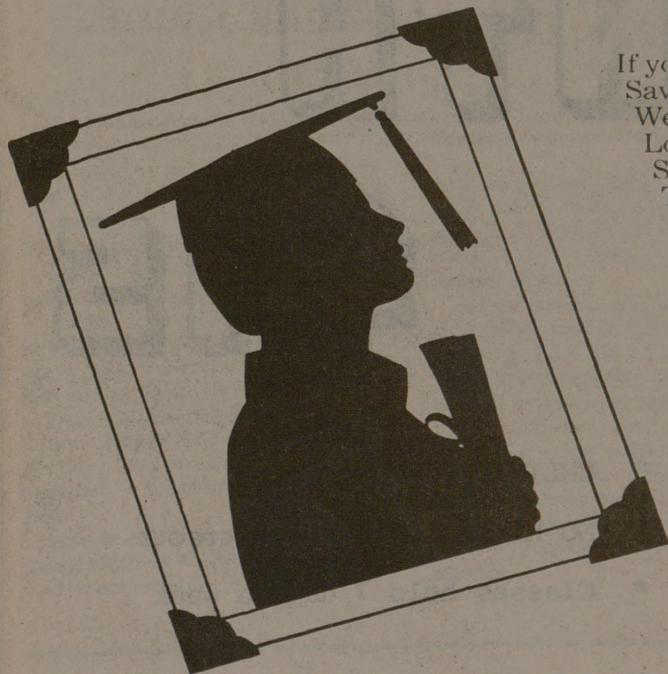
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**Freeze kills 15**  
*Record low temperatures set in Southeast*

Associated Press

An avalanche of freezing air dropped temperatures to record lows across the Southeast on Tuesday, and in the Northeast utility crews worked to restore electricity cut by heavy snow and ice.

The weather was blamed for at least 15 deaths between Sunday and Tuesday from Florida to New York.

Monday the weather forced schools to close in at least 12 states and sent dozens of homeless people to Alabama shelters.

In the Appalachians, Asheville, N.C., chilled to 2 below zero, down from the record of 8 set in 1977, and Beckley, W.Va., hit 7 below, 3 degrees off its old record, also set in 1977. The lows of 13 at Montgomery, Ala., and Savannah, Ga., broke records that had stood since 1897. Greer, S.C., hit a record low of 5.

And in Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie dove to a record 28 degrees below zero, the National Weather Service reported.

But balmy weather on the Plains let Pueblo, Colo., warm to 71 de-

grees in the afternoon, tying its record and 17 degrees warmer than the reading at the same time at Key West, Fla.

Central Florida's citrus belt, with two-thirds of the season's grapefruit and orange crops still on the trees, had temperatures in the mid 20s for several hours early Tuesday, right at the threshold of time and cold that could damage trees, growers said.

The \$1 billion-a-year wholesale citrus industry suffered tree-killing

*The lows of 13 at Montgomery, Ala., and Savannah, Ga., broke records that had stood since 1897.*  
— National Weather Service.

freezes in December 1983 and January 1985.

Growers flooded citrus groves hoping that standing water would

retain enough heat to protect the trees. Others piled on hay for insulation or set oil-burning heaters between trees. Piles of earth were stacked against the trunks of vulnerable young trees.

Schools across northern and central Georgia remained closed a second day Tuesday because of the cold, but temperatures began rising during the day and by midafternoon.

To the north, a storm off the northern Atlantic Coast spread more snow across the Northeast where nearly 4 feet of snow fell over the weekend in parts of New York state's mountains.

Utility crews worked through the night to restore power to several thousand homes left without electricity after the weekend snowstorm brought down power lines through northeastern New York.

However, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. officials said at least 11,300 customers were still without power Tuesday, down from about 40,000 on Monday.

**Sociologist says  
humor will help  
with memorization**

Associated Press

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Humor helps students to remember more, says Dr. Byron D. Steiger, who uses cartoons on class examination papers. An associate professor of sociology at Pacific University, he points out that sociology is a study of the human condition, and that humor certainly applies.

"Who is it that tells the king the truth?" he asked. "It's the fool or the court jester. Humor can get across ideas that would be unacceptable otherwise."

Steiger often uses a cartoon on the cover of a test to help students relax and to ensure that they all start the exam at the same time. Cartoons also are included in the body of the test. Steiger has found that if the student understands the preceding cartoon, he can answer the question.

An example of a punch line from a cartoon Steiger has used on a test when the class was studying the efficiency of the jury system: "We find the defendant guilty, the lawyers incompetent and the judge pompous."

Steiger has used cartoons in classes and on tests for 10 years and has a collection of at least a thousand cartoons, sorted by classes, in which he can apply them.

"Cartoonists make us look at the world in a different perspective, so we can't take everything for granted," Steiger says.

In the area of teaching, he adds, "You have to remain interested in what you're teaching. Collecting and using cartoons to fit courses keeps me more intellectually alive."

Some years Steiger has even taught a Sociology of Humor course, which is not standard fare in all sociology departments.

"I get a kick out of the cartoons on test papers," Steiger says. "The students like it. It helps learning."

Some students have said, "Keep doing it. It's the only interesting thing on the exams," he reports. Others have said more seriously that cartoons break up the sections of the exam and help break down examination tensions.

Debra Watros, a Pacific senior from Beaverton, Ore., says that the cartoons on tests "are really different. I've never seen anything like it before. It takes the tension off, loosens everyone up and humanizes the professor."

Another student, Cecilia Romero, a junior from Kahului, Hawaii, says that a cartoon at the beginning of the exam and one in the middle help her to relax. "They pertain to the test and can help me form an additional viewpoint about the topic, which I can use in an essay," she says. "They help me remember illustrations to support what I am writing."

What do Steiger's teaching colleagues think? Some of them frown on the practice, Steiger admits. Others simply accept it as Steiger's style, and they also accept cartoons he finds and sends them related to their teaching fields.

"A professor should be an ally to the student, not an adversary," Steiger says. "If using humor helps, I'm all for it."

**How's your  
knowledge  
of news?**

Associated Press

1. The space shuttle Columbia was finally launched after mechanical and weather difficulties that resulted in a record number of postponements: (a) 6; (b) 7; (c) 8.

2. A weeklong schedule of events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began, leading up to the celebration of his birthday as a national holiday. The civil rights leader was slain April 4: (a) 1963; (b) 1965; (c) 1968.

3. The American Heart Association said the treatment of heart and circulatory disease this year will cost an estimated: (a) \$78 billion; (b) \$78.6 billion; (c) \$7.8 billion.

4. Two Libyan fighter planes spotted a U.S. Navy surveillance plane over the Mediterranean and: (a) shot it down; (b) intercepted it and briefly shadowed it; (c) the Libyan planes were shot down by American fighter planes.

5. After more than three decades of military-dominated rule, a civilian, Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, took office as president of: (a) Guatemala; (b) El Salvador; (c) Mexico.

6. To prevent owners of backyard satellite dishes from getting their signals free, Home Box Office and Cinemax: (a) began scrambling the signals; (b) stopped broadcasting the signals; (c) brought suit against dish owners.

ANSWERS: 1.b 2.c 3.b 4.b 5.a 6.a

**Florida farmer raises gator 'crops'**

Associated Press

PALMDALE, Fla. — Cecil Clemons is a central Florida farmer who doesn't plant anything, harvests only when he has a customer, and spends most of the time talking to tourists who visit his place on U.S. 27.

Although the 16 acres and home he has here are in a rather lonely spot, Clemons has no fear of burglars or trespassers.

He owns "Gatorama," a name that explains all.

"You don't make a house pet out of them," Clemons says with a laugh at the entrance where \$2.50 will pro-

vide a visit with about 2,000 reptiles — 1,500 alligators and 500 crocodiles.

Clemons has been around gators "since I was big enough to tote a gun." He's never been seriously hurt by the reptiles. He has due respect for an alligator, he explains, and "I'm a little more particular with crocodiles."

Clemons sells and ships gators and crocodiles around the world to others who ostensibly need breeding stock. He will not sell to anyone admitting they plan to use them for their meat or hides.

While there's no posted price list at Gatorama, Clemons offers baby alligators measuring 8 to 10 inches in length for \$150 apiece. The next category includes those up to four feet. They go for \$400 to \$500. Above that, the price runs up to \$2,000 each.

In a special tank live a pair of gavials he says were smuggled from Southeast Asia to the United States when the reptiles were small. Clemons says having a male and female gavial is extremely rare in this country. They are not for sale.

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