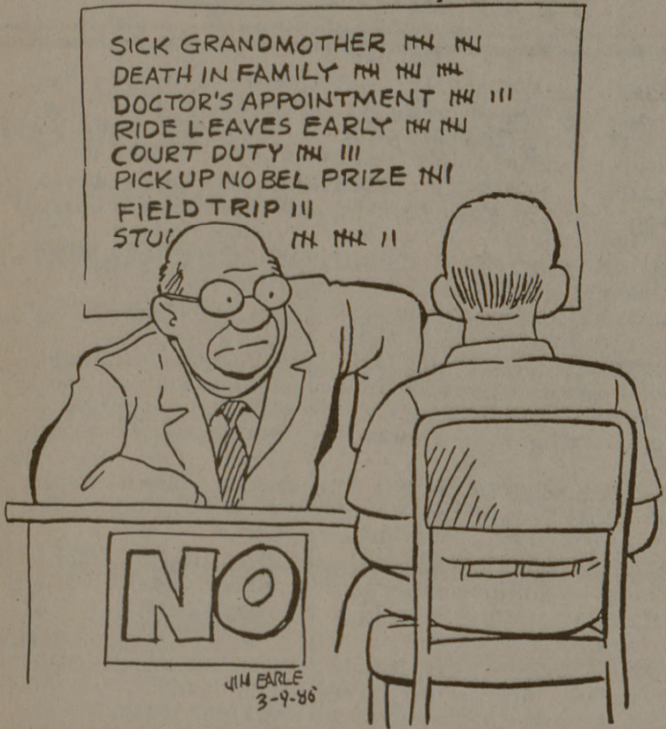


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"As a matter of fact, I did want to talk about leaving early for spring break, but I think I can work it out without missing class."

Government: Great Lakes area may flood

Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — Serious flooding could develop in the Great Lakes region and in Utah this spring, with minor or moderate problems possible in other areas, the government said Monday in its spring flooding outlook.

Water levels in the upper Great Lakes, Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie, rose to record levels last fall endangering lake front property and setting the stage for even greater hazards when the spring snow melt occurs.

Michael D. Hudlow of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told reporters that the potential for flooding and severe property damage is extremely high for the shoreline of these lakes.

Hudlow, director of the National Weather Service's Office of Hydrology, said lake levels are expected to peak this summer 10 inches or more above last year's levels on all Great Lakes except Ontario.

In addition, he said, the Great Salt Lake, Utah, has climbed to near record levels, experiencing its greatest two-week increase on record between Feb. 15 and March 1. The lake is at its highest level since 1875, and flooding is expected around the lake at least through June.

In addition to the Great Lake and Great Salt Lake, other areas where spring flooding may occur, the forecast said, include the Wind River and Sweet River in Wyoming, North Platte River in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, the Boulder, Big Thompson and Cache La Poudre creeks in Colorado, Mouteau River in South Dakota and the Big Sioux River in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Details of spring flood potential across the nation are included in the annual warning issued Monday.

But the danger for the Great Lakes was apparent much earlier, with a warning posted last fall by the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich.

According to Christopher Schafer of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources "It's going to be a bad year."

Lake levels are five to 10 inches above a year ago, posing a threat to lakefront property.

"There's no plug that can be pulled to let the water out of the system," Schafer said. "It's going to be that way through 1986 and probably into 1987. There's no relief in sight."

Indeed, rainfall in the Great Lakes region has been high for the last 15 years, observed Frank Quinn, of the Great Lakes environmental lab. In a similar high-water situation in 1973, damage reached hundreds of millions of dollars.

Floods have been a major American problem throughout the nation's history, and in fact are the most common natural disaster in the nation.

Tornadoes, winds in 3 states leave 2 dead, 20 injured

Associated Press

Tornadoes and winds up to 87 mph raked Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio on Monday, killing at least two people and injuring more than 20, while cutting electricity to thousands of people and shattering planes at Cincinnati's airport.

Strong winds ripped through a 10- to 12-block section of Newport, Ky., causing heavy damage and an undetermined number of injuries, said Gordon Nichols, a spokesman for the state disaster and emergency services office.

Streets were blocked off and authorities were preparing to call in the National Guard, he said.

Authorities in Covington, Ky., across the Ohio river from Cincinnati, declared a state of emergency and warned non-residents to keep out of the city after high winds knocked out power to most of the city and ripped the roofs from dozens of buildings.

Marion County sheriff's dispatcher Tom Booher said high winds "just wiped out" a trailer park on the west side of Indianapolis and caused heavy damage to several businesses.

"We're keeping people from looting right now," Booher said.

No casualties were reported in the trailer park or damaged businesses.

Sheriff's Sgt. Rick Johnson said in Hancock County, Ind., a man was

crushed to death when the barn in which he and his brother sought refuge from a storm collapsed under high winds.

Fayette County Sheriff Robert W. McArthur said in Jasper Township, Ohio, a man was killed when a storm hit his trailer and three other family members were injured.

State police Sgt. Paul Hedge said in southern Indiana, one tornado appeared to have struck Austin, injuring 15 people, and Little York, injuring three people.

Austin Police Chief John Adams said, "We have about 15 to 20 homes or trailers that have been blown away or damaged."

Spokesman Cliff May said at least 10 people were being treated at Scott County Hospital.

"We're in the process of taking care of them now," he said. "We've got several. They aren't all in yet."

Ted Bushelman, a spokesman at Greater Cincinnati airport, where six people suffered minor injuries when control tower windows blew out, said, "We've been shut down since the storm hit."

"There are also 30 to 50 airplanes damaged beyond repair."

The roof and walls of the Motion Industries plant, near Indianapolis International Airport, collapsed during a storm, but none of the plant's employees were injured.

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