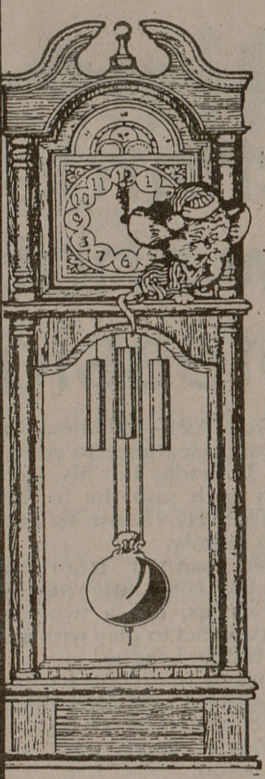


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# World and Nation

## Armenians ignore call for strike to protest annexation rejection

MOSCOW (AP) — Armenians ignored activists' calls for a strike Thursday to protest the government's rejection of their demand to annex a region in neighboring Azerbaijan, residents and the state-run media reported.

The reports indicated the government, after a five-month struggle, may be gaining the upper hand in controlling labor unrest that has caused millions of dollars in lost production in Armenia.

However, a 2-month-old strike was reported continuing in the disputed region, Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population is mostly Armenian.

The national television news program Vremya broadcast footage from Stepanakert, the region's administrative center, showing trucks and buses standing idle, construction sites empty and workers milling around the city.

Vremya showed hundreds of buses and trucks

planned for a strike Thursday to protest the government's rejection of their demand to annex a region in neighboring Azerbaijan, residents and the state-run media reported.

"The people are embittered," said a worker with the Gostelradio state broadcasting authority in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's administrative center. "We don't know what to do. But we know that the refusal to make Nagorno-Karabakh part of Armenia wasn't just."

A correspondent for the official Soviet news agency Tass in the Armenian capital of Yerevan said the call for a strike beginning Thursday went largely unheeded.

"The majority of enterprises are working. It's a normal working day," said the journalist, who

declined to give his name. He conceded, "Some enterprises are not working fully."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Peril told reporters at a briefing that industries in Armenia were nearly back to normal.

Nagorno-Karabakh has been part of the dominantly Moslem republic of Azerbaijan for 65 years, and Azerbaijani leaders have vetoed the region's decision to secede.

Armenians make up three-quarters of 160,000 people of the contested region, and tend that Azerbaijanis discriminate against them.

The annexation movement began in February after central authorities rejected an initial proposal from Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Soviet consumers saving their rubles

MOSCOW (AP) — Savings banks hold deposits equal to \$1,700 for every man, woman and child in the Soviet Union, which reflects how difficult it is for people to find anything worth spending their money on.

The per capita savings figure of 1,000 rubles represents half a year's salary for most Soviet workers and the hoard could generate serious inflation when more consumer goods reach the market. It was revealed Thursday in a partial report on Soviet economic performance in the first half of 1988.

Savings banks hold personal deposits of 280 billion rubles (\$451 billion) for the nation's 284 million residents, said Nikolai G. Belov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee on Statistics.

That indicates Soviet citizens have far more savings in relation to income than people in the United States or other Western industrial countries.

What it says about the Soviet economy is that desirable goods are scarce and consumers appear to be stashing their money in fear of high prices when subsidies are removed from basic items like food and housing.

The current five-year economic

plan crafted by Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his advisers calls for simultaneous increases in quality and quantity, which Western analysts and some Soviet economists consider unrealistic.

Although broad figures Belov gave at a news conference indicated the Kremlin was seeing the quantity output it has ordered, the savings figure and a look in any state-run store illustrate the slow improvement in production of consumer goods and services.

Only about 10 percent of Soviet families own cars. Laundry is done by hand in most homes for lack of washing machines and many adults own just three or four changes of clothing.

Economist Nikolai Shmelev has said the high savings level indicates pent-up demand among consumers and is a potential cause of inflation.

Savings accounts grew by 42 billion rubles in 1987.

Per capita savings on an annual basis were not given in the Soviet economic report. The average American last year saved only 3.7 percent of his income and Japanese workers put aside about 15.6 percent, according to another published report.

## Minority

(Continued from page 1)

recruiting success. The key to A&M's recruiting success.

"Minority students who come to A&M do extremely well," he said. "The retention of minority students at A&M from 1986 was the highest success ratio of any institution in the state. Eighty-eight percent of the Hispanic freshman of 1986 came back as sophomores and 87 percent of the black freshman came back as sophomores.

"These numbers are within a point or two of the Anglo students' return ratio, and that's remarkable when you consider how it has been in the past."

A&M's minority recruitment and retention is even better than UT's, Cooper said.

"Of those minority students that come here, we retain a higher number than UT does, which is another step toward saying that 'ours' will graduate. If you just count numbers of minorities initially recruited then

we would be ahead of us, but if you count retention of students then it's definitely A&M."

A&M has programs and incentives to help keep minority students enrolled and successful, Cooper said.

"We have excellent retention programs here," he said.

"We have the student affairs office, the outreach center and most of the academic colleges have summer enrichment programs for summer enrichment. We also offer a lot of scholarships to selected entering freshmen as an incentive to come to A&M."

One of the best services offered to minority students at A&M, Cooper said, is the Multicultural Services Center.

Kevin Carrethers, coordinator of the center, said they do everything possible to keep the minority students enrolled and to help them prosper.

## World briefs

### 10 dead, 13 hurt in Mexican prison riot

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Inmates in a Michoacan state penitentiary escaped guards but failed to disarm and started an hour-long riot. Officials said 10 prisoners were killed and 13 people wounded in a shootout with police.

State attorney general Jose Franco Villa said the violence Wednesday at the prison in Morelia was "an attempt at a mass breakout." It was not clear how many of the prison's 2,000 inmates were involved.

Franco Villa blamed the rioting on a "grupo of highly dangerous

inmates, most of whom were sentenced for drug trafficking, robberies and homicides."

Franco Villa told a news conference Wednesday night that inmates were killed and 13 people wounded, including prisoners, guards and two visitors.

He said prisoners tossed a Molotov cocktail into administrative offices and destroyed virtually all files of pending court cases. The penitentiary includes six courtrooms.

Franco Villa acknowledged there were "material damages of significant importance."

### Fish oil may help clear clogged arteries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oil from cold-water fish, shown by several studies to help prevent heart attacks, may work its magic by retarding a growth protein which promotes clogged arteries, a Cleveland researcher says.

Paul L. Fox of the Cleveland Clinic Research Institute said Thursday that test-tube experiments showed that oil extracted from the flesh of fish that live in cold water decreases levels of a protein called the platelet-derived growth factor.

Reducing this protein, Fox

said, suppresses the growth of smooth muscle cells in the artery and, thus, helps stem the blood vessel narrowing that can lead to a heart attack.

But Fox said the finding does not mean that people should be popping fish-oil pills as a heart attack preventative. More studies need to be done before that proof that such dietary supplements can be effective, he said.

"I would not personally recommend that people take fish oil," Fox said.

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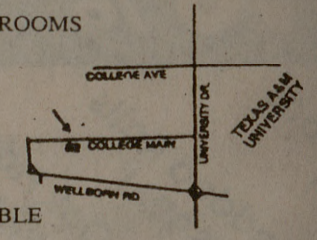
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