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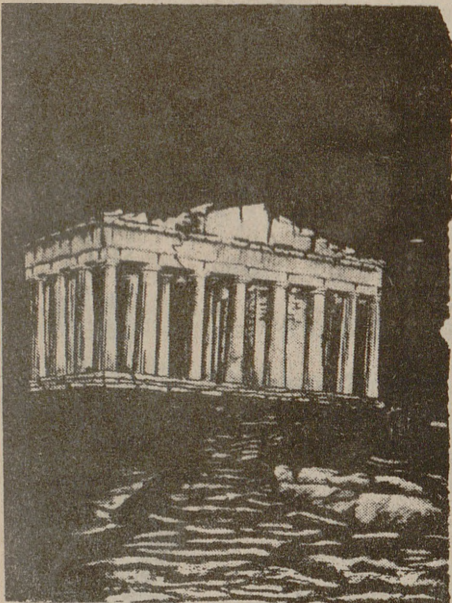
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845-0112

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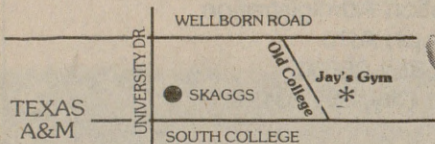
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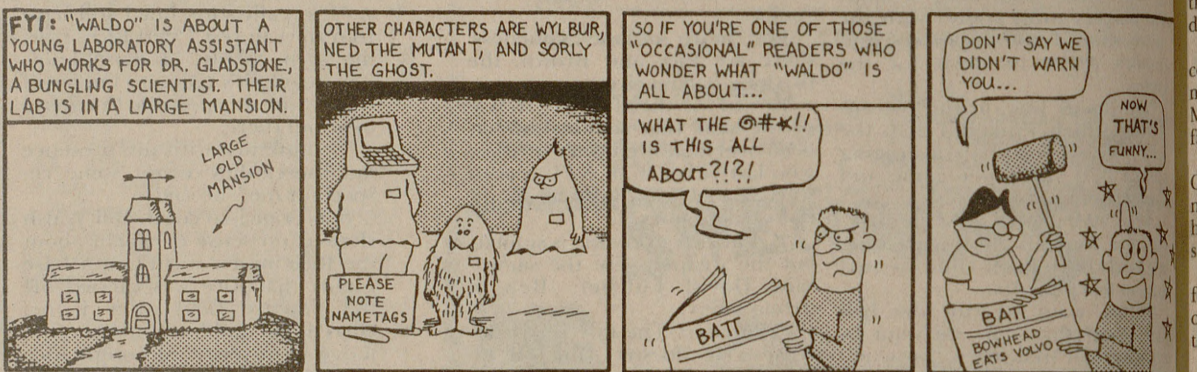
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Dip in Soviet grain harvest expected to hamper reforms

MOSCOW (AP) — A dip in the Soviet grain harvest is a disappointment for President Mikhail S. Gorbachev as he prepares for agricultural reforms, and may affect food supplies and buying strategies, Western analysts said Tuesday.

"This really is a disappointment," one Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. "Just for credibility's sake they have to improve grain production. It's not happening."

Soviet officials on Monday announced that the 1988 grain harvest was 195 million tons, less than the 210 million tons in each of the previous two years.

Gorbachev is trying to reform Soviet farm policy by encouraging workers on the collective and state farms that were formed forcibly in the 1930s to work in smaller groups. He wants to give them long-term leases that will allow them to con-

sider themselves masters of the state-owned land and offer the opportunity to earn more money.

A meeting of the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee is scheduled for March to consider reform in the farm sector, which is characterized by indifference, low productivity, and large losses in transportation, storage and processing. The newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported last week that three out of four potatoes harvested in the Soviet Union go to waste.

A smaller grain harvest also will require the Soviets to divert more of their earnings to buying food rather than new foreign technology to modernize industry.

The harvests of 210 million tons of grain in each of the last two years were short of the targets of about 230 million tons, which Western experts considered unrealistic, but bet-

ter than the average annual harvest of about 180 million tons in the first half of the decade.

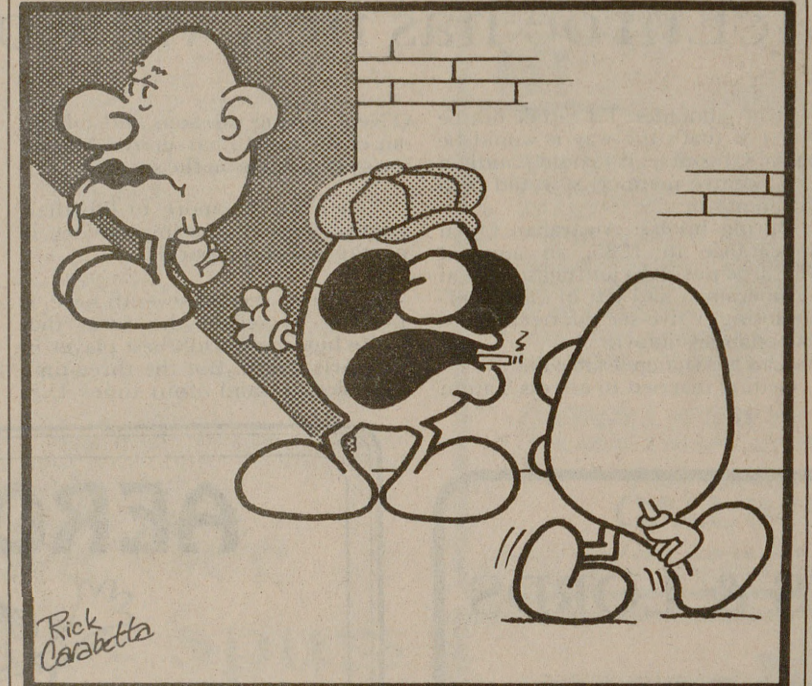
Even with a harvest the size of those in 1986 and 1987, the Soviet Union had to import millions of tons of grain to provide bread and past products for its population and feed for its cattle.

The official press warned consumers last fall that the harvest would be lower this year, blaming drought that afflicted many of the grain-growing regions in 1988. The Western analyst, however, said the cold and rainy 1987 growing season had been even worse for grain.

Experts said the shortfall would not affect the amount of bread in Soviet shops, which is one of the few items that is always plentiful. But it could affect meat and dairy products.

A second expert said an increase had been noticed in the amount of veal offered for sale at farmers' markets, indicating more calves were being slaughtered, and that Soviet statistics indicated a slight drop in milk production.

Scrambled Eggs



Billy goat spawns boom of kid births

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Zookeepers are blaming a kid boom at the Forest Park Zoo on the escapades of a billy goat who escaped from his pen.

Six nanny goats have given birth to 11 kids in the past week and five more nannies may be expecting, zoo manager Barbara Lewis said.

"We're taking this day by day," she said.

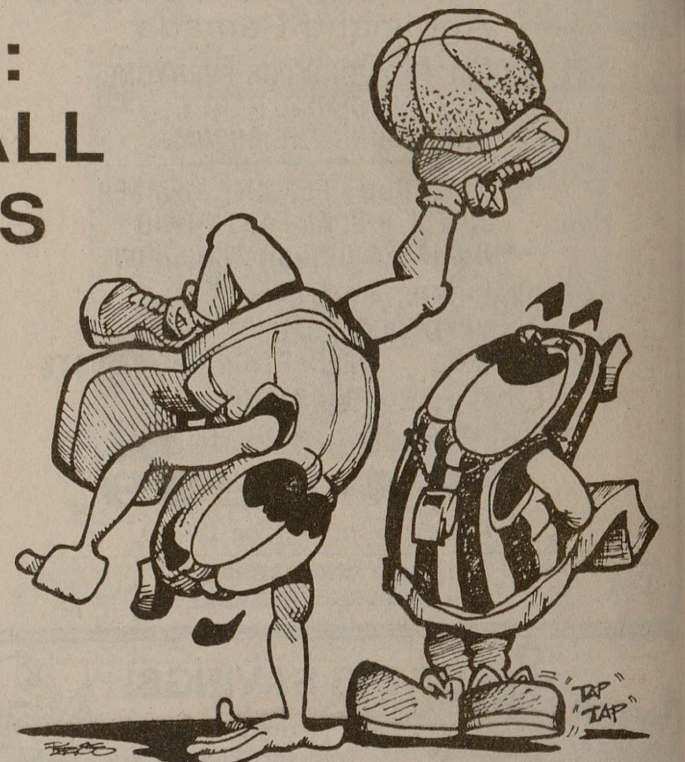
Lewis said the billy goat escaped and mingled with the nannies for two weeks late last summer while the pairs were being made to a nearby pond. She said she did not know the extent of the goat's exploits at the time.

One of the kids, Frankie, has been named for the security guard who found his mother giving birth last week.

WANTED: BASKETBALL OFFICIALS

Training Meeting:
Wed. January 18,
7 PM,
267 G. Rollie White

For more information contact
Mike Waldron,
159 Read Building,
845-7826.



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