Argus Leader

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SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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50 Cents



Girls fastpitch national opens

Sioux Falls teams winless so far



Oldham resurrects Potato Day

A look at why, with some recipes to boot

Congress considers end to military draft

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Twenty-six years after the last young American was drafted, legislation to abolish the Selective Service System is quietly advancing in Congress. But a showdown seems certain with some lawmakers who suggest a return to military conscription.

A provision to shut down the 59-year-old agency, which continues to register 18-year-old males for a potential military call-up, is tucked in a spending bill to be taken up when the House returns after Labor Day.

The House Appropriations Committee approved the agency termination before the August recess with little debate, which surprised many military-minded lawmakers - and the agency.

"There was no advance warning," said Lew Brodsky, the service's director of public and congressional affairs. He noted Selective Service survived tries to

abolish it, in 1993 and 1995. If endorsed by the full House and the Senate, the move would slash the system's current \$24.4 million budget by \$17.4 million in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, providing only \$7 million for "termination costs."

Abolition supporters suggest that, if Congress and the president decide on a return to the draft, the system could be re-established quickly.



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GWWI FAWIOR

It's safe, but mayor says it's 'major disappointment' work is needed

By BOB KEYES Argus Leader Staff

The mezzanine of the Great Hall of the Washington Pavil- we're going ion cannot withstand boister- through this ous crowd behavior and must be fixed, Mayor Gary Hanson Hanson told said Tuesday.

The mayor will ask an engi- City Council neer to design permanent members who Gary Hanson structural changes so the 560- gathered in seat mezzanine feels solid to the council patrons who choose to dance at concerts or other events.

made Hanson announcement at a City Hall press conference after reviewing the first of two reports assessing the structural integrity of the 1,835-seat Great Hall.

"It's a major disappointment that reporters and

chambers for the first public review of the long-anticipated engineering study.

He refused to lay blame for the mezzanine's problem. "I'm not going to express dismay at any particular per-

son or company," he said. But, the mayor added, "This Report on Web site

To view the complete executive summary from the structural evaluation of the Pavilion today see the Argus Leader Web site at www.argusleader.com.

Also, inside today, an editorial examines the effects of the city decision. Page: 9B.

could have been and should have been anticipated. I'm disappointed we are going through this process. It should have been taken care of ahead of this."

The half-inch thick report most of it detailed mathemat-

ical calculations - concludes that the mezzanine complies with building codes and is not at risk of failure as long as fans don't dance and move in unison. But it says the cantilevered beams that support the mezzanine are stressed even when fans are seated "and thus are being overstressed" when fans dance.

"While these overstressed conditions do not appear to be reaching a material failure this behavior could lead to serious structural problems in the future," says the report.

options: To leave the mezza- to solve the problem.



Ken Klotzbach / Argus Leader

level, the long-term effects of Fans rocked the Pavilion in July for the Collective Soul concert. Dancing in the mezzanine caused it to bounce 5 inches.

nine as is while prohibiting At the press conference, dancing and restricting pro-Hanson said the city had two gramming, or hire an engineer

Because the building is supposed to be used for all kinds of concerts, including certain Pavilion repairs / See 9A

60TH SIOUX EMPIRE FAIR

Priest blesses rides

By JENNIFER SANDERSON Argus Leader Staff

Standing inside a swaying bucket atop the Ferris wheel at the Sioux Empire Fair on Tuesday, the Rev. John Vakulskas Jr. said his

prayers. "In the Catholic Church, we have what's called 'The Act of Contrition," Vakulskas said from his high perch during a blessing of the midway's rides and attractions. "We say it when we know of impending disaster."

Not that one is expected. But Sioux Empire Fair Manager Sue Salter wasn't taking any chances on opening day of the fair's 60th run at the W.H. Lyon Fairground.

Vakulskas, the Vaticanappointed international

Fair activities

coordinator of carnival ministries, should be over his fear of high-flying rides by now. The Larchwood, Iowa, priest has been a carnival cleric for 30 years.

Tuesday was the papal appointee's first trip to the Sioux Empire Fair, howev-

"The fair, like any large gathering, could use someone looking over it," said Salter. "Hopefully, we all have a spiritual sense."

Vakulskas leaned over the edge of the bucket he shared with Mike Armstrong, whose father started Matt Armstrong Shows Inc., the company that runs the rides and sideshows.

Sprinkling holy water onto the sun-splashed pavement below, Vakulskas prayed for the safety of the carnival's employees and the families who would exchange tickets for thrills.

"We bless these rides, these games and the efforts of all these people," Vakul-

Blessing the rides / See 8A



Val Hoeppner / Argus Leader

Father John Vakulskas Jr. offers a prayer Tuesday to bless the Ferris wheel and other rides and games on the midway at the Sioux Empire Fair.

India guns down Pakistani jet, killing 16

By PAMELA CONSTABLE and KAMRAN KHAN

The Washington Post

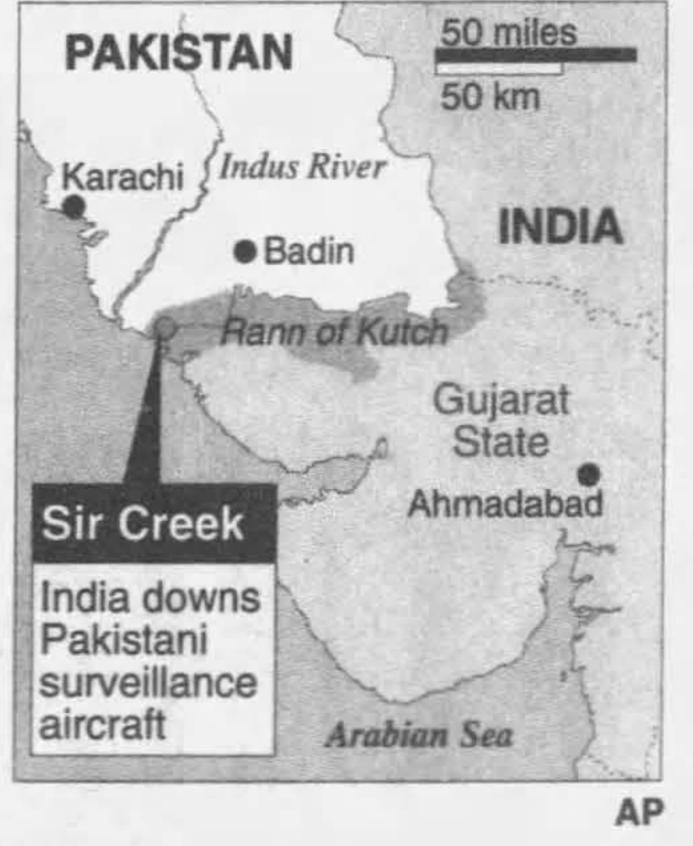
Indian fighter jet shot down a Indian state of Gujurat. Pakistani military plane Tues- The Pakistani high comday morning near the Indo- missioner in New Delhi, the Pakistani border, killing all 16 equivalent of an ambassador, persons on board and setting called the incident "a wanton off a barrage of recrimina- and cowardly act" of "coldtions between the rival coun- blooded murder" and said tries. This came less than Pakistan "reserves the right to three weeks after they ended make an appropriate their most serious border con-response in self-defense." But flict in three decades.

ed that the plane, a French- diate comment other than to made Berguet Atlantique express regret for the loss of sibility for the shooting, but naval warfare and sea recon- life, and some analysts said they charged that the Paknaissance aircraft, was Pakistan was seeking to play istani aircraft had "intruded" unarmed and conducting a down the significance of the at least seven miles inside "routine training mission." incident.

was shot down just around 11 a.m. local time (1 a.m. CDT) near Pakistan's southern NEW DELHI, India - An province of Sindh and the

Pakistani Prime Minister Pakistani authorities assert- Nawaz Sharif made no imme-

They said it had not crossed Indian military officials minutes, and had then "acted lim guerrillas who invaded a into Indian air space when it immediately accepted respon- in a hostile manner" by turn- mountainous border area.



ing toward the Indian MiG-21 fighter plane that had intercials said.

11 Pakistani soldiers and five Rome, designed to increase leaders considered suitable to officers, came at a time of understanding among differ- be pope. extreme tensions between ent religions. India and Pakistan, perennial adversaries that have fought focused on recognizing East three wars since they became River Catholics' vocations in independent nations in 1947. life. This weekend's event will Last year both successfully focus on evangelism. tested nuclear warheads, raising the stakes of their rivalry and altering the security landscape of South Asia.

For eight weeks this spring and summer, Indian troops Indian territory, for several battled Pakistani-based Mus- youth, having a pastor who

Gunman hurts 5 as he opens fire in Jewish center

Police searching hotel for dangerous suspect

By JEFF WONG Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - A gunman burst into a Jewish community center Tuesday and sprayed the lobby with 20 to 30 shots, wounding five people, including three boys attending day camp, and then evaded a manhunt into the night.

After hours of unsuccessfully searching the suburban neighborhood near the center, several SWAT teams converged on a hotel where authorities found a car that they believed may have been carjacked by the suspect, described as a balding white man in his 40s.

At 11 p.m. CDT, after evacuating the hotel, SWAT teams immediately discuss the effort," Sutton said. results of their search. The motive for the attack 16-year-old girl were in stable

bility, including if it's a hate receptionist Officer Guillermo Campos. The most seriously injured night.

was a 5-year-old boy who was shot in the stomach and leg condition of anonymity said and lost 30 percent of his the receptionist burst into her blood. He was in critical con- room with a wounded arm. dition after six hours of Theteachersaidshe gathered surgery and his prognosis for Shooting / See 8A recovery was fair, said sur-



Associated Press

Los Angeles police lead children away from the Jewish Community Center on Tuesday in Granada Hills, Calif. geon Clarence Sutton Jr. at

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. "He had a great desire to

went in. Authorities did not live and we supported that Two 6-year-old boys and a

was not known. "Every possi- condition at hospitals. Center crime, we'll look into it," said Shalometh, 68, was released from a hospital Tuesday

A teacher who spoke on

Rome cardinal's visit to focus on evangelism

Adviser to pope arrives today in city

By JILL CALLISON Argus Leader Staff

Cardinal Francis Arinze, one of Pope John Paul II's advisers who was raised in a rural farming village in Nigeria, arrives in Sioux Falls

Arinze will be the cornerstone of the second Journey to way place, but the Scriptures three-day gathering expected to draw as many as 6,000

A similar gathering in 1997

was the key to this," says Bishop Robert Carlson, who leads the 155-parish diocese. "Even if questions about the succesthe Catholic Church as a come up. was a very holy man and declared blessed, becoming a



Arinze

ture to European culture. "I just think we're blessed. It's unusual for him to come to an out-of-the-

African cul-

bishop

going

Rome

bringing

Holiness - Jubilee 2000, a say Jesus went to out-of-theway places."

And although the speculacepted it. The MiG then fired Catholics from eastern South tion distresses him, Arinze is an air-to-air missile at the Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. viewed by national news Pakistani plane, Indian offi- Arinze, 67, serves as presi- organizations and Catholic dent of the Pontifical Council scholars as one of only four or The incident, which killed of Interreligious Dialogue in five "papabili," those church

> Arinze rarely speaks to the press. In 1998 he declined an interview with the Wall Street Journal, explaining in a short note that newspapers too often "add sugar and salt" to "I thought Cardinal Arinze remarks of news makers.

Arinze has agreed to speak with media in Sioux Falls only his own experience, coming to sor to Pope John Paul II do not

John Paul, although in frail

Cardinal's visit / See 7A

Blessing the rides: Priest ministers to carnival workers

Continued from 1A

skas said. "May this be an opportunity of joy for all families."

Two more shakes of the crossmarked bottle, and the holy water was tucked safely into a pocket. Vakulskas leaned back and took a deep breath.

"Now back down to earth would be just fine," he said.

The carnival is "a parish on wheels," he said. It is made up of families no different than those who will stream though the fair's gates this week.

"The people who come through here will see everything all set up, and that's because somebody spent all night putting this up," Vakulskas said. "And that's hard work."

The work strains families. The typical carnival season runs from January through November which means Christmas at home, but little

"I grew up in the carnival," Armstrong said. "All my life, every summer, this is what I've done."

"We're there to take care of everybody," Vakulskas said. "Catholic, Jewish, Protestant we're all the Lord's people. I just happen to be a Catholic priest."

He also just happens to be an author. His "Book of Prayer" targets carnival and other outdoor showpeople who often cannot attend services in their local parish. ter.

"Carnival people often can't get away for services or funerals, so we honor the people in this profession and those who built it up," he said. And the traveling workers

respond, said Salter. "I think they really count on him," she said. "They count on that spiritual dimension in their lives."

Ordained in 1969, Vakulskas has performed carnival marriages and baptisms. When he says Mass at carnivals, as he will Thursday day. morning, he wears a special chasuble. His priestly robe's symbols include an elephant, a Ferris wheel, a clown and a merry-go-round.

Vakulskas' five-year Vatican appointment ends soon. The 55year-old said his own parish, St. Mary's in Larchwood, has been free. "very understanding during the summer."

Vakulskas said he will keep ministering to carnival congregations after his term is up. He'll bring his interfaith message to those who can't bring themselves to their own churches.

But he'll pass on the Ferris wheel, he said.

"I preached last Sunday to never look down."

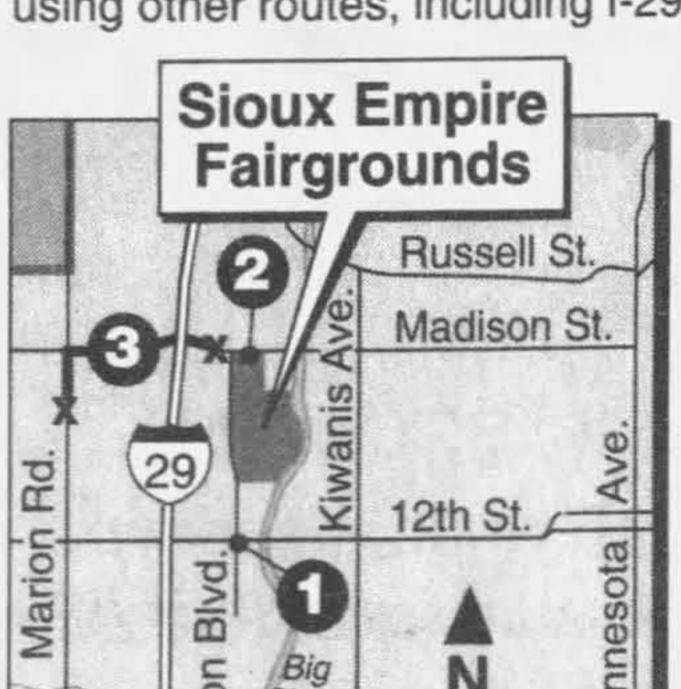
Getting to the fair

With up to 250,000 people expected to attend the Sioux Empire Fair this week, fair managers and local law enforcement agencies are encouraging fairgoers to carpool and allow extra time to get to the fair.

Construction at Madison Street and Marion Road will also create

extra traffic congestion. Come early and use alternate routes, said fair manager Sue Salter. Grandstand concerts begin at 8 p.m. today and Thursday, and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

People who live in western Sioux Falls and are not planning to attend the fair can avoid late-afternoon traffic backups on West 12th Street by using other routes, including I-29 and I-229.



To access fairgrounds:

- Turn north on Lyon Blvd. from W. 12th St.
- Turn south into fairgrounds from westbound Madison St.

Not accessible:

Due to construction on Marion Rd., Madison St. is closed to through traffic west of Lyon

Kristy Anderson / Argus Leader

The fair schedule

Grandstand

- 98°, 8 p.m. today; sold out. Lynyrd Skynyrd with Kory & the Fireflies, 8 p.m. Thursday; \$18, available at fair box office and Ticketmas-
- NTPA Truck & Tractor Pull, 7:30 p.m Friday; \$12 adults, \$8 children 11 and younger, available at fair box office and Ticketmaster.
- Three Dog Night with Mustang Sally, 7 p.m. Saturday; \$13.20, at fair box office and Ticketmaster.
- Britney Spears with opening acts to be announced, 7 p.m. Sunday; sold out.
 - Fun Tent
- Eclipse, 8:30 p.m. to midnight to-
- Thunder Canyon, 8 p.m. to midnight Thursday.
- Billy D & the Crystals, 8 p.m. to
- midnight Friday. Mustang Sally, 8 p.m. to mid-
- night Saturday. Admission to all Fun Tent shows is

Front Porch at the Neighborhood Today

- Gordy Pratt and Old Time Fid-
- dlers, 1 to 2 p.m. Old Time Fiddlers, 2 to 3 p.m.
 - JAM, 3 to 4 p.m.
 - Escape IV, 4 to 5 p.m.
 - Gordy Pratt, 5 to 6 p.m. Back Pages, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Strong Men Stoop, 7 to 8 p.m.

Thursday

- Lutheran School Chorus, noon to
- Hailey Soyland, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Master's Voice, 2 to 3 p.m.
- First English Praise Team, 3 to 4 Homebrew, 4 to 5 p.m.
- All Jazz Trio, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Kindred Spirits, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Chaser, 7 to 8 p.m.
- Groove Juice, noon to 1 p.m.
- David Harnisch, 1 to 2 p.m. Echo, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Four Headwaters, 3 to 4 p.m. Gordy Pratt, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Celebrate, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Swim, 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday
- Verbal, noon to 1 p.m.
- Legal Tender, 1 to 2 p.m. ■ Jacki Myers, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Gordy Pratt, 3 to 4 p.m.
- Shooch, 4 to 5 p.m. Friends, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Elastic Waste, 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday
- Rick Stoop and Keven Vermil-
- lion, noon to 1 p.m.
- Phil Baker, 1 to 2 p.m. The Nightwatch, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Brandon Valley Assembly of
- God, 3 to 4 p.m.
- Phil Baker, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Bus 9, 5 to 6 p.m. Gordy Pratt, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Admission is free to all shows in the Neighborhood.

Traditions live on in 60th year of fair

By JENNIFER SANDERSON Argus Leader Staff

The Sioux Empire Fair is funnel cakes and mechanical bull rides.

It is 6-year-olds screaming for more tickets and 9-year-olds gobbling snowcones before the syrup runs down their forearms.

It is 12-year-olds working up the courage to ride the "Silver Streak Himalaya" and 16-yearolds spending \$20 to win their dates a stuffed animal worth \$5.

It is flyswatters and yardsticks from the vendors in the Dan G. Cook Expo building.

It is sweat. It is paying \$2.50 for bottled

water and competing for shade. It is farmers and ranchers in cowboy hats, resting and waiting for the horse show to begin.

The fair is Old McDonald's pieces of free cake. Farm: pygmy goats and horses

unseen something beneath the plane. straw in a stall.

It is ceramics and psychics, cellular phone booths and free concerts on the new Neighborhood's

Sioux Empire

1990	241,618
1991	235,405
1992	217,050
1993	214,966
1994	195,418
1995	189,564
1996	201,024
1997	207,358
1998	232,789
1999	250,000*

Source: Sioux Empire Fair Association

Kristy Anderson / Argus Leader

Front Porch.

*Projected

This year, the fair is a very public 60th birthday party and 1,000

It is the national anthem sung and sheep and heifers and rab- as a solo and the launching of the U.S. Army's skydiving Golden Sometimes, it is a pile of an Knights from a perfectly good

> It is like the circus, only bigger. Better.

And starting Tuesday, it was all open for \$1 per person.

Shooting

Continued from 1A

up her students, who joined hands and evacuated from the building.

The violence was the latest in a series of shootings at workplaces and schools, and as the search for the gunman continued, President Clinton and oth-

ers spoke out. "Once again, our nation has been shaken and our hearts torn by gun violence," Clinton said in Washington. "It calls on all of us not only to give our thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families, but intensify our resolve to make America a safer

place. Gov. Gray Davis said he was forming a task force of state agencies to advise churches, child care centers and other operations that care for children on how to upgrade their securi-

ty systems.

About two dozen children were in the center when the gunman burst into the North Valley Jewish Community Center and began spraying the lobby with bullets about 10:50 a.m., said Capt. Steve Ruda of the Los Angeles Fire Department. He fired up to 30 shots before walking down a hallway and out of

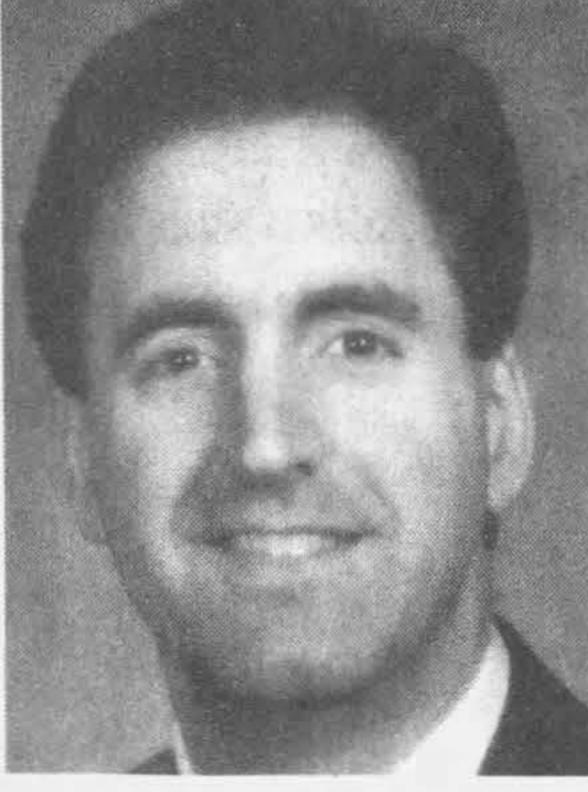
the building, Ruda said. Ruda said he believed the shooter used a 9mm Uzi. Police Chief Bernard Parks however, would only identify the gun as a high-powered weapon with a large magazine.

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Thursday, August 12, 5:30 P.M.

Schroeder Auditorium • Sioux Valley Hospital Call 336-6294 or 1-800-888-1433 to register Presenters: Dr. Vance Thompson • Dr. Doug Wallin



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Jeff Miedema

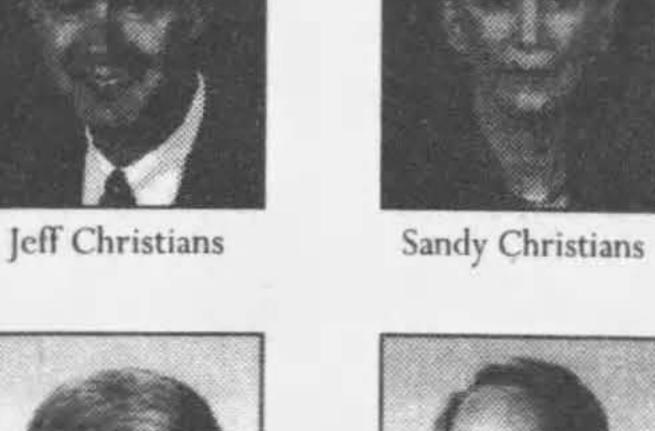


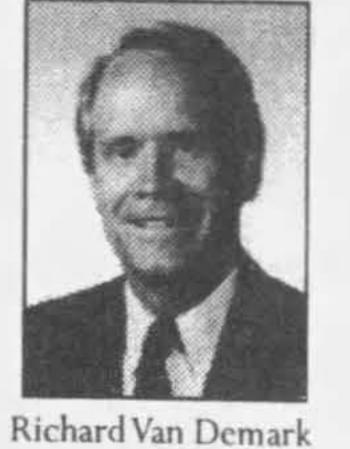


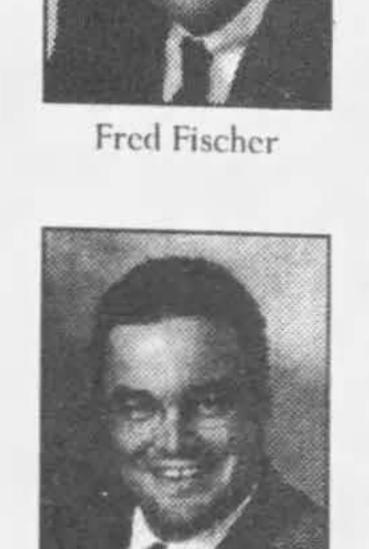
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