

# making the news

From Associated Press Reports

**SALEM — The 1,467 inmates of the Oregon State Penitentiary were allowed out of their cells to resume normal prison routine Monday for the first time in five days.**

The prisoners had been locked in their cells since last Wednesday when 115 of them refused to carry out work details, protesting low pay. Warden Hoyt Cupp on Sunday said, "Indications are that some inmates are using pay issue to agitate the rest of the inmate population for other purposes because they know it is a popular issue."

**WASHINGTON — About 200 tractors paraded under police escort to the Lincoln Memorial in a blinding snowstorm Monday as farmers continued their protest for higher farm prices.**

The tractors formed a tractorcade that, with the storm, slowed traffic on major streets to a crawl all afternoon and into the evening. The demonstration was scheduled to last five hours, but was cut short because of the weather.

At the monument, about 300 farmers and their families stood on the steps in the bitter cold while Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's non-voting representative in the House, thanked them "for opening our eyes" to the plight of the farmer.

An unidentified protester opened the rally by taking note of the birthday of Lincoln, "A true advocate of human rights. That's what the farmers are talking about . . . That's why we're here, but President Carter doesn't care."

**SALEM — Job and housing discrimination against homosexuals would be prohibited in Oregon if a bill defeated in the last three legislative sessions wins approval the fourth time around.**

The measure introduced Monday by Rep. Gretchen Kafoury inserts the phrase "sexual orientation" in statutes already banning discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, marital status or national origin.

"I wouldn't waste time bringing this out again if I didn't think we have a chance," said Ms. Kafoury, D-Portland. "I'm always optimistic. We'll try to keep it on a rational civil rights level of discussion."

She said the measure does not require affirmative action and would allow employers to investigate an applicant's background for sexual offenses where the employee would be working with minors. Otherwise, employers, persons selling or renting property and restaurant and hotel operators may not inquire about a person's sexual orientation.

**WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter, saying he will fly to Mexico on Wednesday "to listen and to learn," declared Monday he seeks nothing "damaging to the well-being of the Mexican people."**

Asked at a news conference how potential oil and gas purchases from Mexico will figure in his talks with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, Carter said, without indicating he expects to strike a deal during his trip:

"We will negotiate with them in good faith. We will pay them a fair price.

" . . . We have no inclination to force them to give us a special privilege nor to do anything that would be damaging to the well-being of the Mexican people."

# Investigators criticize Peace Corps hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Peace Corps fails to adequately screen volunteers, with some candidates being interviewed by telephone and others not at all, according to a new study by the General Accounting Office.

The GAO, an investigative arm of Congress, also said the overseas volunteer service fails to give adequate information to volunteers about the conditions under which they are expected to live.

One costly result has been that "many volunteers are terminating service before scheduled completion — frequently within the first months of service," said the report.

And the Peace Corps' personnel turnover rate was three times as high as that of other federal agencies, the study noted, in part because the corps limits the time its staff members can serve.

The study was conducted of the Peace Corps office in Washington and its operations in Colombia, Honduras, Malaysia, Afghanistan and Kenya. Responses were sought from volunteers in those countries from July to September 1977. The study of the

headquarters operation was made between June 1977 and October 1978.

The Peace Corps, set up in 1961, has sent about 73,000 volunteers to 88 countries. As of last fall, the corps had about 7,000 volunteers and a budget of about \$84 million.

In its response to the report, the Peace Corps said it was trying to improve the effectiveness of its programs and projects.

Records found that in spring 1977, 5 to 20 percent of the applicants had no interviews with recruiters. In two recruitment centers, the report said, more than half the interviews were conducted over the telephone.

The GAO said the Peace Corps' high staff turnover has been a problem since its founding. Between fiscal years 1974 and 1977, 578 foreign service personnel left the agency; 52 percent of those served three years or less.

The report said the cause of much of the turnover was the agency's five-year rule, which limits staff employment to two 2½-year contracts, with a possible one-year extension.

# UFW strikers mourn picketer

EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP) — Farm workers mourning the death of a colleague shot to death on the picket line stopped picketing during a valley-wide work stoppage Monday as both sides tried to defuse the volatile Imperial Valley lettuce strike.

Marc Grossman, a spokesman for the United Farm Workers Union, said the one-day moratorium was being honored at most of the valley's more than 30 farms Monday while union and non-union workers prepared to pay respects for the 28-year-old union worker killed Saturday.

An estimated 6,500 to 7,000

workers stayed off their jobs, Grossman said, leaving the farms short of replacement help. A total of 10 farms are being struck by 4,100 farm workers.

The strike has already jeopardized about 40 percent of the nation's winter iceberg lettuce crop and has sent supermarket prices higher each week.

UFW President Cesar Chavez said Monday's general work stoppage was a spontaneous show of sympathy "for our slain martyr Rufino Contreras." Contreras was among 15 striking workers who entered a field where replacement

workers were picking lettuce.

Three men, including two foremen and a worker hired to pick lettuce during the strike, have been arrested for investigation of murder, according to Imperial County sheriff's Lt. Richard Wilson.

Chavez urged members not to take revenge, but rather to "leave that up to the courts."

Grossman said the picketing would cease until after the funeral, plans for which were still pending. He said union officials hoped the events leading up to the funeral "would keep the workers occupied."

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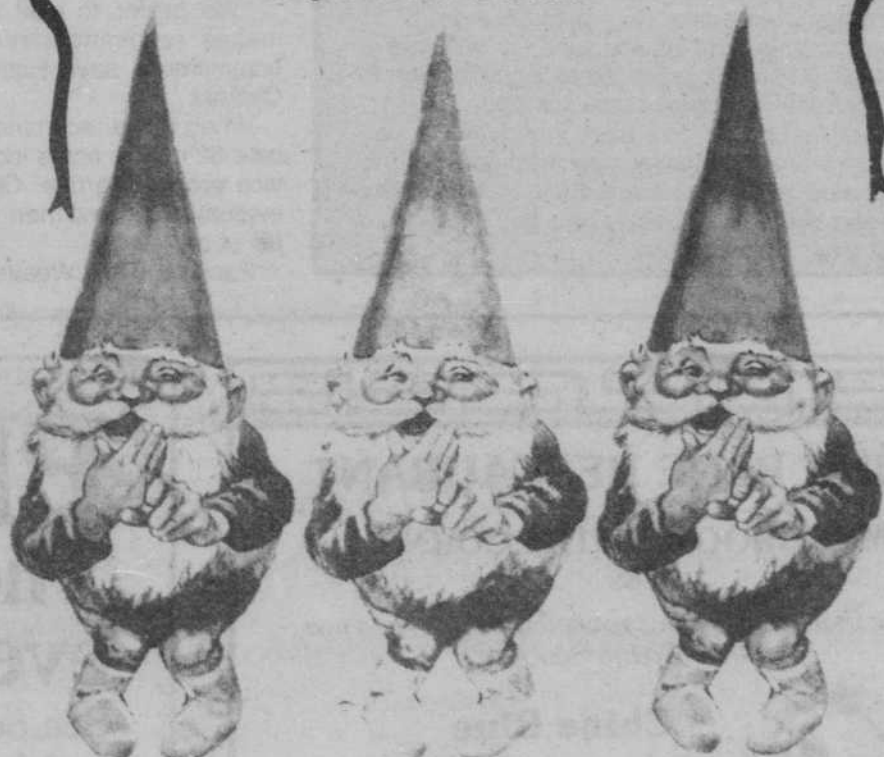
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