

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

Oh, no! Mr. Bill appears in court

NEW ORLEANS

Oh, no! The creators of Mr. Bill, the plasticine fall guy who has regularly been stomped, smashed, and mangled by Mr. Hands on TV's "Saturday Night Live," will go before a judge here today.

Vance DeGeneres of New Orleans claims he and his one-time pal Walter Williams worked together to devise Mr. Bill, his dog Spot and the nasties who tear them apart — "Mr. Sluggo" and the pair of live human hands called "Mr. Hands."

DeGeneres wants half the take from the "artistic property known as Mr. Bill" — at least \$200,000 from a videotape, a book and T-shirts.

Williams holds the copyright on the button-eyed character, which was introduced on the NBC-TV program Feb. 22, 1976, and has greeted catastrophe with falsetto shrieks of "Oh, no!" ever since.

Williams sued DeGeneres after the latter claimed credit for work on the character, and DeGeneres countersued, entering a motion to move the suit to New Orleans, where he was living and working as a part-time disc jockey and playing in a rock band.

Belgian socialists surpass democrats

BRUSSELS, Belgium

Premier Mark Eyskens' Christian Democrats Party suffered a "severe setback in national elections Sunday, losing more than one-quarter of its Parliament seats, according to early returns.

With 73 percent of the vote counted, results indicated the Christian Democrats would retain only 60 of their 82 seats, while the Socialists gained five seats for a total of 63 of the 212 seats in the lower house, or Chamber of Representatives.

However, it appeared unlikely that the Socialists — staunchly divided into Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia factions — would be able to unite to form the next coalition government.

The incomplete returns showed big wins for right-of-center and ecological parties. Communists lost two of their four seats.

Final vote totals for the third national election in five years will not be released until all the ballots are counted sometime today. The parliamentary seat projections were based on percentages of the vote won by

each party announced by election officials.

Since most parties in the linguistically divided nation are split into Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia factions, Eyskens' Flanders' Christian Democrats remain the country's largest party with 43 seats.

Reagan admits budget impossible

WASHINGTON

Six weeks after Pres. Reagan outlined a new austerity plan to help balance the 1984 budget, Congress is still awaiting details from the White House. And the president himself has all but formally announced his balanced budget goal is impossible to meet.

Congressional officials expect a statement from Reagan this week on precisely what he hopes can be done to hold down recession-swelled budget deficits that could reach \$80 billion this year and \$145 billion in 1984.

In the meantime, key White House aides are meeting with Republicans in Congress to discuss spending and tax proposals.

"We're in very significant accord on almost everything except revenues," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said Friday.

Sources on Congress indicated after the meeting that Reagan would embrace tax increases of up to \$45 billion over three years — double the \$22 billion he called for on Sept. 24 but far below Domenici's call for \$84 billion.

Iranian army units clash with rebels

BEIRUT, Lebanon

Government troops raided several rebel hideouts around Bukan in a purge of autonomy-seeking Kurds who attacked the northwestern Iranian town, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The state-run radio also revised the Bukan casualty toll from more than 100 to only seven.

Meanwhile, the official media also reported Sunday that 10 people were killed by Mujahedeen Khalq guerrillas in the northeastern city of Mashad and that "counter-revolutionar-

ies" had slain two guardsmen near the northwestern town of Orumiye.

Space shot set for Thursday launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

Columbia's launch pad was closed to all but essential workers Sunday while the power units that caused last week's scrub were refueled for another attempt at Launch II on Thursday.

The hazardous nature of the hydrazine fuel dictated closing the pad. It will remain shut down

until the fueling and other servicing of the units is completed this afternoon.

The space agency Saturday rescheduled the launch after certifying that the two contaminated units are now clean and ready to fly. If replacement had been necessary, the flight would have been put off until next week.

The renewed countdown is to start at 8 a.m. EST Tuesday, aiming for liftoff at 7:30 a.m. Thursday.

Officials also kept an eye on the weather. The long-range prediction for launch time Thursday was very good.

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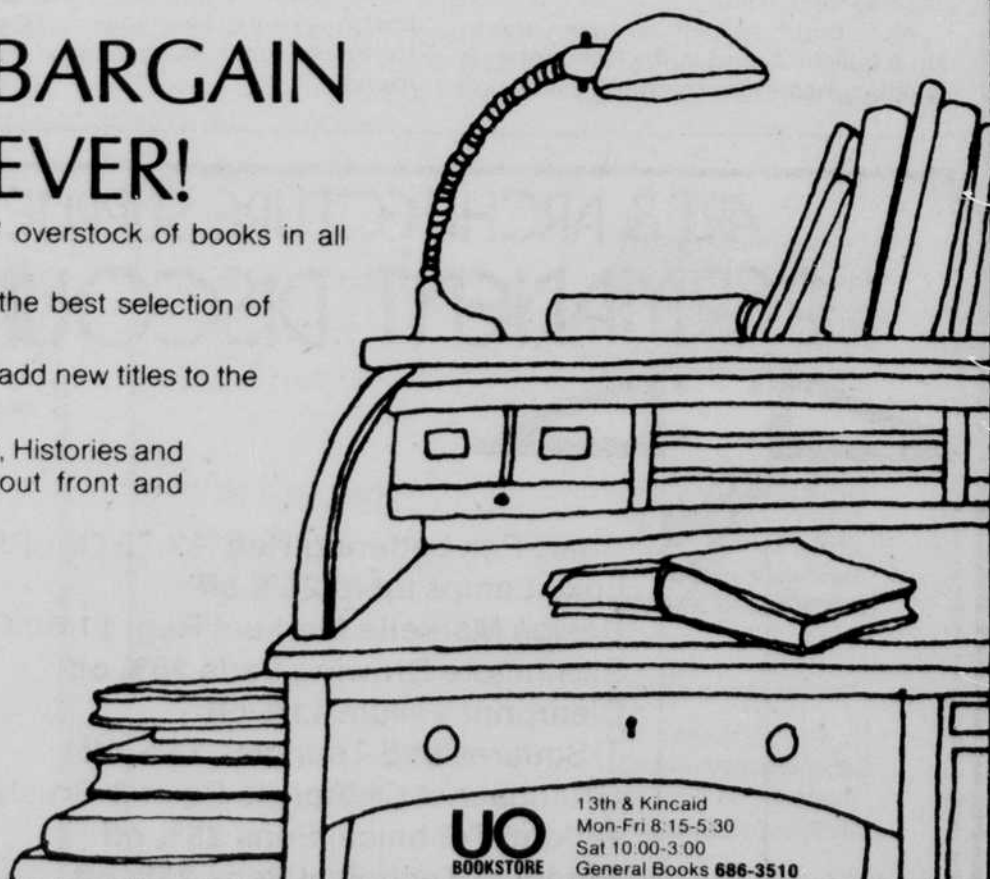
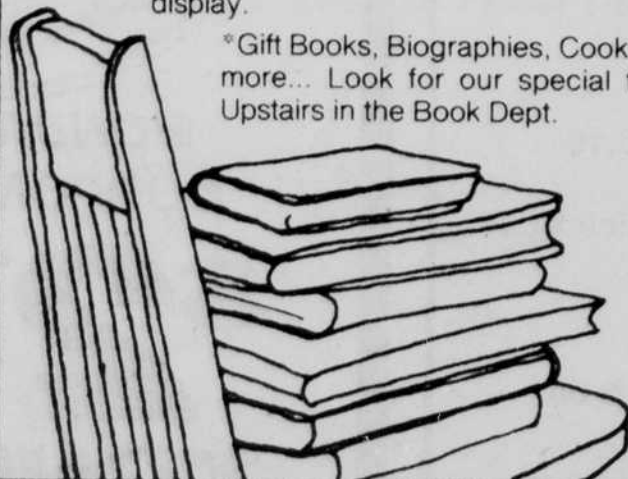
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