

From Associated Press reports

Polish regime frees Solidarity unionists

WARSAW, Poland

Martial law authorities began freeing 1,000 interned Solidarity unionists, farmers and intellectuals Thursday and their release

came so fast that some found no one to greet them at a prison bus-stop.

"We were just told that we were released. We got our belongings and said good-bye," said one unionist freed from Warsaw's Bialoleka prison, where 35 Solidarity members walked out after 4½ months.

At the same time, four Solidarity

chiefs in hiding called for talks with the Communist government and freedom for union boss Lech Walesa, who has been held since the Dec. 13 crackdown.

The releases came one day after a government communique announced the partial amnesty and a major easing of martial law restrictions, including suspension of the 11 p.m.- 5 a.m. curfew and

other concessions.

The announcement came the same day as Poland's spiritual leader Roman Catholic Archbishop Jozef Glemp said at the Vatican that Polish-born Pope John Paul's scheduled August visit had been postponed until conditions improve in Poland.

Glemp had conferred with Polish Premier Gen. Wojciech

Jaruzelski before visiting the pope for two days of talks, and there was speculation the government released a third of those detained in return for cancellation of the pope's trip.

John Paul has backed Solidarity and criticized martial law. His June 1979 visit to Poland incited outpourings of nationalist and religious fervor that helped create the climate for Solidarity and the now crushed reform movement.

Banker named new Salvadoran head

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador

Dr. Alvaro Magana, a politically independent banker, was elected provisional president of El Salvador by the Constituent Assembly Thursday.

The vote was 36-17 with seven abstentions. It followed several days of maneuvering between the war-torn Central American nation's centrist Christian Democrats and five rightist parties.

The 60-seat assembly was elected March 28 and was empowered to choose a provisional president to replace the civilian-military junta, rewrite the constitution and schedule general elections, probably next year.

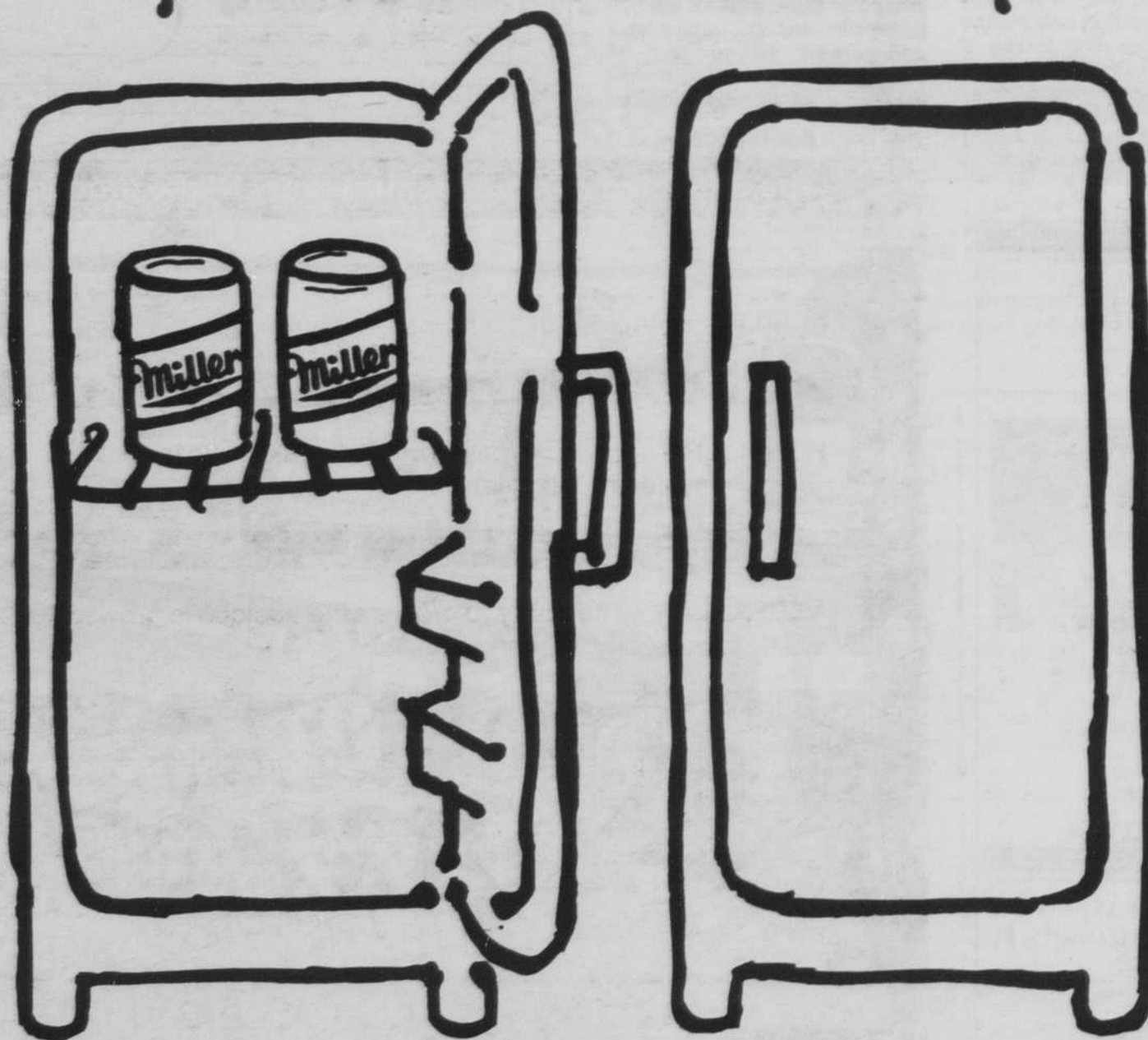
Magana, a 56-year-old U.S.-educated economist who has headed the National Mortgage Bank for 17 years, is considered an independent who holds moderately conservative views.

He has pledged to make economic recovery his top priority.

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TICKET TO HEAVEN

PG United Artists Classics

"Ticket to Heaven" is the most unexpectedly satisfying dramatic film I've seen this year. Made on a modest budget by a team of relative unknowns, this Canadian production takes on a subject filled with possibilities and fraught with pitfalls; a subject that, until now, no major film has dared to tackle: religious cults and their victims. If "Ticket to Heaven" succeeds beyond the expectations one might bring to such a topical, issue-based film, it is largely because the issues never overshadow the characters and the characters are people we can care about. We can see how a strong, independent personality can, under the right circumstances, be broken down by a strongly determined group. The film is respectably shot, edited and scored, but what elevates it above the respectable or ordinary is an intelligent, authentic screenplay and a remarkably solid core of deeply felt performances."

Ken Margolis
Willamette Week



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