

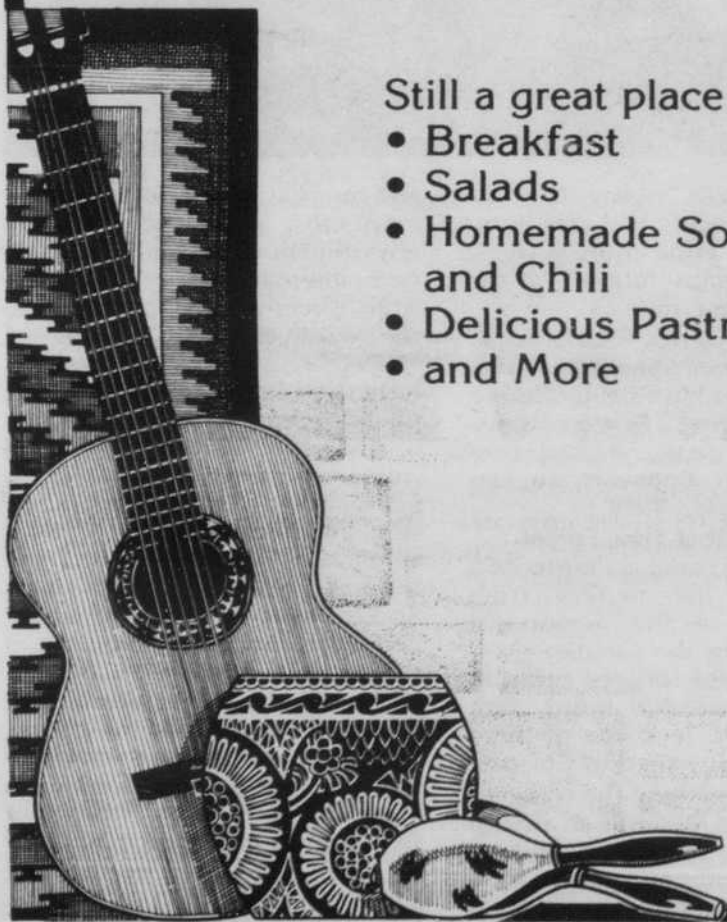
EDISON'S BAR Thurs. October 13 4 pm-2am
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inter/national

From Associated Press reports

Navy sails toward gulf

WASHINGTON — A Navy amphibious group carrying some 2,000 Marines is en route to the Indian Ocean amid Iranian threats to close the Persian Gulf and cut off the movement of oil tankers, it was learned Tuesday.

Pentagon sources said the amphibious group headed by the 40,000-ton amphibious assault ship Tarawa passed through the Suez Canal on Tuesday under orders to sail into the Indian Ocean.

It was not immediately clear whether the move was linked to the new Iranian threats.

The Pentagon sources, who asked not to be identified, suggested the amphibious force and its Marine complement have been detached from the Beirut region because the cease-fire in the Lebanese civil war appeared to be holding, and as a result, danger to the 1,600 Marines ashore in the Beirut area seems to have diminished.

Officials were unable to say how long the Marine amphibious unit will remain in the Indian Ocean. It was told to go there and await further orders, sources said.

New rule for utility shutoff

SALEM — Oregon Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell has adopted new rules that further restrict when a utility can shut off a customer's service for non-payment of bills.

The rules involving gas and electric companies had to be changed because of a bill passed by the Oregon Legislature this year, Lobdell's office said.

The new rules allow utility customers to avoid having their service shut off at any time of the year if they obtain a medical certificate saying such a shutoff would endanger their health.

Previous rules limited the use of medical certificates to between Oct. 1 and April 1.

Under the new rules, a customer who has to pay a

deposit amounting to one month of service will have 60 days to make payment, in three installments. Customers who have to pay a deposit equaling two months' service will have 90 days to pay, in four installments.

Previous rules allowed a maximum of 45 days to pay deposits.

Soviets set talks limit

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union has threatened to suspend negotiations on limiting medium-range nuclear weapons if agreement is not reached by December to block deployment of new U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles in Western Europe, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

"We would hope they don't walk out and we intend to keep pushing for continued negotiations," said the official, who talked only on the condition that his name not be used.

He said the Soviet position in the slow-moving talks in Geneva, Switzerland, should become clearer Wednesday when a response to President Reagan's latest proposal for an agreement is expected.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is scheduled to deploy nine U.S. Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany in December and 16 U.S. cruise missiles in Britain and Italy. They will be targeted on Soviet territory. Eventually, 572 missiles are due to be installed in the three countries, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The United States, with the support of its allies, has pledged to try to keep the talks going if an agreement is not reached by December. According to Reagan and other top U.S. officials, the Soviets will bargain seriously only when they are faced with the American deployment.

St. Helens erupts anew

VANCOUVER — A change predicted in the eruption on Mount St. Helens' lava dome has quietly begun, the U.S. Geological Survey said today.

"Lava is emerging from a new source near the head and south margin of ... the May 1983 lobe on the east side of the dome," said a release from the USGS and the University of Washington seismic center.

The new extrusion probably began last week, but was confirmed by ground observation on Monday, said Thom Corcoran, spokesman with the Mount St. Helens information center.

He said other portions of the lobe, which began forming last May, continued to grow, but at a slower rate.

Seismicity remains slightly elevated, and gas and ash emissions were continuing to occur, sometimes several times a day, said Corcoran.

He said that while the dangers in the crater, where the dome is located, were increased, there was no increased hazard elsewhere.

Punk rock'n' Rolls Royce

BRISTOL, England — An 18-year-old punk rocker, fired by Rolls Royce on grounds that the four-inch spikes of his hairdo endangered the eyes of his co-workers, lost an appeal against the decision Tuesday.

Peter Mortiboy, whose usual dress included 18 earrings, a studded dog collar, steel armlets and a stud through his nose, was repeatedly warned by Rolls that his appearance was not up to company standards, an industrial tribunal in this west coast port was told.

The luxury car maker dismissed him from the Rolls Royce Technical College and his \$120-a-week job as an apprentice technician when he began sporting spikes in June, training manager Howard Parry testified.

"His hairstyle represented a safety hazard," Parry said. "The spikes projected from the surface of his head for some distance and an accidental movement could have injured a supervisor leaning over him."

Mortiboy, who said he used industrial adhesive and glue to mold his black hair into stiff, vertical spikes, denied that the spikes were dangerous.

"They would be if they were three feet long," he said.

Bill Glass

Author, Football Star
 will be speaking today at 12:15 in the
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