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## Sunday



### Koko Taylor —living the blues

Chicago singer Koko Taylor lives the blues—and Rick Kogan profiles her everyday life as she prepares for the Blues Festival opening Friday in Grant Park. Plus an inside look at the special effects magic of the movies, as seen through an eye-opening exhibition. And an interview with Graham Parker, an angry rocker who has grown up. In Arts.

### A closer look

#### Electronics show loses some glitz

Lagging sales, price battles and computer chip shortages are dulling the glitz of the Consumer Electronics show. In Business.

#### The new brides

When a woman who has her own home, her own career and her own sense of personal style decides to marry, her wedding will be in the same spirit of self determination. In TempoWoman.

#### Storyteller's life

John Cheever was an artfully deceptive and widely misunderstood writer. John Blades reviews Scott Donaldson's new book, "John Cheever: A Biography," in Books.

#### Patrick Murphy: Public Guardian

Patrick Murphy gets angry at the abuse of the young and old. As Cook County Public Guardian, he fights back. In SUNDAY.

### Sports

#### Lakers vs. Pistons

The Los Angeles Lakers beat Dallas 117-102 to move into the NBA finals against the Detroit Pistons.

#### First gold medalist

In 1928, a 16-year-old south suburban Riverdale girl became the first American to win an Olympic gold medal in women's track. It was a remarkable story, and 60 years later, the story of Betty Robinson Schwartz still is.

#### Mets tip Cubs 6-5 in 13; Sox win 10-8

### Weather

CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Sunday: Mostly sunny; highs 76 to 85 degrees. Sunday night: Fair; lows 53 to 58. Monday: Sunny; highs 82 to 89. Maps and other reports in Sec. 2, pg. 6.

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## Coming full circle in California

### Democrats optimistic as state swings back from Right

By Jon Margolis  
Chicago Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO—Here where the tech is highest, the money flows freest and the future looms closest, politicians have discovered yet another ultramodern way to win elections.

This new technique requires no fiber optics, no laser beams, no videotapes and not even too many campaign consultants. All it needs is voters.

Here's how it works: The campaign gets a supporter to invite some neighbors over to meet the candidate. Those neighbors who are impressed are then signed up to do the same, and eventually the campaign has a list—computerized, of course—of people who will not just vote for the candidate, but work phone banks, identify more supporters and get them to the polls election day.

If this sounds rather like an old-fashioned political organization, it is. What goes around comes around, and California, that har-



binger of what is to be, has its own political version of Back to the Future.

Grass-roots campaigning, in fact, isn't the only blast from the past that's been rediscovered here. So has the necessity—and even sometimes the desirability—of government, the institution that created the freeways, irrigation projects and state university system that helped make California the biggest state of all.

It was California, of course, that heralded the antigovernment mood of the last decade. Just 10 years ago, Californians passed Proposition 13, cutting their property taxes, inspiring antitax rebellions across the country and help-

ing the political career of their former governor, Ronald Reagan. He got elected president in 1980 while proclaiming, "Government is the problem."

"Back then," California pollster Mervin Field said of the 1978-to-1980 period, "we were finding that, by about a 2 to 1 ratio, people were opting for smaller government with fewer services. Now the pendulum is going in the other direction. Not that it has swung all the way back to where people opt 2 to 1 for bigger government. But it's right in the middle."

Another sign of government's new respectability, Field said, is that voters tend to approve spending referendums "if they are targeted to specific services," such as schools, sewers, parks, police protection or better roads.

"People are very pragmatic," Field said. "They aren't ready to go to the old methods and give elected officials carte blanche with general tax increases. But they see a deterioration of services, and

### Primary report from California

Media critic Steve Daley and Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist Jeff MacNelly head west to cover a big-time presidential primary campaign. Page 13.



they want something done about it."

Nor is it just services that directly benefit the voter. A recent Field poll indicated that 88 percent of Californians would pay higher taxes to provide food and shelter for the homeless.

Both changes increase the chances that Michael Dukakis can become the first Democrat to

See California, pg. 12

## Reagan summit trip calmed U.S. anxiety

By Nicholas M. Horrock  
Chicago Tribune

MOSCOW—President Reagan's Moscow visit captured the sense of ferment and expectation in this mysterious country, and established for average Americans that something important is going on here.

Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko may have best explained the importance of the President's visit when he suggested Reagan "doesn't belong to the intellectual elite. He represents the ordinary American people. . . . If he took the first step into the Kremlin, it was the . . . American people—they made the step, too."

In practical terms, the fourth meeting between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was disappointing. As Ronald and Nancy Reagan left the country Thursday, Gorbachev lamented that arms negotiations were moving "too slowly."

But through a broader glass, his-

Reagan and Gorbachev after the summit. In Perspective.

tory may show that this trip helped allay the anxiety of the many Americans who view the Soviet Union solely with fear or suspicion.

Throughout his four-day visit, Reagan stubbornly refused to acknowledge that in three years of negotiations with Gorbachev his own view has undergone a transformation from the time he called the Soviet Union "an evil empire."

But the greatest accomplishment of the trip, one presidential aide suggested, was that Reagan moved beyond his mere willingness to engage with Gorbachev to a real appreciation of perestroika, the restructuring that carries the hopes of so many Soviets.

Reagan reached out to these hopes, in what became the most stirring moment of his trip, in an

See Summit, pg. 22



Laurie Dann through the years (from left): 1971, 6th grade; 1975, New Trier High; 1976, University of Arizona; 1986; 1988.

## The many faces of Laurie Dann

By George Papajohn  
and Joel Kaplan

In the fall of 1977, Laurie Wasserman, a 19-year-old University of Arizona student, enrolled in a home economics course. She also took one in marksmanship.

Her life crisscrossed Arizona, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. She attended four universities but never earned a degree.

She lived in luxurious houses in Glencoe and Highland Park but ended up with a desire to sleep in-

side her car. At age 30, Laurie Wasserman Dann lived with students 12 years her junior in off-campus housing at the University of Wisconsin, never enrolling in class. The teenager who once enjoyed carefree rides in a convertible preferred to ride aimlessly in the elevator.

Laurie Dann's odyssey was marked by contradictions and baffling bits of behavior and roles. She was the quiet student, Daddy's little girl, a popular sorority girl and a pretty bride. She was a stab-

bing suspect and the spurned wife who could not let go. She was the wonderful baby-sitter and the nightmarish baby-sitter.

She seemed obsessed with cleanliness, wearing gloves and compulsively scrubbing her hands, but she had urine-stained carpets and greasy hair. She was a woman showered with new clothes but remembered for her sweatsuits and unkempt dress. She was wealthy. She was a thief.

Growing up along the privileged streets of the North Shore, Lau-

rie's future seemed destined to be both predictable and comfortable. "I figured she'd get married and never have to work another day in her life," one high school classmate said.

Years later, the urgent tone of a letter from her psychiatrist flashed warning signals that she not only had strayed from the expected path but was in dangerous territory.

"I am genuinely concerned about your ability to cope with the

See Dann, pg. 16

## School bus abuses found

### Late service, false invoices plague system

By Joel Kaplan  
and Patrick Reardon

The Chicago public school system pays \$65 million a year to bus students, but on any given day hundreds of bused children get to school late or not at all.

Private bus companies, hired to transport 43,000 children to and from school daily, routinely charge the school system for nonexistent services, Board of Education records show. Those overcharges have gone on for at least five years.

"There are a lot of falsified invoices," said Tessa Gaines, new head of the Chicago Board of Edu-

Editorial: How lawmakers can help the schools. In Perspective.

cation's transportation bureau. "It has been a free thing. It has been easy money."

But school officials have failed to stop the practice or to monitor transportation services regularly. And they have continued to give contracts to the same companies that have been found to be billing for nonexistent service.

Some bus firms have developed close ties with school board employees who are supposed to monitor them. "Every time I begin

See Bus, pg. 14



Tribune photo by Ovie Carter

Students are picked up at Franklin School on the Near North Side. The problems with bus transportation are widespread in city schools.

## Thompson readies plea for tax hike

By Daniel Egler  
and Tim Franklin  
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD—Finally ending months of posturing and speculation, Gov. James Thompson will unveil a proposal Thursday that is expected to call for a 1 percentage point increase in the state income tax on individuals.

Statehouse sources familiar with the continuing talks in the governor's office said Thompson also would ask the General Assembly to increase the corporate tax levy, possibly by as much as 1.6 percentage points.

If approved by the legislature, such a package would raise about \$1.3 billion annually if those gains are not offset with tax relief through increased exemptions or some form of real estate tax breaks.

But Thompson might have to pay a high price for approval of his tax package, sources said, including acceptance of restrictions on his amendatory veto power.

After three months of trying to build public opinion for a tax increase, the Republican governor is scheduled to address a joint session of the General Assembly at noon Thursday to outline proposals to raise state taxes to pay for cash-

See Tax, pg. 28