

When worlds collide

... The similarities can be striking. Last week, a group of seven lawmakers from the Soviet Union (the equivalent of state legislators here) visited Illinois and spent some time down in Springfield touring the Capitol and other regular haunts of elected state officials. Observers were amused to note that even though the Soviets spoke very little English, they had three words in their vocabulary down quite well: "Pepsi," "whiskey," and "Budweiser." Gosh, wonder where they picked *those* up?

Mayoral madness ...

The Sout'west Side contingent—U.S. Rep. Bill Lipinski (D., Ill.), Ald. Ed Burke (14th), and 12th Ward Democratic Committeeman Bob Molaro—are huddling this weekend to talk about one of the three announcing his mayoral candidacy soon, perhaps as early as this week. Their Jane Byrne-like strategy is to get one of their own in the picture early to preempt the candidacies of others—like Ald. Larry Bloom, for instance.

Docket daze ...

When opportunity knocks, Ed Vrdolyak is there. The Republican candidate for Circuit Court clerk will be ringing suburban doorbells this week to talk to residents who live along the Des Plaines River flood basin. What's that got to do with the courts? Not too much, but EV plans to make an issue of Democrats like his opponent, Aurelia Pucinski, who are Metropolitan Sanitary District commissioners. EV will personally visit homes that have been flooded to note that Pucinski has also been serving as chairman of the Sanitary District's Flood Control Committee. And for a little added interest: a mailing of 125,000 brochures to homes affected by flooding include a picture of Pucinski campaigning with Jesse Jackson. Lest the Edster be accused of racism, the brochure notes that firms owned by Jackson's brother, Noah Robinson, "have received the largest amount of minority contracts awarded by the Sanitary District Board."

The write stuff ...

• The Personals: State lawmakers found it puzzling that their support on legislation to keep the White Sox in Chicago was sought not by a visit or a phone call—but by a letter signed by their ever-so-close personal friends, "Paul" and "Al." The lawmakers noted that when they write Democratic senators Paul Simon and Alan Dixon, they try to make their letters slightly more personal than starting "Dear Friend"

• Politics and publishing make strange bedfellows, at best. Latest reports on that much-discussed but never-written book by Jesse Jackson: He's working on it, shooting for 1989 publication, it'll be titled "A Time to Speak," and Jackson is working with former Nixon speechwriter **Ben Stein** on the chapters about economics. Stein last came to public attention as the defendant in a libel suit based on a scathing GQ article on The Widow **Rivers** (Joan to you). . . . Former White House spokesman and presidential quote creator **Larry Speakes** says he's "about 100 pages" into a novel about—of all things— Washington, D.C., and is looking in the meantime for a new position in media or communications.

Reel news ...

The good news is that there was a huge mistake in the DiLaurentiis Entertainment Group's financial statement showing that the company was financially devastated. The bad news is that the company has \$34 million in debts that weren't included on the report.... In the Let's Beat a Subject to Death department: Already occupied by movies about Vietnam and movies about age and body changes, you can now add movies about baseball. The not-yet-released "Eight Men Out" and "Shoeless Joe" address the Black Sox scandal, "Bull Durham" will be out this week and **Tom Berenger** just signed to star in something called "Major League." ... Farrah Fawcett's next feature film could be about the life of stripper Candy Barr. ... "Roadhouse," Patrick Swayze's first movie since "Dirty Dancing," reportedly is several days behind schedule because someone is misbehaving. ... Martin Sheen will be directing son Charlie in "Count a Lonely Cadence," the story of an



In honor of Dad: Former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill joins Mrs. Irene Mayer Selznick, the daughter of movie tycoon Louis B. Mayer, at the dedication in Boston Friday of a cancer research laboratory named for her father.

American soldier serving in Germany in the '60s.

Tele-visions

It was bound to happen somewhere—and it did Thursday on Channel 7's 10 p.m. newscast. The news story about the tendency of Suzuki Samurais to roll over was followed by a commercial (oh, we can *never* fool you anymore, can we?) for the vehicle in question. ... The kiss of death for ABC-TV's critically acclaimed but low-rated "Slap Maxwell" wasn't the show's poor ratings. It was the rift between star Dabney Coleman and producer/creator Jay Tarses, both essential to the show—yet both expressing the same sentiment: "I won't stay if he does." ... All in the family: The departure of "Cagney and Lacey" means that Tyne Daly is leaving CBS-TV's Monday night lineup, but the show is being replaced by another one-hour drama, "Almost Grown," starring Timothy Daly, her brother.

Top dogs

News flash on the nation's No. 2 pup: Party-goers

at last weekend's bash hosted by Vice President George Bush at his Maine shoreline estate couldn't help but notice that Millie, the Bush's English springer spaniel, was not exactly leading a dog's life. Millie, they report, is very well behaved and spends her time romping rather properly with a yellow tennis ball. How courtly. Barbara Bush confided to reporters that they acquired Millie—who took the place of the late Fred C. Bush, a cocker spaniel who succumbed to a stroke in January—when she was a year old, so as not to have to housebreak her on the vice presidential carpets.

INC.lings

Winners' Circle

Sunday birthdays: Bill Moyers, 54; State Rep. Bob Bugielski, 41. ... Just signed for the Royal George Theater's main stage: Mary Wilson and the Supremes June 21-26 and Barbara Cook June 28-July 3. ... If you've always wanted to buy Maine North High School, you'll get your chance at Sheldon Good's June 30 real estate auction. Suggested opening bid: \$2 million.

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Chicago Tribune

(USPS 104-000)

Published daily (7 days) at Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Chicago Tribune Company, Publisher, Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill., and at additional mailing offices. MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES 1 year, National Edition, where Home Delivery is not available. Daily Sunday Sunday 5 State \$99.00 \$65.00 \$164.00 U.S. Rate 129.00 86.00 215.00 HOME DELIVERY RATES* Saturday & Daily & Daily Sunday Sunday Weekiy Rates \$2.10 \$1.85 \$1.50 \$3.35 *These rates are available in areas serviced by Chicago Tribune agents. Rates in other areas may vary. For additional information on Home Delivery rates

For additional Information on Home Delivery rates contact the Chicago Tribune Circulation Dept., Room FC 300, 455 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611. 1-800-TRIBUNE.

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