

**Today's chuckle**  
The average man has five senses: Touch, taste, sight, smell and hearing. The successful man has two more... horse and common.

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## Fire tears through Morris foundry



Firefighters from several volunteer companies look for openings to dampen a blaze at the Morris foundry Monday.

By MARK VOSBURGH  
Staff Writer

MORRIS — Fire ripped through the guts of an aging foundry building here Monday, causing damages well in excess of \$100,000 and undermining recent efforts to bring new industry and new jobs to the site.

Eight fire departments and 150 firefighters fought the blaze, tentatively blamed on one of three massive furnaces inside the stone and wood plant off the Otsego County fair grounds.

"There were no injuries. I was down back working when it started," said Kerry Ray, one of two foundry workers in the building at the time of the fire. "I came up to the office and called the fire department. When I got back, the whole roof was on fire."

Within half an hour of the alarm, a section of the roof running the length of a city block was burning out of control. A cloud of coal-black smoke hung over the village and was visible for nearly a mile.

Their faces blackened by soot, foundry workers frantically salvaged typewriters and files from the adjoining foundry office, conceding nearly \$1 million worth of casting prints to the flames in the burning main plant. Firefighters later were able to salvage the prints.

Firefighters crisscrossed yards of hose from a nearby creek and a mill pond in a last-ditch effort to bolster a near useless stream of water from three hydrants.

"The hydrants obviously wouldn't put out that fire," Morris Fire Chief Ted Johnston said. Johnston said the village activated a second water pump. But he said he would still have needed several other hydrants.

Morris Castings reopened the foundry with a crew of three just last month, after a month-long closing blamed on slow business. Charles Lay Jr., who ran the business, said he was planning to move the operation to Oneonta next month.

But Lay said those plans now hinge on what equipment can be salvaged from the ruins.

Continued on page 3.

## Koch travels into the wilderness

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York City Mayor Edward Koch was greeted with a mixture of cheers and boos Monday in his first foray upstate since a controversial interview in Playboy magazine that knocked suburban and upstate life.

Koch, at a reception hosted by the state Association of Counties, offered an apology of sorts for remarks that life in the suburbs was "sterile" and that rural life was "a joke."

"If I gave upset or distress to anyone who read a report of the article then I'm really sorry about it," Koch told reporters.

Koch, surrounded by aides and bodyguards, fought through a phalanx of reporters to shake hands with supporters as well as critics — many of them wearing the latest anti-Koch insignia, a gingham ribbon.

"Upstate is really a wonderful

place," he kept repeating. "Keep the mayor the mayor," one unidentified critic shouted as Koch strode through the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd.

The mayor then left for a brief stop at a dinner with Republican officials, before attending a private dinner with some upstate legislators.

That private dinner was to be held at Farnham's-Larkin Restaurant in Albany.

As he left City Hall in late afternoon, Koch said he thought his reception upstate would be "good and bad."

He said those who read the magazine interview in its entirety would not be offended, but people who read only the newspaper headlines might take offense.

Koch once said that living in Albany would be "a fate worse than death," largely because he said the city lacked

good restaurants. "It's my favorite restaurant," explained Margaret Boepple, Koch's legislative representative in Albany, on the decision on where Koch would eat.

The mayoral aide said that Koch would spend the night at an Albany motel and address the county group Tuesday morning.

The Playboy interview, in the current issue, was conducted late last year before Gov. Hugh Carey had announced he would not seek a third term as governor and before fellow Democrat Koch had announced he wanted to succeed Carey.

Koch said Monday his remarks were made in response to a Playboy interviewer "doing his job, playing devil's advocate," who quizzed him about people who criticize the city.

"I'd react the same way if I was governor," he said.

At one point during the interview, Koch said some rural residents were "wasting time in a pickup truck" driving "20 miles to buy a gingham dress or a Sears, Roebuck suit."

Since then, some upstate legislators have begun sporting gingham ribbons at the state Capitol — courtesy of Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, a Bata-via-area Republican who is the only member of the 150-seat house to list his occupation as "farmer."

"I hope Mayor Koch has the intestinal fortitude to apologize to every citizen of New York state," Hawley told the Assembly at the end of its session Monday.

But Koch said he didn't believe voters would expect him — or want him — to apologize.

"If I stopped being myself, I wouldn't be worthy of them," he said.



Mayor Koch is mobbed by reporters in Albany during his first trip upstate since making deprecating remarks about life beyond the Big Apple.

## Economic indicators say U.S. still ailing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The broadest gauge of the nation's future economic health fell for the ninth straight month in January, indicating, in the words of Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, "that the recession has yet to run its course."

President Reagan, responding to a reporter's statement that the recession was growing deeper, said it, "has begun to level out. That always happens at the bottom," he said. "You've got to have a curve before you turn up."

And Deputy Treasury Secretary R. T. McNamar conceded in a speech Monday that the economy is still performing poorly and "the current downturn will be far worse than envisioned in our earlier scenarios."

McNamar said that unemployment — 8.1 percent of the workforce in January — "may yet go to 10 percent before we get things turned around." Although Baldrige and McNamar's boss, Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan, have made similar estimates recently, the administration has generally tried to emphasize recent de-

clines in inflation rather than increases in the jobless rate.

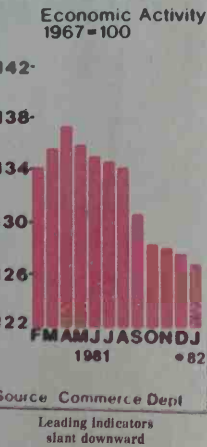
However, Baldrige and several private economists said Monday that recovery could still arrive by late spring or early summer, especially if interest rates continue their recent decline.

The Commerce Department's Index of Leading Indicators dropped 0.6 percent in January and would have fallen nearly five times as much if officials had not deleted effects of a sharply reduced average workweek, a figure they said was distorted by severe weather.

But Baldrige noted that January's announced decline — and the 0.3 percent drops of November and December — were much smaller than those of last autumn. And he said, "The fact that the indicators were on the minus side in January is not inconsistent with forecasts of a second quarter recovery in the economy."

But Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the report "tells me that we haven't started any recovery."

### Composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators



## Wortley joins protesters against college aid cuts

By Mark Gruenberg  
Oitaway News Service  
WASHINGTON — Rep. George C. Wortley of Fayetteville, R-32, joined a coalition of 21 freshman Republicans Monday in blasting proposed Reagan administration cuts in aid to college students.

"America does have a commitment to education," Wortley told a jammed press conference called by the group, which names itself the Coalition Against Reductions in Education. "Some 80 percent of the students enrolled in some colleges upstate are dependent on Pell grants and loans," he said.

"Without an education, these students would be like people ready for an event who are all dressed up and have nowhere to go," in the nation's job market.

The press conference was one of many activities called Monday to protest administration student aid cuts. The centerpiece of the protest was a massive lobbying effort by approximately 5,000 students, who

jammed Capitol Hill offices to ask Congress to halt the budget cuts.

The administration proposes trimming the cost of the "Pell grant" program by targeting the money on lower income students and cutting out many middle-income recipients. At present, a student from a family of four with \$27,000 of annual income can get a small grant.

Under the new Reagan budget, Pell grants would be limited to students whose family income is under \$18,000 a year.

A major proposed change in the federally guaranteed loan program would be a "needs test" for all recipients, however low the family's income. At present, only families with incomes over \$30,000 must submit a statement of financial need.

At present, holders of student loans pay nine percent interest on their loans, and repayment doesn't begin until two years after graduation. The Reagan administration wants the government to continue guaranteeing repayment of loans, but the interest rate would no longer be subsidized. Beginning two years after graduation, the borrower would have to pay full market rates, 14 percent or so.

The students visiting Washington, many of them wearing blue buttons saying "We are the future," also joined a mass afternoon rally in front of the Capitol to protest the budget cuts. Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato, R-C-N.Y., told the group that he would fight against the education aid cuts, which would cost New York state students \$200 million and cut 85,000 graduate students off from federally guaranteed loans with federally subsidized interest rates.

"This year, the cutback for education is more drastic than for any other program," Wortley said. "Our intent is to get the best possible commitment on education funds before we vote on the budget."

But Wortley and the other members of the coalition refused to comment on whether they would again vote this year for one up-or-down vote on the entire budget, as Reagan forced the House to do last year.

Reagan managed to include last year's education cuts in one large package, which then passed the House. Wortley and the others joined almost-unanimous GOP bloc in favor of that large budget package.

## Soviets land scientific probe on Venus

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet space probe soft-landed Monday on Venus and transmitted scientific data for more than two hours from the planet nearest Earth, the official news agency Tass said.

A descent module carrying instruments and cameras landed on the plains east of the Phobos area after a parachute descent, climaxing a four-month flight aboard the unmanned Venus 13 spacecraft, Tass said.

The spacecraft continued its flight past Venus after the space probe was launched from a distance of about 22,300 miles from the planet's surface, the news agency said.

Tass said Venus 14, launched four days after Venus 13, is expected to reach the planet on Friday.

The Soviet Union, like the United States, has previously landed several space probes on Venus.

"The results of the new cosmic experiment will significantly widen the information about the planet nearest to the earth," Tass said.

During the 127 minutes of transmission from the surface, "panoramic pictures of the surrounding landscape" were received by Soviet scientists. The data was transmitted by the module to the Venus 13 spacecraft and then relayed to the earth.

"Some of the panoramic views were photographed consecutively through red, blue and green filters, which will make it possible for the first time to obtain color pictures of the surface of the planet," Tass said.

### Inside The Star

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