World

Four OPEC states threaten to cut their oil prices — Four members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries threatened last Tuesday to reduce their crude oil prices by $4 a barrel unless other OPEC members agree to adhere to production ceilings. Joining Kuwait in the price cuts would be Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The threat was the first public indication that some of OPEC's Arab members plan to abandon the group's official prices.

Andropov rejects summit — Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov Tuesday night rejected President Ronald Reagan's call for a summit meeting. Responding to Reagan's letter to the people of Europe, Andropov said Reagan's offer to sign an accord banning all US and Soviet land-based medium range missiles was merely a restatement of his "zero option" proposal at the Geneva arms talks. Andropov, in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, suggested Reagan's proposal was part of a "propaganda game" to influence public opinion in Western Europe.

Nation

The nationwide truckers' strike begins to affect food supplies — Amid sporadic violence locally and across the country, some eastern cities, including those in Massachusetts, began experiencing curtailed deliveries of meat and produce because many of the truckers who are not strike would drive only during daylight hours. The Independent Truckers Association is striking to protest the increase in the gasoline tax from 4 to 9 cents, effective April 1, and the increase in the annual highway-user tax from $250 to $100 in 1984 and to $1000 in 1985.

Weather

Spring weather ends — The temporarily mild weather leaves today as winter returns with variable cloudiness and a possibility of flurries. Afternoon temperatures will be in the 30's, and tonight will be cold with lows between 20 and 24. Saturday will be brisk and cold with highs in the 30's.

"Deep Throat:" confusing legal past

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The definition of "obscene material" comes from the 1973 US Supreme Court decision in Miller v. California. The Court declared: "The basic guidelines for the trier of fact must be: whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and whether the work as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

This so-called "SLAPS test" was applied by Judge Charles R. Albright of the Middlesex County District Court in 1986, when he found "Deep Throat" not obscene. The ruling denied a motion by then-District Attorney John Droney to prevent the Quincy House Film Society at Harvard University from showing "Deep Throat."

Droney ordered the arrest of Film Society chairman Carl Stork and Nathan J. Hagen, after the first of four planned showings, despite Albright's finding, according to Harvard Law School Professor Alan M. Dershowitz, in his book, The Best Defense. Dershowitz succeeded in having the charges against the pair dropped, but not before he had to file a suit charging Droney with civil rights violations.

Dronoy agreed to drop the charges when the defendant's agreed to give him the name of the film distributor — which was on the film box all the time, according to Dershowitz. A jury in Worcester subsequently found "Deep Throat" obscene. The finding was upheld by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The statement from the District Attorney's office puts to rest the legal confusion, at least as far as MIT is concerned. Within the Institute, however, the questions regarding the place of pronography remain open.

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