

## Hardwood Hero

Jim Master was a leading vote-getter on the Hoosier Hardwood Hero team, selected by News-Sentinel readers.

## He made us laugh

But what was the secret behind John Belushi's comic genius? Four local movie buffs give their opinions.

## Love Bug rides again

Disney Studios reunites actor Dean Jones and Herbie, the almost human Volkswagen, for a new CBS television series.



Clear, mild  
Low tonight: around 33  
High tomorrow: around 55  
Details on page 2A

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## 2nd-Worst Floods Spill Our Way



A man, a boy and a bored-looking dog ponder the waterlogged scenery at Calhoun at Tillman, an omen of this weekend's flooding, expected to be worse than 1978's

and the second worst flood in Fort Wayne's history. The man lives just north of the water line, and recalled that in 1978 the water reached his back yard. Below,

the sign at the corner of Tillman Road and Calhoun Street wasn't intended as a weather report, but it's worked out that way.

Photos: Mike Hanley/The News-Sentinel

## Evacuations begin as rising waters close some streets

By KEVIN LEININGER  
Of The News-Sentinel

A continuing thaw and a thunderstorm which dumped one-third inch of rain on Fort Wayne overnight have combined to create flood conditions which should seep past 1978 levels and into second place on the city's all-time worst flood list.

The National Weather Service at Baer Field predicted this morning the Maumee River in Fort Wayne will crest Monday at 24 feet — nine feet above flood stage and one quarter inch above 1978 levels.

The 1978 flood caused about \$110 million in damage and forced about 2,500 city residents from their homes. No one was injured in that flood.

Mayor Winfield Moses said today some residents in exceptionally flood-prone areas have left their homes as a precaution, adding large-scale evacuations are not contemplated. "But it's not beyond the realm of possibility," he conceded.

Although the weather service predicts some evacuations will again be necessary in Fort Wayne, Decatur and perhaps Bluffton, city emergency officials said today this weekend's flood should not cause as many problems as its 1978 counterpart.

The weather service predicts flooding along the Maumee and Wabash rivers in Allen and Wells counties will be the worst since 1913, when the area's worst flood occurred.

In late March of that year, water left 15,000 people homeless. Six people died, and martial law was declared to help police keep order. The rivers crested at 26 feet.

Less serious flooding is expected in northwest Ohio along the Maumee and Auglaize rivers and in southern Michigan.

Flooding is expected to last through March 20. The rivers will remain at peak levels for 1-2 days.

Rivers in Bluffton, Decatur, Lafayette, and Defiance, St. Mary's and Celina, O., began rising on Thursday and weren't expected to crest until Sunday.

In Decatur, the St. Marys River rose to 23.4 feet today, within two inches of its record 1978 level. Flood stage there is 15 feet, although problems do not usually occur until the

### The Flood Forecast

■ The National Weather Service has issued a flood warning for the Maumee, St. Marys and Wabash rivers in Allen County and Adams and Wells counties in northeast Indiana through Monday.

■ Persons in flood-prone areas should take precautions, especially those living in areas with a high water table.

■ Flood levels on the Maumee, St. Marys and Wabash rivers will exceed March 1978 levels. Flooding along the Maumee and Wabash rivers in Allen and Wells counties will be the highest since March 1913. Flooding along the St. Marys River in Adams County will be the highest since February 1959.

■ At 8 a.m., the Maumee River at Fort Wayne was 20.9 feet and rising. It is forecast to crest at 24 feet Monday. The flood stage is 15 feet.

■ The St. Marys River at Decatur was 23.3 feet and rising. It is forecast to crest near 24.5 feet Sunday. The flood stage is 15 feet.

■ The Wabash River at Bluffton was 15.5 feet and rising. It is forecast to crest near 18 feet Sunday night.

■ Flooding along these rivers will last through March 20. The rivers will remain at crest for one to two days.

■ Evacuations will be necessary in Fort Wayne, Decatur and possibly Bluffton. Many county, city and some main highways will be impassable.

Source: National Weather Service

### Numbers for emergencies

If you are in an Allen County flood area, one or more of these telephone numbers might come in handy:

City of Fort Wayne's Citizens' Advocate office: 423-5165. Call for any flood-related problems.

Allen County Civil Defense: 423-7684.

Fort Wayne Civil Defense: 423-5159.

These two numbers will provide help with non-critical emergencies such as food shortages and need for medicine.

American Red Cross, Allen-Wells Chapter: 482-3781.

Indiana & Michigan Electric Co.: 422-3456.

General Telephone Co.: 422-1411.

Northern Indiana Public Service Co.: 426-7511. Call this number if gas service is affected.

Fort Wayne City Utilities Department: 423-7521.

The telephone numbers of Fort Wayne's three hospitals are:

Lutheran: 458-2211.

Parkview: 484-6636.

St. Joseph's: 423-2614.

For any life-or-death emergency in Bluffton, Allen or Adams County, use the 911 emergency number. For other emergencies in Adams County, call 724-7141. For Wells County, call 824-3426.



## Dual Central American policy causing confusion

By JAMES MCCARTNEY

Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — It was another week of mixed signals from the Reagan administration on its policies in Central America.

On Tuesday, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Adm. Bobby Inman, declared in a carefully staged briefing that Nicaragua was rapidly becoming a new Soviet base in the Western Hemisphere, "another Cuba."

The thrust of the briefing, accompanied by dramatic reconnaissance photographs, was that somehow a new crisis was building in Central America and the United States might have to take action.

Less than 24 hours later the administration was transmitting a different kind of signal.

While Inman had sounded a warning, Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, offered reassurance.

Jones told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that he didn't see "any circumstances under which we could intervene with military force" in troubled El Salvador, Nicaragua

### Other Central American news

■ The Reagan administration's efforts to document allegations of Nicaraguan and Cuban involvement in El Salvador were dealt a setback when a young Nicaraguan didn't say what he was expected to say. Orlando Jose Tardencillas Espinosa, 19, was supposed to tell reporters about how he had been trained in Cuba and Ethiopia and sent to fight in El Salvador by Nicaragua's Sandinista government. However, Tardencillas instead said he made false statements after his capture in El Salvador because he had been tortured and wanted to protect his fellow rebels.

■ The local Guatemalan official who reported the massacre of more than 200 Quiche Indians in a remote northwestern province now says his account was based on rumors that turned out to be false. The report had claimed the Quiche were beheaded.

■ Salvadoran rebels ambushed and killed a top army commander and wounded "many" troops in the fourth day of an army sweep against guerrilla positions. The fighting occurred near San Felipe, 50 miles east of the capital.

neighbor.

Tuesday the administration was playing hawk. Wednesday it was playing dove.

What is the administration up to? What explains these seeming contradictions?

Those questions are being asked with increasing frequency in Congress and in letters pouring into the White House and Capitol Hill.

The basic answer can be found in the testimony and conversations of top administration officials in recent

days, including Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

In brief it is this:

The administration is deeply concerned that Cuba, backed by the Soviet Union, is trying to install a new communist Soviet-bloc state on the mainland of Central America.

But administration officials know there is a rising tide of opposition to increased U.S. involvement in Central America, both in Congress and throughout the country.

Thus the administration is using a two-pronged policy. On one hand, it is trying to prove that there is a solid basis for concern about Soviet-Cuban intervention. On the other, it is trying to soften political opposition by reassurances that there are limits to U.S. involvement.

This dual policy has posed a large political problem for the administration.

Its hard-line talk about El Salvador and veiled threats to use force to prevent a communist "victory" there or to cut off the flow of arms to Central American guerrillas have touched off a political firestorm in

Congress and, if polls are correct, around the country.

Congress suddenly has been flooded with proposals to restrict U.S. military involvement in El Salvador and elsewhere in the area.

A House subcommittee is considering a resolution intended to cut off military assistance to El Salvador. Sens. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Friday they plan to offer legislation which would require congressional approval for all direct or indirect military assistance to Central America. Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd is sponsoring a bill requiring Congress' approval before U.S. combat troops are sent.

There clearly is a tide building against further U.S. involvement in Central America, but how strong, or how deep it may be, is not so clear.

With its Nicaraguan briefing, the administration launched a campaign to convince Congress and the public that "vital" U.S. interests — principally the Panama Canal and Mexican oil reserves — are at stake in Central America.

### Reading Guide

#### Index

ART	SUMMIT
CLASSIFIED	6-11C
DAILY COMICS	4-5B
DEAR ABBY	3B
DEATHS	4A
EDITORIAL	6A
GADGETS	SUMMIT
MARKETS	5C
METRO NEWS	3A
MINI-PAGE	PULL-OUT
MOVIES	SUMMIT
MUSIC	SUMMIT
PEOPLE	1-6B
RELIGION	PATHWAYS
SPORTS WEEKEND	1-12C
STATE/REGIONAL	5A
TELEVISION	CHANNELS
TRAVEL	SUMMIT
WEATHER	2A

#### Today's Chuckle

Have you ever noticed how, every time we arrest inflation, within 24 hours it's out on bail?