

# 'Moon tree' to take root in city park

By James Bradshaw  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

This fall, Bicentennial Park at 2nd and Main Sts. will have a tree grown from a seed brought back from space by the Apollo astronauts.

But the tree is not an exotic extra-terrestrial species. It was taken into space by the astronauts.

It is an American sycamore, and the seed was aboard Apollo 14 when astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa and Edgar D. Mitchell blasted off on Jan. 31, 1971.

The seed remained in the Apollo spacecraft and was not taken to the surface of the moon when Shepard and Mitchell made the third U.S. lunar landing.

But "the moon tree" is highly prized, and Recreation and Parks Director Mel Dodge promised it will be suitably identified with a commemorative plaque when it is planted.

The seeds were . . . carried on the space flight to study whether prolonged weightlessness would affect germination.

The city got the tree from the U.S. Forestry Service through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1976 as part of the nation's Bicentennial observances.

David P. Mooter, then state forester and now with the Douglas County Extension Office of the University of Nebraska in Omaha, Neb., said Ohio received four seedlings from the space mission.

State Forestry Chief Ernest J.

Gebhart said the other Ohio seedlings were planted in Friendship Park in Jefferson County, in a park in Cincinnati and at his division's office in Athens, Ohio.

Stanley Krugman, director of timber management research for the U.S. Forestry Service, said the seeds were among several hundred of five species carried on the space flight to study whether prolonged weightlessness would affect germination.

He said there apparently was no adverse effect and about 70 percent of the seeds germinated.

"We grew them, and we had them in containers when the Bicentennial came along," Krugman said.

He said about 560 seedlings, including some grown from cuttings as well as those grown from seed like the Columbus sprout, were planted

throughout the nation in Bicentennial ceremonies.

"We gave two to Philadelphia for planting in Independence Square," Krugman said.

City Forester Garner Workman said the tree will be moved from the city's nursery at 6977 S. High St. to the park sometime this fall after the sap is down.

The seedling was nurtured for the first few years in the Franklin Park Conservatory before being set out at the nursery, Workman said.

"When I got the tree it was about a 3- or 3 1/2-foot seedling," he said.

The tree now stands about 13 or 14 feet high and is in excellent health. There are no plans for second-generation moon trees in Columbus, he said.

"We don't do any propagating in the city," Workman said.

## Justice says highest court needs help selecting cases

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court justice said Friday the nation's highest court is doing such a poor job of picking which cases it decides that Congress should give that responsibility to a new agenda-setting court.

"I favor the creation of a new court to which the Supreme Court would surrender some of its present power — specifically the power to decide what cases the Supreme Court should decide on the merits," Justice John Paul Stevens said in a speech to members of the American Judicature Society.

"I WOULD allow that court to decide, not merely recommend, that an (appeal) should be granted or denied," he said.

In most of the 5,000 cases that reach it each year, the Supreme Court has discretion whether to grant full review. If that review is denied, a lower court's ruling is allowed to stand, but no national legal precedent is set. "My observation of that process during

the past seven (court) terms has convinced me that the court does a poor job of exercising its discretionary power," Stevens said.

HE SAID the high court now "grants too many cases, and far too often we are guilty of voting to grant simply because we believe error has been committed, rather than because the question presented is both sufficiently important for decision on a national level and also ripe for decision when action is taken."

Stevens said he now delegates to his two law clerks, young law school graduates who work at the court for one year, the task of reviewing most appeals to determine whether they are worthy of review.

"As a result, I do not even look at the papers in over 80 percent of the cases that are filed," he said, implying that he relies on memoranda supplied by the law clerks.

He said that some of the law clerks have tackled the job with something less than enthusiasm.



AP photo

### Nuclear protest

Juli Neander reads from the book *Hiroshima* to mark the beginning of a four-day vigil at a plant near Piketon, Ohio, which enriches uranium. The protest Friday followed the 204-202 vote in the U.S. House which toned down a resolution that would have called for a freeze in Soviet and American nuclear arsenals. Ohioans also staged a "die-in" in Columbus near the Statehouse and held a silent vigil at the main gate of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

## Reagan nominee wants government aid slowed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Martin Feldstein, nominated by President Reagan to be chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is a conservative economist who advocates slowing the growth of government programs, including Social Security.

The White House on Friday nominated Feldstein, a Harvard University economics professor, to succeed Murray Weidenbaum as the administration's chief economist.

"The president is satisfied that he is the best man for the job," deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said in announcing Feldstein's appointment.

Feldstein, 42, who will take a two-year leave of absence from Harvard if confirmed by the Senate, supports the administration's efforts to cut government spending.

He once wrote that the expansion of government programs in the last 15 years has wrought "unintended adverse consequences."

Although he has advocated tax cuts, Feldstein has suggested that the 10-percent tax cut scheduled to take effect next July 1 be delayed as a way to reduce the budget deficit. Reagan strongly opposes that move.

### Man, 27, charged in stabbing of nun

Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO — A Roman Catholic nun was slashed 18 times in the face at a North Side convent after offering food to a stranger who said he was hungry.

Joseph Barnes, 27, was charged Friday with attempted murder, attempted rape, home invasion and armed robbery. He was held pending a bond hearing.

The 59-year-old nun was in fair condition at St. Mary's Hospital with multiple bruises, superficial lacerations and contusions of the neck and face.

Police said the nun found Barnes at the front of the convent. They began a conversation, and he apparently asked her for food.

When the nun came back to the front door of the convent with food in her hand, Barnes forced her back into the convent at knifepoint, threw a bicycle chain around her neck and she passed out, said Detective Luke Ballo.

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### Gulf ends City Service merger bid

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gulf Oil Corp. on Friday terminated a \$4.8 billion offer to acquire Cities Service Co., saying it was unable to reach agreement with the Federal Trade Commission on the agency's antitrust objections.

The aborted deal would have been the third largest corporate takeover in U.S. history, eclipsed only by Du Pont Co.'s \$7.8 billion purchase of Conoco Inc. and the \$6.3 billion paid for Marathon Oil Co. by U.S. Steel Corp.

The FTC contended the merger would give the combined company too great a share of the gasoline and aviation fuel markets where the two companies have their largest numbers of retail outlets.

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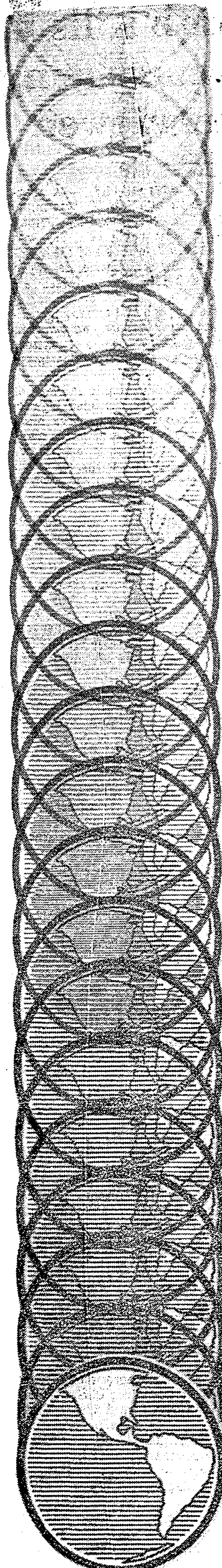
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