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program known as "perestroika" is

structuring.

For instance, some sources have said Gorbachev may attempt to win endorsement of a system that would permit farmers to lease sections of collective farms from the state and sell their produce back to the collective at prevailing prices. Such a step could have a relatively quick impact on the country's notoriously inefficient agricultural system that in recent years has forced the Soviet Union to import food.

Other sources anticipate some party statements on nationalities problems, which have broken into the open in recent months as Armenians have sought to claim a territory held for 65 years by the newly forming republic of Azerbaijan.

There also is interest in the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Among those seeking the attention of the party conference to redress grievances are a group that wants to build a memorial to Stalin's victims and Crimean Tatars and petition for restoration of the Crimean Tatars' loss from them to punish them for alleged collaboration with Nazi forces in World War II.

Otto Letov, deputy editor of the theoretical journal *Kommunist* and a conference delegate, said he expects an expectation of an instant miracle at the conference.

"Common people, to some extent, expect that all the problems that haven't been solved will be solved, and that there will be a firm guarantee that perestroika will be irreversible," Letov said.

But he added, "I don't think that after three days of the conference we are going to be in quite another world. We'll have a better understanding of our progress and possibilities."

system to blame defense scandal?

PETER GRIER
ration Science Monitor
The defense
ent scandal of 1985 has

mation from the Pentagon about
the advanced tactical aircraft
LATA - a new Navy program that
could essentially be worth 20 per

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Markus Struck Chicago
John C. Frisvold
John B. Follen
Board chairman
Publisher
President/CEO
Editor

Pledge To The Flag
I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Making a difference in the North End

North End leads and? News-Gazette staff writer Cheryl Thompson says that question in a three-part series headed by this week.

The answer: Not necessarily. Concentrated neighborhood poverty is better in the North End than in the rest. Residents of most other neighborhoods speak of it only as a place to be avoided. It is almost completely black. Poverty and the unemployment are the disadvantages to which the poor are subjected as a problem. Struggles are a constant. Housing conditions are a problem and the usual problem of all, a lot of very little money for a large family. Those conditions, which the North End is not all bad.

The North End, today, better, and a new. Residents that many other areas of the city, and that there is hope.

Men's work, there are convinced that what they are doing is their responsibility. And they are trying to do something about it. The men's work, they are doing it right, like City Worker and the Rev. Philip Wilson are worthy of recognition in the city of Chicago.

The city has put forth some good teeth effort. Home partnerships have stepped up their effort in the North End, and a long-awaited rehabilitation project called the Martin Luther King Jr. subway station has proven itself one of the most significant and worthwhile undertakings in recent city history.

But what has been done so far is just not enough. The area needs sustained and concentrated police enforcement to discourage its open drug trade and disperse its criminal element. It needs constant city support to follow up the major strides already made there with continuing development funds. It needs leadership from its pastors and its churches. And, foremost, it needs more active concern from the city's decent people who want a better community.

The simple fact is that some of the North End's problems are unique. Crime, poverty, segregation and drugs exist elsewhere in Chicago, Illinois and everywhere in the nation. The problems of the North End will not be solved until those problems are solved and those will not be solved without some attentional and societal changes on multiple fronts.

All that can be done here and now is to dispense these problems from their particular neighborhood. That does not diminish them. But it does give of freedom for them to find their own paths to the attainment of a community who save their names and their dignity.

And even that alone is no small task. But if enough residents believe it is worth their fight, the city can not ignore them. And the city can. (CL)

— John R. Lacy

News-Gazette editorial policy

The News-Gazette is committed to offering a wide range of news and editorial pages.

Editorial comments on the left side of this page refer to the opinions of The News-Gazette editorial board.

Personal columns and cartoons, both published and un-
published, express the opinions of the author or artist and not necessarily those of the editor or board.

Special announcements are printed by the editor.



"Amazing what a drought can do to food grown in Iowa."

Quality continues to elude

A trend of cars was in the market for a new car and long ago, and couldn't decide whether to buy an American or a Japanese model. On the other hand, some Americans who knew more than he did, he settled on the latter. But he wondered if he had made the right decision.



Stephen Chapman

So on a trip to New Orleans, he rented a hotel to sample what he was missing. He was impressed until he stopped at a gas station, where, confused by the array of buttons and levers in front of him, he mistakenly pushed one that opened the hood instead of the gas tank.

When he tried to close the hood, a rubber ball fell off, which he recognized. When he tried again to close the hood, one corner crumpled and he had to present it from behind. After some searching with all his strength, he got the hood to latch — only to see a piece of chrome fall to the pavement.

Now every time he gets into his Honda, he finds a piece of chrome and he is just moved being struck by Honda.

Who is old Honda now? Even overlooking that unsettling experience with one of Honda's products, it's hard to see why anyone but an automobile enthusiast, an insatiable member of a member of the United Auto Workers, would buy an American car if there was anything comparable

available from Japan. The Big Three claim to have made great strides in quality, but the claims are no stronger than their cars.

Ford ads declare that "Quality is Job One." Chrysler touts its long warranties. And I remember sitting with several other journalists across a table from General Motors chairman Roger Smith a couple of years ago, as he assured us that GM's cars were as reliable as any on the market, strictly describing an evidence to the contrary.

He and his competitors in Detroit ought to take a look at the April issue of Consumer Reports magazine, which features its annual "dependability" survey covering more than half a million cars — though they shouldn't do it at all.

OUT OF ALL THE cars sold in the United States, I found none made in the United States by an American company that rates better than average on the "dependability" in the most recent model year. The contrast shows to be

Consensus should not determine

One of the results of that 421 of Communism is the integration of a number of agencies in Europe, Denmark and Denmark are indistinguishable. They all wear the same mask, unbalanced in the same way and state. They march in the same of the same time, whatever their language and they will yield to the effect in the village they can tolerate.

Next year everything will be different. The world is changing and the heart of Europe is there. Every day a step is being taken towards a new world. Nothing ever works, but it just is a process.



Malcolm Nygren

But that is not all. There are more ways than before in the world, and every day we are seeing in the world with a much better chance to live.

Politics don't have new visions for the world. They will be the world of