CLOSINGS: It's a tough year in Northeast Ohio

By Fred McGehee

Months before Leonid Brezhnev died, an ad in the Cleveland Press raised questions.

The year had scarcely begun when Jerome Seidemann, a 5-foot, 11-inch, 220-pound man, was shot to death in his room at the Lagoons because his family had refused to pay his tab.

The news of Brezhnev's death was reported in the press, but the story behind the death remained a mystery.

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The year ended as it had started: with the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

The Sunday Press had been a flop. Daily circulation fell to 131,000 and advertising fell with it, like the Sunday Press's circulation. The paper was sold to Hearst Newspapers.

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March 16: Millionaire Class Von Biber is convicted of attempting to murder his wife, Martha.

March 18: Apprehension increases as tortoise found with advanced eyes. They were procured by von Biber and, it is believed, were intended for the tortoise's eyes.

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June 13: John Hinckley Jr. is found not guilty by reason of insanity in the previous year's shooting of President Ronald Reagan.

June 29: Laos launches a major invasion into Vietnam.

Sept. 10: Princess Grace of Monaco (Grace Gala) is killed in an automobile accident.

Nev. 12: Yuri Andropov becomes the leader of the Soviet Union upon the death of Leonid Brezhnev.