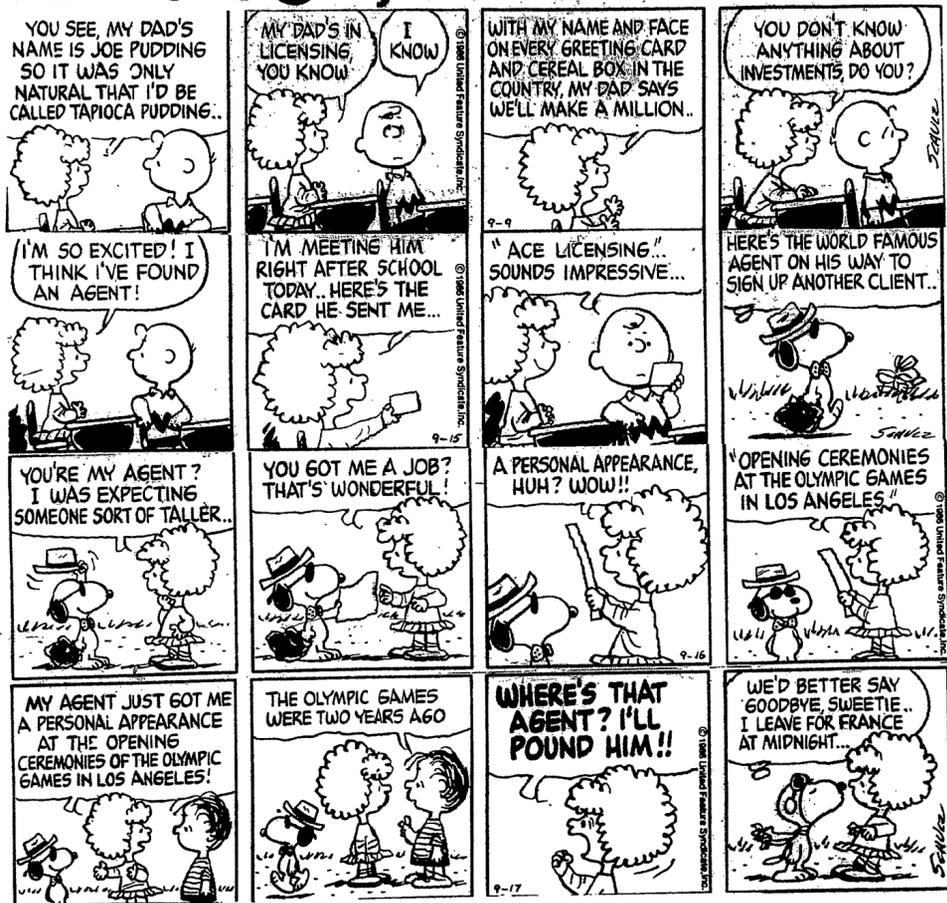


**PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz**



**NOTABLE NEWS...**

By **MARK COLEMAN**  
*Rolling Stone Magazine*

**STATE OF GRACE**

Much of the music on Paul Simon's new album, "Graceland," was inspired by the local sounds of South Africa — a land that's about as far from a state of grace as a country can get. After falling in love with "Gumboots: Accordion Jive Hits Volume II," an album of Soweto pop, or "Township jive," Simon journeyed to the land of apartheid back in 1985 and met with representatives of the country's black music community.

"They told me that the black musicians' union had voted as to whether they wanted me to come or not," says Simon. "They felt it would be beneficial, because what they're experiencing there is a form of double apartheid. They're living under a repressive government, and when they try to export their music to the outside world, the music is often rejected on the grounds that

it's South African." Because of the fact that Simon has achieved a degree of international popularity, it was decided by the union that he "would be a good vehicle." "Graceland's" ambitious Afro-American fusion is the result. Though Paul Simon says that he supports a cultural boycott of the racist regime, he still bemoans the limits on free exchange. "On one hand," he says, "the cultural boycott is extremely effective, because it's a clear, strong, simple statement. But on the other hand, I'm not sure who it is that we're boycotting."

**REVIVED SPIRITS**

"A lot of people think we're hung up on the Sixties," admits the Doctor, lead singer of Doctor and the Medics. "But I'd like to be really pretentious and think we have something to do with the Eighties." After spending the first half of the decade churning out workmanlike psychedelia, the British quintet hit Number One at home with a faithful rendition of Norman Greenbaum's 1970 smash, "Spirit in the Sky."

And what does the originator think of the song's revival? "It's interesting," Greenbaum says guardedly. Long retired from the pop scene, Greenbaum lived on a farm for a while and now works as a cook. "I've zeroed in on barbecue and American-style food," he says. "Not the California cuisine. Basic country food — leave it at that." Though he enjoys his notoriety — "I'm like a hero in northern California" — Greenbaum is intent on maintaining a low profile. "I work like you work. I can't take show-business calls in my kitchen."

**notables**

Madonna and collaborator Stephen Bray have co-written and are set to coproduce a debut record for British model Nick Kamen. This is the first time Madonna has produced a record for somebody else... Paul McCartney took time off from promoting his "Press to Play" LP to record some new tracks with producer Phil Ramone. Members of Billy Joel's band were among the musicians backing McCartney at the sessions... Pink Floyd's David Gilmour and Nick Mason are reportedly set to release a new record without Roger Waters. It's unclear if the group will call itself Pink Floyd... T Bone Burnett, who has become a successful producer since being dropped by Warner Bros. a few years back, has signed to do a new album for MCA's country label, Dot Broadway Video is about to release another compilation of Saturday Night Live skits. The Best of Philip Bailey has been in the studio with his old band on weekdays and is finishing his U.S. solo tour on weekends.

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