

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

GRAPEVINE

By PAUL GRAY/ Reported by David Ellis



A SHILLELAGH FOR HER THOUGHTS. Margaret Thatcher, an early and ardent supporter of Gorbachev's, continued to lead cheers during her visit to the Kremlin last week, and even urged top military leaders there to back Gorbachev to the hilt. But behind her public exhortations lie deep doubts about his chances. She sees the emergence of Boris Yeltsin as a particular reason for pessimism; she regards him as an unguided missile, and has privately characterized him in a phrase that could raise hackles both in the U.S.S.R. and closer to home. "He is like an Irishman," she says.

GORBY, THE NEW AGE GURU? Fans of harmonic convergences and the like have been noting Mikhail Gorbachev's frequent use of phrases associated with the new age movement, that mystical,

universalist philosophy that preaches, as the Soviet President does, of the need for "a new world order." As he said in California: "All mankind is entering a new age, and world trends are beginning to obey new laws and logic." More strikingly, he held a private meeting in Canada earlier in the week with one of the leading gurus of the new age movement, Sri Chinmoy, who read him a "spiritual song" and gave him a volume of admiring letters.

MASTER BUILDING ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN. Mike Dukakis and Rob Lowe aren't the only ones with bittersweet memories of the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. For two years, visitors to that city have been paying a 2¢ surcharge on hotel and motel rooms to retire the \$15 million tab for hosting the party. Two weeks ago that magic sum was attained, but the surcharge remains; now the goal is to help pay for the \$210 million Georgia Dome, a spanking new facility that will host the 1994 Super Bowl.

BUT HAS HE WATCHED REDS? Remember Zhao Ziyang, former general secretary of China's Communist Party? He was last seen in public on May 19, 1989, during a tearful meeting with student hunger strikers in Tiananmen Square. Then came the crackdown and Zhao's expulsion from the party. Friends now report that Zhao is at peace with his current situation. Small wonder. He may have lost his chauffeured Mercedes 500, but he still has a staff of five aides and an assigned Nissan that comes with, yes, a mini-bar. Zhao seldom leaves his house, spending most of his days reading and watching videotapes. One acquaintance quotes the ex-leader: "I didn't realize so many good movies existed."

THE RAP-TO-RICHES TROPHY



2 LIVE CREW

A federal judge in South Florida declared the group's new album obscene, making store owners subject to arrest if they sell it. By virtue of the Mapplethorpe Marketing Effect, sales are sure to surge off the charts nationwide.

THE AGING MAJESTICALLY CITATION



ELIZABETH II
Britain's new £5 note bears an updated portrait of the Queen, now 64. "But it makes me look so old," she said. "But I guess I am old." Long may she live.

STATESMAN OF THE WEEK



KIM

the political season's hot new defensive offense