



Installation of driveway ramps can lead to trouble

BY JEFF LANGLEY
Senior Staff Writer

Placing a steel ramp across a driveway could get you arrested in Pampa, Texas, especially when you ignore the new acting city manager's order to remove it, one man has found out the hard way.

Venus Collum, 1303 Williston, has been threatened with arrest for placing a steel ramp across the entrance to his driveway.

City crews recently ripped out the entrance to Collum's drive, as they have a hundreds of homes across the city. The city tore out an asphalt mound and steel drain pipe, which was built at the front of Collum's drive to lower the grade and ease access from the street.

Allyn Moore, the city engineer and public works director who was appointed acting city manager last week, made the decision to remove the driveway humps, a fixture at hundreds of homes in

all parts of town for more than 20 years.

Moore has said the humps and clogged pipes cause drainage problems on city streets and hinder street sweeping and snow removal.

On Labor Day, Sept. 3, Moore passed by Collum's home and saw the steel ramp, the city boss said. The city official said he went up to the Pampa man's home to talk about the ramp. He said Collum became irate and refused to discuss the matter.

"He came out and told me: 'I'm not gonna let you do that,'" Collum said.

He said he didn't know the stranger at his door.

"I didn't know this Moore," he said.

"One word led to another — I did tell him what I thought he looked like," Collum recalls.

"I just told him what I thought of him. Then, the next day, they came and took it (the ramp)," he added.

Moore and code enforcement officer Steve

Vaughn, accompanied by Pampa police officers, returned to Collum's home on Sept. 4. City crews picked up the steel ramp. Vaughn said he tried to get the man to sign a summons to appear in court, but that Collum refused.

"I told him that if he didn't sign, a warrant would be issued," Vaughn said. "We try to get them to come in voluntarily."

"We took some police officers, so there wouldn't be a repeat of the night before," he added.

After his ramp was taken, Collum thought he had heard the last of the matter. But Thursday, he received a notice in the mail saying a warrant had been issued for his arrest in connection with the violation of city ordinances. Collum said he didn't understand the charges and turned the paperwork over to his lawyer.

Municipal Judge Phil Vanderpool said that based on complaints lodged by Vaughn, he issued the

warrant for the Pampa resident.

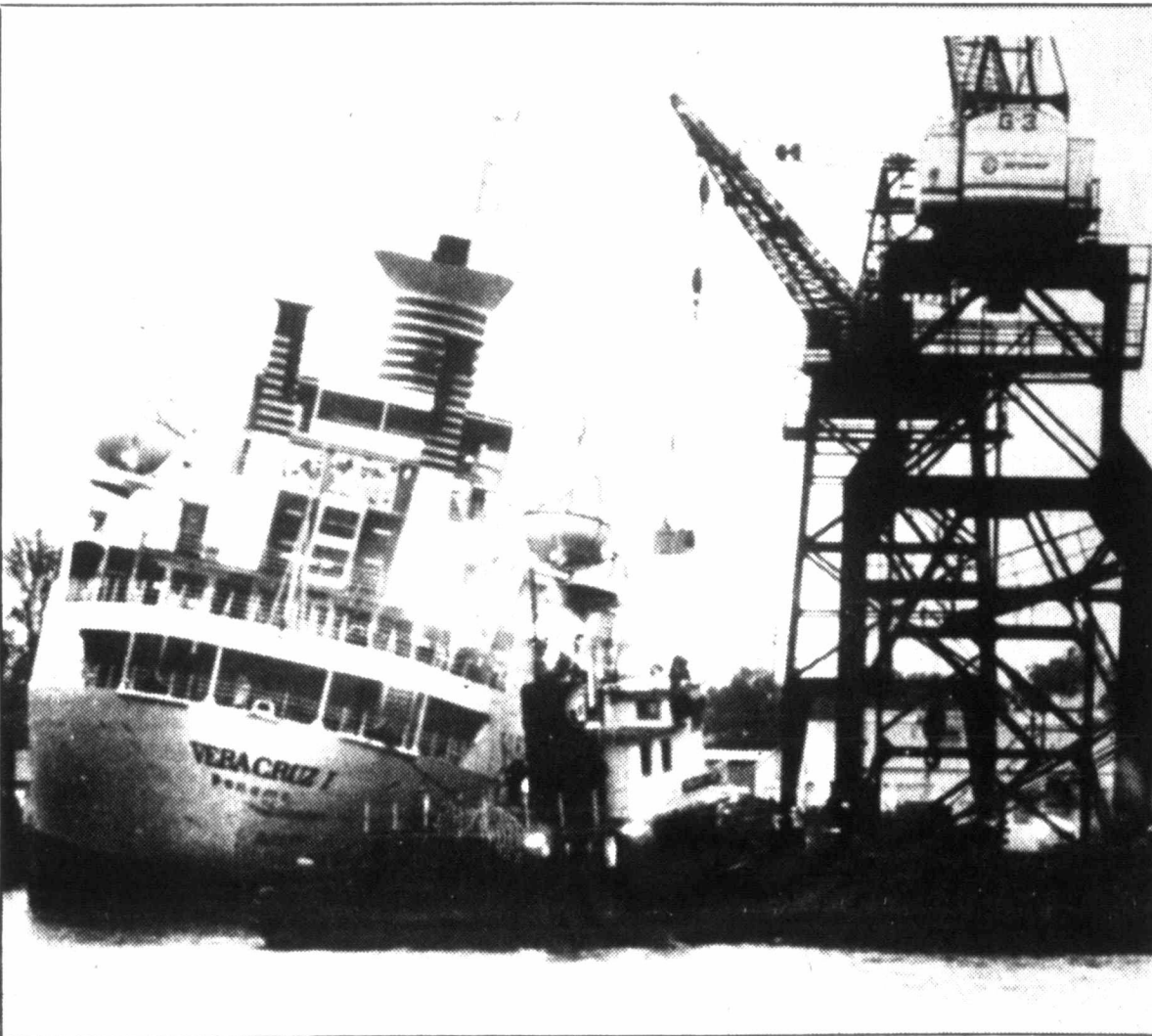
Vanderpool said "no particular reason" had caused the delay in processing the charges.

Vaughn said Collum was charged with the violation of Ordinance No. 950: "constructing an approach on a public right of way without a permit" and of Ordinance No. 542: "impeding proper drainage of (Williston Street)."

If found guilty of the Class C Misdemeanors, Collum faces maximum fines of \$200 on each count, Vaughn said.

The city employee said others have placed similar steel ramps across their drives but avoided trouble by having them "approved before they were installed."

"He's the only one who has been cited," Vaughn said. "Allyn tried to explain that he couldn't install it."



Ship lists after dry-dock accident

150 passengers escape ship after it overturns at dock

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A Spanish cruise ship with about 150 sleeping crewmembers, aboard overturned in a dry dock here early today, briefly trapping about 50 people and injuring 25 others, authorities said.

The 50 people trapped inside the overturned vessel were rescued or got out on their own, according to the Coast Guard.

Caroline Sullivan, an assistant supervisor at the Norfolk Police Department, said, "We have about 25 who are injured, four of them serious."

Ms. Donner said all of those injured had been removed from the scene, but she did not know how many were hurt. "Some are extremely critical, most are minor," she said of the injuries.

The accident occurred at 3:48 a.m. at the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., said Don Haupt,

director of paramedical rescue in Norfolk.

Haupt said of the approximately 150 people aboard the ship at the time of the accident, about 100 got out as the vessel overturned. Another 50 were trapped inside the ship, he said.

But Lt. Susan Donner, a Coast Guard spokeswoman, said authorities believed all those aboard had been rescued or otherwise accounted for. She said authorities continued to search the water's surface below the dry dock platform "just in case."

Guard Petty Officer Tom Armstrong identified the ship as the Vera Cruz, a Spanish-based cruise ship. Details about the ship's size and number of crew were not immediately available.

"Everybody is off the ship," Armstrong said.

The ship was on a platform above the water when it overturned and

fell into the water, said Ms. Donner.

The Vera Cruz "fell off the platform, apparently crashed into the water and was listing about 20 degrees," Armstrong said. Workers "sank the dry dock again to refloat" the ship.

The accident occurred in drydock 2 at the shipyard, Haupt said.

Thomas Forrest, a dispatcher at Norfolk paramedical rescue, said most of those aboard the vessel were asleep at the time of the accident.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Vernon Covington said the rescue effort presented a language problem since the crewmembers from the vessel spoke Spanish. "The interpreter was one of the people hurt," he said.

Boards seek changes in education reforms

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — Texas' new \$2.7 billion education reform package could stand some improvements, the Texas Association of School Boards says, and it has adopted dozens of recommendations aimed at doing just that.

The TASB, which represents nearly all of Texas' 1100 school boards, concludes a three-day joint meeting today with the Texas Association of School Administrators.

The TASB's 500-member Delegate Assembly, a policy-making group, endorsed dozens of recommendations Saturday, including making the state Board of Education elected once again.

The Legislature, meeting in special session this summer, passed the package and an accompanying tax increase of \$4.6 billion over a three-year period.

Prior to the convention, TASB's legislative committee commended the Legislature for its education package, and incoming TASB President John Quisenberry said they felt it appropriate to recognize "that we appreciate the funding."

But Jerry Gerlich of the Sweeney Independent School District convinced the delegates to strike the commendation.

"The extra money is not without a price," Gerlich told the delegates. "We've paid that price by giving up local control. To keep the word 'independent' in our district names is just not realistic."

Popular election of the state Board of Education was a key

change the delegates recommended.

The board had been elected by popular vote until the reform package, which called for gubernatorial appointment of a 15-member board until 1989. In that year, the trustees will be elected by popular vote.

The TASB delegates also urged non-partisan election of the board in April of election years and not November, as stipulated in the new law.

Proponents said holding the elections in November would reduce the attention the races might get in April, when most school districts elect their trustees.

Also recommended was more flexibility on maximum class sizes. The education bill requires no more than 22 students per class from kindergarten through fourth grade.

"We're sympathetic to focusing an emphasis on keeping class sizes down," said David Thompson, associate executive director of the TASB.

But "when that 23rd student shows up, you've got to find a room, equip it, hire another teacher," he said. "The expense is going to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars somewhere down the line."

The group urged more leeway so

schools could have 27 or 28 students in a classroom staffed by a teacher and an aide.

The TASB delegates also urged the Legislature to relax state laws on disciplining students.

The reform bill "says you have to jump through a lot of procedural hoops — hearings, appeals and more appeals — to suspend a student," Thompson said. "Meanwhile, the student has to stay in school and the teacher is allowed to remove him from the classroom to maintain order."

"What are you going to do with the kid — put them in purgatory for six weeks?"

The delegates also advocated doing away with a new mandatory school calendar that requires classes to begin no sooner than Sept. 1. They said the calendar is better left to each district because of such factors as construction projects, climate and staff development activities.

The delegates also rejected new rules governing student absences. House Bill 72 requires a failing grade for students with five or more unexcused absences in a semester.

Advocates of a change said some students whose parents take them out of school would be unfairly punished.

Pair wants 'happy' out of happy hours

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — If these two men have their way, Texas bars will have to take the "happy" out of their "Happy Hours."

A state insurance lobbyist and at least one state legislator say they want Texas to follow the lead of other states and attack drunk driving by banning inexpensive after-work bar hopping.

Texas legislators have already adopted stiff penalties for drunken driving, but that isn't enough, says Jerry Johns, president of Southwest Insurance Information System.

"When we allow bars to offer increased amounts of liquor at reduced prices, we're encouraging people to drink

more, faster and then get in their cars and drive home," he said.

Johns told the San Antonio Light he has not found a legislative sponsor for the bill, but Rep. Doyle Willis, R-Fort Worth, who sponsored legislation to increase the state's drinking age to 21, said he wouldn't mind tacking his name to an anti-happy hour bill.

"Anything that will lessen the number of tragedies on highways has my support," Willis said. "I know other states have gotten rid of happy hours, and their statistics show it has reduced the number of early evening drunk drivers."

New Jersey and Michigan have laws that prohibit the sale of two drinks for the price of one.

Newspaper sales tax takes effect

Copies of The Pampa News purchased over the counter will cost 26 cents as the new state sales tax goes into effect Tuesday.

The new tax cannot be applied to papers purchased from newspaper racks.

The sales tax will not be applied to home delivery subscriptions at this time because of the possibility the Legislature may repeal the tax on newspaper circulation in the next session. If it doesn't, the tax will then be added to those subscriptions.

The new tax will be applied immediately to subscriptions paid several months in advance.

Local officer loses suit against suspect

A Pampa police officer will not get the \$1,000 in damages he sought from a Pampa man who was involved in a scuffle with him in August, a six-member small claims jury ruled Friday.

Officer Jeff Torgerson was seeking \$1,000 in damages plus \$15 in attorney's fees from Marlin Scott Burns, 22, of 526 Zimmers for damages caused in a fighting incident Aug. 11.

According to assistant district attorney David Hamilton, the incident occurred the night of Aug. 11 when Torgerson stopped Burns on suspicion of speeding and driving while intoxicated.

"There was an altercation which resulted in Burns being on top of Torgerson," Hamilton said, adding that another police officer later arrived to assist Torgerson.

Burns sustained some head injuries in the fight and both men were taken to Coronado Community Hospital for treatment. Burns was arrested on charges of aggravated assault on a police officer, driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana. The charges are still pending.

After a two-day trial under Justice of the Peace Margie Prestidge, the jury ruled that Burns does not have to pay the damages.

Torgerson, who represented himself at the trial, was surprised that it took so long.

"I believe I should have had an attorney represent me," he said after the verdict was rendered. "I thought it would be an informal thing."



Between the hours of 6 p.m. April 4 and 8:30 a.m. April 5, 1984, an unknown person or persons entered Holmes Gift Shop, 304 South Cuyler, by removing a vent in the roof of the store and lowering themselves inside on a television cable.

Once inside, the intruders removed numerous items, mostly women's and children's size athletic clothing, but also a large number of steak knives, various kitchen utensils, and a number of pairs of shoes. Estimated loss was \$3,000.

Pampa Crime Stoppers will pay \$1,000 to anyone giving information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for this burglary.

Anyone with information regarding this crime or any other crime can report it and remain anonymous by calling 669-2222.

Youth's death ruled accident

The Saturday hanging death of a Pampa eighth grader has been ruled an accident, Gray County Justice of the Peace Margie Prestidge said.

Vance Carl David, 14, was found dead Saturday evening at his family's home south of Pampa. Prestidge said that the boy was found hung by a rope at approximately 6:30 p.m. Saturday in a crawl space leading to a storage tank behind the house.

The Gray County Deputy Sheriff Oren Potter received the call at about 7:15 p.m. The youth

was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:45 p.m.

Graveside services for David will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Memory Garden with the Rev. Bill Pierce of Grace Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be by Carmichael - Whatley Funeral Directors.

Born Nov. 5, 1969 in Pampa, he lived in Alma, Ark. for several years before returning to Pampa in 1979. He attended Pampa Middle School.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincon David, of the home; five brothers, Donald, John, Vincon Jr., Harold and Michael, all of the home; sister, Donna of the home; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brobst, of Woodward, Okla., and Mr. and Mrs. John Watkins of Alma.

25th Street discussion set

The city of Pampa Traffic Commission will discuss changing signs on 25th Avenue, east of Duncan Street, during its regular monthly meeting Tuesday.

The meeting will be at noon in the Coronado Inn Restaurant. Commission Chairman, Tommy Kelly invited residents of the affected area to attend and make comments before the panel makes a decision.

After hearing from a group of area residents two years ago, the commission recommended the placement of several stop and yield signs on 25th. Recently, the panel was approached by another group of residents who want the signs removed so that 25th can be a major traffic-bearing artery.

After hearing the discussion from both sides, the commission will make a recommendation to the city commission for any changes it deems necessary, Kelley said.

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TEXAS / REGIONAL



STATE SCHOOL BOARD—Nine members of the 15-member Texas State Board of Education gather for a group photo during a reception for them at the Joint Annual Convention of the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators Sunday night in San Antonio. The nine members present in the photo are: front row from left, Rebecca Canning of Waco, Emmett J. Conrad

of Dallas and Pete Morales Jr. of Devine; and back row from left, Dr. Paul Dunn of Levelland, Katherine P. Raines of Cleburne, Maria Elana A. Flood of El Paso, Gen. William V. McBride of San Antonio, Carolyn Honea Crawford of Beaumont and Jack Strong of Longview. (AP Laserphoto)

New state education board gathers first time

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — Whether the new State Board of Education is elected or appointed should not be the key issue in Texas' public education, new board member Maria Elena Flood said.

"I'm not sure being elected or appointed is the point," she said Sunday at a reception for the new panel. "We have a legislative mandate and we're going to make every effort to implement the education reforms."

Mrs. Flood, of El Paso, and eight others of the 15-member board gathered publicly for the first time

Sunday in a reception given by the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators.

The two associations met in a joint convention this weekend to discuss a \$2.7 billion education reform package passed by the Legislature in a special session this summer.

The reform bill called for the governor to appoint a 15-member State Board of Education, replacing the previous 27-member board elected at the polls.

The new panel, appointed two

weeks ago by Gov. Mark White, will have the advantage of making a fresh start, said Emmett Conrad, a Dallas physician.

"We don't have any vested interest in what's been established. We won't fall in the trap of viewing things as sacred," he said.

The new board, said member Pete Morales Jr. of Devine, will have more latitude and more authority than the old one, although it will have to work out the reform bill's rough edges.

"But I hope it gets us back to the basics — reading, writing and

arithmetic. I have a first grader, so I'll be wearing two hats. I'll be a father and a board member," he said.

Two board members — Jack Strong, a former state senator and now a board member from Longview, and Carolyn Crawford of Beaumont, said the new board will operate more smoothly because it is smaller.

Addressing an issue controversial during the joint convention, Strong said he's not sure if the teacher competency testing required in the education bill is the best way to guarantee quality teachers.

"I have never talked to a teacher who said he or she didn't know of some incompetent teachers," he said. "Whether (the competency test) is the best way, I don't know. Our first obligation is to give the students the best education we can."

Lawmakers, commissioners predict problems with competency testing

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — Texas' controversial new teacher competency testing law will never be implemented because of the massive legal problems that would ensue, the chairman of the Senate Education Committee has predicted.

The testing requirement is part of Texas' \$2.7 billion education reform bill the Legislature passed in special session this summer.

Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, and state Rep. Bill Haley, chairman of the House Education Committee, reviewed the education package in a joint appearance Sunday at the convention of the Texas Association of School Boards and Texas Association of School Administrators.

"I personally believe competency testing will never be put in place in Texas," Parker told about 1,000 listeners.

"If you're worried about lawsuits, you fire somebody for failing a test. You haven't seen anything yet," he said. "You're talking about the lawyers' retirement bill of Texas."

Haley, D-Center, said competency testing is a "legally questionable procedure. What can be accomplished by such a test?"

He said every professional licensing act he has seen pass the Legislature has included a grandfather clause allowing current practitioners to continue working.

Haley said the state could run into a teacher shortage with the testing because 5 percent could fail, another 5 percent are at retirement age and might opt not to take the test, and many more might refuse to take it.

predicted 5 percent fails the test, as many as 25,500 public school teachers could lose their jobs.

Bynum said many teachers have told him they will not take the test and risk losing their jobs.

"Particularly some people who have a spouse that makes a good income, who are 55 years old or older and have been teaching 25 to 30 years," he said. "I believe them."

Bynum urged school leaders to be concerned about their image — "the image that we are a split and fragmented group. If I would make a criticism of people in public education, it would be we are so fragmented anyone could whip us."

Haley urged the groups to have alternatives in mind when they approach the Legislature about making changes in the reform package.

"You can forget a frontal assault," Haley said. "You've got to address the Legislature with facts, reason and calmness. Those who come to us and say 'here are some suggestions' will gain an ear in the Legislature."

In a separate appearance, Ray Bynum, commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, said if the

Airlines concerned about airport

AUSTIN (AP) — Building a new airport here might discourage people from flying and cost airlines millions to move their offices, say airline executives who are skeptical of efforts to build a new airport.

Critics of Austin's municipal airport call it an aviation dinosaur dangerously near residential areas. Airport-area residents have mounted a "Move It" campaign that complains of low-flying, noisy aircraft.

The city Chamber of Commerce has recommended building a new airport at a cost of about \$449 million, but no location has been proposed.

Public prison life concept not real

DALLAS (AP) — An assistant warden at a Texas prison says "free world people" have no real concept of what it's really like to be in prison.

"They see a lot of Alcatraz movies," said Jimmy Alford, an assistant warden at Coffield. "They figure we're in a dungeon-type building with water trickling down the walls."

In fact, he told The Dallas Morning News, most prisons are modern, clean and resemble a public school with bars.

But inmates, in their interviews with reporters the newspaper sent to each of the 25 units of the Texas Department of Corrections, said the public also has no idea how violent prison life is.

One prisoner, James Evans, said he has learned he can't read the Bible as long as he's behind bars and has no one to protect him.

"This is what came of it," he said, touching a left eye that was blood red and circled with a purple bruise.

are homemade — the most common being a razor blade pressed into the melted handle of a plastic toothbrush.

O'Neal told the News he made his weapon, which resembled an oversized icepick, from a crutch left behind by another inmate.

"It took less than an hour," he said.

O'Neal said he was stunned by the changes that took place in prison during his few months of freedom.

"We get treated a lot better by the guards than we did. They actually try to help you now. We get fed a lot better too," O'Neal said.

"But there's a lot more violence — more fights, more stabbings. And if you don't fight, you're going to have problems," he said.

Almost two-thirds of the inmates fall below the normal IQ range, the News reported. One warden described the typical inmate as "like a 3-year-old who bench presses 300 pounds every day."

The day starts at 4:30 a.m. Breakfast is over and the workday started by 6:30 a.m. Jobs range from chopping weeds in the farm fields to operating a computer.

Inmates quit at 3:30 p.m., take a shower, get freshly laundered white cotton prison uniforms and eat supper. In the evening, they watch television, play dominoes, read or go to the recreation yard.

Lights are out at 10:30 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on weekends, although they are allowed to stay up later during Monday Night Football.

There are 25 prison units and their atmosphere varies widely.

Jester inmate David Bowman called his unit "a summer camp." Pack I inmate Robert Littlejohn said, "This is a Sunday school unit here."

Littlejohn, 61, has been in and out of Texas prisons mostly since 1941. The changes, he said, are good.

"A bunch of guys jumped on me. One kicked me in the eye while I was down," he said.

By some accounts, Evans was lucky. Bible reading is a sign of weakness in prison, and a sign of weakness is a guarantee of torment, other prisoners said.

The strong prey on the weak, threatening violence unless they are paid off — in money, sex or both, Evans said. This practice is called "paying protection" or, more commonly, "hogging."

"My cellmate had no money coming in at all. He had to turn homosexual to make it," Evans said.

Prison officials say that because of a guard shortage, it's largely up to inmates to defend themselves.

"I tell inmates right off the bat that I can live with a fist fight. You have got the right to protect your property and your manhood," said Carl White, an assistant warden at the Coffield Unit.

Jerry O'Neal, who served time in prison in 1981 and 1982 for auto theft and was sent back to Pack II early in 1983 on a second auto theft conviction, has fought. In one scuffle, he stabbed another inmate 10 times, he told the News.

"I didn't plan to kill him. I only wanted to injure him," he said.

Most weapons used by prisoners

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HOTEL FIRE—Firefighters reach guests on a 12th floor balcony of the Fort Worth Hilton Hotel Sunday night as smoke billows from an open door at left. No injuries were reported in the five-alarm blaze which broke out on the 11th floor. (AP Laserphoto)

Investigators searching through damage left by 5-alarm hotel blaze

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Investigators today were trying to determine what started a five-alarm blaze in the downtown Hilton Hotel that forced the evacuation of more than 400 guests and extensively damaged the top two floors.

The fire, which started just after 9:30 p.m. in an 11th floor maid's closet, forced top-floor guests out onto their balconies where they screamed for help, officials said.

Fort Worth Fire Department spokesman Jim Noah said those guests, their faces covered with wet towels, were later escorted down the 435-room hotel's interior fire escape.

Only one man, who was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, was injured, Deputy Fire Chief Don Peacock said.

"We were lucky to get him out of there," he said. "He was asleep and had had a whole lot to drink."

Soon after firefighters quelled

the blaze shortly before 11 p.m., guests at the 12-story hotel at Commerce Street and Interstate 30 were allowed back inside, Noah said.

The fire, which drew scores of spectators and more than 65 firefighters to this east side hotel, was confined to the 11th and 12th floors, Noah said.

Several guests complained that they didn't hear smoke alarms until it was much too late.

Janie Williams of Austin, who was with her husband Ken on the ninth floor when the fire began, said that "you couldn't hear the alarms on the top floors. They were muffled. We couldn't hear them until we got down to the third floor."

Clifton James of Comanche, Texas, claimed the fire alarm never went off at all.

Vance Tanner, and IBM Corp. employee from Tucson, Ariz., was on the 12th floor when the blaze

broke out.

"I started to be concerned when I stepped into the hallway and couldn't breathe," he said. "The firemen came up and rescued me."

Noah called the incident "a good kind of high-rise fire," very different from last year's blaze at a Fort Worth Ramada Inn that killed five people.

"You don't go 110 feet in the air with a bunch of equipment and attack a fire without it being difficult," he said. "But everything worked properly."

James later told Noah that "if you boys hadn't come in and got us, we'd have been in a lot of trouble. We didn't know anything about it until we heard your fire engines."

Today's cattle rustler is different

HOUSTON (AP) — The cattle rustlers of today are a lot more sophisticated than their predecessors, prompting authorities to use equally sophisticated technology to round up the wily bandits, an industry spokesman says.

"Twenty years ago your average rustler was an old cowboy who was down and out," said Steve Munday, a spokesman for the 107-year-old Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. "He'd haul a horse into a pasture, rope a couple

of cows and put them in a pickup. "That's changed a lot," he said. "Now we find many people who don't know a Hereford from a heifer. But they know they can make money stealing cattle."

The job of getting stolen cattle to market is made easy by the open interstate highway system and the fact 161 cattle auctions are conducted each week in Texas.

Under state law, animals up for sale must be inspected and have their brand recorded.

Agriculture Department is under fire on its civil rights record

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department, which thought it was used to shocks during the long current downturn in the farm economy, is now under increasing fire on a new front: civil rights.

Black lawmakers and leaders, in Washington this weekend for a major legislative conference, took aim at the department for allegedly ignoring equal opportunity laws in its own bureaucracy and discriminating against black farmers who apply for federal loans.

At the core of the complaint is the decline in the number of black farmers. That number, tapering downward since it peaked in about 1910, dropped sharply during the last decade. Now there are about 57,000 black-operated farms out of 2.4 million farms nationwide.

"At the present rate of farmland loss by blacks, there will be no farmland owned by this minority within as few as 10 years," said Joseph Brooks, president of the Atlanta-based Emergency Land Fund, a black farm aid group.

Brooks and others said largely to blame is the Farmers Home Administration, the farm lender of last resort, whose loans to blacks have dwindled at the same time need for them has risen.

"Local FmHA administrators still operate in an 'old boy network' that is essentially closed to blacks in the South, where most black farms are located, said Rep.

Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., who is originally from North Carolina.

The department's Office of Equal Opportunity, which is responsible for overseeing enforcement of civil rights laws in employment and benefit programs, has had seven directors since President Reagan took office 3½ years ago, said Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich.

He said the department has "clearly failed to meet its responsibility to enforce our civil rights laws" both in personnel practices and in offering financial assistance to farmers.

The criticism has clearly political overtones — the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who has been campaigning for Democratic presidential challenger Walter Mondale, took up the issue last week. But the department's own inspector general has found merit in the charges.

"Our preliminary findings are that management problems exist in the Office of Equal Opportunity and we recommend prompt remedial attention," Inspector General John V. Graziano wrote in an August report to John J. Franke, assistant secretary for administration.

Graziano found the office had been lax in submitting required annual reports to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and had failed to establish any policy for investigating complaints of

discrimination in administering program benefits — such as the farmers' complaints that they can't get FmHA loans. He also noted low employee morale in the office.

Responding to the report Alma R. Esparza, director of the office, called the charges "false and personally motivated" and cited what she said was an enforcement plan already published that covers most of the complaints.

But another department source familiar with the issue, who spoke only on condition he not be identified, said yet another review of the office had found a serious lack of leadership.

Among specific problems cited by Brooks and the other black farm leaders last week were that FmHA operating loans to blacks have fallen from 8 percent of the total in 1980 to 5 percent last year, and ownership loans have declined from 3 percent to 1 percent in the same period. Loans to blacks, who tend to have smaller farms, were less than the average loan size.

He also said the makeup of FmHA county committees, the groups which advise about administration of programs on the local level, has declined from 4.3 percent black in 1980 to 3 percent in 1983.

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VF-4-83

Today's Crossword

Puzzle

- ACROSS
1 Doctrine
4 Behave
9 Same (comb. form)
12 Song
13 Japanese-American
14 Guard spirit of old Rome
15 Doctrine adherent (suff.)
16 Vine-covered
17 Sunflower
18 Colorless
20 Finnish lake
24 Retirement plan (abbr.)
25 French women (abbr.)
28 Hobgoblin
30 Pacific island
34 Other
35 Prevaricate
36 Concert
37 Bantu language
38 Business abbreviation
39 Small valley
40 Nine (Fr.)
42 Greek letter
43 Air (comb. form)
44 Noun suffix
46 Heat unit (abbr.)
48 Live coal
51 Spanish hero (2 wds)
55 3, Roman
56 Stick in
60 Honshu bay
61 Tennis equipment
62 Two-door car
63 Arrest
64 Ensign (abbr.)
65 Ancient Roman garments
66 Bitter vetch



- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
DLV JESSE DLX
DII IDEAS AAR
AKE GIRLS DIA
YEWS TAV BONY
HOSIERY
MD IR OPTIC
URANIA AMANDA
TAILED AMSTEL
EMDEN ES ML
ATINGLE
BEEF DEE SONG
AAAGL AND DAR
DST EERIE DIE
ETS ESSEN SSW

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

Oct. 2, 1984

Powerful new ambitions will be aroused in you this coming year. You'll want more for yourself and those you love and you'll be clever enough to figure out how to get it. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Regardless of your involvements today, it's best to give family matters top priority...

STEVE CANYON



...TO A LOUD WELCOME FROM EVEN THE BLASE HARBOR POLICE AND THE MEDIA PEOPLE!



BRENNAN, YOU DID A BOLD AND DARING THING!



IT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON HANGING MAJOR JOHN ANDRE. NEVER STAND ON A TREE STUMP AND TALK ABOUT SAVING THE FORESTS.

THE WIZARD OF ID



AND I PROMISE TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!



WHERE DID I LOSE THEM?



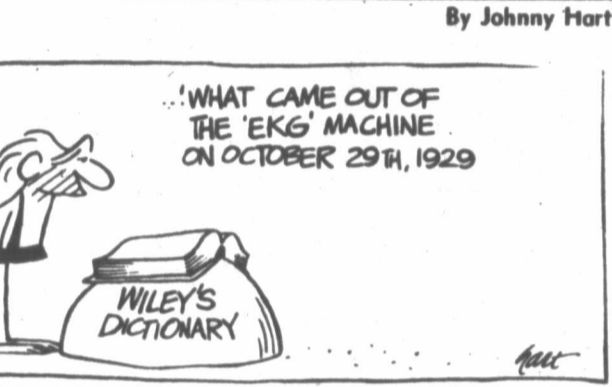
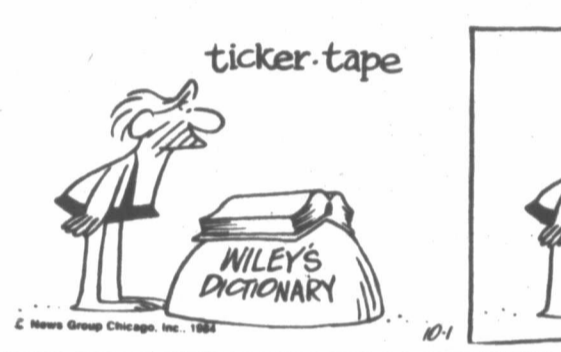
EEK & MEK



A HUG, A HANDSHAKE, A PIECE OF FRUIT AND A CUP OF CHICKEN SOUP... TEN BUCKS

IT'D PROBABLY BE CHEAPER TO CALL ONCE A WEEK

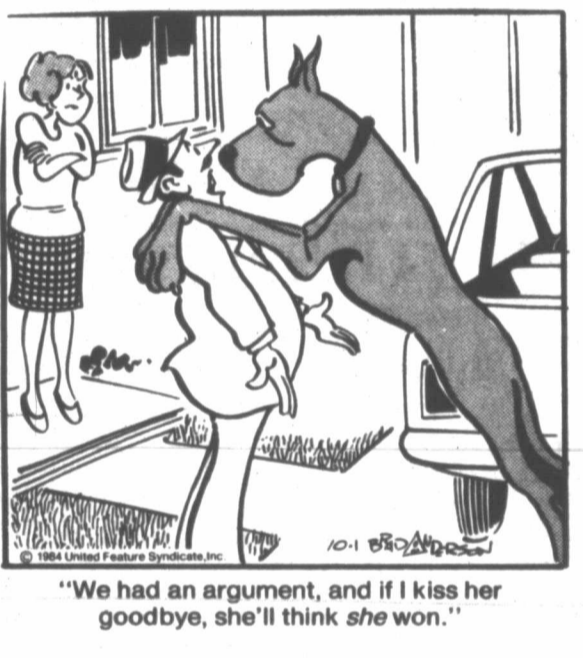
B.C.



MARVIN



MARMADUKE



KIT N' CARLYLE



ALLEY OOP



WINTHROP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



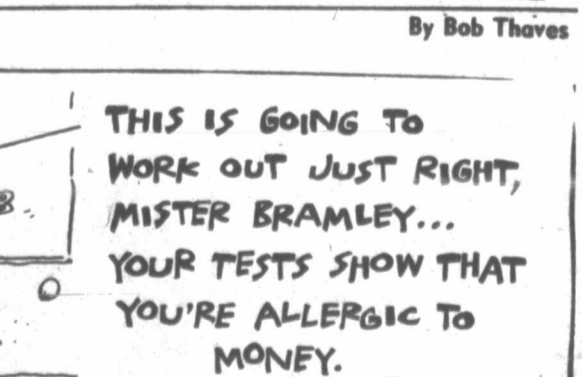
THE BORN LOSER



TUMBLEWEEDS



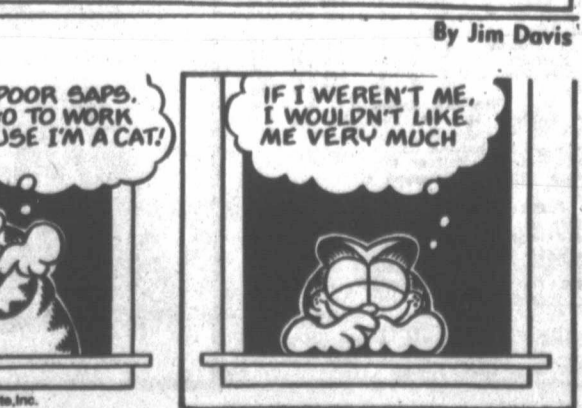
FRANK AND ERNEST



PEANUTS



GARFIELD





GAS FIRE—A fire rages through a natural gas processing plant Sunday in Basile, La. The fire forced hundreds from their homes and, for a while, threatened the entire processing complex. No injuries were reported. (AP Laserphoto)

Is the dollar overvalued?

By CHET CURRIER
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The fireworks going on lately in the foreign exchange markets may strike most Americans as little more than distant rumblings. They can be heard without much immediate sensation of either benefit or harm. Plenty of people do care a great deal about whether the dollar rises or falls in value against the Japanese yen, the West German mark, or the British pound. Employees and shareholders of multinational companies know that foreign-exchange fluctuations affect earnings, and hence the possibilities of things like year-end bonuses and dividend increases. Small-business men and women who buy imported merchandise or sell overseas also feel a direct impact. And American travelers found bargains in Europe thanks to favorable currency rates. But ups and downs in currency values don't usually manifest themselves emotionally on the

domestic citizenry the way something like a change in the unemployment rate might. If the dollar's rise lately has produced any general emotion at all, it is probably a vague sense of pride that the national currency is the object of so much worldwide respect. Lately, as widely played news stories have related, the dollar has wobbled a bit. Its rapid rise to record or near-record highs prompted intervention by at least one European central bank, which exchanged large amounts of dollars for its own currency, thereby sending the dollar into retreat. There are arguments both for and against the virtues of a mighty dollar. But most experts agree that instability in foreign-exchange markets poses threatening possibilities of concern to everyone. If the dollar is "overvalued," and does come down somewhat in the foreign exchange markets, they hope it happens in an orderly way. A sudden, rapid decline, they

point out, might hit the bond and short-term money markets hard, sending interest rates higher amid fears of a dramatic shrinkage of foreign capital to finance the U.S. government's borrowing needs. It would also increase the cost to consumers of foreign-made goods. Domestic business that competes with imports, at the same time, would find themselves under correspondingly less pressure to hold prices down. "The benefits of the strong dollar mostly have related to its impact, both direct and indirect, on inflation," observed Charles Lieberman, economist at Shearson Lehman-American Express. A possible reversal of the dollar's fortunes, he said, "threatens to undermine some of the important benefits achieved over the past few years." Of course, the dollar has been called "overvalued" frequently in the last year or so, and that hasn't stopped it from climbing steadily to new heights. Central banks can exert a strong influence on the foreign exchange markets.

Feds say they'll step up raids

DALLAS (AP) — Federal agents say they will step up raids on "notorious" employers of illegal aliens in the wake of recent record round-ups in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. A three-day sweep last week netted a record 1,144 workers suspected of being illegal immigrants, authorities said. Six investigators from the local INS office and 15 agents from the U.S. Border Patrol conducted the raids Tuesday through Thursday, said Ron Chandler, director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Dallas. He said they concentrated on several businesses that have repeatedly hired illegal immigrants and that most of them had been raided at least twice this year. "We just keep going back to these types of businesses,"

Chandler said. "This shows the abundance of illegal aliens in the area and what we could do if we had more manpower." Chandler said his office also plans to increase the number of large raids in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. And in the 1985 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 15, more agents will be added to his staff of six investigators, he said. The number of arrests during last week's raids topped the 1,060 immigrants rounded up during a similar series in August, Chandler said. Federal authorities have apprehended almost 13,000 undocumented workers this fiscal year, compared with about 18,000 the previous year, Chandler said Saturday. He attributed the decline to a concentration "on notorious employers" of illegal aliens. Chandler said that at a mobile

home manufacturing plant, where 110 people were arrested in August. Officials of an aluminum products company in Irving, where 69 suspected aliens were apprehended, said they would work with the INS office.

Local Rotary Club plans annual travel film series

Pampa Rotary Club is currently selling season tickets for its annual Wonderful World of Travel film series. The series features films this year on South America, China, England, Ceylon, and Tahiti and the Cook Islands, according to Hal Cree, chairman of the club's Travel Film Committee. Phil Gentry, Rotary Club president, said the series is made possible "only through the support of the community." All profits from the project are distributed to about 15 local charities, he said. All films will be shown in the M. K. Brown Auditorium, with shows beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the scheduled dates.

The first film in the series - "Adventures Across South America" - features a journey through the untamed jungles of the Amazon, over the Andes and on to the southernmost tip of Argentina. The film, scheduled for Monday, Nov. 5, will be narrated by Rudi Thureau. Born in West Germany, Thureau now maintains his residence in Hemet, Calif. Thureau served as cinematographer for portions of the journeys made in South America by raft, train, plane, bus, reed boat and foot. Set for Tuesday, Dec. 4, "Tahiti and the Cook Islands" will be narrated by Clint Denn, who produced the look at the culture of

the Polynesian people. Denn said the islands represent "the closest thing to paradise" on earth. The film will highlight the people, customs, traditions, religion, dance and song of the Polynesians. In addition, the movie will feature the exotic scenery: tropical sea, volcanoes, white beaches and green valleys in the mountain chains, along with a catamaran ride, snorkeling, scuba-diving, shell collecting and a visit to an ancient worship center. Raphael Green, a native of Maine, will narrate "China," the first American travel film on Communist China, on Tuesday, Jan. 15, offering a look at the people and lifestyles in modern China. A producer of 14 films, Green shows the Chinese at work, study and play, in addition to such scenery as Peking, the China Wall and other locales in the nation and material on Chinese art and culture. "Come to the Castle" on Friday, March 22, affords a rare look to England's most resplendent, private palaces and royal parklands. Three years in the making, the film includes a cavalcade of scenes such as the medieval Castles of Arundel, Penshurst and Knole; the opera festival at Glyndebourne, the royal

Windsor Castle, and the Barnard Castle in the romantic North Country. The film will be narrated by Howdee and Lucia Meyers, called by the Chicago Sun-Times "the most stylish performers on the travelogue stage today." The 1984-1985 season will conclude Thursday, April 18, with "Ceylon—the Magic Island," featuring the ancient ports, magical mountains, lost civilizations and modern people of this exotic island off the coast of India. Narrated by Ed Lark, a native Californian, the film will highlight visits to Colombo, the island capital; the ancient capitals of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, ruins of a civilization existing when western culture was still in caves; and the top of Adams Peak, a holy spot for Buddhists, Christians and Moslems. Season tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students, and \$25 for families. Tickets may be bought from Rotary Club members or purchased at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, Citizen's Bank and Trust Co., First National Bank, National Bank of Commerce and Security Federal Savings and Loan. Ticket sales end Oct. 9.

Shultz: talks 'not very positive'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz says chances are now "reasonably good" that the United States and Moscow can establish constructive negotiations aimed at improving superpower relations. But Shultz said Sunday it would be incorrect to say that the talks between President Reagan and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko last week were very positive. "Not very positive — sober and intense," Shultz said in an appearance on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley." Meanwhile, Robert C. McFarlane, the president's national security adviser, said it would probably take a couple of months for the Soviets to respond to Reagan's proposals for regular high-level contacts focusing on arms control and other issues. "The Soviet process is a very deliberate one, and they've had a lot to chew on after this week, so it will take some time," McFarlane said on CBS' "Face the Nation." Shultz said that in the nearly nine hours of talks with Gromyko — 3 1/2

hours with Reagan and the rest with Shultz — "practically all subjects of concern" between the two nations were discussed. As a result, he said, "the chances of a more constructive dialogue with the Soviet Union ... are reasonably good." He said the two sides agreed "to keep in touch, carefully and systematically" through diplomatic channels. Shultz said there will be follow-up consultations at the ambassadorial level in Washington and Moscow to decide plans for specific meetings on specific issues. But Walter F. Mondale, the Democratic presidential hopeful, told reporters Sunday that the Reagan-Gromyko session was an "apparent failure in arms control," and "both disappointing and a basis for apprehension" because it raised doubts about "which Reagan will we see" if he

wins a second term. "Will we see the Reagan who for four years has engineered an arms race ... or will we see a Reagan who as he has in the past week, talks about peace?" he said. Mondale, who met with Gromyko in New York on Thursday, said afterward he thought there was an opportunity for Reagan to make progress toward breaking the impasse over arms control talks.

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