

Nuclear engineers cite three human errors

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — With a stable but still highly radioactive reactor ready for a cold shutdown, attention shifted to the cause of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

Engineers said three separate human errors contributed significantly to crippling the power plant eight days ago, at least one in violation of federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations.

NRC engineer Darrell Eisenhut, who briefed the five NRC commissioners Wednesday, said mechanical as well as design problems also were "major contributors" to the accident. But he emphasized that eight similar plants around the country could continue to operate "without undue risk

to the health and safety for the public."

Physicists working round the clock at the contaminated Susquehanna River site examined a number of reactor shutdown options, including one proposed by the plant's designer, Babcock & Wilcox, that could do the job in 10 days.

"There's been a steady improvement in the status of the plant," said NRC official Harold Denton, who is personally supervising the work on orders from President Carter. "We've made a lot of progress in planning for eventual recovery of the core (which) remains stable."

Denton said the Babcock & Wilcox plan proposed for the cold shutdown

— bringing the reactor to the point where it could no longer pose any risk of escaping control — was getting highest priority. It minimizes both the need for equipment inside the containment building to operate for a

Denton said.

Robert Bernero, another NRC official, said: "We're very concerned about the workers, and being very careful that they won't get any undue exposure. That's why we have a housekeeping team inspecting all the equipment, all the valves, all the pumps, before we begin the final step of the cool-down."

Bernero estimated it might cost upwards of \$150 million to replace the damaged core and clean up the reactor. That price would have to be paid by the plant's operator, Metropolitan Edison Co., which could pass it on to its customers with higher rates.

Eisenhut said an analysis of the near-catastrophe found these errors:

—Valves on an emergency pumping system were closed when they should have been open.

—The main emergency core cooling system was turned off at the wrong time.

—Four auxiliary water pumps were disengaged, in violation of NRC regulations, when they should have been ready for use.

Joseph Califano, secretary of health, education and welfare, said in Washington that federal officials planned long-range health studies of Three Mile Island employees and residents who might have been exposed to higher-than-normal radiation levels.

"We will have to follow those indi-

viduals we choose for many years," he told the Senate Human Resources health subcommittee, which is conducting the first major congressional inquiry into the worst nuclear accident in American history.

Califano said he expected no increase in the cancer death rate in the area as a result of the accident. But he suggested it was possible that radiation levels within five miles of the plant might continue higher than normal for months or years. This was disputed by other witnesses.

"It is weeks or months at most," said Shepard Bartoff, an official of Jersey Central Power Co., which is one of the plant's owners.

Related stories,
Page 12A

long time and the release of contaminated water outside.

"The plan is basically one that involves natural circulation within the reactor vessel and ... water in the steam generator to remove heat,"

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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METRO EDITION

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THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1979
4 SECTIONS, 44 PAGES

Water main floods, kills Odessa man

ODESSA — A 19-year-old Odessa drowned Wednesday afternoon, when he was trapped in a flooded water main.

Reynaldo Mileg was sealing a joint in a 24-inch water main leading to a new water tower site in northeast Odessa, when an eight-inch water line ruptured and flooded the water main and a 12-foot-deep trench around part of it.

"He didn't have a chance — no place to go," Bill Childress, Odessa fire chief, said this morning of Mileg.

Childress said Mileg was about 30 feet into the new water main when a backhoe digging more trench footage for laying of additional pipe struck and ruptured the smaller, high pressure line. Water gushed in and quickly filled the trench.

"It's just a freak accident," the fire chief said. "It (the work) is an operation that's done daily...Then something goes wrong."

After water from the ruptured line was cut off, firemen pumped water from the trench and then dug out mud, which had filled the pipe, to recover Mileg's body.

Childress said the force had pushed Mileg about 30 feet farther into the open end main. About 300 feet of the concrete jacketed and lined steel water main had been laid. He said the water main is covered with dirt as it is laid down and sealed.

Mileg was working for a private contractor in the city of Odessa project.

Mileg's body was recovered about 3½ hours after the flooding. He was alone in the main at time the mishap, which occurred shortly before 4 p.m.



They're calling these triplets the "peace babies" after their mother, an Israeli-Arab woman, christened them in honor of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Mrs. El Kabassi named the tots, from the left, Sadat, Begin and Carter. The cuddly threesome were born in Tel Aviv's Assaf Harofeh hospital. (AP Laserphoto)

Polling places set for Saturday voting

Six polling places will be set up for Saturday's election, in which a total of nine positions on Midland City Council, Midland County Hospital District Board of Directors and the Midland school board are up for grabs.

Registered voters will have from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to cast their ballots. The registration card lists the holder's voting precinct.

The six polling places and the voting precincts combined for the locations are:

Fire Station No. 3, 1710 N. Edwards St. — Voting precincts 1, 10, 12.

Fire Station No. 4, Delano and East Circle streets — Voting precincts 6, 7, 9, 20, 23, 27.

Fannin Elementary School, 2400 Fannin St. — Voting precincts 8, 14, 26.

Fire Station No. 6, Thomson and Midland Drives — Voting precincts 11, 13, 21, 22.

Lee High School, 3500 Neely Ave. — Voting precincts 4, 15, 18, 19, 28.

South Elementary School, 200 W. Dakota St. — 3, 5, 16, 17, 24, 25.

Greenwood residents will cast ballots for that school board and for hospital district directors at Greenwood School.

Trucking shutdown may be drawn out

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a four-day trucking shutdown sends shock waves through the auto industry, government officials say truckers and the giant Teamsters union could stay locked in a "test of strength" at least into next week.

Federal mediators arranged a resumption of contract talks today for the first time since the industry lock-out of striking Teamsters began Sunday. However, sources said no rapid progress seemed likely to break the impasse.

"I think I would expect it to continue into next week," said an official, who asked not to be named. "There will be a test of strength for a few days."

The dispute, pitting 500 of the nation's largest general freight haulers against their 235,000 unionized drivers

and warehouse workers, has resulted in the most extensive trucking shutdown in the nation's history.

The auto industry has been hurt the most so far. Chrysler Corp., the nation's third largest automaker, said virtually all of its U.S. manufacturing operations would have to close Monday.

Money is at issue in the dispute, with Carter's anti-inflation wage guidelines playing a prominent role.

Bargainers had agreed to a \$1.50-an-hour increase in general wages over three years, as well as continuation of the current cost-of-living formula. The industry also agreed to a \$30-a-week increase in contributions to pension and health and welfare funds.

The main stumbling block is a union demand that cost-of-living raises be

paid twice a year instead of annually, as has been the case. The difference is 2 percent, or 26 cents an hour, which the industry says translates into a total tab of \$200 million over the life of a new contract. The cost-of-living change would put the total package 2 percentage points over Carter's wage standards.

ROUSTIN ABOUT
Goes to
Midkiff
See Page 5A

Carter's energy blueprint will increase gas prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter is unveiling a new energy blueprint for the nation tonight that will boost gasoline prices, perhaps by as much as 15 cents a gallon over the next two years, and add measurably to inflation.

Carter's plan, triggered by higher prices by oil exporting countries and an interruption in supplies from Iran, includes the gradual lifting of price controls on U.S.-produced oil.

Another component, facing an uncertain fate in Congress, would levy a new tax aimed at curbing windfall profits for the oil industry.

The basic components of Carter's plan were outlined by White House officials who asked not to be identified.

Although a number of congressional sources say they doubt the tax can be enacted, Carter is expected to sweeten the pot by suggesting the extra tax revenues be earmarked for programs designed to conserve oil by encouraging production of gasohol — a blend of unleaded gasoline and grain alcohol — and the development of solar and other energy sources, all of which have support in Congress.

The decontrol portion of Carter's new energy plan does not require action by Congress and officials say the president will go ahead with it regardless of whether Congress

approves the windfall tax proposal.

Carter goes on television from his Oval Office at 9 p.m. EST for a radio-television announcement of plans to gradually decontrol domestic crude oil prices starting June 1, with total decontrol scheduled by September 1981.

Estimates of at-the-pump results of his strategy to both discourage consumption and encourage production through higher prices vary widely.

Gasoline could go up 7 cents to 15 cents per gallon by 1981, according to some unofficial estimates. But the American Petroleum Institute, an industry group, recently issued a study asserting that phased decontrol would add just 5 cents to each gallon of gasoline over the 2½-year span.

The inflationary impact is equally uncertain, with some forecasters seeing each stage of decontrol adding one-half of one percent to the federal cost of living index.

Carter's energy address will reflect fresh concerns aroused by the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. Before the accident, he had been expected to declare full support for an expanded nuclear energy program.

Now, sources say, Carter is likely to announce appointment of a high-level commission to investigate the accident and reassess nuclear power safeguards.

Chamber accepts bid for new office building

Within a year Midland Chamber of Commerce officials expect to move to a new building to be located on the same block as the city Exhibit Hall, and a new owner already has been found for the present building.

The chamber board of directors Wednesday accepted a bid by HBF Construction of \$562,000 to build the two-story structure, which will be designed with a capability to expand to three floors.

Chamber President Joe Kloesel said the other contender for the contract, Area Builders, submitted a bid of \$556,000. After considering some alternatives included in the bids and the length of time for construction, HBF was selected, said Kloesel.

HBF listed 240 calendar days for the job, while Area Builders estimated the job at 275 days.

"The days to work on it became a very important factor, since we're already paying rent on the area," Kloesel said. The chamber's lease on land for the new facility began Sunday.

The chamber moved into its current building in 1971. The second floor was used then for the federal court and jail, according to Fred Tyler, chamber executive vice president.

The new building will have 5,700 square feet of space on each floor, with the lower level to be leased for retail use and the chamber housed on the second floor, according to Kloesel.

The chamber board approved selling the current building to J.L. Davis of Midland, who submitted a bid of \$325,000.

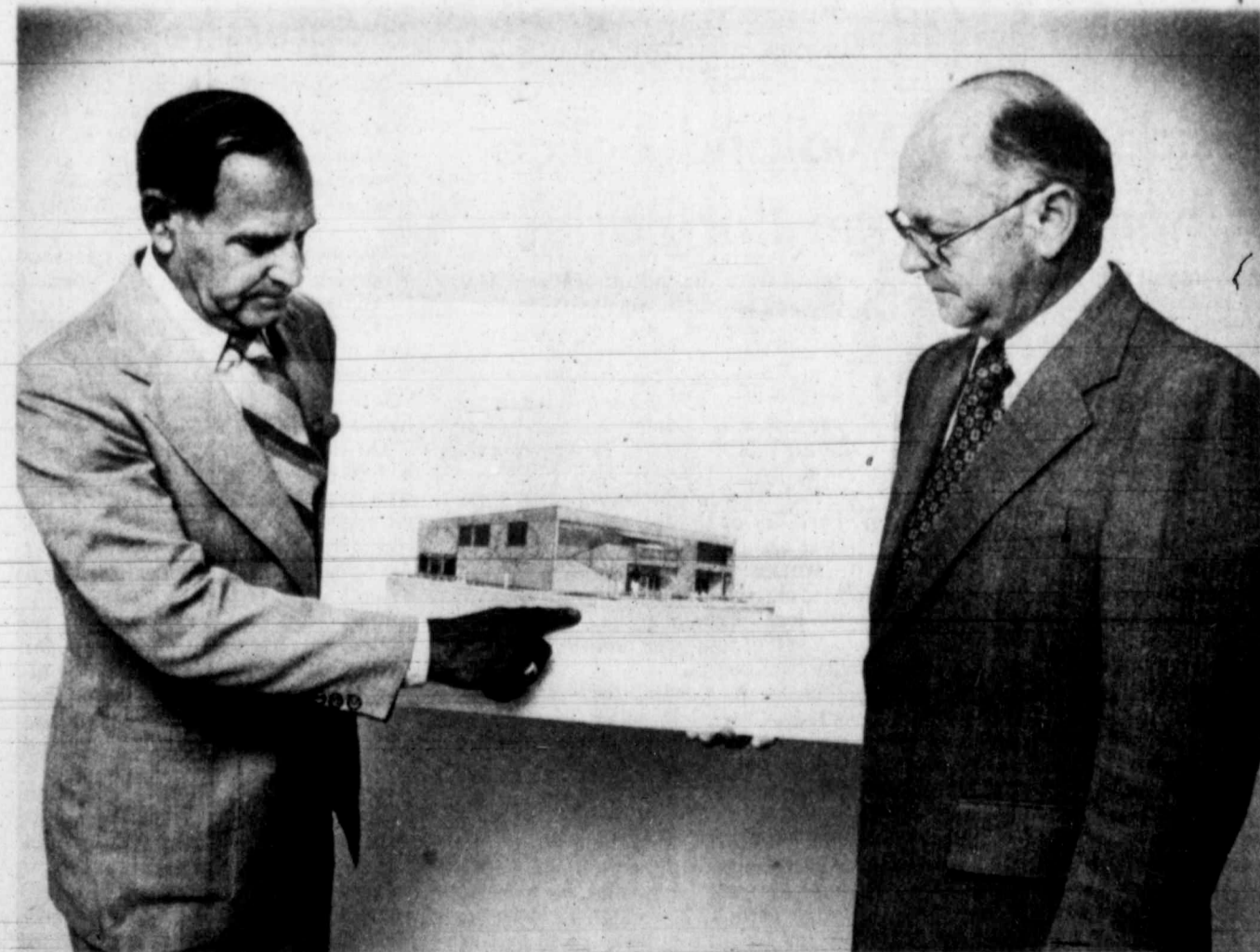
Also at Wednesday's meeting, Harrell Feldt reported the 1979 Chamber dinner will be at 7:30 p.m. May 7 in Chaparral Center with Orson Bean, a nationally known entertainer, as featured speaker.

Bids on MidTran vehicles will be opened May 15, John Ingram reported.

Midland Day in Austin will be April 16 and 17, and a delegation from the Tall City will host a reception for the Legislative Committee chairman.

The board endorsed three bills that have been reviewed by the chamber's Legislative Committee.

The Federal Building on Wall Street officially will be renamed after former Congressman George Mahon in a ceremony scheduled for noon May 3, officials announced.



Examining a drawing of the planned new Chamber of Commerce building are chamber Executive Vice President Fred Tyler, left, and President Joe Kloesel. Contract for the new structure was awarded to HBF Construction Wednesday, and construction should begin soon. (Staff Photo)

Kloesel. Contract for the new structure was awarded to HBF Construction Wednesday, and construction should begin soon. (Staff Photo)

INSIDE

IN THE NEWS: Evans' death may have little bearing on status of capital punishment... 10A

LIFESTYLE: Texas lay midwives source of controversy... 1B

SPORTS: Lee boys, Midland girls rule as teams to beat in District 5-4A track meet... 1C

PEOPLE: State Sen. Bill Meier may make this a long day for fellow senators... 9A

Bridge... 6C Lifestyle... 1B
Classified... 3D Markets... 2D
Comics... 5C Obituaries... 8C
Crossword... 5C Oil & gas... 10C
Dear Abby... 2B Sports... 1C
Editorial... 4A TV listing... 6C
Around Town... 1B

Weather

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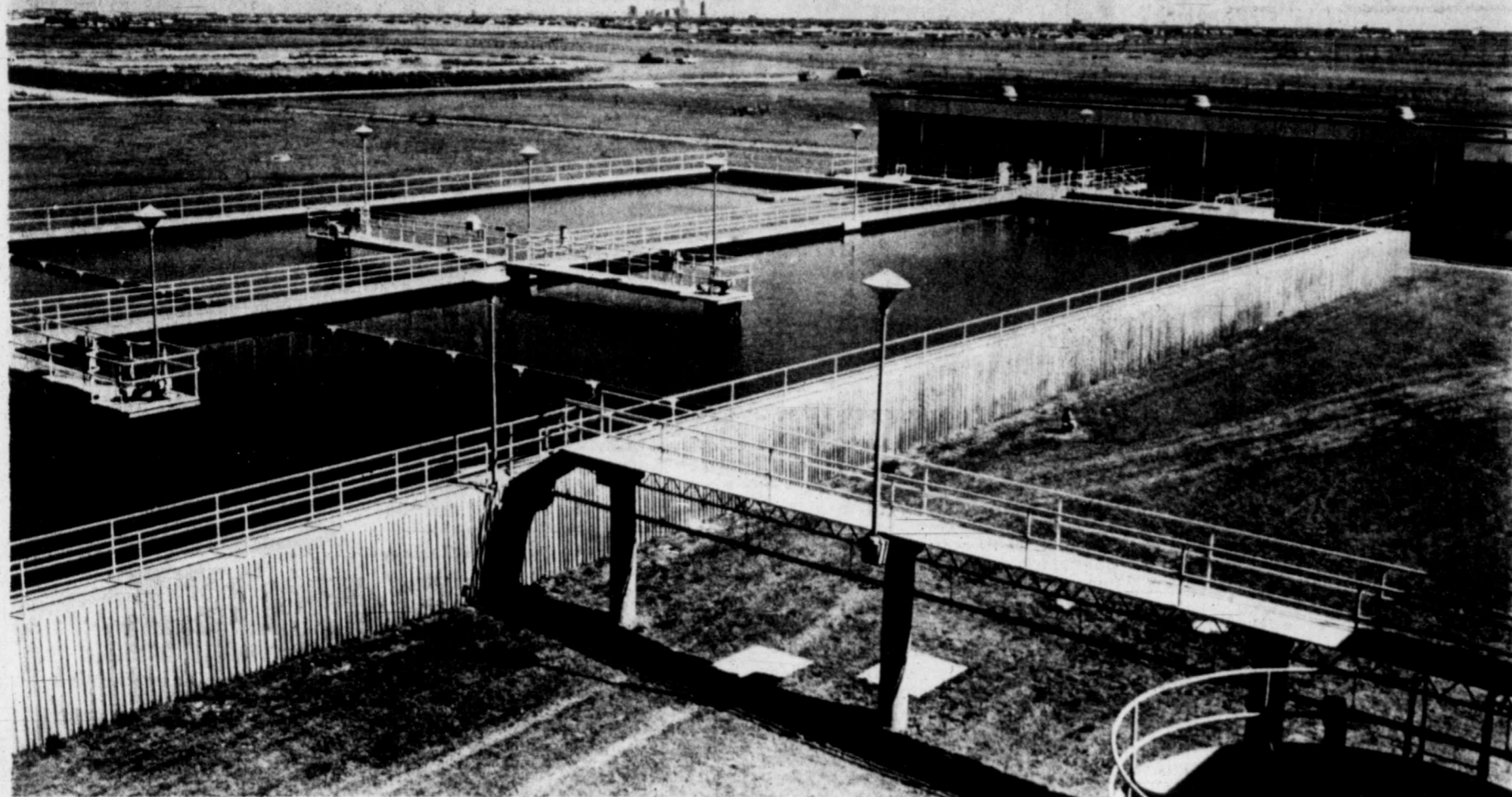
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This Is Midland:



Located on Midland Drive north of the city, the Water Purification Plant runs 24 hours a day, filtering Midland's public water supply.

In the foreground are a pair of two-million gallon settling basins, with the filter hall controls adjacent. Work crews currently are

expanding the drying beds, in the background, which hold water awaiting processing. (Staff Photo by Mike Kardos)

His paintings have no message

By BETH MOHR
Copley News Service

Gino Hollander looked at a painting he named for his daughter, Lisa, and said:

"She could be my daughter, or your daughter or anybody's daughter. I make no demands about the faces I paint and I have no stories to tell."

Lisa's expression is decidedly pensive and gentle tints establish her youth, but those who look at her will form their own opinions of the depth and direction of her thoughts.

The desire to get behind the girl's mood is almost irresistible. This quality of making the viewer a part of what is going on in the canvas is typical of Hollander's captivating paintings and drawings.

Lisa's father probably knows her as well, or better, than many parents know their children. Hollander, his wife, Barbara, and their five children left the United States to live in Spain in 1962.

Their home in the quiet countryside near Torremolinos, Andalusia, is where he paints and where the children were educated until time for college.

"We sent them to schools back here because they have to learn about the world and their country, but we had them 24 hours a day for 15 years and we wouldn't change a minute of it," Hollander said.

Lisa is a junior at Barnard; Siri, 18, is a sculptress working in Spain; Jim, 28, is a photographer specializing in Paleolithic wall paintings discovered in caves, and Scott, 16, is preparing for college. The Hollanders lost a son of 24; he died four years ago.

"The children were involved with us," Hollander said. "We shared trips and interests. If they wanted to stay up until 1 or 1:30 in the morning, that was all right with us. But, we never pushed them into careers. We never said, 'Hey, do this.' We want them to do whatever makes them happiest."

Hollander, 53, didn't begin working at what he liked best until 13 years ago. Before he began painting at 40, he and his wife were filmmakers in New York.

"I did documentary and art films that made pretensions of having something to say, but they didn't satisfy me," he said.

"You have to like working with crowds of people and putting at least three months into making one film. I didn't."

"A painting takes, maybe, an hour and what happens is between me and the canvas. I am in love with it."

His style has been tagged abstract impressionism and he has been called "one of the first of the new figurative painters." Whatever the labels, his works command emotional response in the United States and Europe. That is what he wants.

"In a world filled with emotion, emotion in art chills everybody's spine, but that's what I'm after—

emotion."

His paintings are filled with affection, sadness, happiness, quiet. He prefers the gentle to overpowering moods.

"I don't want to use art for screaming. What's the matter with the other emotions. I've had my screaming times too but there is still hope."

"I hear the ringing of a little bell and a shepherd with 50 sheep passes by. That gives you a good feeling. I am riding and the horse stumbles. That shoots a little adrenaline. A letter arrives from one of the kids. ..."

And, sometimes the memory that one child will never write?

Black and gray tones add age and a mood of mourning to one of Hollander's most-moving portraits. Slashes of color lend a feeling of expectation to another.

Of the latter, Hollander said:

"To me, it says something about what has been and what is in the future. To someone else, it will say something different."

In his painting, "Figures in Harmony," the harmony is unquestionable. Figures touch affectionately and are more strongly linked by a flow of blue-white color. But, they have no age and belong to no specific place or era — except that given by the viewer.

While subtle color places the emphasis on soft moods in many of the paintings, a vibrant sunset sky gives bright color the lead in one seascape. Then, the pale gray sea begins to captivate. The water is as weightless as the air.

Everything Hollander puts on canvas is done with ease and freedom. He refuses to force an idea or a stroke.

"If you think about a painting too much, it becomes a head thing. When you try to think it through you lose the emotional thing. If I work for half an hour and feel I am losing what I want, I put it aside. I can come back later and find it."

"I push the paint around and can see it start to happen. Everyone has something to say and this is one way of saying it. I have been painting long enough to know it is going to come out if I let it."

Hollander has a kind of reverence for the ancient ability of art to communicate.

"We have gone into some of the caves to see the Paleolithic drawings photographed by my son. They tell us about the way man lived 15,000 to 30,000 years ago. We can learn about some of the earliest things we had because one of those things was art."

"Cave drawings not only tell us something, they are beautiful. I looked at one drawing of a pregnant woman and her face might have been done by Modigliani."

Hollander recognizes and responds to man's lasting fascination with art.



Gino Hollander, with the portrait of a lady, is an artist who says he leaves it to the beholder to decide what his paintings have to say. Hollander's work is known in the United States and in Europe. (CNS photo by Phil McMahan)

Two to debut

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — William Hurt and Blair Brown make their motion picture debuts in "Altered States," adapted for the screen by Paddy Chayefsky from his first novel.

Ken Russell will direct for Warner Bros. Hurt is the 1978 winner of the Theatre World Award and has appeared on public television. Miss Brown has appeared in numerous television productions.

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THE DEMON DEVICE; by Robert Saffron; G.P. Putnam's Sons; illustrated; 285 pages; \$10.95.

Doyle is sent on a Lenin, Hindenburg and secret mission behind the Ludendorff involved in lines in Germany to seek the run in and out of out and destroy a new Germany.

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DEATHS

'Slim' Standefer

SAN ANGELO — Services for T.J. "Slim" Standefer, 73, of San Angelo, brother of Mrs. Leroy Olsak of Lamesa, will be at 4 p.m. in Harris Avenue Baptist Church here.

C.C. Kimbrough

CISCO — Services for Charlie C. Kimbrough, 85, the father of Mrs. A.S. Leiske of Midland, were Wednesday in Holly-Rhyme Funeral Home. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

C. Crawford

OZONA — Services for Clifford Crawford, 20, of Ozona were held Wednesday in Ozona First Baptist Church here. Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery directed by Larry D. Sheppard Funeral Home.



Edgar Buchanan

Buchanan dies

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Character actor Edgar Buchanan, known to millions as the irascible Uncle Joe on the "Petticoat Junction" television show, has died at age 76 from complications after brain surgery, a spokesman for Eisenhower Memorial Hospital said.

C.F. Wendland

Services for Charles F. Wendland, 45, of 3332 Camarie St. were held Wednesday in St. Paul's United Methodist Church with the Rev. Tommy Nelson officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery directed by Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

'Jim' Coleman

Services for James L. "Jim" Coleman, 54, of 3913 Gaston St. were Tuesday in Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home with Ty Morris of Crestview Baptist Church officiating.

Wendland died Monday at his home after a lengthy illness. He was born April 13, 1933, in Corpus Christi. He was reared in Harrison, Ark., having moved there with his family at the age of 12.

Patricia Kilmer

BIG SPRING — Services for Patricia Nettiebell Kilmer, 89, of Big Spring will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Wesley Methodist Church here. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park directed by Larry D. Sheppard Funeral Home.

Inez Robb dies

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Inez Robb, a nationally syndicated columnist who retired in 1969, is dead at the age of 78. Mrs. Robb, who died Wednesday, suffered from Parkinson's Disease. Funeral services are pending.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie; two daughters, Melynda Coleman and Jana Coleman, both of Midland; two brothers, O.B. Coleman of Midland and Jack Coleman of Big Spring, and two sisters, Mrs. Homer Linzey of San Saba and Mrs. Don Owens of Lampasas.

Wendland was transferred to Michigan with Shell Oil Co., for six years before returning to Midland in 1977. He had been with Shell 22 years. He was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, two sons, Michael Wendland of Houston and Dave Wendland of Midland; a daughter, Mrs. Gary (Becky) Ikle of Odessa; his mother, Edna Wendland of Harrison, Ark.; four brothers, Gene Wendland of Kansas City, Mo., and Jim Wendland, Larry Wendland and Dan Wendland, all of Harrison; two sisters, Dorothy McCarthy of Joliet, Ill., and Pat Seiten of St. Louis, Mo., and several nieces and nephews.

The family has requested memorials be directed to the American Cancer Society or the Organ Fund at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Pallbearers were Bill Shiplett, Dean Rippetoe, Alton Hatfield, Charley Robertson, Mike Munn and Allen Humphreys.

Shirley Chesser

ABILENE — Services for Shirley D. Chesser, 44, brother of Sydney Chesser of Midland, will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Elliott-Hamil Chapel of Faith in Abilene with burial in Elm Wood Memorial Park.

Bomb injures six

JERUSALEM (AP) — A terrorist bomb exploded today near a bus stop in Arab East Jerusalem, wounding four Arabs and two Jews, none seriously, authorities reported. The blast occurred on Sallahadin Street, a main thoroughfare near the Herod's Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City.

Chesser died Tuesday in an Abilene hospital. He was born Oct. 4, 1934, in Big Spring and was graduated from Stanton High School in 1953. Chesser attended Odessa College. He was married to married Margie Sue Wilson Sept. 12, 1954, in San Angelo. The couple moved to Abilene in 1974, where he was active with the Boy Scouts and a past president of the Jaycees.

'Jerry' Gritzman

ATLANTA, Ga. — Graveside services for Jerome "Jerry" Gritzman, 71, of 1101 W. Wall St. in Midland were Friday in Crest Lawn Memorial Park in Atlanta, directed by Green Lawn Funeral Directors.

Gritzman died March 28 in a Houston hospital. He was born in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He was a retired auditor for the Sheraton Inn in Midland.

Survivors include a son, Gordon Smith of Odessa; two sisters, Ruth Berch of Atlanta and Edith Penebaum of Birmingham, Ala., and a brother, Max Gritzman of New Orleans, La.

80-story building nixed

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston will have to be satisfied at least for a while that the 75-story building now under construction will be its tallest structure. A Federal Aviation Administration ruling has canceled possible plans to increase the El Paso Tower in Texas Commerce Plaza to 80 stories.

Day of deaths described by former prison hostage

HOUSTON (AP) — A former teacher in the Texas Prison System, who was held a hostage for 11 days during a siege by three inmates in 1974, told a jury Wednesday of the final day when four persons were killed in an escape attempt that failed.

mates attempted to escape from the prison but were met by a blast of bullets and the stinging stream of high pressure fire hoses. Two convicts, Fred Carrasco and Rudolph Dominques, were shot to death. Two hostages, Julia Standley and Elizabeth Beseda, were shot to death.

During Wednesday's session the jury was dismissed and Robinson testified that on the last day Mrs. Standley, a prison librarian, had told him, "Ron, tonight you can sleep in your own bed again."

Robinson said he did not know who fired the shots but "they sounded close and were muffled." He was the second prosecution witness in the retrial of Ignacio Cuevas, accused of causing the death of a hostage. Cuevas was convicted in the spring of 1975 and sentenced to death. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted him a new trial, after he spent four years on death row, on the ground the presiding judge at the first trial had erred when he failed to disqualify a juror.

Robinson said he answered, "Julia, you have never been more beautiful." She was dead a few minutes later. State District Judge Miron Love refused to permit the statements to be heard by the jury. After the Wednesday proceedings that lasted only a half day, prosecutors indicated additional hostage survivors will be called to testify.

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Compensation bill meets with setback

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The House dealt a possibly fatal blow Wednesday to a bill allowing large businesses to pay for their employees' on-the-job injuries instead of buying workers compensation insurance. A 76-59 vote postponed floor action on the bill (HB438) until May 4 against the wishes of the sponsor, Rep. Don Henderson, R-Houston.

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Bills to control open trucks referred to Senate committee

Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Ever get peeved because your auto windshield has tiny holes from gravel flying from those big open trucks lumbering along ahead of you?

Sen. A. R. Schwartz of Galveston says he is — the windshields of both his cars are peppered — as he brought up an old issue of requiring truckers to cover open trucks with tarpaulins while hauling loose materials.

Schwartz argued before the Senate Economic Development Committee on behalf of his SB 84 which would require vehicles hauling loose material to be covered by canvas, tarps or similar covering. His legislation would have teeth: a fine of up to \$2,000 and-or a jail term of up to a year for a third or subsequent conviction for violating the law. His bill would also require the violator to pay treble damages to the injured party if the law wasn't complied with.

A host of industry representatives appeared to testify against Schwartz' bill and another "loose gravel bill" by Sen. Jack Ogg of Houston. The Ogg

bill is like Schwartz' except it doesn't contain the penalties. Both Schwartz and Ogg said existing laws regulating open trucks hauling loose materials are not being enforced.

Schwartz presented committee members with a sheaf of newspaper clippings and editorials citing the problems and damages caused by flying gravel on Texas highways. He reminded the committee he tried unsuccessfully two years ago to get a similar law passed. He accused fellow senators of being reluctant "to offend anybody who owns or drives a truck."

It costs less, Schwartz said, for a trucker to cover his truck with a tarpaulin than the costs of replacing a single broken auto windshield.

A 1971 law, which witnesses agreed was not being adequately enforced by the Department of Public Safety, calls for open trucks to not be filled with loose material to higher than six inches below the top.

Wayne King, representing the American Automobile Assn., said there is widespread public support for the Schwartz-Ogg legislation. "We

have problems all over the state with sand and gravel and trash and garbage," he said. "The problem concerns safety as well as the environment."

Industry spokesman argued that a \$5 per load surcharge for tarpaulin-covered transports imposed by the Texas Railroad Commission, and other costs that would have to be incurred, would cost the industry millions of additional dollars every year. These costs, the witnesses said, would be passed on to consumers.

Tom Johnson, representing the Texas heavy-highway branch of Associated General Contractors, said member-contractors build 95 percent of the state's new highways. He said requiring tarps would cost his contractors a total of \$11 million a year.

Since present contracts are already awarded, the contractors would have to pick up the tab for the additional costs the first year. From then on, Johnson said, the costs would be passed on to the taxpayers.

The Ogg and Schwartz bills were sent to a subcommittee.



The Pan American Student Forum of Texas presented Vicky Kelly with a \$400 scholarship at its state convention in San Antonio recently. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly was one of five students in the state to receive the award. A senior, she is president of the Lee PASF and member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who in American High School Students and the LHS A Cappella Choir.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Others' smoke very harmful

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A cancer researcher has told members of a House committee to think about cigarette smoke the next time they wake up with red eyes, stuffy nose and a cough after a night on the town.

Dr. Carmalt Jackson Jr. of The University of Texas Health Center at Houston said Wednesday studies have shown a non-smoking passenger in a train's club car has inhaled in one hour as many carcinogens as if he had smoked 17 to 35 cigarettes.

"We're talking about the sidestream smoke, the smoke that you inhale as a non-smoker," he told the House Committee on Health Services.

A bill to close "a lot of exceptions and loopholes" in the 1975 no-smoking law was sent to subcommittee for more study.

Armadillo dealers beware

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — House members planned to vote final passage today on a bill making criminals of people who sell skunks and armadillos.

The bill, by Rep. Bill Hollowell, D-Grand Saline, advanced on a voice vote Wednesday.

Hollowell's bill provides penalties of up to a \$1,000 fine and 180 days in jail for selling skunks and armadillos or possessing them for sale.

"We have a rabies epidemic in Texas from El Paso to the Louisiana border," Hollowell said, with skunks one of the major carriers. He said experts testified that armadillos carry leprosy.

He told the House the reaction of one member of the House Environmental Affairs Committee, Rep. Ron Bird, D-San Antonio, to the testimony.

"Mr. Bird... was a consumer of armadillo meat. He had an icebox full. He has emptied that icebox since hearing that testimony," Hollowell said as the House guffawed.

United talks collapse

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contract negotiations between United Airlines and striking machinists are collapsed after only one day, apparently ruling out any chance for a swift end to the 6-day walkout that has grounded the nation's largest air carrier.

Sources close to the talks said late Wednesday that company representatives flatly rejected contract proposals made by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers as negotiations resumed under the auspices of federal mediators.

Company bargainers, who did not meet union representatives face to face, were said to have left the Washington hotel where negotiations were being held for Chicago, where United is headquartered.

More than 18,000 union members struck the airline Saturday, two days after a rebellious union rank and file rejected a tentative accord worked out by negotiators.

Flynt charge dismissed

CINCINNATI (AP) — A state appeals court has dismissed an organized crime charge against Larry Flynt and opened the door for a new trial on a pandering of obscenity charge against the Hustler magazine owner.

The 1st Ohio District Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that prosecutors could seek a new trial on the pandering obscenity charge. But the court unanimously threw out the organized crime charge, citing a companion decision that concludes parts of the state's organized crime statutes are vague and unconstitutional.

Flynt's trial here in February 1977 attracted national attention when a jury convicted him on both charges. He was sentenced to 7 to 25 years in prison and fined \$11,000.

Diggs charged by House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Charles Diggs, already appealing his federal court conviction on 29 counts of mail fraud and filing falsified payroll forms, must now defend himself against a congressional committee's charges that he violated House rules.

The House ethics committee Wednesday accused Diggs, the senior black member of Congress, of 18 violations of the chamber's rules. That action opens the way to a possible "trial" of the Michigan Democrat by the panel and subjects him to the possibility he could eventually be punished by the full House.

BART resuming service

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Bay Area Rapid Transit district is resuming trans-bay service to Oakland after an 11-week shutdown that followed a fatal fire in an underwater train tube.

The state Public Utilities Commission, warning it would keep a close watch on the transit system, decided at an emergency meeting Wednesday that service could resume.



Expressing some of the frustration of living in the urban jungle is Coila Morrow as Edna in Neil Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" being held over for one performance Friday at 8:30 p.m. at Midland Community Theatre. Darrell Ward as her husband, Mel Edison, comforts her.

Science panel urges physicians to prescribe fewer sleep aids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doctors should strictly limit sleeping pill prescriptions and better warn their patients of the medications' potential health hazards, a National Academy of Sciences panel says.

The panel, in a report published today, said sleeping pills normally should be prescribed only in limited numbers and for short periods of time.

Physicians should rarely, if ever, prescribe the drugs to new patients for more than two to four weeks, the study said. For patients already taking sleeping pills, doctors should refrain from providing automatic refills, it said.

Although the report called current practices of prescribing sleeping pills "difficult to justify," it said there is no need to ban barbiturates, as has been suggested, even if they are sometimes abused.

In 1977, 8.5 million American adults used prescription sleeping drugs, mostly barbiturates and benzodiazepines, according to the report published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

About a quarter of those used the drugs every night for two months or longer, it noted, even though there is little evidence the pills are effective beyond a few days.

The prescribed use of barbiturates has been declining steadily since 1970 and accounted for only 17 percent of the sleeping aid prescriptions in 1977.

The study was conducted by the academy's Institute of Medicine at the request of the White House and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

'Prisoners' held over

"The Prisoners of Second Avenue," now on stage at Theatre Midland, has been held over for one additional performance Friday at 8:30 p.m.

The trials and tribulations of life in the big city jungle is the theme of this comedy by Neil Simon.

Darrell Ward plays Mel Edison, a harassed individual trying to cope with New York, being unemployed and middle aged. Coila Morrow plays his wife, Edna.

The grimness of the situation does not keep "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" from being a convulsing comedy, organizers said.

Reservations may be made by calling the Theatre Midland boxoffice at 682-4111.

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