

Nature's rages batter crowded regions throughout the world

NEW YORK (AP) — Nature's rages have battered crowded spots around the globe this year, shaking cities until they tumbled, burying villages in mud and washing away islands. Tens of thousands of people have died.

The volcanic eruption that buried four sleeping Colombian towns Thursday was the latest in a string of punishing natural disasters, including the great earthquake that devastated Mexico City in September and a cyclone that pummeled Bangladesh in May.

Fred Cole, acting director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in Washington, said the outbursts have kept his office the busiest it has been in years.

"There have not been more declared disasters than is normal. It's just that a few of them have been more severe than is usual," he said Thursday.

"It has caused more activity on the part of our office than probably any year since 1976" when earthquakes struck Guatemala and Italy, he said. The office coordinates the government's disaster relief.

Before the Colombian eruption, the most destructive of nature's tantrums this year was the cyclone that blew into the Bay of Bengal in May.

The storm, packing 100 mph winds and 12-foot waves, stripped low-lying Bangladeshi islands clean of homes, trees and life. Several islands vanished into the gray-green waters.

More than 10,000 people died as the storm churned along the coast. Many residents of the densely populated

South Asian nation live in bamboo and thatch homes on islands that were little more than mounds of dirt, easily overwhelmed by the surging waters.

"Disasters are touching people more and more now because the (world) population has grown," said Martin Perret, an associate in the international services of the American Red Cross. "There is going to be less and less vacant area, when you have a hurricane going through, for example. That is definitely true for Bangladesh."

On the other side of the globe, the natural destruction claimed another crowded spot. On Sept. 19, a 9.0-second earthquake struck Mexico City, the world's most populous metropolitan area. Buildings tumbled into pancake-like stacks, and water pipes and telephone lines were uprooted.

The quake, which measured 8.1 on the Richter scale, killed 7,000 people by government estimate.

Earthquakes also rattled Chile's spine with unusual intensity. On March 3, a quake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale struck Santiago, killing 146 people and injuring more than 2,000. Nearly 500,000 people — one in four Chileans — were left homeless. A series of tremors later in the year panicked residents.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in magnitude.

The United States also suffered more natural disasters than usual.

Robert Schubert, the American Red Cross president, called 1985 "an incredibly destructive year" for the nation.

Five hurricanes ripped the North American mainland, only the third time this century so many have done so, according to Schubert. The most severe — hurricanes Juan, Elena, and Gloria — each caused about \$1 billion in damage.

Other storms touched down with force. In May, tornadoes slammed through Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada, killing 88 people.

In Puerto Rico, a 30-hour tropical deluge in October triggered a landslide that roared down a steep hillside, obliterating the Mameyes shantytown. About 150 people were killed as the mud ground up and buried the tiny wood and tin shacks.

Wildfires ravaged more than 1 million acres across the western United States in the summer, and floodwaters inundated the South in the fall. Last month, the high water came as far north as the Potomac River, swelling over its banks and creeping up waterfront streets of the nation's capital.

Other natural disasters around the world included a mudslide in Stava, Italy, in July that swallowed all 20 homes and three hotels of the tiny alpine hamlet. More than 200 people were killed when Stava's earthen dam broke.

The worst typhoon to hit the Philippines in 15 years struck last month, killing at least 54 people and leaving 35,000 homeless. Other storms lashed India and its neighbors.



Preparing Open House

Staffers at the Golden Plains Care Center, 420 Ranger, are preparing for an open house Sunday at the facility. At the front desk are, from left, Alvina Martinez,

charge nurse; Johnnie House, administrator; and Janie Casarez, director of nursing. The open house will be from 2 until 4 p.m. The home opened Monday.

Long, stubborn dispute about three words easing in churches

By **GEORGE W. CORNELL** AP Religion Writer

Sharp, old differences are mellowing in a dispute about three little words that fueled the split between Western and Eastern Christianity more than 1,000 years ago.

Some Western theologians indicate willingness to drop the controversial phrase. That doesn't mean it's on the way out anytime soon, considering the slow institutional processes.

But scholarly rethinking about it is moving ahead.

At issue are three words, "And the Son," called the Filioque in Latin, a clause that was inserted unilaterally by Western churches in a basic summary of belief, the Nicene Creed.

It read in its original form, approved by a fourth-century ecumenical council, that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father." But a later, separate Western council tacked on the clause, "and the Son."

The difference has continued ever since between Eastern Orthodox churches, which don't use the added phrase, and the Western churches which do — Roman Catholicism and its Protestant offspring.

Conflict over the matter figured in the breakup between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy in 1054 A.D., dividing Christianity into Eastern and Western spheres, a rupture that still continues.

But the steps now are being taken toward dispelling the long feud.

At a recent consultation of representative Eastern and Western theologians in Brookline, Mass., the Westerners indicated readiness to drop insistence on use of the Filioque.

Some said they would recommend their churches allow alternative usage without the Filioque as a reconciling step, reports the National Council of Churches whose

doctrinal unit sponsored the consultation.

"I think it is quite possible that the Roman Catholic Church could accept the alternative," said the Rev. Kilian McDonnell, a Catholic representative of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

However, he said this would mean renouncing Roman Catholicism's long-time position about the matter, which he defended. Another Catholic participant, Francine Cardman of Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., said:

"The fact that we have been using the Filioque so long is not in itself any justification for continuing to do so."

The Rev. Theodore Stylianopoulos of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Divinity School in Brookline, Mass., said Eastern Orthodoxy for the most part is not demanding that Western churches "renounce the Filioque in general," but a certain concept of it, namely:

"That the ultimate origins of the Spirit come from the Son as well as the Father."

The Rev. Lloyd Patterson of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., noted that his denomination voted at its convention in September to eliminate the Filioque if a 1988 world Anglican conference approves.

The Episcopal Church is one of 28 national branches of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Pentagon moves to cut contractors' travel bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stung by revelations that defense contractors billed taxpayers as much as \$350 a day for hotel rooms, the Pentagon is moving to limit the money these companies can be reimbursed for travel.

A new Defense Department regulation, scheduled to be published today in the Federal Register, would limit per diem expenses to the same amount now paid federal workers who travel. That means \$75 per day for room and food except for certain high-priced areas of the country.

After the proposed regulation is published, there will be a 30-day period for comment, followed by a brief time to review the suggestions. The regulation thus is likely to take effect early next year.

The move is the latest action by the Pentagon to end what Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger calls "horror stories" about high prices for spare parts and a wide range of overhead costs billed to the Pentagon by contractors.

Congress has also drafted legislation limiting the "allowable costs" which can be charged to the government, but most of those proposals have not yet taken effect.

President Reagan appointed a commission last summer to recommend reforms. When the panel held its first Capitol Hill hearing earlier

this week, it was warned by congressmen that public anger over the scandals is hurting the administration's drive to increase defense budgets.

The per diem limits were first proposed last spring by Navy officials in testimony before the House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee, which had been looking into bills submitted by General Dynamics to the Pentagon.

General Dynamics, one of the nation's largest defense contractors, billed the Defense Department for a wide range of items later deemed unallowable, including country club fees for executives, gift cookbooks, and the cost of boarding an executive's dog at a kennel.

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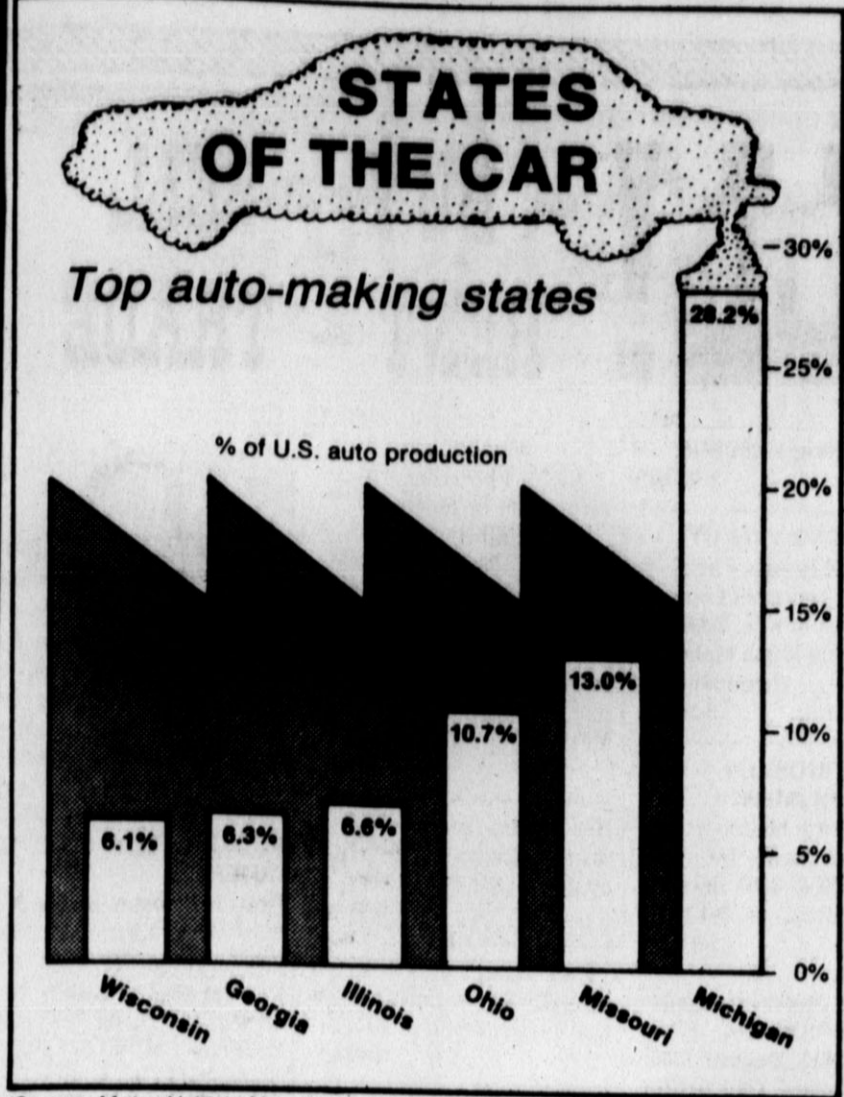
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Abortion regulation rules proposed

AUSTIN (AP) — Proposed rules that will control operation of Texas abortion clinics will be the subject of public hearings, the Texas Department of Health says.

The rules result from a law passed by the 1985 Legislature giving the department authority to regulate and gather information on abortions.

The State Board of Health is expected to consider the rules at its Saturday meeting but they will not become final until after a public comment period plus formal public hearings.

The process is expected to take at least three months, according to Dr. Juanita Carrell of the health department's bureau of licensing and certification.

Although the information gathered by the state will be mostly confidential, the state law allows the release of patient information to medical personnel, appropriate state agencies, or county and district courts.

Patient information also may be released for statistical studies so long as no person, patient or facility may be identified, the law states.

Under the proposed regulations, facilities performing abortions would be required to report the following information on each patient obtaining an abortion: Year of birth, race, marital status, state and county of residence, type of abortion, date of the abortion, the date of the patient's last menstrual cycle (if known), the number of living children, number of other abortions, date of abortion, whether the patient survived and whether the facility performing the abortion was licensed.

Failure to provide this information to the state each year could cause an abortion clinic to lose its operating license.

Ms. Carrell said the state has identified fewer than 60 doctors' offices and clinics that perform abortions in Texas. Clinics and doctors who derive 51 percent of their practice from abortions must be licensed under the proposed rules. The annual license fee will be \$1,000 per facility, which is expected to generate the \$60,000 annual cost of implementing the new reporting requirements.

Three sites proposed for nuclear dump site study

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin lawyer whose parents live on a West Texas ranch says a recommendation to consider placing a low-level nuclear dump near that ranch appears to be part of a "political trade-off" by the University of Texas.

Tom Cowden, testifying before the board of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, said the proposed Culberson County site emerged from nowhere after being excluded from a study that listed the top 107 potential disposal sites.

At the same time, Cowden said, four potential Hudspeth County sites ranked among the top five by a study commissioned by the authority were dropped, which was part of the trade-off.

The Culberson County site and the four in Hudspeth County are owned by UT, which has the authority to refuse to sell any of its land for a nuclear waste dump.

The board on Thursday chose two

Culberson County sites, including the one near the Cowden ranch, and a site in Hudspeth County for further study.

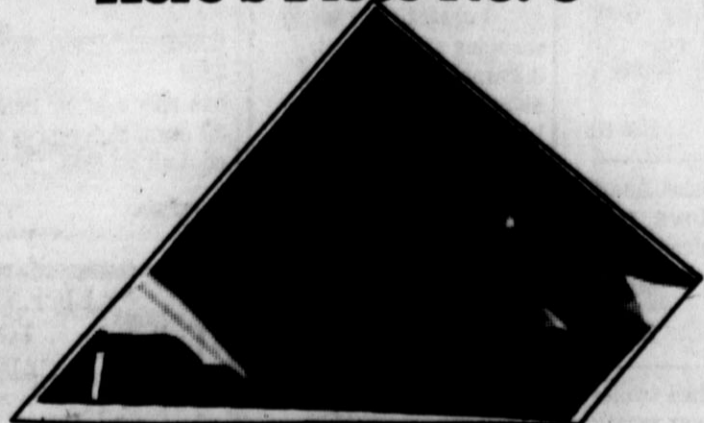
The contract for that study will go to UT, and Cowden complained that university employees, "being under the direction and supervision of the chairman of the board of regents, will not hesitate to locate a site that suits the chairman, whatever his criteria may be."

Cowden said the board was "treading on really, really dangerous ground" legally in offering UT a contract to proceed with the site study since UT land was involved. He suggested there is a conflict of interest.

In other public testimony, Jerry Covington of Midland, who owns a ranch near the other Culberson County site, told the low-level agency if there is any leakage into his water system, "we are dead."

"It would, well it would kill us," said Covington.

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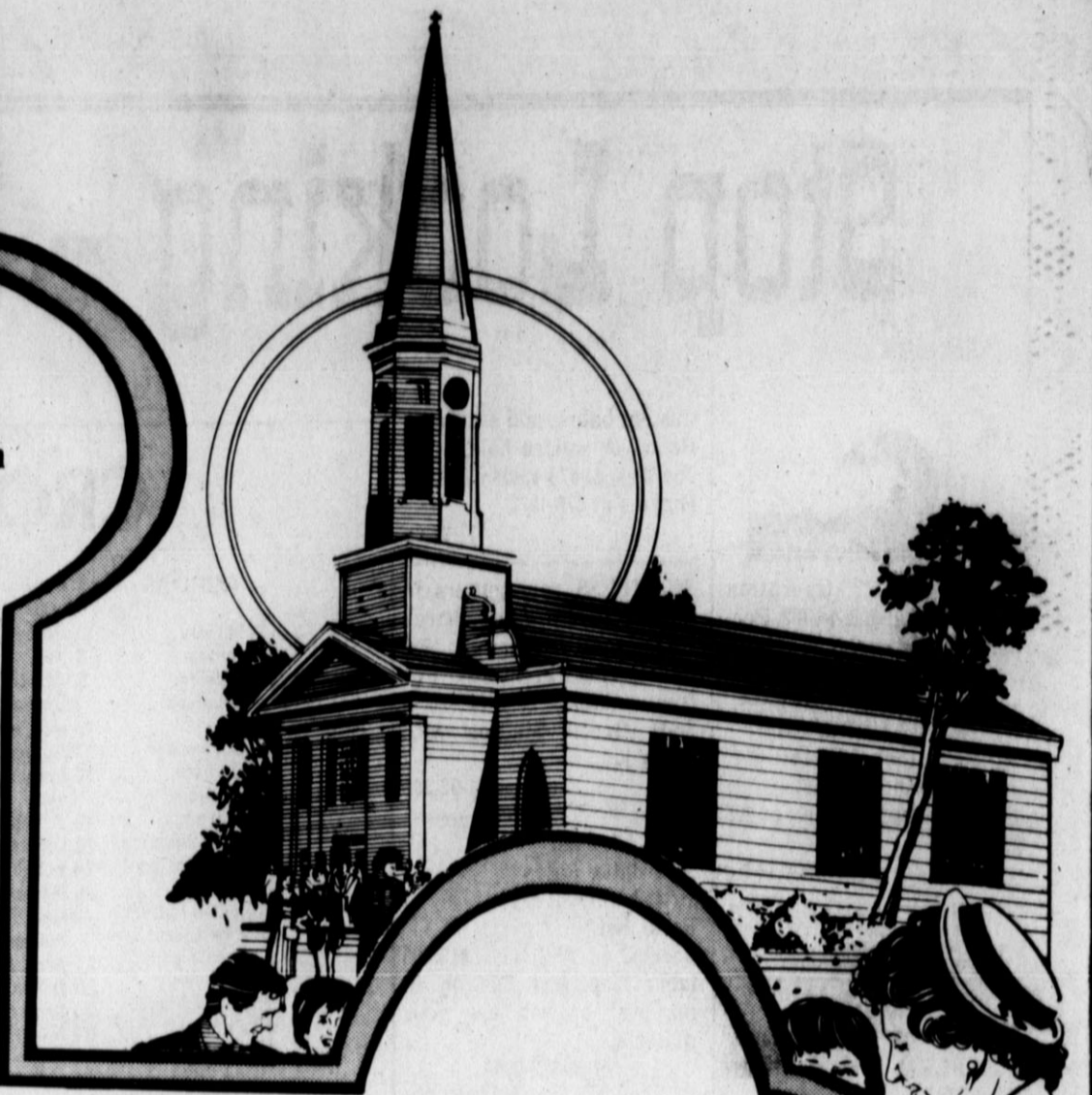
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