

## Businessman says awareness a key in management

By SHERRY TOFTE  
Reporter

Almost any business can survive if prudent common sense rules are followed and if an awareness of the common marketplace is observed, said John Sackett of the Texas A&M College of Business Developmental Council.

The former president of San Antonio's Alamo Iron Works spoke to aspiring business persons Thursday night on how to manage companies successfully by avoiding the failures of business.

Sackett works now as a management consultant.

"The fact is that there are an awful lot of companies out there that are really poorly managed," Sackett said. Sackett illustrated errors made by

a San Antonio company last fall. Sackett was hired as a consultant to rescue the company from a debt of \$700,000 net worth.

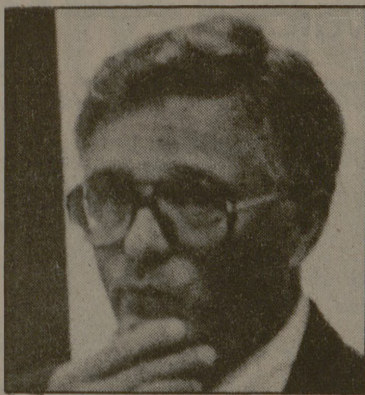
"I'm most amazed to find out that most companies keep very poor books," he said.

Although some companies choose not to keep audit records, Sackett said audits reveal the bottom line of a company's financial standing.

"When you are looking at a company, nothing is clear cut," he said. "You really have to be careful."

Every good business person should maintain skills that allow them to foresee problems and deal with them effectively, Sackett said.

"The first thing is to have the wisdom to recognize problems," he



John Sackett

said. "Then, you have to draw a line and say, 'at this point, we're going to have to take some drastic steps.'"

"If you have a special skill, strong desire or are very determined, you should have no problem in the business world. Single-mindedness is a necessity."

The success of a business sometimes depends on taking chances and it is imperative to analyze and evaluate every risk before it is encountered, Sackett said.

"For me personally, I am very conservative," he said. "I try to take as little risks as possible."

## Evidence given without jury in Port case

Associated Press

NEW BRAUNFELS — Blood was discovered in the car trunk of murder defendant David Port after police seized the car in their investigation of the killing of a mail carrier, a Houston police investigator said in pretrial testimony Thursday.

Investigator Ted Thomas said he inspected the sedan at the Houston police department last June after smelling "a strong odor that came from the trunk. Immediately upon opening it, I saw blood in the trunk."

Testimony was given without the jury being present.

Police say Port told them he wrapped the body of Debora Sue Schatz, 23, in trash bags and stuffed it in the trunk of his car last June 7.

Police said that Port, 18, told them he killed the woman and dumped the body in a bayou. However, authorities found the body in an open field several miles from the spot he designated.

Thomas gave the testimony on a defense motion to suppress all oral and written statements Port had given police shortly after he was arrested June 8.

Trial testimony has not begun in the trial, which began Feb. 25 with jury selection. A nine-man, three-woman jury was seated Tuesday and has been sequestered since Wednesday.

All witnesses called Wednesday and early Thursday have testified without the jury present.

The case drew national attention when Port's father, Bernard Port, and stepmother, Odette Port, refused to testify against him before a grand jury.

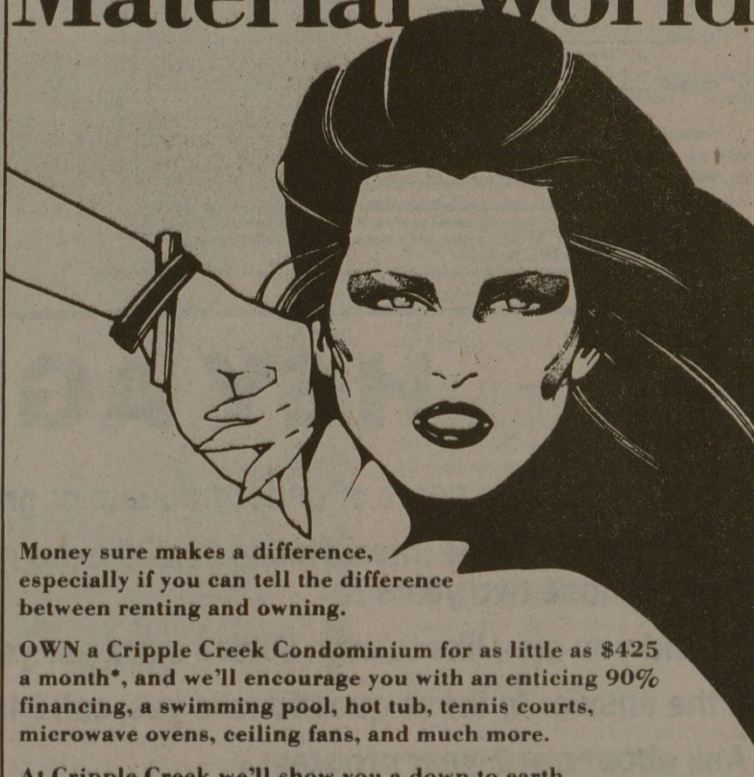
The two were jailed on contempt of court charges, while Port remained free on \$20,000 bond. The parents since have been released, but have not appeared in the courtroom during the trial. Neither has been subpoenaed to testify.

The trial was moved to New Braunfels after extensive publicity in Houston, 175 miles southeast.

Prosecutors on Thursday also called police officers David Collier and Irma Sauseda, who identified a .22-caliber pistol authorities say was used to kill Schatz.

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## University

(continued from page 1)

sive, on-going investigation conducted by Warren Summer, cadet inspector general, in cooperation with other cadet leaders.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said he was "encouraged to see that the Corps' leadership is discovering and addressing infractions as it said it would."

Sophomore transfer student Bruce Goodrich, of Webster, N.Y., died of heat stroke in August after being rousted from his bed and forced to run and do "motivational exercises."

Four upperclassmen were charged in Goodrich's death. Gabriel Cuadra, was convicted of tampering with evidence and sentenced to a year's probation. Criminally negligent homicide charges against juniors Jason Miles, Louis Fancher III and Anthony D'Alessandro were dismissed and they were fined and placed on probation for hazing.

## New school chief wants aid for poor

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas most likely will have to provide additional money to help support poor school districts in the next few years, the head of the State Board of Education said Wednesday.

Jon Brumley of Fort Worth made the comment as he and six colleagues, including one from College Station, were considered and approved by the Senate Nominations Committee to serve on the board.

From College Station was John Mack Prescott. The other members were Mary Helen Berlanga, Corpus Christi; Charles W. Duncan, Houston; William McBride, San Antonio; Pete Morales Jr., Devine; and Katherine Raines, Cleburne.

The eight other members of the board appointed by Gov. Mark White appeared before the committee Thursday.

All 15 members will be offered to

the full Senate Monday for final approval.

At the committee hearing Wednesday, Brumley was asked if poorer school districts would need additional money to supplement the funds allotted by the recent special session in an effort to equalize education opportunities between wealthy and poor districts.

A law suit was filed Tuesday in a Travis County district court alleging the school reform bill passed by the special session did not produce equity.

"The poorer school districts were helped by House Bill 72," Brumley told the committee, "but in two or three years I see the possibility that wealthier districts will raise local taxes to improve their schools and we will have the inequity again."

"However, that is one of the problems we are working on," Brumley said.

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