

Supreme Court Ruling —

States Can Check Oil Spillers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A unanimous Supreme Court told the states Wednesday they are free to hold shippers financially responsible for harm done by oil spills.

The high court approved a tough Florida law—tougher than applicable federal law—that covers facilities for storing, transferring or drilling for oil, as well as spills from tankers in the state's territorial waters.

Justice William O. Douglas, writing for the court, called oil slicks "an insidious form of pollution of vast concern to every coastal city or port . . ."

Douglas said the federal Water

Quality Improvement Act of 1970—passed shortly before the Florida statute—does not limit the authority of the states.

Shippers have threatened to divert their vessels from Florida waters because of the state's law.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington predicted other states which have active environmental programs will now fall in step with Florida, to take advantage of the court decision.

Other court decisions: —In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court said federal habeas corpus—the procedure used by prison inmates to challenge the

validity of their imprisonment—is available to those convicted of crimes who are still free on their own recognizance as well as those who are already in custody.

The restraints on liberty involved in the conditions placed on an individual's release on his recognizance are sufficient to bring the federal habeas corpus statute into play, the court said. Chief Justice Warren E.

Burger, and Justices William H. Rehnquist and Lewis F. Powell dissented.

—By a vote of 8 to 1, the court said employees of state schools and hospitals may not sue in federal court to gain benefits of federal wage and hour laws.

The federal law, the court said, empowers the secretary of labor—not individual employees—to sue states not complying with federal law.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Women's Awareness Workshop will hear Cathy Bonner, state director of the Texas Women's Political Caucus, in Room 226 of the Library at 7:30 p.m.

American Institute of Architecture Student Chapter is sponsoring a student design contest and art sale. Students' work will

be on display today and Friday in the lobby of the Architecture Building. Judging will be today and awards will be presented Friday. Student work will be sold throughout the exhibit.

Free University workers for next fall will meet in Room 2B of the old Memorial Student Center at 6:30 p.m.

Baylor Med Scientists Capture Animals' Memory In Test Tube

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Scientists at the Baylor College of Medicine have captured animals' memory in a test tube.

Working with rat brains, they have found that the memory of the sound of an electric bell is a chemical thing—an eight-segment chain of six specific amino acids, basic chemicals of life.

This discovery follows work done at Baylor two years ago, when the scientists identified a substance found in the brain of rats trained to avoid the dark.

The chemicals can be isolated from the brain and then injected into other laboratory animals which were not trained to the sound of the bell or to avoid the dark. The untrained animals then behave as though they had been trained.

This effort to crack the code of memory in the mind was reported Tuesday by Dr. Georges Ungar and Dr. S. R. Burzynsky of Baylor at the 57th annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

To find the chemical footprints of memory, the Baylor team habituated rats to the sound of an electric bell repeated at five-

second intervals for one or two hours a day, for two to three weeks.

Habituation is an elementary form of learning which allows one to ignore a neutral stimulus, one that is neither pleasant nor harmful. A loud noise would startle one, for example, but when repeated, one learns to ignore it if it is not associated with danger. After being trained to the bell, the rat brains were removed. An extract was injected into mice which were then subjected to the same electrical bell sound.

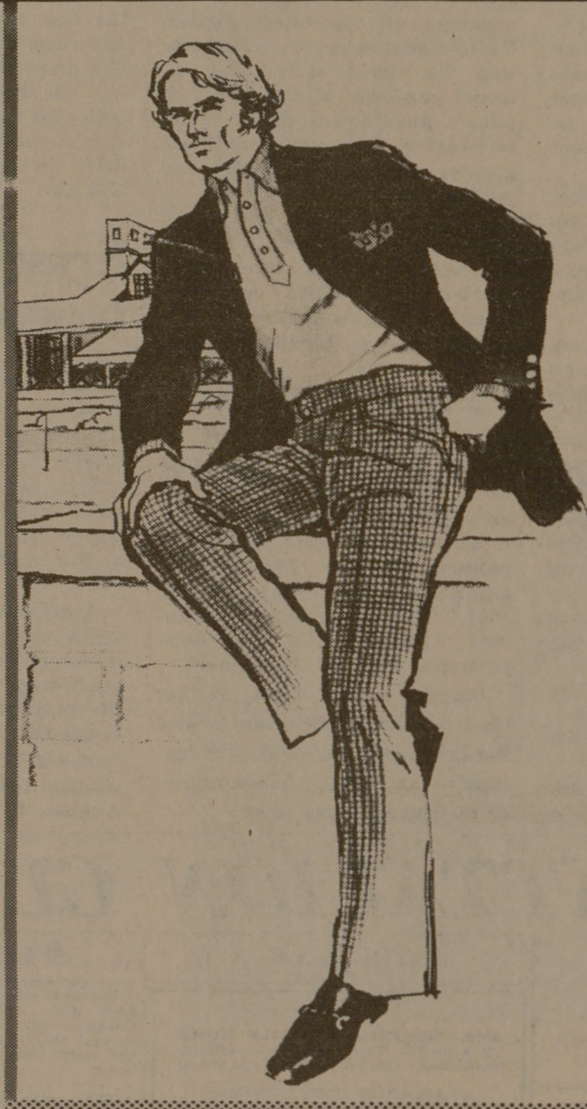
Mice given the extract tended to ignore the signal; other mice reacted normally. This effect lasted four to five days.

"We collected brains from close to 6,000 habituated rats during the last two years," the Baylor scientists reported. After purification, the memory material was shown to be a substance called a peptide.

Peptides consist of chains of amino acids and the information they carry depends on which of 20 amino acids may contain and on the sequence of the amino acids.

Country Squire

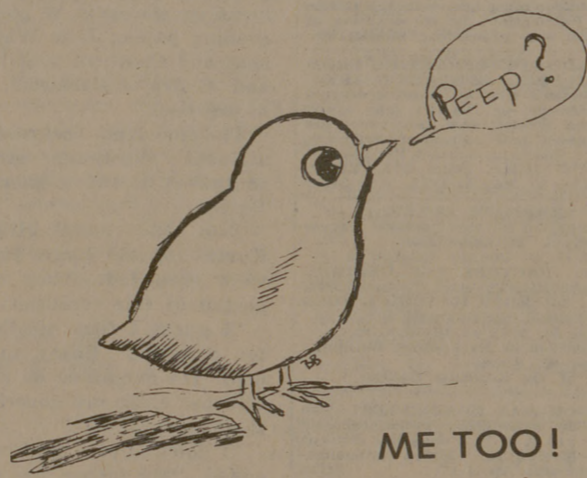
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