

# Texas restaurateurs, renderers complaining about grease thieves

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Stealing grease from fast food restaurants and selling it to rendering plants has become a problem in Texas, restaurateurs and renderers say.

might be better grease security. "I had never heard of it," said Richard Trevathan of the Harris County district attorney's office. "Either they're not having very many thefts or the restaurant owners are not reporting them," agreed Detective Lt. J. D. Peyton of the Harris County sheriff's department. But one Houston renderer said the thefts indirectly have cost her

company \$60,000 this year, and she guessed the losses run to "several million dollars" statewide. Overall, the businessmen estimated the theft-loss rate by Texas renderers is running at 20 percent. They said the thieves take advantage of the fact that grease discarded after deep-frying is left in 55-gallon drums behind fast-food restaurants. Contract renderers, who may al-

ready have paid, come around and pick it up. All the thieves have to do is beat the renderer to the scene, load up the drums, and haul them off, the businessmen said. The said "hot" grease sometimes sells for \$30 a barrel and that the drums can be sold separately for \$20 more. A busy grease thief can make up to \$200 a night, \$50,000 a year,

in a big city like Houston. Peyton said increased patrolling alone will not solve the problem because "we're too short on men to check every truck at every restaurant." Trevathan told the restaurateurs they should consider building locking sheds for their grease. He said the burglary then involved would be easier to prosecute than simple theft anyway.

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## Malpractice filed five years later

# Court upholds child care license

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Courts ruled Wednesday on state licensing laws concerning child care centers and on a medical malpractice suit.

the constitutional separation of church and state, the Third Court of Civil Appeals ruled. The court rejected the argument of Harmon R. Oxford, operator of a Zapata County boy's home owned by Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises,

Inc. Oxford contended the licensing law infringed on his constitutionally guaranteed exercise of religious liberty. He also contended in his appeal the legislature had unconstitutionally delegated authority to the Department of Public Welfare, (Department of Human Resources), to adopt rules and regulations for operation of the child care centers.

in authorizing the Human Resources Department to establish rules, regulations and minimum standards for the child care centers. In a separate proceeding, the Texas Supreme Court reversed a lower court ruling ordering a Houston court to consider Tom Watson assume Weaver's medical malpractice suit against Dr. Raymond Witt.

# Orphan diseases' study needs funds

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Unless the U.S. government and the United Nations provide some guidance and money to fight against sickle cell anemia and other "orphan diseases", millions of people afflicted by these ailments have little hope, a researcher said Tuesday.

neglected by researchers because of low financial return. Cerami, an associate professor at Rockefeller University, said the job of tackling orphan diseases such as diabetes, Cooley's Anemia and Tay-Sachs Disease — has been left to small independent research groups which lack the financial backing and manpower of the pharmaceutical companies. "Drug companies are still not interested in this type of research," the biochemist said. "It still represents a loss from a financial point of view."

The Civil Appeals Court decision upheld a lower court action, which in effect had ruled Roloff must comply with the licensing requirements for three South Texas child care centers.

A lower court had ruled against Weaver on grounds he waited too long to file the suit. The Supreme Court noted Watson had alleged the surgeon fraudulently concealed from him until 1975 that the surgery could have caused his problem. The fraudulent concealment allegation made the suit acceptable even though it was not filed until five years after the surgery, court ruled.

## El Paso site of off-campus A&M program

El Paso has been chosen as the site for the first off-campus program participated in by Texas A&M University's Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise. Dr. John Allen, associate director of the center, and Texas A&M professor Dr. David Armstrong will present a one-day program Nov. 23 at El Paso teachers as part of the pre-service training. Their presentations will be at Bowie High School, 801 S. San Marcial. Allen and Armstrong will explain characteristics and working definition of free enterprise, a term which has lacked precision in general use. They will also lay out specific methods that teachers can use to transmit the concept to their students. The off-campus program comes about as part of a state law requiring public classroom instruction in the principles of free enterprise. The center was authorized by Texas A&M System regents last year.

cerami heads a team of 30 researchers studying the orphan diseases which afflict about 5 million people in Africa, South America and parts of the United States and the Far East. He lists sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, diabetes mellitus and trypanosomiasis as the most neglected orphan diseases. Cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and hemophilia also are high on his list. Most orphan diseases are ethnic oriented, he said. Sickle cell anemia is found among people with African origins; thalassemia or Cooley's Anemia is characteristic of Mediterranean cultures, but can extend to the Far East and a form of trypanosomiasis affects 7 million Latin Americans.

"We conclude that although Oxford claims the Child Care Licensing Act violates the free exercise of religion, it is reasonable to find that regulation of the child care homes subject to the act in no way abridges the absolute freedom of religious belief, but that the act is a regulation of conduct," the court said. The court also concluded that the legislature acted within its authority

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