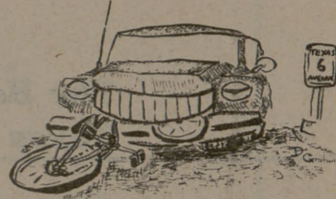


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Peace talks hurt by Egyptian action

United Press International

Egypt's rupture of diplomatic relations with five Arab nations has hurt Middle East peace efforts, but Secretary of State Vance will tour the region's capitals beginning Friday in an attempt to repair damage.

President Anwar Sadat's government Monday severed relations with Syria, Iraq, Algeria and Southern Yemen and ordered their ambassadors to leave within 24 hours. Egypt's diplomats in those countries were ordered home immediately.

Two hours earlier, the Arab hard-liners and the major Palestinian groups had declared in Tripoli, Libya that they were freezing diplomatic relations with Cairo because they opposed Sadat's peace talks with Israel.

The rift threw the Arab world into its most explosive crisis in recent memory and appeared all but to bury chances for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement in the near future.

The Soviet Union unleashed a biting personal attack on Sadat and Israel said it was saddened by the break in Arab ties.

In Washington, the State Department said Vance will fly to Cairo Friday from Brussels, where he is to attend a NATO meeting. After Cairo, Vance is scheduled to go to Jerusalem and probably will visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well.

Officials said Vance will not attend the Cairo talks beginning Dec. 14, but lower-ranking Israeli, Egyptian, U.S. and U.N. officials will be present.

Vance's journey is a tacit recognition that it will be impossible to convene a

Geneva conference before the end of the year, which had been his target. American officials still hope there will be a conference early in 1978.

In Moscow, the official Tass news agency accused Sadat of betraying the Palestinians and said he "dances to the tune of the imperialist circles."

The attack came as a Philip Habib, the State Department's No. 3 man, opened talks with the Soviets in an attempt to prevent a rupture between the superpowers on the Middle East issue.

In London, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said Israel was saddened by the break in Arab relations.

"We don't rejoice in the severance of diplomatic relations because what we want is a comprehensive peace settlement by all our Arab neighbors," he told a London dinner party.

Diplomats feared that not only would Syria now go ahead with plans to bypass the pre-Geneva peace talks with Israel in Cairo, but that it might also boycott any eventual Geneva peace conference.

Without Syrian participation, the significance of any such parley would be severely diminished.

Confusion lingers about auto taxes

By KAREN ROGERS

Confusion and puzzlement abound in the A&M Consolidated School District office's decision to tax cars. But Tax Assessor-Collector Jewell Ellis refuses to clarify it.

The decision to tax automobiles is a controversial one although Texas law allows personal property including cars to be taxed. And it is still not clear to some who will be taxed and when they will be and how much seem to be forthcoming.

Ellis defended his decision to tax cars two weeks ago. He said that 80 people had rendered their cars for taxing purposes, so the rest of the cars must be taxed. Now he refuses to comment.

Ellis refers questions to Merrill Moore, attorney for the ad valorem tax division of the State Comptroller's Office in Austin.

Students who bought their license tags in College Station or who are registered to vote in Brazos County as of last Jan. 1, may be taxed, Moore said.

"Once they've registered their car there or registered to vote, they are claiming that place as their residence," Moore said. "By law, you're supposed to register the car in the county where you live. What they need to do if they don't want to pay taxes, is to register their cars at home."

Travis County, where the University of Texas is located, taxes cars. University students who register their cars there or are registered to vote there, pay the tax, said Moore.

Overnight cure for obesity

Fasting: A risky way to diet

By JAMIE TOWNS

Karen's mother and friends were shocked at the way she looked when she came home from Texas A&M for Christmas break. Karen had always had a slight weight problem, but since going away to college she had gained 20 pounds.

Karen blames her weight problem on starchy dorm food and vending machine junk food.

However, Karen loves Sunday nights when the dorm cafeteria closes and she and her friends stuff themselves at a local pizzeria.

Karen, an 18-year-old freshman, is a prime example of many college students who fail to adjust successfully to a new eating routine after leaving home. They enjoy the freedom of eating what and when they please. And often students like Karen find

themselves a good deal heavier before their first semester is over.

When the realization that they have become overweight dawns on these students, some may seek an "overnight" cure.

Fad, crash, liquid diets fail to work and, as a last resort, many college students are fasting. Fasting brings a dramatic weight loss without counting calories. But these students, most of whom are women, often fail to count the risk to their health.

While fasting, the dieter eats no food at all. The body first draws on its fatty reserves for energy. And though it is true that fasting is the quickest way to lose weight, the fast has many disadvantages.

Frances Reasonover, food nutrition specialist for the Texas Agriculture Extension Service for Texas A&M, says, "While

a person is fasting, the excess of body fat will cause the rise of blood fat — blood lipids — and this can promote blood vessel and heart disease."

Reasonover says that she believes "fasting is dangerous because of a loss of 65 percent lean body tissue as compared to 35 percent fatty tissue."

Fasting also can disrupt the nervous system and lead to anemia.

Dr. C. Goswick, Director of the A&M Health Center, says fasting is also bad for the kidneys. It puts an extra load on them, sometimes producing malfunction of the kidneys.

Not only is fasting dangerous physically, but emotionally as well. On a fast, the blood sugar level is unstable, often causing mental confusion.

Today medically advised fasting is used

primarily in treatment of severe obesity, and the dieter is usually hospitalized during the fast.

Dr. Goswick says that a person who is fasting should be monitored closely and under a doctor's supervision. No one — no matter how perfect his health — should fast without a doctor's permission.

People with heart disease, ulcers, tumors, diabetes or pregnant women, should never fast.

Though fasting seems to get rid of excess weight quickly, the dieter's weight often zooms upward once the fast is broken. It is still true that the real problem for every dieter is keeping the weight off on a normal regime.

Though fasting seems to be a fast solution, it can turn into a long-range problem.



Dow president to be speaker

Paul F. Orefice, president of Dow Chemical U.S.A., will be Texas A&M University's mid-term commencement speaker.

Orefice will address Texas A&M's candidates for graduate degrees at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Rudder Auditorium and undergraduate degree candidates at 9 a.m. Saturday in C. Rolie White Coliseum.

The university is holding two mid-term graduation ceremonies for the first time to insure adequate seating for families and friends of the degree candidates.

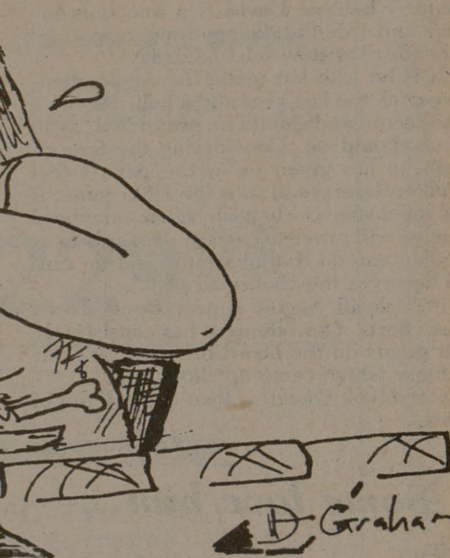
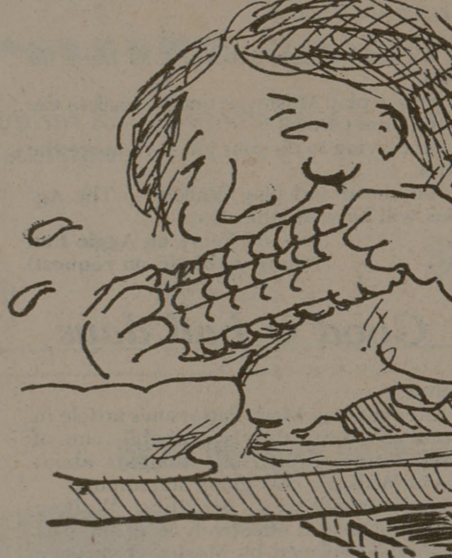
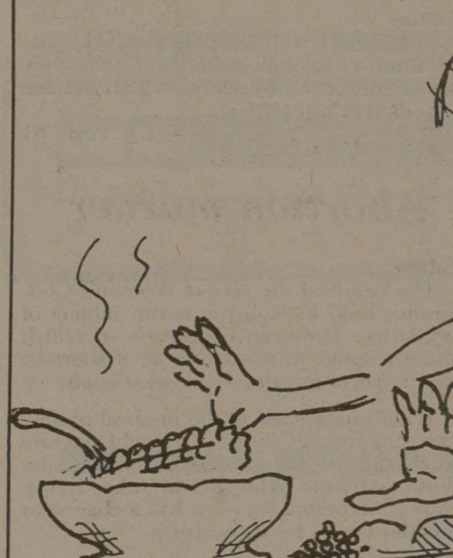
More than 1,500 students are expected to graduate this weekend, Lacey said. Monday, three to four hundred of them are graduate students.

Orefice has been president of Dow Chemical U.S.A. since 1975. He joined Dow in 1953 and held successive positions in Italy, Brazil, Spain and Coral Gables, Fla., before returning to the firm's Midland, Mich., corporate offices financial vice president of The Dow Chemical Company in 1970.

While general manager of Dow's Spanish operations, he received the Encomienda del Merito Civil (Order of Civil Merit) from the Spanish government for his contributions to the development of the chemical and plastic industries in Spain.

He was born in Venice, Italy, but came to the U.S. when he was 12 years old. He is a 1949 chemical engineering graduate of Purdue University and received an honorary doctor of engineering degree from his alma mater last year. He serves as a director of the Purdue Research Foundation.

In addition to heading Dow Chemical U.S.A., Orefice is a director of The Dow Chemical Company. He also serves on the boards of the Manufacturing Chemists Association and Junior Achievement, Inc.



Snow, ice, high winds sweep country

United Press International

Winter's most serious onslaught of snow, wind and ice swept across the upper half of the nation in waves today, and a warm spell in parts of the South produced turbulence, tornadoes and record-breaking temperatures.

Heavy snow warnings and travelers advisories were in effect early today from the Pacific Northwest to New England. Gale force winds pummeled the Washington and Oregon coasts and the western Great Lakes. Snow, sleet or freezing rain fell just about everywhere north of the Mason-Dixon line.

The National Weather Service issued heavy snow warnings during the night for portions of eastern Washington State and Western Montana, where up to 8 inches was expected.

Elsewhere, travelers advisories were issued for the mountains of Colorado, where snow was drifting. Officials warned of avalanche dangers along a line from Grand Junction to Colorado Springs. Heavy snows also stopped cloud-seeding operations in drought-stricken areas of the state where 2 to 3 feet of snow has accumulated since last Thursday.

In Kansas, buffeted by high winds, snow and freezing rain, farmers who planned to begin a "tractocade" to the state Capitol in Topeka to protest low crop prices said they would not be deterred.

"Weather won't make any difference," said one of the planners hoping to rally

public sentiment for the planned Dec. 14 national farmers strike.

While the western storm system was moving slowly eastward, the NWS warned of more perils from an older system, centered in western Pennsylvania early today.

Snow covered a wide area from the Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes through New England. Rochester, N.Y., and Toledo, Ohio, reported 8 inches and Mount Washington, N.H., reported 5 inches. A thick snowfall hampered traffic in the

Judge gives approval to laetrile use

United Press International

OKLAHOMA CITY — A federal judge Monday gave laetrile supporters the right to use the substance without federal restrictions. Food and Drug Administration officials said they expected to appeal the order.

"In our opinion, this cannot go unchallenged," an FDA spokesman in Washington said. "It's almost a certainty that we will appeal."

FDA associate chief counsel Eugene Pfeifer said he had not read the ruling, but expected "after we study the decision we will pursue the appeal."

"I can't comment on the decision at length, but we have already filed a brief in

which we argued persuasively that laetrile is a new drug and the right of privacy does not extend to cover laetrile," Pfeifer said.

The ruling came from U.S. District Judge Luther Bohanon, who has handled many requests from cancer patients who wanted permission to import and use laetrile.

Earlier, he had set up requirements for laetrile users, including one that they file doctors' affidavits in federal court saying they had terminal cancer.

But on Monday he ordered the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Food and Drug Administration to allow laetrile use by any person

"who is, or believes he is, suffering from cancer."

The controversial drug, made from the pits of apricots or other fruits, was banned by the FDA, which said it had not been approved as a new drug.

However, Bohanon said laetrile did not come under the new drug restrictions.

The judge also ordered HEW and the FDA not to interfere with any doctors administering laetrile to patients.

He said HEW, the FDA and the U.S. Customs Service must distribute information to their employees within 20 days that the drug could be obtained legally.

Bohanon also said he was retaining

jurisdiction in the case so he could settle any disputes.

Last August Bohanon ordered FDA and Customs Service agents to stop detaining laetrile shipments entering the United States.

The FDA announced Nov. 2 it was printing posters saying laetrile was worthless and could be dangerous to people with cancer.

The posters said laetrile may be contaminated and that it contains cyanide which may cause poisoning when taken by mouth.

"Laetrile is worthless in the prevention, treatment or cure of cancer," the posters said.