

Mississippi hit by oil slick

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A 561-foot Greek freighter Tuesday crashed into a group of barges moored in the Mississippi River. About 3,000 gallons of crude oil was spilled into the river, the Coast Guard said.

The Archimedes slammed into six barges in heavy fog, sending them scattering downstream. The Coast Guard said the cause of the accident was unknown.

The Greek freighter, carrying a shipment of grain, was slightly damaged above the waterline, officials said.

"The hole is in one of its fuel tanks," said Coast Guard spokesman Alan Bird. "Some said they were using the fuel to power the ship with. We believe about 3,000 gallons of No. 6 crude spilled into the river."

The leak caused an oil slick several miles long and forced the Coast Guard to protect Jefferson Parish water intakes with booms. The slick originated near the Jackson Avenue ferry crossing and was carried downstream past Jackson Square and the French Quarter within two hours.

Ford pleased with wife's determination

United Press International
Former President Gerald Ford said Tuesday he is "darned proud" of his wife Betty's public battle to overcome her drug and alcohol addiction and "she's making great progress" in a California hospital.

"She will be a lot stronger and a lot healthier in the future as a result," he said.

Mrs. Ford, 60, entered the alcohol and drug rehabilitation center at Long Beach Naval Hospital April 11 saying she had developed a dependence on pain-killing arthritis medication and on alcohol. She said she would "rid myself" of the problems.

"We (the family) are darned proud of her," the former president said in an interview broadcast on the NBC "Today" program. "And I can report that the treatment she's getting is excellent and she's making great progress."

Ford said he spent five days — 14 to 15 hours a day — attending lectures and discussions with his wife at the hospital last week and that she will be systematically weaned away from alcohol and drugs before she leaves.

"Naturally, there's total abstinence of any alcohol or medication before she leaves," he said. "There has to be a withdrawal of the medication because the body has gotten accustomed to these drugs over a period of time."

"Her decision, which was tough, required saying what she did," Ford said. "We, and Betty especially, are hopeful that she can be helpful to many, many others throughout the country if they will simply recognize the problem and do what she's done: to go and get treatment where they can show you it's curable and controllable."

"Really the family's recognition of the situation — the seriousness of it — didn't develop until the last several months. She's strong and was able to carry out her day to day activities, certainly in the White House, without any inability to do the job."

"But in the last several months, the combination of medication prescribed and alcohol did create a problem. And finally it resulted in all of the family working with her to get the result that is in her best interests and certainly best for all of us."

Business majors honored through awards program

Three Texas A&M University students were chosen Monday for top College of Business Administration honors at the annual awards program.

The outstanding senior award went to Michael G. Pate of Brownsville, an accounting major. Chosen as outstanding junior was Charles L. Myers of Clarion, Pa., also an accounting major.

The outstanding sophomore honor went to finance student Sara J. Feldman, of College Station.

In addition, 12 other students in each department were recognized. Elizabeth A. Hinson of Graham was selected top sophomore in accounting. Pate and Myers won the senior and junior honors.

Chosen from finance were senior Arlene B. Feigenbaum of Caldwell and junior William H. Baker III of Midland. Feldman was the top finance sophomore.

Management's top students were senior Joseph K. Marshall III of Weslaco, junior Mary T. Schertz of Bryan and sophomore William D. Dugat III of Portland. Marketing outstanding students were senior Sharon L. Ryman of Sweeny, junior Janet E. Tschoepe of San Antonio and sophomore David J. Sterling of Woodville.

Supreme Court opinion: Engineers to bid for jobs

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday professional engineers must be free to bid competitively for jobs, despite their claim that bidding would endanger public health and safety.

The opinion by Justice John Paul Stevens was another blow to the "learned professions" and a victory for the Justice Department, which sought an end to the National Society of Professional Engineers' ban on competitive bidding by its 69,000 members.

The society's ethics code prohibited members from submitting price information on a particular project to a prospective client until he has selected a firm and starts negotiations.

Stevens said the society's code of ethics is not exactly price fixing, but had worked as "an absolute ban on competitive bidding, applying with equal force to both complicated and simple projects and to both inexperienced and sophisticated customers."

Four members joined Stevens' opinion. Justices Harry Blackmun and William Rehnquist agreed with Stevens but indicated he may have gone too far in applying the antitrust act to all professional societies' ethical rules involving anticompetitive conduct.

The engineers' attempt to justify their restraint on the basis of a threat to public safety and the ethics of the profession "is nothing less than a frontal assault on the basic policy of the Sherman Act," Stevens said.



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