

'Super state' fills British trade journal

United Press International
LONDON — Britain's glossy Architectural Review magazine Monday circulated an entire issue devoted to that "rich land of opportunity, oil and gas — Texas the super state."

It pictured everything from the Galleria in Houston to the Mission San Jose de San Miguel in San Antonio, surveyed the work of seven Texas architects and devoted eight pages of pictures and text to "Boom City" Houston.

"There still exists in Texas," the magazine said, "a conviction that there is a bright future for the human race. Texans live in a kind of invincible summer and their native conviction that tomorrow will be better than today make the state a heartening place to visit."

The magazine's cover and an inside feature centered on "hotel glamor on a Texan scale" — the Reunion Hotel in Dallas. Also featured in photographs and architectural drawings were the Dallas city hall, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the First National Bank of Amarillo, Hulen Mall and the Water Garden in Fort Worth and a dozen other structures.

"Like all visitors from the old world to the newest of the new," its editors said in a summary, "the Architectural Review was impressed by the scale and richness of the Giant State Texas that is like a huge blackboard where all the questions about the state of Western man and his buildings are chalked up in huge letters."

New vodka process subs grapes for grain

United Press International
FRESNO, Calif. — A California winemaker is challenging traditional vodka producers by using grapes as the main ingredient instead of grain.

"Just which grape or combination of grapes is used is a trade secret, at least at this point," said Robert Ivie, president of Guild Wineries & Distilleries, which is introducing California Silverado Vodka in the state.

He said the vodka is being marketed first in the San Joaquin Valley on a volume basis after a series of test runs over the past few months in the San Francisco Bay area.

Ivie said the tests in the Bay area were "very encouraging," and he expects the vodka to do well throughout the state once it has been introduced and tasted.

He said the firm's researchers worked for a long while trying to find the right grape or combination of grapes to produce Silverado.

While he won't get specific about the way Silverado is made, Ivie said the grapes are taken to the winery where their natural sugar is converted into alcohol. Once fermentation takes place, the liquid from the grapes becomes wine. It then is distilled into brandy or vodka.



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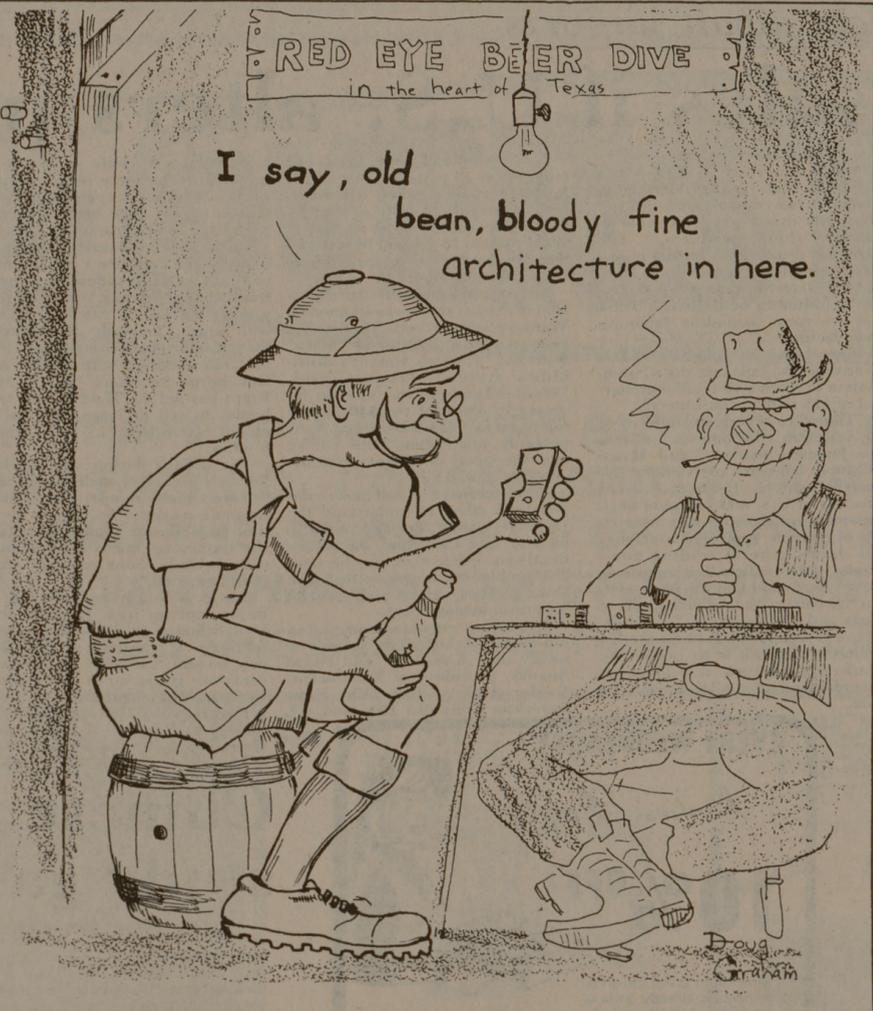


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Bean-picking novice wins at Terlingua chili cookoff

United Press International
ARRIBA TERLINGUA, Texas — A novice San Antonio chili cook broke childhood's cardinal rule but managed to recover from his gaffe and win the 11th annual World Championship Chili Cookoff in this dusty, Southwest Texas ghost town.

Richard Simon almost was disqualified from the contest Saturday for adding beans — anathema to true chili aficionados — to his chili.

The judges, however, in a generous frame of mind, decided he could continue cooking as long as he removed the illegal beans from his pot.

Simon, an electrical technician at Kelly Air Force Base, siphoned off each of the offending legumes and the judges later ruled Simon's County Mountie Chili the best of the 75 entries.

Fort Worth's Mike Sweet was runner-up and Geneva Barron of Bryan came in third.

The chili festival annually draws thousands of tourists to the ruins of Terlingua nestled in the southwest Texas mountains near Big Bend National Park for two days of drinking and eating chili.

But rain and cold autumn winds forced cancellation of many airplane

flights and kept crowds to only a few hundred.

A spry grandmother won the festival's 85-mile marathon race that began Friday. Bernice Hicks, 65, of nearby Alpine, said she began jogging at age 59 to counteract emphysema.

She also was the first to scramble over the festival's version of the controversial "Tortilla Curtain."

The 12-foot fence was erected as a spoof of the U.S. government's announced plans to build alien-proof fences in Texas and California to slow down the migration of illegal Mexican aliens into the states.



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