

*'The night life ain't no good life'*

# Student discos into big bucks

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Bruce Rackler's disco career, which is only a year old, started with an interest in cheerleading, resulted in his being dismissed as president of his Sunday school class and now brings him as much as \$900 for an hour's worth of stepping, swirling and jerking on the dance floor.

Rackler no longer runs himself ragged as a full-time student, student body president, cheerleader and computer operator on the graveyard shift at a Dallas bank. Now he runs himself ragged as national disco king.

Last summer Rackler, 20, put on a red satin, gold lame jump suit (ordered from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration), enlivened his prepared routine with some impromptu steps and won the National Disco Association championship in Indianapolis. He's built that into a solo act and two recently organized dance companies.

It may be a world filled with John Travolta clones and without cure for Saturday Night Fever, but Rackler is approaching disco from a busi-

nesslike — but artistic — angle with the intent of making it a career. "I'm going back to college to take ballet and jazz," he said. "I'd like to be a full-time teacher. I'd like to stick with my company and we've checked with joining some other jazz and ballet companies."

"I'd like to stay with the field of disco. I don't know how long it will last, but I think it will last a good while."

From a carefree-for-the-fun-of-it disco patron who had women lining up for a chance with him, Rackler has been forced to take the attitude that dance is business. He estimated he earned \$60,000 last year.

But not everyone thought a disco dance floor was a great place to earn a living, especially the powers at his church in Duncanville. He was asked to leave his Sunday school class.

"I guess if a little girl won a tap-dancing trophy they would kick her out, too," Rackler said.

Before winning the championship, Rackler had never taken a dance lesson but always had an interest. He didn't take it seriously

until after winning the Texas disco championship.

"I was really surprised when I won the first competition but really still wasn't very serious about it. After I won the Texas championship I began to get serious and would practice eight, 10 hours a day."

"I was rated No. 2 going into the nationals. I saw the No. 1 guy and he was great and I said I don't have a

chance. But I made some changes in my routine — like a back handspring, which I'd never done before — and won."

Then came notoriety. After winning the Texas championship he had his first professional performance at a skating rink in his hometown of Duncanville. It paid \$20. Now Rackler brings in between \$500 and \$900 for a one-hour show.

## Pint-size thief uses booty to buy gum

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — A 9-year-old boy's request for \$160 worth of bubble gum surprised grocery clerk Ann Scott and made her a little suspicious, too.

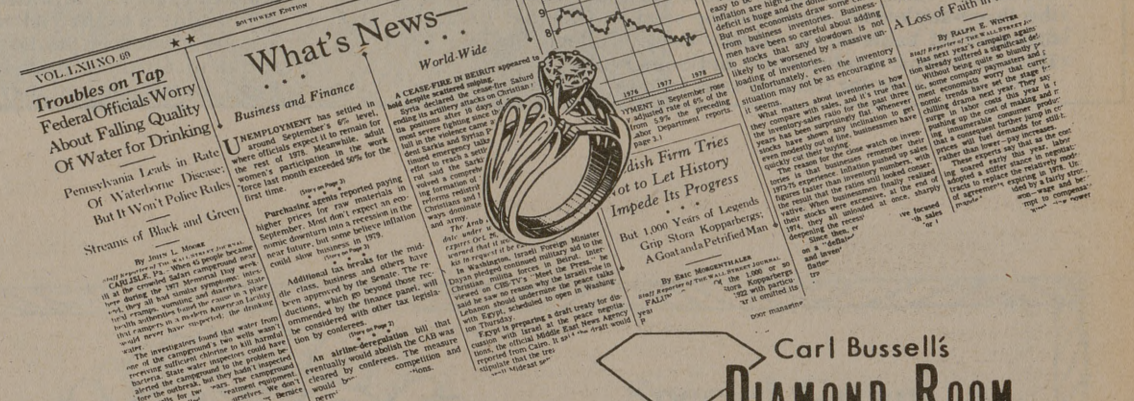
The boy plunked down a fistful of \$20 bills at the neighborhood grocery where Scott worked.

She counted out \$160 and asked the boy where he got the money. He told her, "just keep the money and don't tell anybody."

But Scott called police, who later learned the money came from a home that had been burglarized about an hour earlier.

# For That Big Merger

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1978



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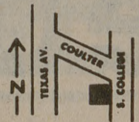
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## 500 expected to run Saturday

Five hundred persons are expected to attend a marathon sponsored by Phi Epsilon Kappa, an organization for Health and PE majors, at 8 a.m. Saturday.

This is the third of the annual marathons, and Phi Epsilon Kappa President Emma Gibbons says there may be as many as 700 participants. Five hundred people had entered by Thursday afternoon.

Although the race is a full marathon, there will also be a half marathon (13.1 miles) and a quarter marathon (6.6 miles).

There are men's and women's divisions, with age groups ranging from 14 to 60 and over in each.

After the marathon there will be a barbecue banquet at Texas Hall of Fame and the first three finishers in each age group will be recognized. The price of the banquet ticket is included in the \$7 registration fee. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$3 each.

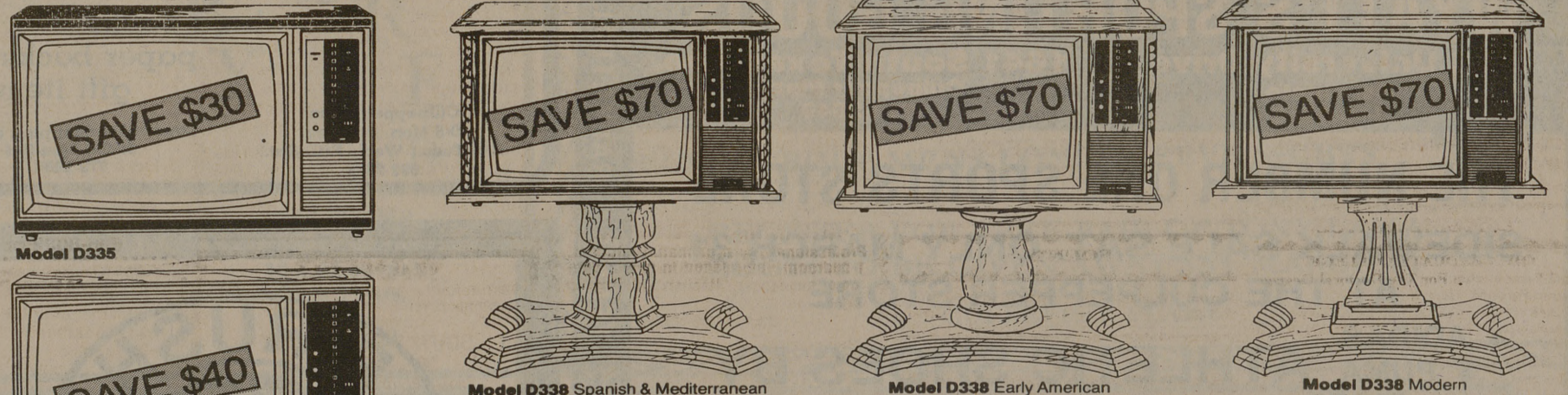
The registration fees are to cover expenses, Gibbons said.

There's still time to sign up to run. Gibbons said they would like to have all entrants registered by 9 p.m. today, but will begin registering participants at 6 a.m. Saturday.

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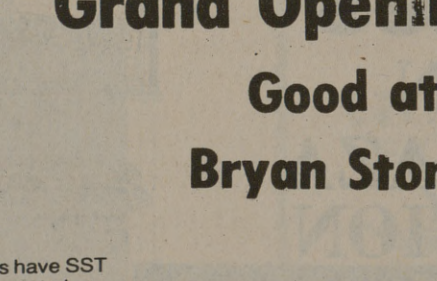
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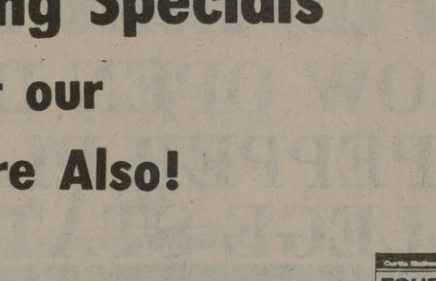
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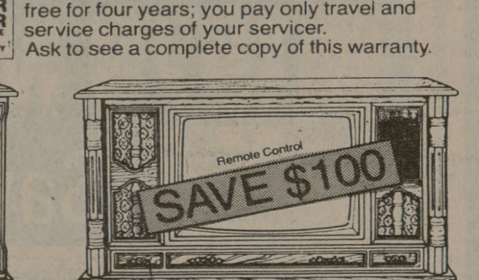
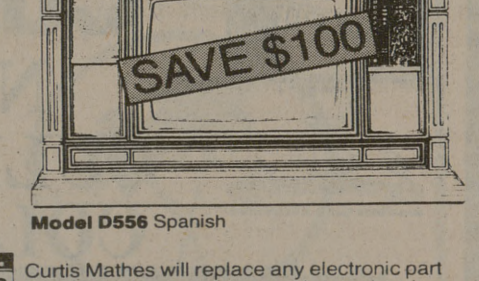
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## Moses Hall's talent show 'study break'

Blues Brothers — watch out. Moses Hall is having its third annual talent show Sunday.

The show will feature a blues band, singers, skits and a "celebrity" roast.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two categories: music and miscellaneous. The 16 contestants will have a chance of winning a first prize which is \$20, a second prize of \$10 and a third prize of \$5.

"The whole idea behind the talent show is just a break from studying," John Eppright, chairman of the talent show said. "It's a free and really informal show."

The audience is a very important factor in the show because it will judge the contestants by applause and cheers.

Moses Hall will also roast its head resident, John White.

The show will be Sunday from 2:30-5 p.m. in the quad between Moses Hall and Keathley Hall.

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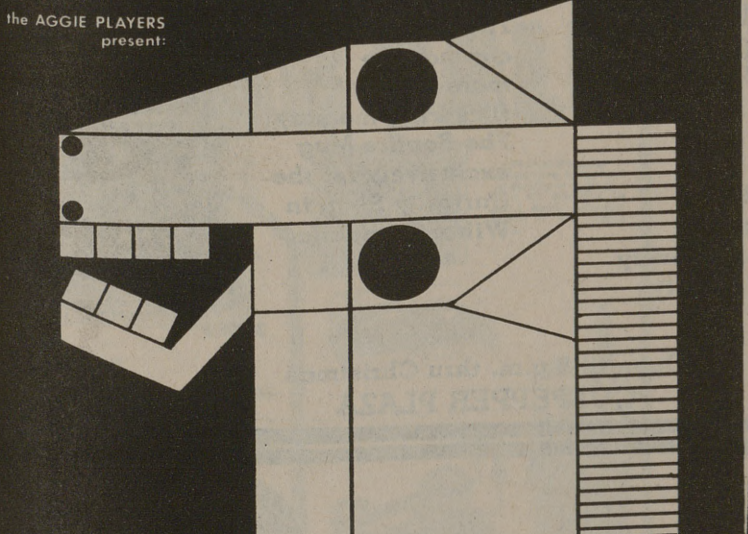


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