

Pennsylvania heated bricks warm homes

United Press International
READING, Pa.— The old-fashioned practice of warming beds with hot bricks on cold nights is being revived to heat entire homes.

The modern concept involves heating brick storage chambers electrically at night, when energy is cheaper and more plentiful, to

warm homes by day. Several central heating systems incorporating this principle are being installed in a research program in Pennsylvania homes by General Public Utilities Corp.

GPU's consumer affairs manager, Robert W. Smith, says the system uses electricity at night to simultaneously heat the home

and the special ceramic brick storage chamber. Electricity shuts off during the day but the brick chamber continues to provide heat.

Smith said the research is designed to demonstrate practical ways for consumers to save both money and electricity.

State budget may cut funds to feed poor kids

United Press International
AUSTIN — The governor, lieutenant governor and lawmakers have been asked to subsidize \$2.14, twice the daily amount received by the state's poor children, each day the 1980-81 state budget is discussed.

"Surely a legislator can eat on twice what he is asking poor children in this state to live on," said a spokesman for a coalition of 10 statewide groups seeking increased

Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits.

The House was scheduled Tuesday to begin tedious debate on the \$20 billion budget bill, which includes a reduction in monthly AFDC payments.

"We realize that we are coming on behalf of a group in this state that does not have substantial power. It is easy for legislators to ignore them," said Phil Strickland, representing the Texas Baptist Christian Life

Commission and the coalition spokesman.

"Poor children do not vote," deal."

Strickland said Gov. Bill Hobby's 181-member Legislature had asked via letter to "commit ourselves to eating" on \$2.14 each the Legislature discusses the bill.

He said Texas ranks 49th in the nation — ahead of only Mississippi and South Carolina — in the amount appropriated to needy children. The \$32.58 monthly payment for each child under the program amounts to \$1.07 a day for food, clothing and shelter.

In order to merely reach the "survival minimum" amount established 10 years ago by the Texas Department of Human Resources, Strickland said lawmakers would have to raise the monthly stipend to \$41.47. He said inflation during the past decade has made the amount necessary.

The appropriations bill also reduces the monthly payment to 10 cents. But Strickland said that amount would force from the program about 13,000 of the 210,000 children receiving aid.

The group said the increase to \$41.47 would not be sufficient for great improvements in the program and noted the state's constitutional provision limiting state welfare aid to the program to \$80 million a year.

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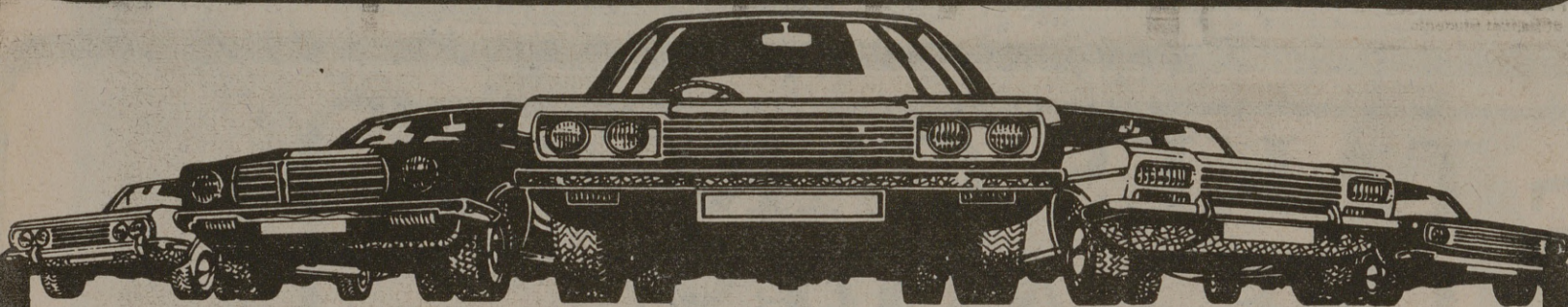
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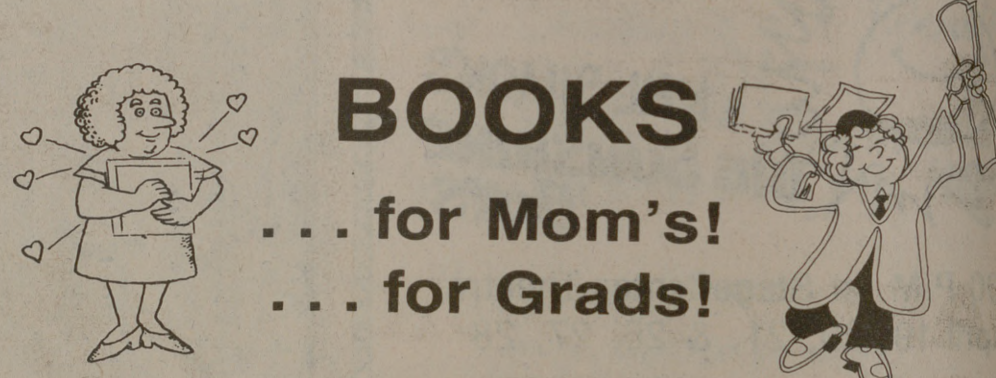
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