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CINEMA I  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MIDNIGHT

# MONDO TOPLESS

**RATED X**  
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Tickets go on sale at 6:30

## the state

### Quilting provides elderly persons freedom from loneliness, boredom

**United Press International**  
BLANCO, Texas — An almost faded menu on one of the gray walls proves the white structure across from the town's square is old: chili, 15 cents; sandwiches, 10 cents; chocolate milk, 5 cents.

In the century since the building was constructed, it has undergone transformations from hell-raising bar to cafe to social club for the elderly.

And for Elsie Beck, 72, the building is a remedy for the familiar old-age diseases — heart problems, arthritis and loneliness. But she's thankful she can assemble a few women her age a few hours every day for conversation and colorful quilting.

Eleven years ago, Mrs. Beck, a native of Blanco County, was suffering from diabetic and heart problems when she was asked by the area Community Action program director if she would like to work parttime.

"I didn't think I could do it, but I went around four hours a day visiting old people," she said. "In a few months I didn't know I had a heart. I'd forgotten myself."

A short time later, Beck organized the Blanco Senior Citizens Club and arranged to get a small federal contribution to help run the club and entertain the members. In 1972, she purchased the building and set up the quilting club.

Mrs. Beck, a short plump woman with a perpetual smile, has made no changes in the building, which sits along U.S. 281 across from the square in this pleasant but languid Hill Country town. The high ceilings are grimy and the concrete floor is dusty, but few visitors

notice. The beautiful and colorful quilts are displayed on small clotheslines and easily grasp the attention of any passer-by who wanders in.

Despite losing the federal contribution, the members, inspired by Beck's leadership, have managed to keep the club going. The members produce about 100 of the gorgeous quilts each year. Most of the customers are the passers-by who stop and browse through the dingy concrete building and decide they need a cross-stitched quilt for their bedroom. The price is high — between \$100 and \$550 — and the wait is long.

Not all members quilt. Some come to play 42 and share lunch in the open-space kitchen at the rear of the building. Those who quilt earn 75 cents an hour.

The profits from the quilt making, however, is not what keeps the regular members coming in.

The remedy for loneliness does.

"Some of the women don't quilt but they come anyway," said Mrs. Beck. "Some of them say they wouldn't have anything to do if they couldn't come here."

Beck said she would sell the building eventually if she were offered \$50,000. But somehow she hasn't managed to convince herself totally. She said her peace of mind and excellent health were more important.

"You know," she said as she gazed but the window and across the town square, "if I hadn't had this place, I don't think I'd be living no more."

### No coal imports needed

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Texas Florida utilities are in the "lousy" situation of importing coal from South Africa and Poland because it is cheaper to ship than coal from the West.

The Texas Democrat said the problem lies in the Interstate Commerce Commission's approval of higher coal rates for railroads.

"We have reached the situation where it is cheaper to import coal from South Africa and Poland than it is for them to ship coal shipped by rail," Bentsen said.

Bentsen, chairman of the Economic Committee, said the rate policy was "at odds" with President Carter's program for reducing reliance on foreign oil by increasing the use of coal.

"Ever higher coal shipping rates could stop the president's dead in its tracks," Bentsen said in opening hearings on the matter.

However, ICC Chairman Daniel O'Neal said the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Act of 1976 gives the commission the choice. The law, he said, requires it "to consider the railroads for additional rate reviewing rates."

He said federal agencies must be divided, with the Transportation Department calling for rate cuts, easier to make the delivered price of coal the same "per unit of energy" as it is for other fuels. The Energy Department, on the other hand, would like to see the rate of coal that will promote coal as a substitute for imported oil.

Bentsen said he agreed to support the needs of the railroads, but "real and pressing."

"The task before us is to put energy and rail transportation policies into balance so that the needs of both are served to the benefit, and not the detriment, of the nation," he said.

Executive Vice President E. Miller of the AMAX Coal Company, the nation's third largest producer, said coal shippers have no alternative to railroads. For that reason, he said, raising shipping costs would "carefully analyzed to determine ultimate effects on the coal industry."

President Norman Lorenz of the Burlington Northern said rates for carrying coal were low.

He said the railroads' return on their investment in facilities was less than what burning electric utilities are getting to earn and that the ratepayers should not be "subsidized" the electric industry through low rates for carrying

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3:30  
5:35  
7:40  
9:45

Throughout history he has filled the hearts of men with terror, and the hearts of women with desire.

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DAILY  
1:15  
3:20  
5:25  
7:30  
9:35

THUR. LAST DAY

### Claudette fizzles out, but rains continue

**United Press International**  
The heavy rains and gusty winds of a disintegrating tropical storm Claudette Wednesday punished southeast Texas, blocking roads, forcing dozens of families from low-lying homes and possibly causing one death.

Authorities awaited an autopsy before blaming the storm, which dumped 10 to 15 inches of rain on Beaumont, Port Arthur and surrounding areas, for the death of an unidentified man found in a car trapped in a flooded underpass.

The National Weather Service posted flood warnings for the Sabine River and for northeast Texas and

northwest Louisiana, where the thunderstorms spawned by the system were expected to diminish gradually.

There was flood damage and scattered evacuation in a broad swath inland from Sabine Pass, the far southeastern tip of Texas where the storm plowed inland about 2 p.m. CDT Tuesday after kicking up tides 3 feet above normal.

Claudette crawled along the Texas-Louisiana border and then veered northwestward. By noon Wednesday, its almost unidentifiable center appeared to have reached Lufkin, 115 miles inland.

"We just took a couple of changes of clothes, a couple of blankets and a few snack things," said Brenda Howard, whose family left a trailer threatened by high water for temporary room and board Bridge City Junior High School.

"We've had high water before, but this takes the cake," said Tammy Ancelet, whose family perched their furniture atop stacks of books before fleeing.

Aside from flooding, damage appeared to be mostly windracked roofs, downed trees and broken power lines. A three-car collision in Beaumont, in which one man was slightly injured, was blamed in part on the weather.

"It took the top of the Gulf station across the street from me. I'm sitting here looking at it flying around," said Albert Westerman, who owns Sportsman's Supply in Sabine Pass.

Sea Rim State Park, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass, was closed. Acting superintendent Bob Fish rode out the storm in his stilt home. He said high winds and heavy rains caused little damage.

To the southwest, 4 miles off Matagorda Peninsula, a 68-foot fishing vessel foundered in 14-foot seas. The Coast Guard sent a helicopter and an airplane out to help four crew members, who stayed with the vessel.

The Jefferson County Courthouse and Lamar University in Beaumont were closed for the day because street flooding, winds and rain made driving to work or class difficult.

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