

Lone boat too elderly for them

United Press International
DENVER — Two young men, who dipped into their wallets for \$2,300 to take a "singles" cruise of the Caribbean, said their dream odyssey turned out more like an old folks' voyage.

Peter B. Sherry, 29, and Bruce S. Cilo, filed suit in Denver District Court Tuesday against the Neiman

Marcus travel agency and said they suffered "humiliation and emotional suffering" because of the venture. Sherry said he and his companion "ended up being bored to death for two weeks."

The men want the travel agency to cancel all charges and to return money already paid. They also ask punitive damages of \$1,000 each

from agent Tina Williams. They said the agent misrepresented the outing as a "young singles cruise."

Attorney Charles Trowbridge said his clients flew to Miami in the belief the cruise ship would house a "sexually balanced" population of young singles. Instead, they found a population "where the average age of the passengers was at least 60 years of age."

the state

Lightning

Loading halted before ship blast

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Shell refinery worker Wednesday told a Coast Guard panel that threatening weather forced the shutdown of oil tanker unloading activities Saturday just before lightning struck on or near the Chevron Hawaii, sparking an explosion and fire that killed three persons.

"We shut down just before (the explosion) because of lightning and all that," testified Sidney Johnson, a dockman released from a hospital in order to testify.

Johnson, who was knocked unconscious for 15 minutes by the blast, said he knew the shutdown had occurred because he observed the drop in pipeline pressure registered by gauges on the refinery dock.

"That was when the explosion took place," he said. "I looked again and the ship was in flames."

Johnson's face was cut and he received back, shoulder and leg injuries.

Johnson testified he ordered the shutdown when the clouds from

tropical storm Elena pushed the Houston Ship Channel in the afternoon.

"I looked out the window and black clouds directly overhead," said. "I tried to call the pumps but I couldn't get him so I talked the second mate."

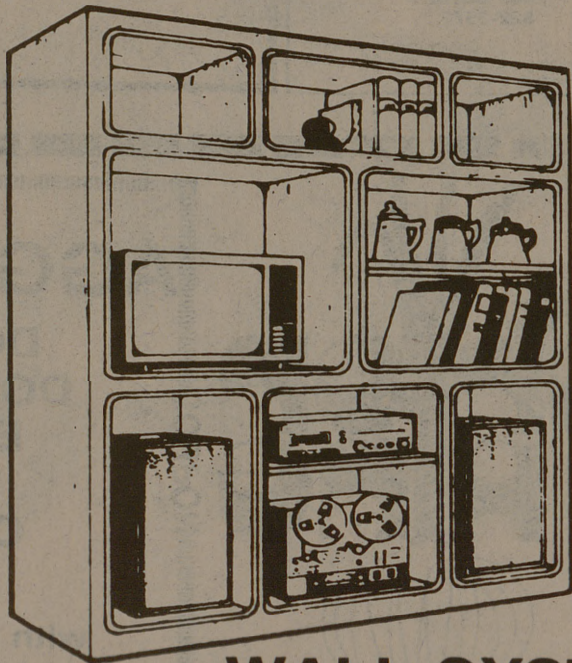
Representatives of the Coast Guard and National Transportation Safety Board questioned Johnson and other witnesses about dock operations at the time of the accident to determine its cause and whether the three deaths and injuries could have been prevented.

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