

## Court says 'no dice' to good deal

**United Press International**  
SHERWOOD, Ore. — A Sherwood man allegedly gave renters a pretty good deal at \$250 a month on a two-bedroom, one-bath home sitting on a half-acre site on the outskirts of Portland.

The only problem, the Washington County District Court charged Wednesday, is that Stephen Galen Shears, 31, didn't own the house. The court Wednesday issued an arrest warrant for Shears, charging him with first-degree theft.

The court is charging that Shears "rented" the home — which he had originally rented from a Texas woman — to five different sets of prospective tenants. In each case, according to the allegations, he collected \$600 from the tenant for the first and last month's rent, plus cleaning deposits.

Washington County sheriff's Lt. John Valery said the home's true owner, Margaret Merriam of Dallas didn't know about the deal.

## the state

### Winds possible aid for beaches

# Currents could drive away oil

**United Press International**  
CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Federal officials said Thursday a seasonal current shift has begun that could help keep additional oil from the runaway Mexican Ixtoc I well from further fouling South Texas beaches.

"Scientists believe the present southerly current flow up to 20 miles offshore is reducing washups and scientists expect to see lighter daily concentrations," said Roger Meacham, an Environmental Protection Agency spokesman at oil slick response headquarters.

"Scientists believe the annual shift of currents has begun through mid-October and they do not expect them (currents) to shift back to northerly until March."

However, Coast Guard Petty Officer Larry Clark said it was too early to tell whether a tropical disturbance the National Weather Service reported in Mexico's Bay of Campeche would have any effect on movement of the world's largest oil slick.

"We're aware of the clouds build-

ing (in the Bay of Campeche)," Clark said. "But as yet there has been no special forecast. We've had one (tropical disturbance) come up that way and it didn't do much except drive some oil offshore and clean up some sheen."

Aircraft flying along the coast Thursday reported "no major concentrations of oil off Texas Beaches, although one patch of mousse, a thick oil-water emulsion, was spotted the day before floating 135 miles south of Brownsville. Meacham said the Mexicans were applying dispersants to the oil patch in an effort to break it up before it moved into U.S. waters.

Clark said a Coast Guard team from Galveston took photographs and samples of oil which washed ashore near Freeport, but that the pollution was believed to be "tanker washings" not connected to the Mexican oil spill. Scientists have said they anticipate none of the Mexican oil to travel further north than Galveston before the seasonal current

changes push it southward away from Texas.

Meacham said studies showed less than 5 percent of the oil reaching U.S. waters was floating below the surface "and do not believe that the impact is significant."

Until now, a response team of federal, state and local agencies has spent about \$3.5 million cleaning up high-use resort beaches as waves of oil and tarballs came ashore, but have allowed the tarry substance to collect on more remote areas of the

barrier islands.

Cleanup also was begun Thursday to remove heavy concentrations of brown and black sludge that was against the south jetty at the northernmost tip of Padre Island.

A joint hearing by two U.S. congressional committees was planned Saturday and Sunday in Corpus Christi to give business, environmentalists and fishermen a chance to expound on economic and ecological damage caused by the slick.

## Board probated doctor TDC testimony revealed

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — A physician who testified against the Texas Department of Corrections in a prison reform suit has been placed on professional probation by the state medical regulatory board.

Dr. Luke Nigliazzo was also stripped of authority to prescribe controlled drugs and was ordered to undergo health and mental examinations, Justice Department lawyer Gail Littlefield revealed at the trial Wednesday.

Nigliazzo's experience with the Texas Board of Medical Examiners, since testifying against TDC, was disclosed in cross-examination of Dr. Ralph Gray, director of TDC health services, who contradicted Nigliazzo's testimony.

Nigliazzo, who is still employed by TDC, testified that the nation's most

populous prison system provided "poor medical care by unqualified medical personnel or disinterested personnel who weren't dedicated to what they were doing."

Gray said some TDC staff had "hard feelings" against Nigliazzo but turned aside a question about the professional disciplinary action amounted to TDC revenge for Nigliazzo's testimony.

A board spokesman said the agency keeps secret the names of persons who start professional conduct actions, but Gray said medical staff members, including former hospital director William Driver, testified against Nigliazzo. Nigliazzo was found guilty of professional or dishonest conduct designed to mislead the public, agents of intemperance endangering patients, and failure to practice medicine in a manner consistent with public welfare.

Gray described Nigliazzo as a competent physician who performed good work for TDC but whose medical practices caused problems in the prison system.

## Taxi drivers slow service in airport

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Two cab drivers were arrested in a growing dispute between drivers and the city of Yellow Cab Co.'s contract to pick up passengers at Houston International Airport.

Sky-Jack Cab Co. said one of its drivers was arrested Wednesday refusing to move from a Yellow Cab pickup area at the airport.

Richard Lamkin of Plaza Cab Co. was arrested Saturday for the same offense.

"It's a rotten deal," said Lamkin. "They are denying me the right to work."

Mayor Jim McConn, who ordered police enforcement of the contract, has urged non-Yellow Cab drivers remain calm while the city reviews the contract with Yellow Cab Co.

"If they will just be patient a little longer . . . we may be able to resolve the situation," McConn said.

"We're going to fight for our right to pick up fares at the airport, but we're going to do it honorably," said Robert Lee Burns, a driver for Sky-Jack.

"We did it to ensure dependable cab service at the airport," said Councilman Larry McKaskle.

"Yellow Cab doesn't really have exclusive pickup rights. The contract stipulates any independent cab drivers can participate if they sign a separate agreement with Yellow Cab Co. and they'll share the cost of the contract," he said.

Burns said cab drivers disagree that they should have to enter into an agreement with Yellow Cab Co. and what they feel is their right.

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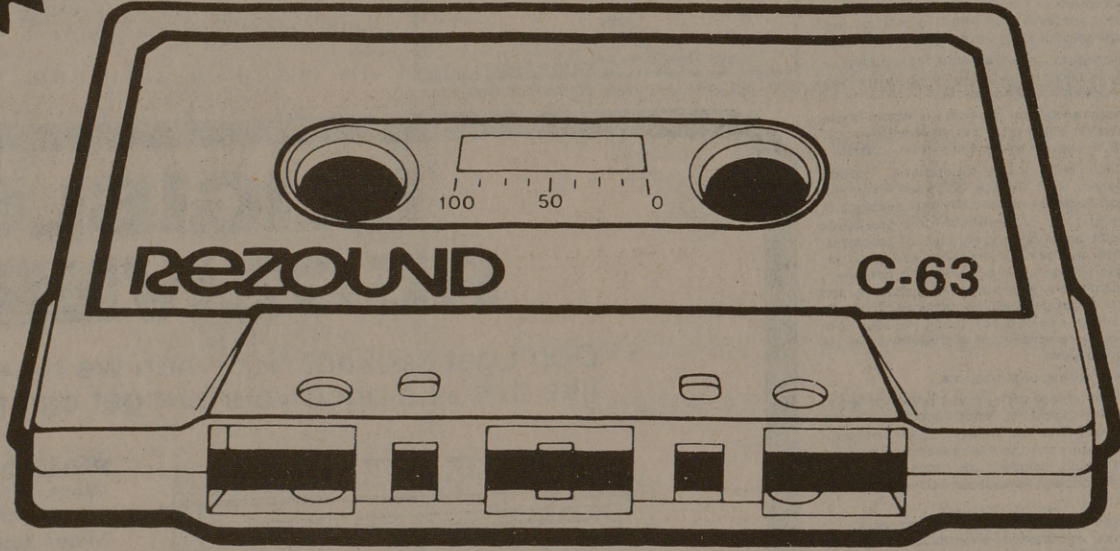
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