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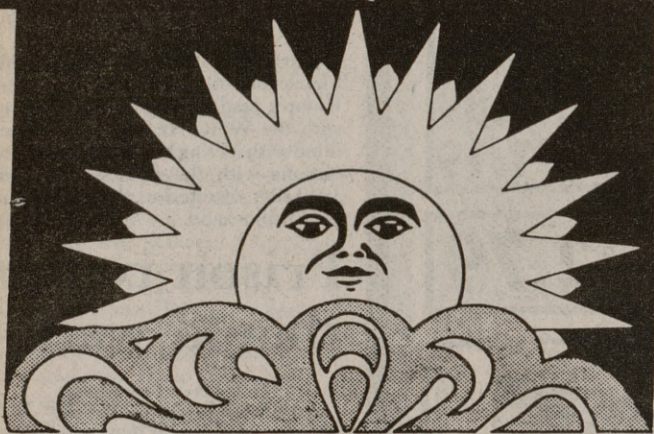


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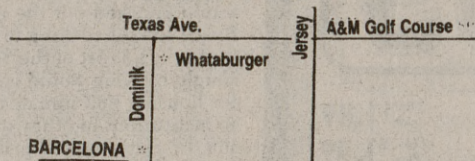


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energy

'Energy grief' caused by shortages

United Press International  
AUSTIN — The lifestyle changes brought on by the energy shortage can have a shocking affect, similar to that experienced with the death of a loved one, a University of Texas professor contends.

Dr. William E. Avera, a lecturer in UT's finance department, said consumers appear to be going through a grief process over the loss of abundant energy similar to what is experienced in the loss of a loved one.

Avera said the death of the "energy-oblivious life style" has triggered

responses usually associated with grief — denial, anger, bargaining and depression before acceptance.

"Changes that cut to the core of an accustomed life style" will be necessary because of drastic changes in energy supply and unparalleled increases in energy prices, Avera warned in an article in the current issue of the Texas Business Review.

"The initial reaction to the possibility of such a change may be one of shock and grief rather than the rational economic calculus envisioned by theory."

Avera cited the apparent resist-

ance of homeowners to residential energy-saving measures.

Homeowners demonstrate limited interest in retrofitting existing homes to be more energy efficient, even though such investments pay for themselves quickly through lower utility bills, he said.

Buyers are reluctant to pay extra for energy-saving features in new homes, he said.

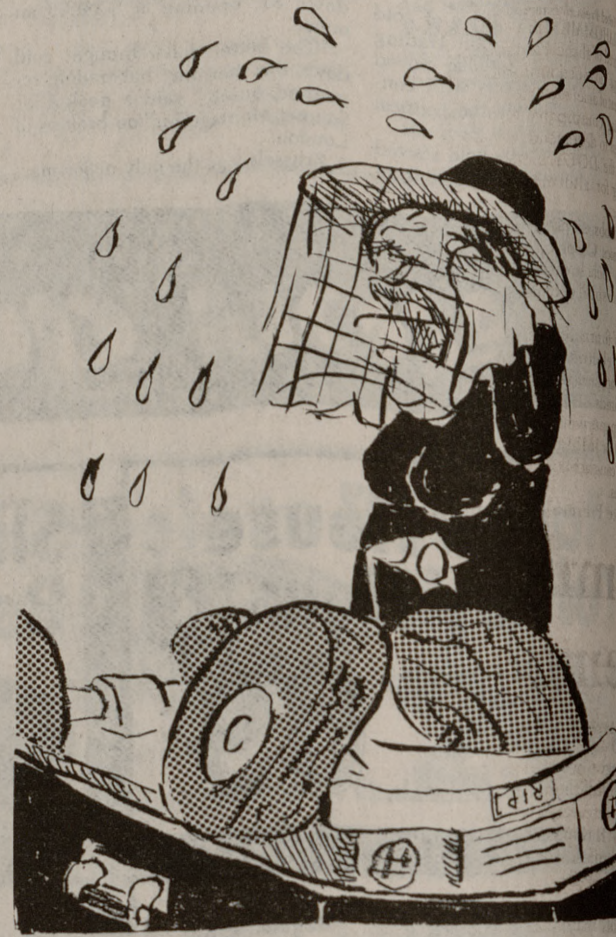
Consumers who are in the denial stage of the grief process "hang onto the belief that the energy shortage is not genuine," he said.

"They rationalize that as soon as the forces creating the temporary shortage achieve their objectives, prices and availability will return to normal, by which they mean the conditions prevailing during the 1960's," Avera said.

The anger that usually follows denial in the grief process is demonstrated by consumers lashing out at politicians, oil companies and utility or regulatory commissions, he said.

"Someone must be blamed for the demise of the energy-oblivious lifestyle — and those responsible must be punished," he said. "Anger is an especially ugly phase of the grief process, but a stage through which consumers must nevertheless pass."

Avera said those who have progressed to the bargaining stage, "grant the inevitability of changes in their ways of living, but they hope to postpone them."



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Explosion hits chemical plant

United Press International  
NORCO, La. — An explosion and fire at a Shell Oil Co. chemical processing unit plant has forced officials to close the facility until they can determine the extent of damage.

The explosion occurred Tuesday about 6:10 p. m. in a unit that processes "sulfolane," a chemical solvent used to remove sulfur from crude oil. Shell spokesman Peter Fisher said a filter in the unit exploded and touched off a 10 minute fire, which was extinguished by Shell's in-house firefighters.

No one was injured in the accident.

Fischer said the chemical plant was not a part of the refinery that is being struck by members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

"The accident happened at our chemical plant which is not on strike," Fischer said. "It's one mile away from the refinery and operated by regular people who are not part of the strike."

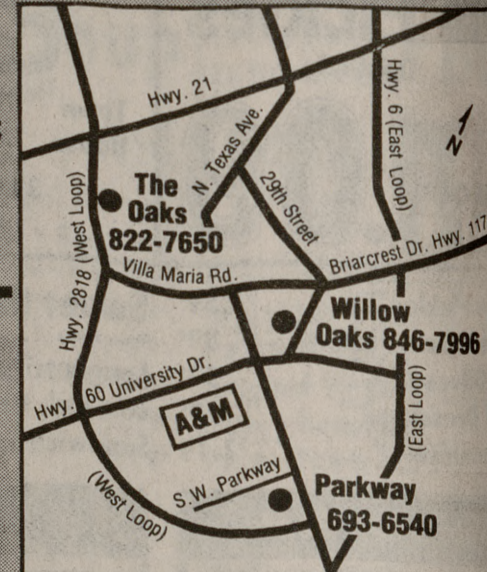
The cause of the explosion was un-

determined, but the facility will be closed until Shell officials evaluate the extent of damage.

There were no workers in the area of the explosion except for supervisors in a nearby control room, a spokesman said.

Fischer said no crude oil was through the chemical plant. The refinery has been processing crude at a rate of 185,000 barrels per day since the OCAW strike began Jan. 5. Refinery operations have been led by supervisors.

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| MSC Camera  | MSC Student Conference on National Affairs (MSC SCONA) |
| MSC Free University   | MSC Town Hall  |
| MSC Great Issues  | MSC Travel   |
|   | MSC Video Tape   |

Chairmen applications are due by 5:00 p.m. February 22.

For more information, go by Room 216 MSC (SPO) and ask for Brian Gross. Applications may be picked up in Room 216 MSC at the secretaries' island.