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**POOL TOURNAMENT — TONIGHT AT 8**

United Press International  
HOUSTON — The closing Sunday of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," after a year-long, \$5 million run, will be mourned perhaps by an even larger audience than observed the passing of its inspiration, the legendary La Grange brothel known as the Chicken Ranch.

It is doubtful the original sex parlor attracted more paying customers

in its colorful history than its musical comedy namesake.

What Texans and the rest of the nation have come to realize via the New York, Houston and national touring productions of the play is that even in its forced closing, the Chicken Ranch lives. Likewise, the Tower Theater production of "Whorehouse" survives to play another day as a second touring com-

pany already booked for six months from Florida to Nevada.

The Texas production is a success story paralleled only by the continued demand for tickets to the original version of "Whorehouse" at the 46th Street Theatre on Broadway.

Hardly anyone thought legitimate theater could stage a 12-month production in Houston and attract more than 380,000 customers. Today,

hardly anyone doubts "Whorehouse" could play to full houses indefinitely.

The decision to bring the show to Texas in the first place and now to hit the road belong solely to Stevie Phillips, its producer.

"Nobody could have talked me out of it (a Houston production), but most tried," Phillips said. "They assured me it would run no more

than three weeks. I thought this nonsense. I was willing to be a chance and I turned out to be a

Now, some of the same people who thought the road show was premature in the local success.

"I've debated the question," said Phillips. "But I made the decision in the best interest of the company. We were very anxious to go on the road. They were not 100 percent sure. Not a lot of them had experience doing long runs. Sitting down in a place and doing a show night after night was novel for a lot of them. They wanted to re-excite them."

She said she would not be surprised if the show's absence from Houston whet the appetite of Texans to hasten its return to the city, possibly in a year. The overall success of the play can't be argued.

It has played to near capacity at the Tower Theater for several years; was nominated for seven awards; netted more than \$1 million from each of its Broadway, Houston and touring shows; is adding a second tour as an already successful financial success; and has been bought by Universal as a movie starring Reynolds and Dolly Parton.

"The charm of the show is its humor," said Phillips. "Regulars come home and they are hooked. Audiences have a wonderful ear for the Texas and convey that in the logue. The first touring company we've been, we've been in the back."

# 'Whorehouse' success

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## Official ices Burning sites needed hockey sign for chemical disposal

United Press International  
NEW YORK — It was just a friendly message to the neighbors, said the firefighters. But the higher-ups were not amused, and Engine Company 39 had to take down its hockey sign Saturday.

The firehouse night crew was so inspired by the U.S. Olympic hockey team's victory over the Soviet squad Friday night that they grabbed a bedsheet and red paint, and created a sign announcing: "U.S. 4, Russians 3."

The sheet was proudly draped on the front of the unit's office — which just happens to face the Russian mission to the United Nations across the street.

"They are our neighbors," said a fireman who refused to give his name. "It just seemed like a good idea to acknowledge the fact that we won."

The people directly across the street had no comment.

"This morning there was a boss around. He thought before there was any controversy we should take it down," the fireman-turned-signpainter said.

United Press International  
DALLAS — Government, industry and the public are eager to find a safe way to destroy polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), but the search has taken far longer than anyone anticipated.

A 1979 EPA directive known as the May 31st Regulation banned the manufacture, processing, distribution and use of PCBs — highly toxic chemicals identified as a cause of cancer — other than in totally enclosed containers.

The regulation also stipulated as of

Jan. 1, 1980, PCBs have to be destroyed by incineration at extremely high temperatures instead of simply being trucked to specially monitored landfills the EPA earlier approved.

EPA officials figured the seven-month interval between the regulation's issuance and the anti-dumping clause would provide plenty of time for private industry to develop PCB incineration programs approved by environmental officials.

It didn't. There are no commercial waste disposal plants in the country authorized to burn PCBs, a component of oils and lubricants produced in the 1940s and 1950s.



Bill Gunter, leader of the EPA's PCBs regulations team in Washington, D.C., blamed the current stalemate on the waste disposal industry's sparse interest in PCB incineration and stiff local opposition to proposed plants.

Energy Systems Co., a waste disposal firm in El Dorado, Ark., is the closest to receiving EPA authorization to burn PCBs.

Analysis of a test burn completed in October is incomplete. EPA Southwest regional administrator Adlene Harrison said if the test burn was successful, ENSCO still has to fulfill other EPA directives before it gets authorization to burn.

Gunter said EPA officials are aware of the problems created by the dumping ban and may cancel it until 30 days after the first incinerator is operating.

## Siamese twins stable for separation

United Press International  
HOUSTON — No new medical problems arose for critically ill tiny Siamese twins Ivette and Ivonne Morales during the weekend, making separation surgery more likely early this week, a hospital official said Sunday.

"Surgery is becoming more of a possibility," said Texas Children's Hospital administrator Pat Kiley. "There's been nothing we've seen that has been a problem."

Kiley said the condition of the 21-day-old twins, who are joined at the chest, had not changed.

Doctors were scheduled to try early today whether the twins gained enough strength to withstand the rigors of the delicate separation surgery.

Physicians ruled out surgery during the weekend in hopes the twins, who weigh 7 pounds together, would build up strength to cope with operation. They have been hospitalized around the clock in the pediatric intensive care unit at the hospital, Kiley said.

Kiley said if doctors decide to attempt surgery, the operation will be performed by a team of specialists composed primarily of cardiovascular experts. Abdominal specialists also will be likely to participate.

Hospital officials have refused to speculate on the twins' chances of survival, the complexity of the surgery or what organs they might share. An official statement said only that doctors had determined that separation may be possible.

Born by Caesarean section in San Juan, the twins soon had life-threatening heart and breathing difficulties. They were flown to Houston Thursday on an emergency jet flight arranged by Puerto Rico Gov. Carlos Romero.

Anonymous donors have been paying the twins' medical bills since their parents, Eladio, 36, and Evelyn, 21, are unemployed. Medical costs alone are estimated at \$25,000.

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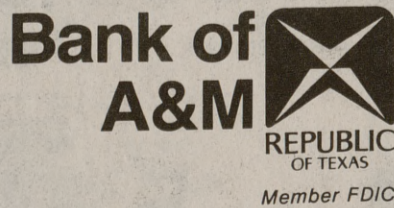
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