

National/State

Texas firms get EPA warning

DALLAS — The Environmental Protection Agency has warned seven Texas companies that new rules effective Jan. 1 might subject them to large penalties for failure to comply with pollution control limits.

One official said the penalties could total millions of dollars. The penalties, under the new rules, would equal the amount of money companies save by not installing equipment needed to meet federal air standards.

The new rules are part of 1977 amendments to

the Clean Air Act. Supporters of the new strategy said it would remove financial incentive from failure to comply with air pollution restrictions.

The EPA adopted the new rules of applying the law July 28 and the rules take effect Jan. 1. The "informational" letters went out several weeks ago and officials said several companies already have responded.

Carl Edlund, regional EPA air enforcement chief, said records show 22 Texas firms could face non-compliance penalties, but he said the first letters went to "the largest sources with the

longest record of violation."

He said 15 other firms in other states in the five-state EPA Dallas region also received letters.

The Texas firms receiving the letters included Armco Steel Corp. in Houston, Gulf Chemical & Metallurgical Corp. in Texas City, the Temple Eastex wood processing plant in Diboll, the American Smelting & Refining Co. plant in El Paso, Lone Star Steel Co. at Lone Star and two west Texas mineral processors, Southern Clay Products at Allamore and Milwhite Inc. at Van Horn.

Hoax victim strips down, strolls through mall hoping to win prize

OKLAHOMA CITY — A man posing as a disc jockey on a local radio station telephoned a woman, who figuring the promised prizes were worth the embarrassment, stripped down to her underwear and walked through a shopping mall.

The unidentified woman, wearing only bra and panties and pushing a

stroller with a baby in it, was stopped by a security guard Monday as she walked through the mall.

Police said the woman was the victim of a hoax. The woman had been told by a male caller posing as a disc jockey that if she would wear only her underwear while walking through the shopping mall, she would win a

\$16,000-a-year job at the \$10,000 in cash, a car, a motorcycle and \$1,000 for each of her officers said.

A police spokesman said he suspects a radio promotion he or she should call the radio station for verification and notify police if it is a sham.

Suit trying religion in schools

LUBBOCK — Defense and plaintiff's attorneys in a school prayer lawsuit filed by a civil liberties group spent the first day of testimony arguing whether school board policy invited religious activity.

Thomas Griffith, attorney for the Lubbock Civil Liberties Union which brought the federal lawsuit against the school system, tried to prove officials encouraged certain religious activities in the schools.

Attorney Tom Johnson, meanwhile, argued that religious activities were not promoted by the schools and that any violations of students' rights occurred without the board's approval.

Among the witnesses at the proceedings Monday was Max O'Banion, Coronado High School principal, who testified about several incidents that prompted protests from some students.

O'Banion said some students objected to an October 1979 performance by a musical group called Sweet Comfort Band. He said a statement by the group and one song contained religious references.

Griffith told presiding U.S. District Judge Halbert Woodward that his questions to O'Banion were designed to elicit responses that would prove the school board "invited religious programs" into the schools.

The school system's policy states the board "adheres to the principle of freedom of religion as expressed in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Texas."

But, asked by Griffith if principals "were encouraged to think the board would back them up" if religious activities were presented, O'Banion said no.

O'Banion said a morning devotional discontinued for several years was resumed at his high school, largely at the students' request. Johnson introduced issues of the school newspaper hoping to show the devotional was begun anew at the students' initiative.

A Unitarian minister, meanwhile, testified a study of religious activities conducted in Lubbock schools showed an emphasis on Christianity, especially evangelical Christianity, even though students of other faiths attend the schools.

The school system has asked the court to deny the plaintiffs declaratory or injunctive relief, because the religious policy now has been altered.

Third-World economies hurt women

LUBBOCK — Despite their increased responsibility in developing nations, women take a back seat to men in programs designed to increase productivity and employment, says a third world specialist.

Dr. Nadia Youssef of the International Center for Research on Women, located in Washington, D.C., said women make up a large percentage of the agricultural work force in developing nations but their roles are not reflected in surveys.

She spoke during the opening session of a two-day conference at Texas Tech University on "Challenges Involving Women in Developing Nations."

She said the directors of assistance programs in developing nations need to be aware of women's roles in those countries and the way assistance programs affect the women's lives.

Perhaps ironically, development programs can have disastrous effects on women, she said. When agricultural technology is increased, for example, many women lose their jobs to automation and mechanization. Often those results are not reflected in unemployment figures, she said.

Like their Western counterparts, Youssef said, women in developing nations find themselves increasingly in the mainstream of the urban work force, but usually in the lowest-paid occupations. More women head their households and an increasing number live alone, she said.

Programs geared toward increased productivity and employment are slanted toward men instead of women, she said, because the female is considered only for her reproductive function.

As a result, Youssef said, most women are the recipients of services and do not participate actively in the economy.

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