

State



Ouch!

Staff photo by Becky Swanson

The owner of this car still had a sense of humor after the car was involved in a fender bender. The car, seen recently at a local shopping center, was patched with plastic adhesive strips and painted with a message for other motorists.

Tanker, tug collide; crude oil, grain lost

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A Greek tanker collided with a tug pushing three grain barges Saturday, sending one of the barges to the bottom of the Mississippi River and spilling more than 85,000 gallons of crude oil.

The Coast Guard said there were no injuries in the pre-dawn collision between the 740-foot tanker Aphrodite B and the tug Karen Wayne.

A spokesman for the Jefferson Parish water quality laboratory

said its scientists were monitoring the spill closely but detected no threat to the area's drinking water.

Coast Guard spokesman James Kosch said the barge went down in 90 feet of water and presented no hazard to river navigation. Divers were searching for the barge as the first step to salvaging it, and Kosch said the chance of an oil fire was slim.

The Coast Guard said it had not determined the cause of the accident.

"Apparently there was a pilot on board the tanker but he isn't

saying a word," Coast Guard Lt. Bob Brooks said.

The collision occurred about seven miles downriver from the Greater New Orleans Bridge. Damage to the tanker had not been determined, Brooks said, and cleanup had been turned over to a private contractor.

Coast Guard spokesman Michael Marks said the tug was in danger of following the barge to the bottom immediately after the collision but was saved by pumping operations.

SMU students recorded dressing nude sculptures

United Press International
DALLAS — What apparently began as a harmless prank by freshman Southern Methodist University students has resulted in 22 band members facing a disciplinary hearing because a videotape camera recorded the entire thing.

SMU officials were not laughing when they discovered it would cost \$2,500 to repair the nicks and scratches on two outdoor sculptures of nudes the students covered with plastic and sheets.

"If you have a trained eye, you can see it," said Meadows Museum director Irene Martin.

Martin said a videotape camera perched on the museum roof and trained on the sculpture garden recorded the prank. The camera was installed last year as a deterrent to vandals.

Campus police apparently identified several students from the tape, saying they were wearing beanies similar to those of freshman band members. School

officials say the students face a trial before a student judiciary, and punishment upon conviction could range from a reprimand to fines to suspension.

Band director Irving Dreibradt said he does not understand why everyone is so upset.

"When they see three naked women, they want to drape a sheet over them," Dreibradt said. "They didn't mean any damage to it. Kids get ideas, like anything else."

Officials offer tuition, not air conditioning

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A south Texas school board has offered to pay private school tuition for a handicapped boy and his brother instead of providing air conditioning for the boy, who is confined to sitting inside a plastic cubicle.

But Ana Espino, the handicapped boy's mother, believes the offer for private schooling is a way the Brownsville Independent School District to avoid complying with an order by a federal judge. "In the first place, I feel like we're just trying to get rid of the boy," said Mrs. Espino. "In the second place, we want him in a school environment."

Her son, Raul Espino Jr., 7, suffered neurological damage from an auto accident which left him unable to control his temperature. When outside temperatures rise past the mid-80s in the U.S.-Mexico border town, Espino must seek an air conditioned environment.

None of Brownsville's elementary schools are air conditioned, so last year Espino sought relief from the classroom inside a custom-built plastic cubicle, about 10 feet square, attached to a window air conditioner.

U.S. District Judge Filamon Vela, ruling on a motion by the boy's parents, ordered the school district last week not to separate Espino from other children. He ordered the school district to provide air conditioning for the entire school.

But during an emergency session Friday, the school board authorized its attorneys to pay for a contract with a private school. School officials said they would pay the \$1,270 annual cost and provide related services for Espino, including a private nurse and a physical therapist twice a week.

Despite Mrs. Espino's initial opposition, the Espino's attorney, Jerry Garcia, said he was not "automatically against" the school board's proposal and would discuss it with his clients.

"The judge did ask us to all work something out," he said.

School board officials have been reluctant to air condition Espino's classroom. Parents of other elementary school students claimed it would be unfair for only one classroom to be cooled in Brownsville during the stifling early summer months.

School board trustee Joe Rodriguez said construction of a new

private school in Brownsville provided the option of paying for young Espino's education.

"This option was not available to us prior to the court order," said Rodriguez. "I felt like it was time to move onto other things. We have big problems with 2,000 new students. We've spent a lot of time on this one boy."



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PIZZA SPAGHETTI LASAGNA

Mom gets million for son's death

United Press International
BEAUMONT — The mother of a 19-year-old boy electrocuted while trying to retrieve his Frisbee from underneath a metal building has been awarded more than \$1 million.

The jury Friday awarded \$1.09 million to Paula Reed, 32, of Beaumont for the July 29, 1979, death of her son, Vernon Lee Hanson. She had sought \$1.5 million.

Reed said a live wire lying atop a metal building electrified it, causing the death of her son when he tried to get his Frisbee.

Although Gulf States Utilities and Southwestern Bell Telephone admitted liability in the boy's death, they said they would appeal the amount of the jury award.

Reed said her son was playing Frisbee with a friend when the toy went under the building. She said the teen-ager was electrocuted when his arm touched the structure as he tried to retrieve the toy.

The live wire was a GSU powerline running along a damaged telephone company utility pole. The companies were to split the damages equally.

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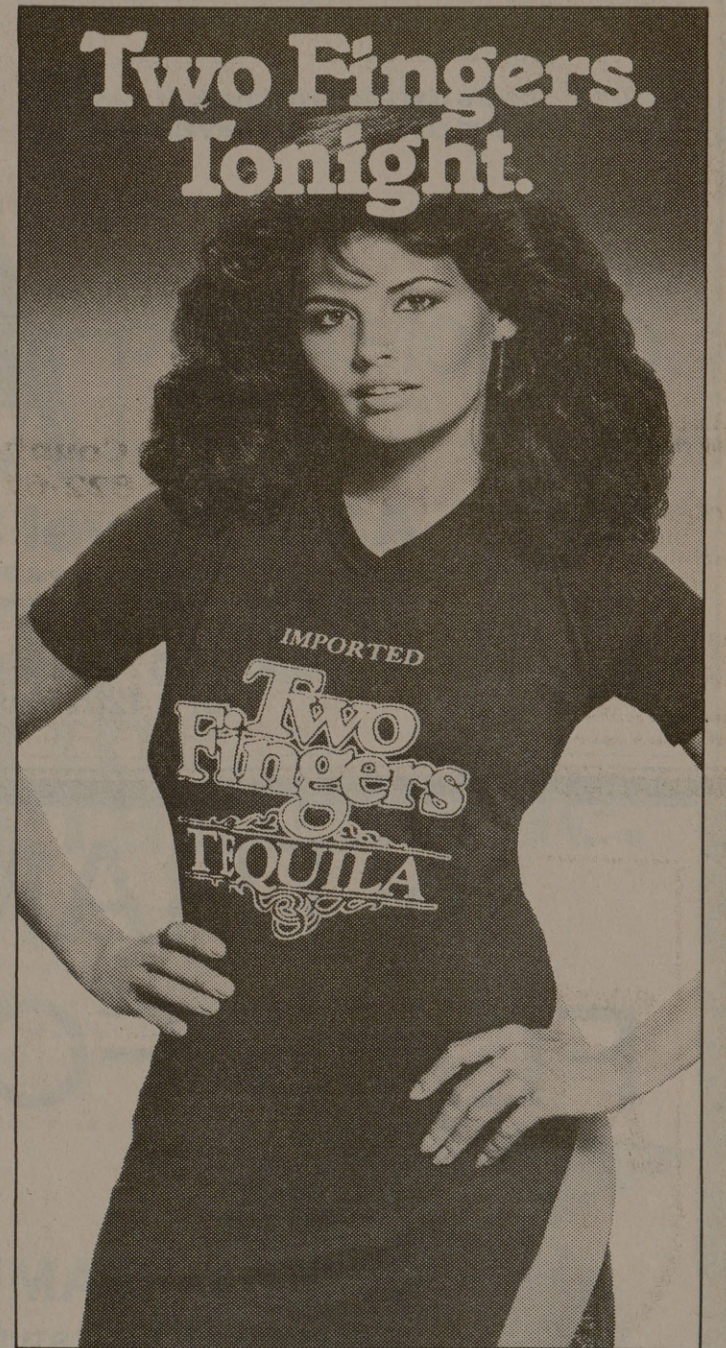
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