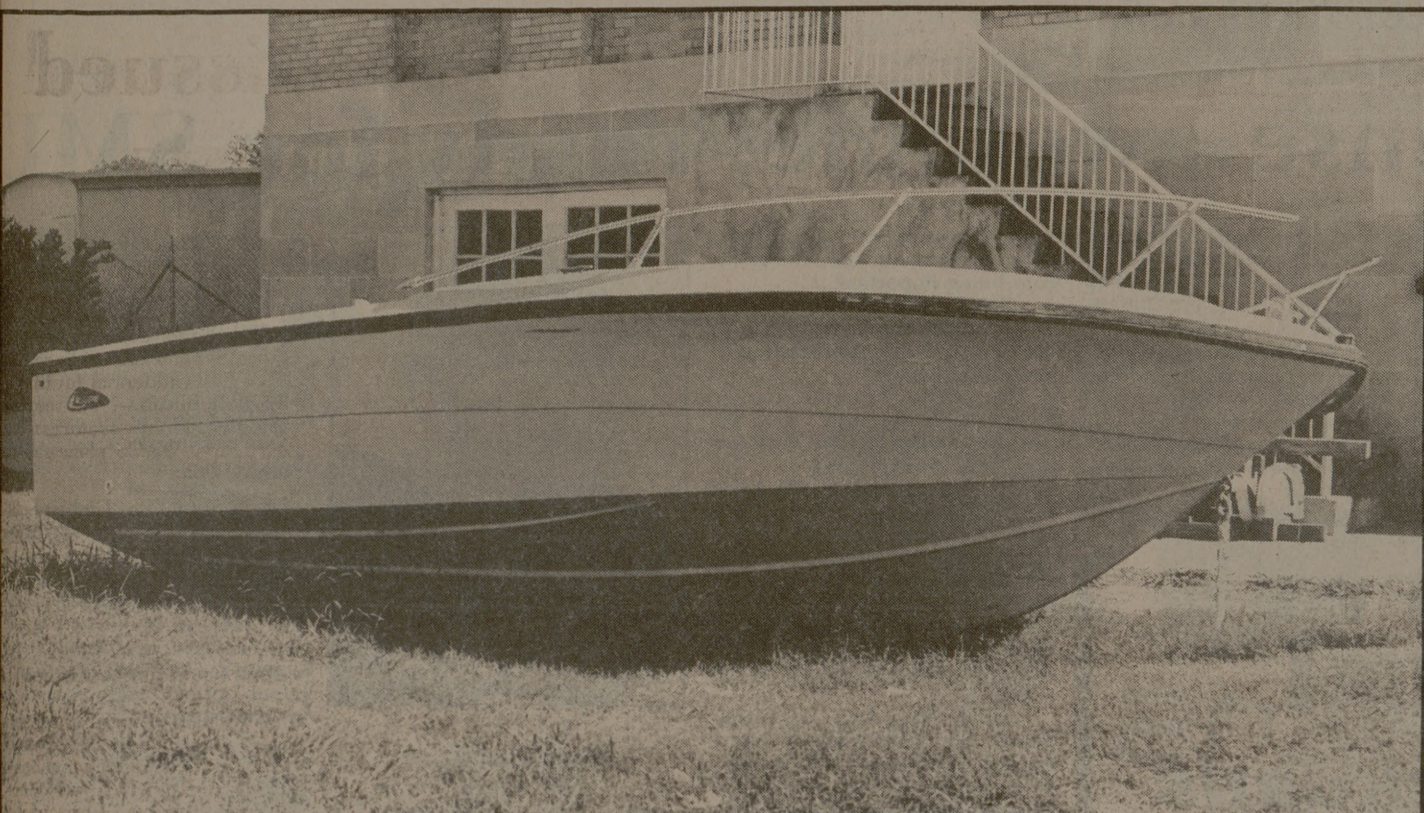


National



Always prepared

Staff photo by Colin Valentine

It appears that at least one person who is familiar with College Station weather is ready for the next rain, and the flood that may follow. This boat was seen outside the Materials Laboratory.

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a very bright idea

Gas prices spiral downward

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Gasoline prices have fallen for the seventh consecutive month mainly because of the drop in OPEC pricing and deregulation of gas prices, an oil expert says.

The overall price of gasoline nationwide is 133.75 cents per gallon, down .17 cents from September's figure. The lowered prices are made possible because eroded OPEC prices and decontrol of gas have freed refiners from mandatory supply allocations, Dan Lundberg said.

Prices may continue to drop in the next few weeks, Lundberg said Sunday, although it is unclear whether prices will resume their climb.

"We never know when a market has peaked until it begins to drop," Lundberg said, "and we can recognize a floor only when the market begins to climb."

"No one can say we have reached the bottom, but it is true

the market behaves in cycles, and OPEC is making every sign of wanting to reunify at \$34 per barrel as a benchmark."

"The impact of that will certainly

be to stabilize domestic crude prices," Lundberg said, "and that might very well initiate a first phase increase in prices."

The survey prices of 135.89

cents for full-service regular and 125.72 cents for self-service indicate continued heavy competition in the face of consumer sensitivity, he said.

Regular unleaded gasoline nationally averaged out at 141.18 for full-service and 132.38 for self-service, a difference of 8.8 cents.

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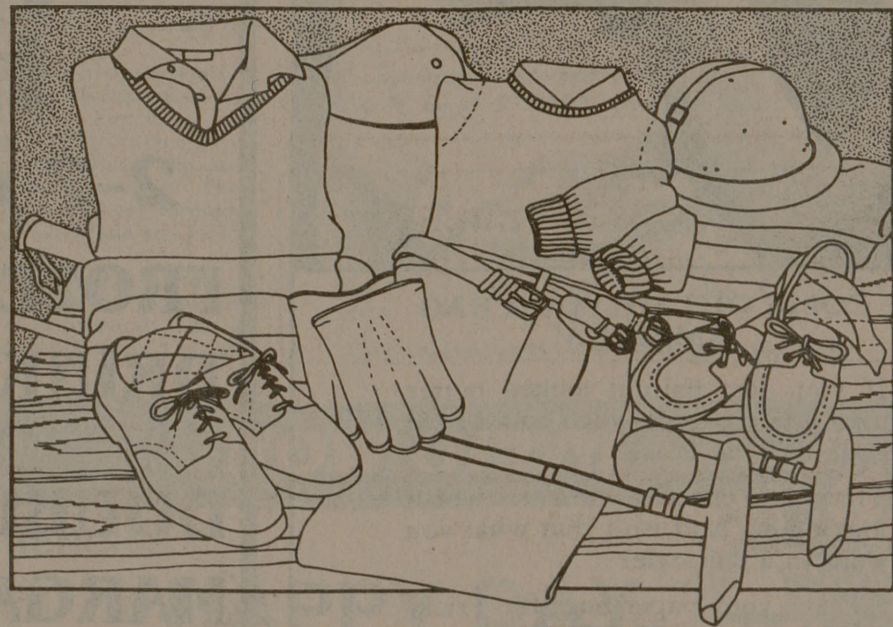
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