



A woman and her gun

staff photo by David Fisher

Michelle Frazier, a sophomore environmental design major from Port Lavaca practices her rifle drill outside of the Quad Tuesday afternoon.

Tax-exempt bonds wanted for project

United Press International
HOUSTON — The future of the latest Texas offshore port project may depend on whether the state will allow tax exempt bonds to be issued for financing, the president of the firm backing the project says.

"We're just in a holding pattern right now," C.A. Brace, president of Texas Offshore Port Inc. and distribution manager for Phillips Petroleum Co., said Monday in a telephone interview.

"If the State of Texas determines they cannot help us get tax exempt financing, that would make the economics of the project worse than it is with-

out tax-exempt financing," Brace said. Gov. William P. Clements Jr. has asked Attorney General Mark White for an opinion on the possibility of tax-exempt bonds.

Brace said TOP's Department of Transportation license expires June 21 unless construction has begun. He said officials of Phillips, Dow Chemical Co., Conoco Inc. and Seaway Pipeline Co. now must decide whether to seek an extension.

"With the recession, crude oil surplus and soft refined products demand, these owners are going to take as much time as they can before they have to make a decision," Brace said.

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One juror's hesitation leads to drug appeal

United Press International
HOUSTON — Defense lawyers for the Montemayor brothers say they plan to appeal drug smuggling convictions because of one juror's hesitation at the guilty verdict.

Manuel Montemayor, 46, of McAllen, and his brother Leonardo, 31, of Laredo, were convicted on drug smuggling charges in federal court Monday. Also convicted was Alfonso Arredondo Jr., 31, of McAllen.

Defense lawyers were given an issue for appeal when Senior U.S. District Judge Allen B. Hannay individually polled the jurors.

"The truth is it's not really my verdict, but I did go along with a woman juror said in response to Hannay's query.

Hannay, who will be 90 Fri-

day, declared the defendants guilty despite the juror's comments. Defense lawyers immediately moved for a mistrial, and Hannay denied the motion. But defense lawyers said they will press the issue with original trial judge James DeAnda of Brownsville, who was absent Monday and who Hannay replaced.

"We're going to appeal to the trial judge and file motions next week asking him to consider the answer by the juror (as grounds for mistrial)," defense lawyer Michael Guinan said.

Guinan said appeals to higher courts might follow.

Prosecutor John Smith of Brownsville said he was not sure what had happened to cause the juror's hesitation.

"I don't know for sure because I wasn't in the jury room,"

Smith said. "I feel that she was possibly reticent to return a judgment on her fellow man like a lot of people have trouble judging their fellow man."

The jury took five hours, starting last Friday and breaking for the weekend, to reach a verdict.

Both Montemayors were convicted of one count of conspiracy and three counts of illegally importing marijuana, heroin and cocaine.

Arredondo was convicted of one count of conspiracy and one count of importing marijuana.

Sentencing was set for March 15. The Montemayor brothers face a possible maximum of 50 years in prison and \$90,000 in fines. Arredondo faces a possible maximum of 20 years and \$40,000 in fines.

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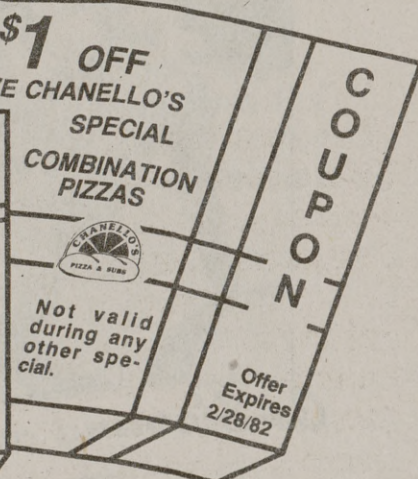
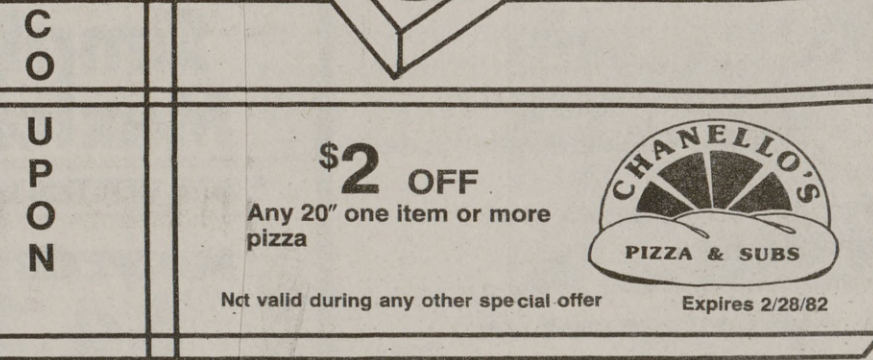
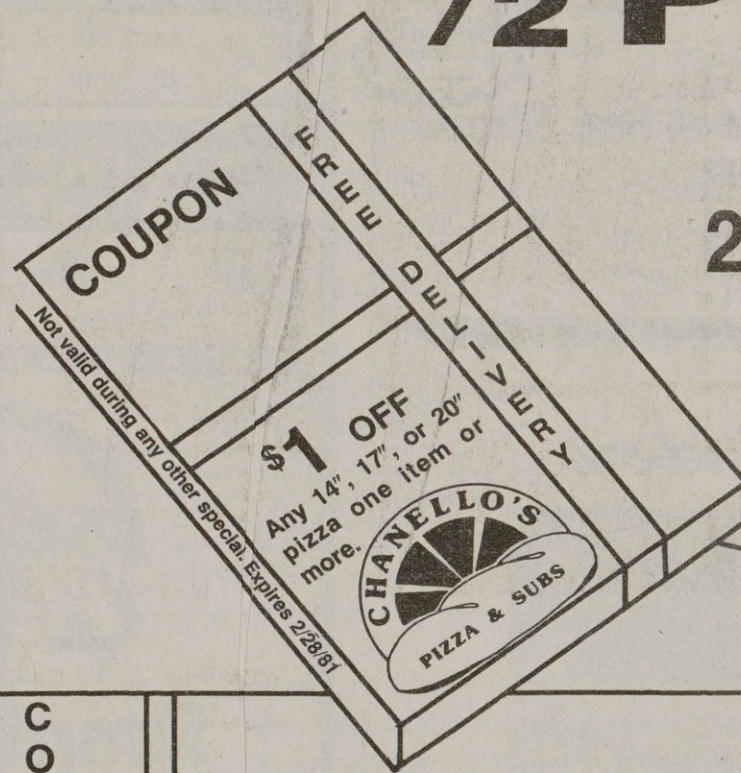
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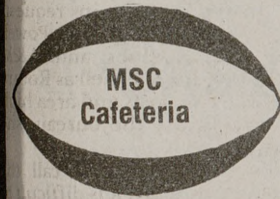


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