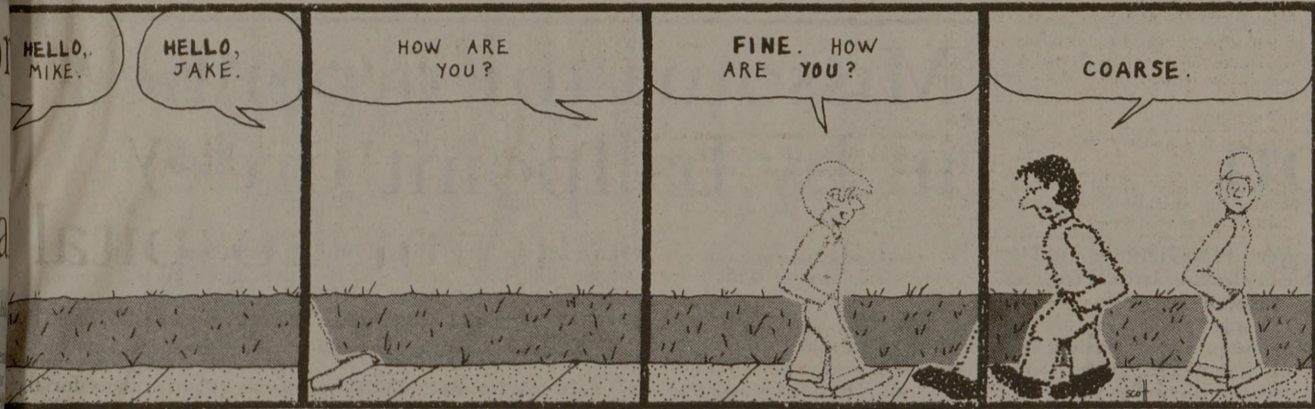


Warped

By Scott McCullar



Crime victim fund low in Texas, has backlog

United Press International
AUSTIN — A special fund created to help victims of violent crimes in Texas is more than \$1 million short of funds and has a backlog of almost a year of cases awaiting payment.

Jerry Belcher, administrator of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, says the additional court costs levied by the 1979 Legislature are not sufficient to meet the monthly demands of the program.

A bill to increase the funding passed the Senate during the 1981 session, but died in committee in the House.

The program was designed to provide medical expenses, payments for loss of wages or loss of support, and funeral expenses for crime victims.

"If the benefits are approved, we can pay up to \$150 a week for loss of wages or loss of support to dependents of deceased victims, plus medical coverage, funeral benefits, psychiatric counseling and attorney fees, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per claim," Belcher said.

For the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1,526 persons applied for benefits under the program,

and the Industrial Accident Board granted benefits in 346 cases totaling \$988,182. There had been an additional 424 applications filed from Sept. 1 through January, Belcher said.

"Our problem is that we do not have sufficient funding and we have a waiting list on the cases," he said. "Right now we

have approximately 400 cases on the waiting list, with benefits of \$1,078,524 which have been approved but haven't been paid because of insufficient funding. "As of now we're more than \$1 million behind, and I estimate we'll be probably \$3 million behind at the end of this fiscal year."

Tornado hits Paris; nine dead, damage widespread

United Press International
PARIS, Texas — A huge, swirling tornado smashed homes, businesses, churches and communications facilities, leaving the city's 25,000 residents to cope in virtual isolation with death, injury and destruction.

One unidentified witness said a twister hit Friday with "a dull roar" followed by two atomic booms.

At least nine people died and about 150 were injured as the mad storm system ravaged northeast Texas.

Many said a 15-minute warning before the tornado battered Paris shortly after 4 p.m. had helped save lives.

"I saw it coming and we had a chance to warn the people," said Dick Boots, emergency management coordinator for the city. "When it was forming, I could see two or three vortices that would merge together."

Boots and others estimated that the tornado destroyed an area from 1/4 mile to 3/4 mile wide and 4.5 miles long.

"It was huge," said Cheryl Smith, who was visiting her mother at McCuiston Regional Medical Center, about 500 yards from the path. "I was up on the second floor of the hospital and saw it coming. Back over yonder (to the north) nearly everything was wiped out."

"At Paris Lumber Co., they (employees and others) survived by hiding in a vault."

The assistant administrator at the hospital, Tejan Cunningham, said authorities gave about 15 minutes warning before the killing winds hit.

"We had a report that there was a tornado in a neighboring town and police called us," he said. "They also had sirens."

Hospital personnel helped move all patients and employees into interior corridors, Cunningham said, to provide as much protection as possible.

"The hospital is built on a rectangle (design), and we had everyone in the center corridor and away from any glass. They had as much protection as possible from outside walls."

The Rev. Raymond Armstrong, pastor of the \$2 million, 8-year-old church said he saw the tornado from his home 10 blocks away.

"I heard a roar and crackling and popping, he said. "It was awesome. It was smoky white and snapping and popping. And you could see debris moving around in it."

Southwestern Bell resorted to a tape recording to advise customers of the problems. "We're sorry, tornado damage in Paris, Texas, has blocked your call," the voice on tape advised.

"No one knows how many are homeless or without electricity," Sheriff Roger Peterson said. A curfew was placed on the town at 10 p.m. to prevent looting.

Peck owns the Dallas office in El Paso. The discussion of the group's plans for the hospital building was part of the purchase contract. Peck has offered for the hospital building 103 acres surrounding the building has been rezoned since 1981 when the children's program housed there was abandoned. Marr said a meeting plans to meet in hospital sometime to determine what kind of equipment he would like to purchase. The state would determine the value of the equipment, she said. "Then we can attempt to write a contract," she said. Marr said the contract is possibly ready by a potential problem, is non-fixed equipment. The facility the hospital wanted to build in the new quarters in Paris within two years. It cannot take the time to build it that time. One possible solution is to use the equipment on the old site after the hospital, she said, as long as it goes through the process. If he does buy the land, he does buy the land for storage and 4.5 miles long. "It was huge," said Cheryl Smith, who was visiting her mother at McCuiston Regional Medical Center, about 500 yards from the path. "I was up on the second floor of the hospital and saw it coming. Back over yonder (to the north) nearly everything was wiped out." "At Paris Lumber Co., they (employees and others) survived by hiding in a vault."

"Our entire medical staff of 35 to 40 physicians were called in," Cunningham said. "We've had great participation from off duty people. We've handled the (emergency) traffic real well."

The tornado destroyed the Paris Lumber Co., and a fire erupted following the storm. Volunteer firemen from neighboring communities rallied to help battle the blaze.

"It's pretty much wholesale destruction," Lewis said. "A lot of houses, mostly wood frame houses, in the northwest section of town were destroyed. A lot of power lines are down; trees uprooted. A car was on top of one tree that was blown over."

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If you're from
SAN ANTONIO

Come to the meeting
to discuss

YOUR PARTY!

**7:00 p.m. 107 Held.
Monday, April 5**

For out-of-town business, picking up a phone can cost less than dropping a line.



The stamp on a letter is only a small part of the cost of doing business by mail. You have to include the cost of secretarial time, materials, mail handling and overhead. That adds up to something like \$6.63*. You can do a lot of business with long distance for that amount, take care of orders faster, and save time and energy as well.

Plus you never have to lick stamps.



OFFICIAL NOTICE General Studies Program

Students who plan to Pre-Register for the Fall Semester in the General Studies Program are URGED to pick up a Pre-registration Form in Room 100 of Harrington Tower from Mar. 29 thru Apr. 16.

Recent press coverage of the Hilton Inn proposal by the Texas A&M Board of Regents included portions of statements or opinions of mine. To avoid any misunderstanding that could result from selective reporting of this issue and my feelings, I have decided to pay for the publication of this statement, which reflects my entire philosophy on the issue.

March 25, 1982

After giving quite a bit of consideration to the Hilton Hotel being placed on the Texas A&M University campus and having given in-depth consideration to what I think will happen in this community over the next decade, I compliment the University in their progressive attitude in making Texas A&M University a prominent University to compete with other Universities in this Nation. I cite, for example, the announcement of the Research Development Park. Texas A&M University does approximately \$84 million per year in research development, and I agree with the Board of Regents that we do need a research development park of the dimension of Stanford and Princeton Universities.

I welcome the Hilton Hotel to our community if it will compete on the same basis that all hotel and restaurant owners do in this community such as paying taxes, becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce and contributing to all local functions. It would be of concern to all of the tax paying citizens of this community and the State if the Hilton Hotel were built on the University because no ad valorem taxes would be paid to our city and school system. yet the City has to provide municipal services free, i.e. fire, police, sewer, etc. The Hilton Hotel should secure private property and all work together towards accommodating the University's expansion program.

One of the needs that would make the University even greater would be to have a better transportation system, for example, a new airport facility. For this, the University and the community need to have a closer working relationship.

At present we have one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation. I compliment Chairman H. R. "Bum" Bright for his aggressive approach to the University and since I have lived here all of my life and dedicated my business life to the growth and servicing of the University, I hope to someday have the privilege of talking to Chairman Bright and the Board of Regents and further discuss the need for upgrading the facilities in this community. According to the Chamber of Commerce records, we have approximately 2,000 rooms in this community and approximately 1,000 rooms on the drawing board. (Sheraton, Quality Inn, The Marriott, and the Hilton Hotel).

The Ramada Inn will do its part in assisting the University in this next decade of growth. We are building a 17 story high rise that will accommodate over 350 first class rooms and condominiums/condominium offices, which was designed, constructed and supervised by licensed engineers. This expansion is a part of the overall plan and I, Joe Ferreri, today dedicate to this community a facility that everyone will be proud of.

JOE A. FERRERI