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# Tent city donors say residents want handouts

United Press International HOUSTON — Men and women who have given time nd money to help about 300 homeless and unemployed residents of "Tent City USA" say they are disgusted with the amp because they feel many esidents are looking for free andouts and are unwilling to

help themselves Tent City USA has gained nationwide publicity in recent weeks through news stories about the poor, homeless and unemployed who have set up makeshift tents and campgrounds along the muddy banks of the San Jacinto River, about 30 miles east of

Food, clothing and money donations have flooded the camp, but supporters say reci-pients are taking advantage of good samaritans and refusing

"There are jobs in Houston to be had. But the people out there are simply exploiting the people who are giving them goods," said Ray E Meyer, who founded a church primarly to provide tax writeoffs to businesses that contribute to Tent City and other charitable causes.

Meyer, a missionary in Europe for 10 years, and a group of businessmen are looking for 15 acres of land to establish a permanent Tent City and permanent buildings for the site.

But he said he's disgusted at the people's lack of motivation and the rampant drinking at

Houston businessmen John Shelton and W.D. Emmons also deplore the drinking at the camp and they question the ambitions of Tent City re-

Emmons recently donated 12 tents, portable stoves and lanterns to the residents, while Shelton said he spent about \$1,200 of his own money paying for portable

toilets for two months.

Shelton also persuaded a friend to temporarily donate a generator to light the camp at night and run refigerators for food. Although he provided the generator and all the equipment to hook it up, Shelton said the generator has not

Lou Thorpe, who has an automobile junkyard across the road from Tent City, said he has advertised for several minimum wage jobs but he had few takers. Those who have come to work, have stayed only hours before quitting, he said.

"Yeah, I need a job, but I'm not going to take one that doesn't pay what I'm worth. I'm holding out for something (that pays more)," said Herb "Lobo" Shondel.

Shondel said he moved to Tent City about six or seven weeks ago after he quit a \$25,000 a year job as a data entry supervisor in St. Paul,

## New drug 'sniffer' nabs man at Houston airport

United Press International HOUSTON — A Venezuelan national remained jailed Saturday on charges of possession of cocaine in what officials said was the first arrest of a drug suspect through the use of a mechanical drug "sniffer."

Carlos Humberto Garcia, 36, was charged with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance following his arrest at Intercontinental Air- roy said.

port late Thursday by U.S. Customs Service agents.

Customs spokesman Charles Conroy said the suspect was nabbed as he walked through a newly installed mechanical drug

"sniffer" at the airport.

The \$19,000 device, designed and built by Customs Service technicians in Washington, D.C., alerted agents to the contents of the man's luggage, Con-

FOR CHRISTMAS!

Agents found more than two oounds of cocaine worth about \$358,000 packed in the false sides of the suspect's suitcase, Conroy said.

Conroy said the "sniffer," which looks similar to walkthrough metal detectors at airports, was installed about six weeks ago to help Customs agents detect smuggled narco-

# and Arrest made in ect refinery threats

was arrested and charged with sending extortion letters to Amoco's Texas City refinery, an

FBI spokesman said Saturday. Alton S. Edwards, 38, of Houston, was arrested by FBI agents late Friday and charged with transmitting a threatening communication through the ing after lav mails, said Amoco spokesman

> The FBI said Edwards would emain in federal custody until today, when he will be charged formally during a hearing beore a U.S. magistrate in

> Don Wilson, assistant direor of security for Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, Amoco's parent mpany, said Edwards was discharged from his job at the Texas City refinery in October. Vesey refused to release orther information regarding Edwards' employment record with the company. However, the spokesman said he believed Ed-

ight in the case Amoco earlier this month re-

United Press International "The People's Worker Revolu-HOUSTON — A former tionery (sic) Committee for Amoco Oil Co. refinery worker Worker Justice." The letters, which also bore the name M.H. Brown, contained unspecified threats of violence against Amoco if the company failed to rehire employees who had been terminated.

Wilson said a man identifying himself as Edwards contacted the company by telephone after Amoco issued a statement asking the sender of the letters for clarification of the demands.

The letters, dated Nov. 4 and Nov. 16, were sent to Amoco executives in Texas City and officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 4-449 in Texas City. They did not outline specific threats or specific names of employees that should be rehired.

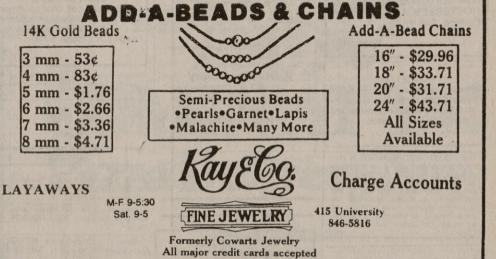
Vesey said security was increased at the refinery after the letters were received, but the plant continued to operate nor-

mally during the investigation.
"I think people were quite cuards was the only suspect being rious at the refinery, but it did not slow anything down. We did beef up our security and that will aved two letters signed by continue," Vesey said.

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Billy Cassel or Brad Winn **Robert Shepard** Lori Zeigler

260-3250 at 260-4468 at 260-0232

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We are expecting a GREAT year & looking forward to working with you!

### Garfield escorts shuttle

United Press International ELLAGO — Samantha Lenoir s in orbit Saturday over a ketch of her favorite cartoon haracter — Garfield — who hade his first appearance in pace with the help of her ther, astronaut Bill Lenoir. James Davis, the creator of he feline Garfield, sent the 14ar-old a hand-signed drawing ther beloved comic strip charder as thanks for getting Gard into space.

Miss Lenoir, whose father rently flew in space aboard the h mission of the shuttle Colmbia, had drawn her Dad a pic-re of Garfield that said "Hi,

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pizza.

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During the mission, Lenoir d up to the picture during a vision transmission from the

I didn't know he was going take it up on the shuttle, nantha said Friday. "When held it up, I saw Garfield and d, Oh, my gosh, that was my

But Samantha was not the now one who saw the picture. I just happened to see it and hen even more people told me bout the bit on TV and I was st so excited that Garfield had ade it into space," Davis said. I just had to do something. That was one of the pleasant lite surprises that happens in the isiness that you just have to cknowledge.

So, David drew Samantha an ginal Garfield, complete with

ace outfit. From one space cadet to ther. Thanks, Jim Davis," ad the inscription on the car-on Davis sent Samantha.

amantha will treasure the ing more than most. Deher love for cats, she canown one.

They make me sneeze up a m," she said.