

Laid-off Texaco employee contemplates unemployment

United Press International
PORT ARTHUR — For Jimmy Dement, 1982 hasn't been the best of years.

He was one of nearly 4,000 Texaco employees who went on strike last January and one of four men injured in an Oct. 13 accident, a pipeline rupture which burned five other men to death.

Recently, his wife, Lisa, faced surgery and a stay in the hospital.

"Well, you know, when it rains, it pours," Dement said. Last week he was one of 250 employees laid off by Texaco.

A former auto mechanic, Dement, 22, started to work for Texaco in June of 1981. He earned the coveted operator's classification at the refinery after having been in the yard department for only a few months.

"When I got the job at Texaco," Dement said. "I really thought things were going to be looking up for me."

Facing the unemployment line, Dement is still unsure of his plans only a few days after being released by his doctor following the catalyst accident.

"Find a job," he said. "But there don't seem to be too many

of those around here these days."

Dement said that he will qualify for unemployment benefits of about \$147 per week. Most of his hope, Dement admits, lies in a union-initiated plan that would put some workers on as temporary laborers. His pay rate would drop from around \$12 an hour to about \$8.75 — the union's bottom scale.

"I could go for that in a heartbeat," Dement said. "From what I gather it would be all labor work, but there ain't nothing wrong with that. That would be fine."

Warped

by Scott McCullough



What's Up

Friday

MSC VARIETY SHOW: Applications to perform in the 1983 MSC Variety Show are available now at the secretaries' desk in 216 MSC. Deadline for applications is Feb. 4.

STUDENT 'Y' — FISH CAMP '83: Applications for Chairman, Sub-Chairman and Recreation Coordinator are available now at the Student 'Y' secretary's desk at 216 MSC. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. on Friday.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS: Pictures will be taken in 137 MSC now through Friday. Also, Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate, Veterinary, and Medical students may have their pictures taken between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Yearbook Associates at 1700 Puryear Dr. For more information, call 693-6756 or 845-2611. The final deadline for pictures is Dec. 17. No make-ups will be allowed after this date.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS NETWORK: An effort to resurrect this organization is being made. Students should be interested in promoting student awareness of individual rights and should contact John Cook at 696-3241 if interested.

PARENT'S DAY COMMITTEE: Aggie "Parents of the Year" applications are available now through Dec. 17 in 216 MSC. The deadline for applications is Jan. 25.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: A worship service will be held at 7 p.m. at the Canterbury House on Jersey St. across from bonfire. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

TAMU BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: The last free International Student Dinner of this semester will be held at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student Center. Shish kebabs will be served.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER (HILLEL CLUB): Chanukah Pot Luck Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., services will begin at 7:30 p.m. and an Oneg Shabbat will be held after the services at the Hillel Club.

VAN ZANDT COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: A Christmas Party will be held at 8 p.m. at the Parkway Apartments Party Room.

Saturday

SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB: Christmas caroling and a hay ride will be held at 7 p.m. The group will meet at the Kleberg Center parking lot.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER (HILLEL CLUB): Sigma Alpha Mu is sponsoring a Chanukah Party to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Hillel Club. Lattes, singing and candle lighting will be featured.

AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: A Fall Class Graduation Dance will be held from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in 201 MSC. Admission is \$5 per couple and all square-dancers are welcome.

THE CANADIAN CLUB: A Christmas Barbeque Party will be held at 2 p.m. at 3805 Oakridge in Bryan. Refreshments will be provided but remember to BYOB (Bring Your Own Beef).

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Blotto's success comes slowly

United Press International
ALBANY, N.Y. — Business may be blotto across the United States these days, but five guys with assumed names are proving that "Blotto" can be a successful business.

Sergeant makes the posters. Bowtie handles the business end. Cheese supervises the trucks and equipment. Lee Harvey oversees record sales. Broadway sticks to singing.

Record sales are going well for Blotto, a rock group that is shooting for the big time by releasing songs on its own label — Blotto Records.

"You don't really need full-page ads in Billboard magazine to have a hit," Broadway Blotto said. "You need a good song and an audience that likes it."

Blotto scored with its first song, "I Wanna Be a Lifeguard." It was a minor hit in 1980. The song sold 25,000 copies,

the most successful independently released record in the United States that year.

The group followed another four-song disc.

Blotto has just released their third record and the members say they're hooked on their own affairs.

"Nobody cares as much as we do," Broadway says. "The group isn't getting any attention."

"It's a miracle that we have five guys and a three-man crew making a living," said.

Things have not always been so rosy for Blotto. The group went the usual route of learning a few lessons along the way.

For instance, a recording contract is not necessarily a success. Some groups are large advances on their earnings. If the record doesn't sell, the group suddenly finds itself in debt.

Other groups are signed then find the company uninterested in pushing their records.

Record executives at Blotto was just a novelty would die out soon, and usually the guys decided to go alone.

"What did it was what executive) asked us what we were for a living," Lee Harvey said.

Group members admit they would like to join a major label or at least get a label to handle the distribution. Without cash advances, Blotto members can afford to record only one or two records a week.

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<p>'81 Audi 5-speed, air, AM/FM cassette 8,850.</p>	<p>'81 Buick Regal Limited Tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette, air, automatic 7,900.</p>	<p>'76 Eldorado Convertible Extra clean, loaded 8,100.</p>
<p>'80 VW Rabbit Convertible 5-speed, air, AM/FM cassette, alloy wheels 8,460.</p>	<p><small>Prices do not include tax, title and license.</small></p>	

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