Warped

by Scott McCullar



Louisiana water now safe

# Poison threat confirmed

United Press International NEW ORLEANS — Traces of deadly cyanide were found in a municipal water supply Tuesday, the first positive report after five days of anonymous threats that deprived more than 235,000 people of water. Mayor Debbie Pope of Ham-

mond, a city of 15,000 people 50 miles northwest of New Orleans, said she got the bad news from an independent laboratory in Baton Rouge about 3:30 a.m., minutes after the tests were finished.

The mayor urged citizens of Hammond not to panic. She said the amount of cyanide found seemed to be intentionally placed in the system, but was too small to be dangerous

"A person would have to drink about a swimming pool full of this water to kill himself,"

she said.

The system, the latest to be threatened with poisoning, already was being flushed with chlorine when the report arrived. Waterworks officials received a phone threat late Monday, prompting the series of

'They've done many samples but this is the first cyanide they've found," Pope said. "The labs seem to think that the chlorination we're flushing through the lines will probably eliminate while cyanide threats, which it, but we're not sure.

She said the traces were discovered through a distillation process. Testing of new water rolling into the system is being con-

tinually sampled and tested.

More than 235,000 Louisiana residents were deprived of water Sunday and Monday by the latest round of anonymous phone threats. Officials restored water service to nearly half of those people late Monday after tests showed no evidence of

In Lake Arthur, Police Chief Jimmy Boudreaux said a youngster was arrested after he called relatives and said in a disguised voice that "y'all have cyanide in your water system."

The youngster, who is undergoing psychiatric treatment in a detention home, confessed he made the calls, Boudreaux said, but not until after citizens were warned not to use tap water and schools were closed for the day.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, a 13-year-old boy was arrested Monday afternoon after a middle school received a cyanide threat. The boy was charged with criminal mischief and improper telephone communica-tons and was released to his pa-

began last Thursday, spread from southern Louisiana to the North, the ordeal took a devious twist. A caller told officials in the town of Iowa that formaldehyde, a disinfectant and embalming fluid, was placed in its water

2,447 residents not to use tap

"One said a lot of people were going to get real sick, and the second said a large dose of formaldehyde was put in the water," he said.

Officials in Jennings, Winnsboro, Opelousas, Port Barre and Washington, La., also re-"There were two calls," said ceived threats Monday, as well as the entire parish of Lafourche and its 100,000 residents.

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### More aged get heart surgery

United Press International AUSTIN — Coronary artery bypass surgery has become increasingly successful for certain elderly heart patients, according to four surgeons at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in

While initial studies in 1975 on patients over age 70 showed a death rate of 22 percent soon after surgery, the Scott and White doctors said more recent studies indicate an improvement in the survival rate

A report by the four surgeons was published in the January issue of Texas Medicine, the journal of the Austin-based Texas Medical Association.

The physicians warned that bypass surgery still carries a high risk for elderly patients with defective left ventricles — the heart chamber that contracts to pump blood.

"Our experience with coronary artery bypass in patients 70 years old and older supports the contention that the procedure can be done in older patients

with satisfactory results," the surgeons said.

They added that the condition of the left ventricle is the most important consideration.

Since February 1976, Scott nd White has performed bypass surgery in 35 patients between ages 70 and 80. The article said 19 had satisfactory left ventricles prior to surgery and the remaining 16 had defective left ventricles.

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## More 'space junk' falls toward Earth

United Press International WASHINGTON — A 2,000-pound hunk of space junk containing the nuclear reactor of a Soviet spy satellite is falling toward Earth at a rate of 3 miles a day, and is expected to enter the atmosphere between Feb. 5 and Feb. 13, Pentagon sources said Tuesday

The reactor section, which also contains 110 pounds of Uranium-235 and other radioactive matter, is following the same course as that followed by a heavier segment of Cosmos 1402, which burned up over the Indian Ocean Sunday, the

The reactor section is in an orbit 125 miles to 132 miles

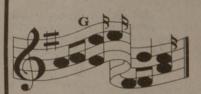
above Earth, they said. Because of the inclination of the orbit and the spin of Earth, the path of the radioactive debris covers the globe's entire land mass from the Arctic to the

Antarctic circles. Scientists say that the reactor and nuclear fuel segment of the Soviet surveillance spacecraft "most likely" will be burned up by friction when it enters the atmosphere as the heavier section, which contained radar those in the area also equipment, apparently did Sun- alerted.

Pentagon officials not possible at this sta-dict precisely where the will come down after

the atmosphere. Meanwhile, theys ly-equipped U.S. WC135 transports to over the Indian 00 where the findian 00 where the first transports to the first transport transport transports to the first transport transpo where the first segme grated, to try to deter

sure fallout. Most U.S. Navyshi



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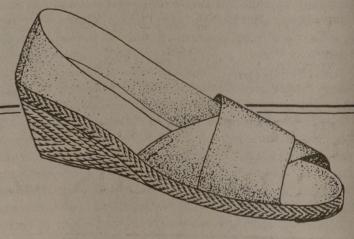
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