

El Paso unhappy City's money denied

United Press International
EL PASO — The president of the El Paso Builders Association, frustrated that El Paso did not receive more low-interest mortgage funds from a state bond sale, said he thinks a Hispanic builder should be appointed to a new border commission to ensure the city's needs are met.

At a press conference Monday, Sam Witkin said, "We are going to see if we can get a Hispanic builder on the task force on the border that Vice President (George) Bush is chairman of so we can get a little more emphasis on El Paso and its needs."

President Reagan announced the creation of the task force during his August visit to El Paso. Its purpose was to coordinate government programs to help relieve economic problems along the border.

Witkin said he is "very upset" that El Paso, the state's fourth largest city, received only enough low-interest money from a state bond issue to finance loans for 60 houses. El Paso received just 1.2 percent of the \$238.8 million available from Thursday's bond sale, he said. First-time homebuyers are eligible to apply for the loans, which offer a 10.8 percent interest rate.

Earlene Jewett, executive director of the Texas Housing Agency, said three El Paso builders asked for \$11 million in funds and got \$2.96 million. She said, by comparison, that Dallas builders asked for \$103 million in funds and received \$43 million.

Witkin said Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio were all targeted to receive certain amounts of the bond issue money "and El Paso was lumped in with the rest of the state. You would think that the state's fourth largest city would receive more than 1.2 percent of all the money available."

HBO show examines jailed women killers

United Press International
NEW YORK — HBO's "When Women Kill" is a provocative study of the shattered lives of some of the 3,500 women in U.S. prisons for murder or manslaughter — usually in the deaths of people they knew and once loved.

Seven women at two prisons, including Charles Manson cult killer Leslie Van Houten, are interviewed during the hourlong exclusive documentary that begins airing Sept. 7.

Several of the stories stir the conscience — some of these women serving 14 years to life were "up until that particular moment" law-abiding citizens — but a couple sound quite callous.

Oscar-winning actress Lee Grant, who is director and narrator of the film, generally seems sympathetic, but she also cautions viewers to remember that the victims' accounts cannot be heard.

At the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women in

Westchester County, N.Y., 42-year-old Violet is being visited for the first time in two years by her two daughters and their children. They have made a 19-hour trip by bus from Appalachia with \$20 in their pockets to see their mother.

It is a touching reunion and especially disturbing is what the daughters have to say about their mother's relationship with the man she killed.

"He beat her up an awful lot for no reason. Knocked her down, kicked her. But I guess there was love there. She always took him back."

A fellow inmate is Virginia, who shot to death her husband of 26 years, an airline pilot, after they had been separated for two years. The former high school beauty queen said it happened when her husband came to her home in one of his frequent violent rages.

Grant states that if these women had been attacked by strangers, their chances of ac-

quittal by a jury would have been much better. But when their victims are husbands or boyfriends, women almost always are held responsible in some way for the abuse they suffered.

There are other reasons why women kill, however.

At the California Institution for Women in Chino, Calif., Judy talks about killing a man during a robbery when she was 25 years old.

Her boyfriend, a professional burglar, was shot in the leg during a robbery. He told her to shoot the man and she did, Judy says. "I don't know what happens to me with men," she says. "Women here I can say no if they suggest some weird activity. But men, some chemical goes off in my brain."

A prison official says that it often is the case that women imprisoned for murder or manslaughter are passive, rather than aggressive — they can't say "no."

Grant describes only one of

the seven women as "stereotype hardcore criminals" and that is Marie, whom the actor says has a lifelong criminal record.

But there also is Frankie, a New York music student who drug dealing finally led to an argument with a fellow dealer.

"I don't go around shooting people," she protests. "I have close my eyes to do it. But the guy's got four shots in him."

There's Manson cultist Van Houten, the "high school success turned runaway" whose age of 19 held down the marriage wife of a Los Angeles businessman while the plane woman was stabbed repeatedly.

They are a forgotten in documentary says. While lines of wives and lovers are each visiting day at the prisons, few men visit women prisoners.

"The first year, they come one woman prisoner. Then they forget you."

Ex-soldier arrested by FBI after murder confession

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — An Army veteran who earlier this month confessed to killing his infant daughter six years ago while stationed in Germany has been arrested by the FBI at the request of the West German government.

Gary Perry, 28, was arrested Monday at the Veterans Administration Hospital, where he had been admitted for therapy after telling police he feared he

might kill his 17-month-old son. The boy lives with Perry's former wife in Texas.

Perry walked into a police station Aug. 5 and tearfully confessed that he had beaten his daughter, who was also 17-months-old at the time, to death in 1978 while angry over her crying.

A West German police report showed the little girl died in January 1978 of internal bleeding from a crushed liver and pancreas. Perry told German authorities that the injuries

occurred while he was trying to revive her with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Perry was arraigned Monday in U.S. District Court on a complaint filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Modisett charging him with inflicting personal injury with a fatal outcome. Bail was set at \$30,000.

Three days after his surrender, Perry was released because the Army and U.S. authorities said they had no power to prosecute him and West German officials at the time were unsure of their jurisdiction in the case.

Detective Robert Hutton said

Perry was out of the reach because he was in the service. The FBI had no jurisdiction because the crime was committed in the country and it was that West Germany would get involved because the crime occurred on U.S. property.

In an interview with the News of Los Angeles last week, Perry said he tried unsuccessfully to revive the baby.

"All of a sudden, it was man," he said of the boy. "I didn't ever believe it was wasn't trying to kill anybody. Perry, who left the eight years ago, is now in electronics. His ex-wife and are living in Texas."

"It's better for them there and me to be here. I could feel comfortable living my son here," he said. "I like to be able to explain to my son (some day) why I did it."

"If you don't know for the first time, you can't count second time. If there's a pain I'd like to recognize that just to have some idea that fuse is lit before I blow it."

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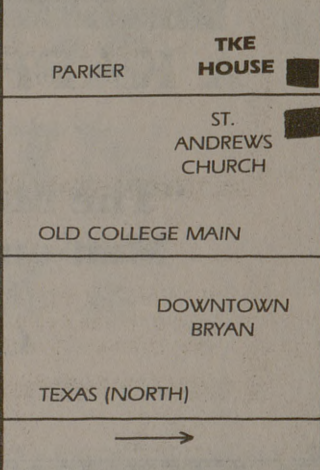
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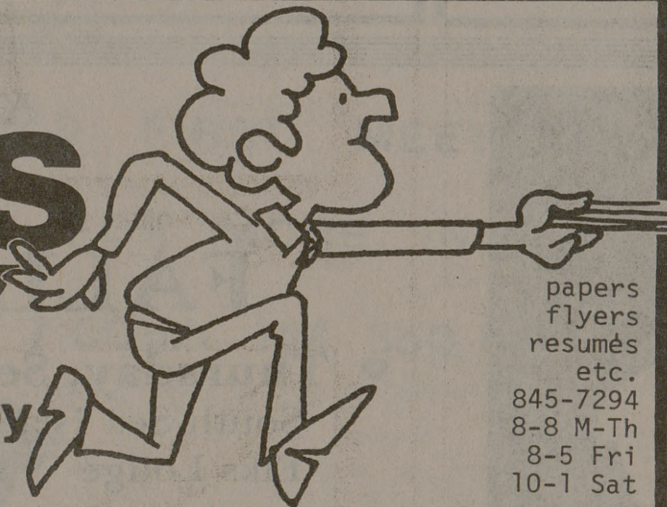
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