

Sen. O'Keefe seeks third trial

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Attorneys seeking a third Louisiana trial for State Sen. Michael O'Keefe on charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice filed a federal appeals court petition Sunday they want a postponement of still another trial O'Keefe faces in Texas.

The Texas trial, on charges of bank fraud, is scheduled for Nov. 14 in Lubbock. O'Keefe and three other defendants in the Texas case have asked that the trial be postponed until the 5th U.S. Circuit Court

of Appeals rules on O'Keefe's convictions in the other case.

O'Keefe's attorneys argued before the appeals court that he wasn't given a fair trial in the earlier New Orleans case because the jury that convicted him in the retrial was biased.

The attorneys said that U.S. District Judge Fred Cassibry should have moved the February retrial out of New Orleans because of extensive news coverage of the original proceeding.

The court gave no indication when it would rule in the case. U.S. District Judge H. Charles

Woodward in Lubbock has set a Nov. 7 hearing on the request for postponement, which is opposed by federal prosecutors.

In the Louisiana case on appeal, O'Keefe was found guilty last year and again in February of cheating business partners out of \$900,000 in the sale of a Metairie apartment building. O'Keefe has maintained that the money was a loan he intended to repay.

O'Keefe, his accountant Mary Blacksher Martin, his law partner Joseph Berrigan Jr. and former bank president James

Queyrouze claim their right to a fair trial on the bank fraud charges will be endangered unless the Texas trial is postponed until the appeals court rules on O'Keefe's current request.

O'Keefe, who lost a bid for re-election in the Oct. 22 primary, and his co-defendants claim his testimony is essential to the defense in the upcoming trial. Prosecutors, however, have said that if O'Keefe testifies, his prior conviction may be used against him.

The defendants in the Texas

case claim they will be entitled to a new trial if they are found guilty in the bank fraud case and O'Keefe's prior conviction later is overturned. They said they would deserve a new trial on grounds that the senator's previous conviction was mentioned to the jury.

Prosecutors disagreed. They said there is no law that entitles a defendant charged in two cases to an automatic postponement after a first conviction to allow time for appeals before a second trial starts.

Man accused in loan fraud

United Press International
TULSA — An Oklahoma man accused of defrauding colleges and universities in at least 10 states by collecting but withholding federal student loan payments has been indicted by a federal grand jury.

Grand jurors returned a 16-count indictment Wednesday naming Jon V. Chase of Skiatook and Collegiate Recovery and Credit Assistance Programs, Inc., of which Chase is president.

The indictment charges Chase with mail fraud and embezzlement. He is accused of collecting funds on federal student loans but not turning the money over to the colleges and universities that hired him to make the collections.

Chase is accused of misappropriating nearly \$340,000 in government money from April 1982 to September 1983.

In Oklahoma, Attorney

General Mike Turpen had filed a lawsuit against Chase's company on behalf of Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

The lawsuit alleged the company had collected but withheld more than \$33,000 from the universities.

The Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas has filed suit against the collection agency. Officials from a number of colleges and universities in other states also said they were investigating the company or considering lawsuits.

In Wednesday's indictment, Chase was accused of defrauding colleges in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Kansas, Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Arkansas and Ohio.

Grain case hearing set

United Press International
MIDLAND — U.S. District Court Judge Lucius Bunton has scheduled a Dec. 1 hearing in El Paso on a suit seeking to force the release of government-owned corn to drought-stricken West Texas ranchers.

The complaint was filed Tuesday by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox and Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, who want the corn used for livestock feed.

The suit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture seeks

the release of 18 million bushels of corn stored at a grain elevator in Plainview. The state and the USDA are in disagreement over the quality of the corn.

State officials have been seeking release of the corn since last summer to help ranchers in a 27-county area that has been declared a federal disaster area.

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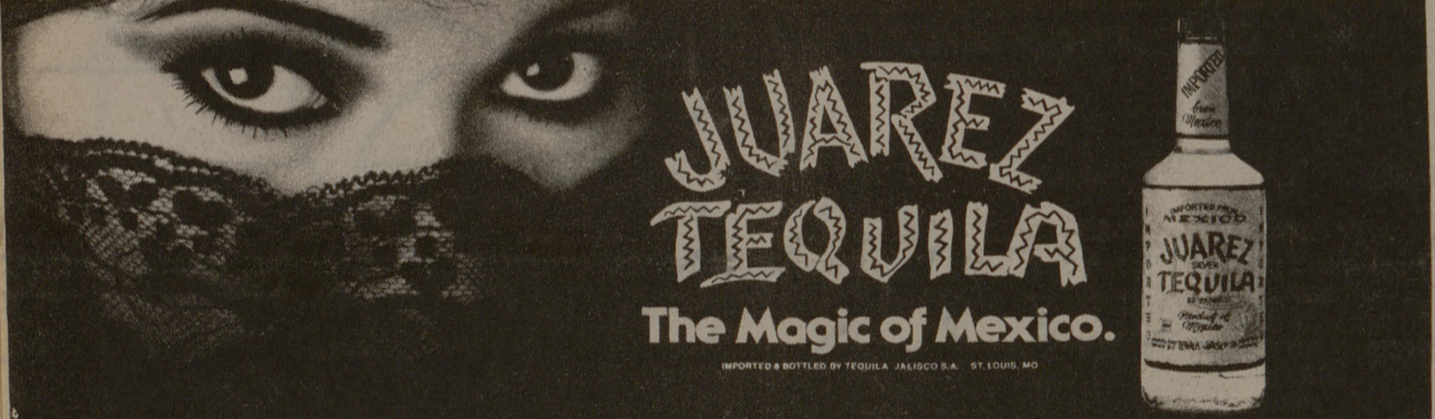
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Bilingual educator calls for grammar

United Press International
EL PASO — Students learning English as a second language are no different from consumers of other products — if they don't like the product, they won't buy it, a linguistics professor from the University of Toronto said Thursday.

Carlos Yorio will speak Saturday at an annual conference of teachers who teach English as a second language. The speech will emphasize the way students

have been forgotten in planning bilingual education programs.

The linguist said he knows what it is like to learn English as a second language because he grew up in Argentina and his first language was Spanish.

Yorio has taught and researched at the University of Toronto for 10 years. Next year he will become director of the English program at Lehman College in New York.

"That's exciting because most

of the students there are Puerto Rican and their native language is Spanish," he said.

A University of Toronto study showed language students are expressing an increased interest in grammar.

Teachers should not be governed by the students but can't ignore what students think, he said.

"Teachers must listen to the needs of their students and work out a compromise to satisfy everyone," he said. "In no way can we ignore what the students think. Only when we work out a compromise can we create an atmosphere of learning."

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Boy falls in manhole disappears

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Firefighters searched in vain Thursday for a 12-year-old boy who fell into an open manhole near a school yard while trying to retrieve a ball.

Tafolla Middle School Principal Jack Abbott said Roberto Perez, a sixth-grade student, climbed a fence to retrieve the ball during physical education class and fell into the open sewer system.

Abbott said water in the sewer was a couple of feet deep and moving swiftly.

Fire department crews searched the sewer line while others waited at the sewage treatment plant on the other side of the city.

Abbott said the open manhole is not on school property and that tall weeds near the opening "indicated the cover had been off for some time."

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