

The sky didn't rain dolls

United Press International
MILWAUKEE — Two disc jockeys who told listeners that a B-29 bomber planned to drop hundreds of hard-to-get Cabbage Patch dolls over a Milwaukee stadium said Thursday they thought the story was so outrageous no one would believe it.

They were wrong. The tongue-in-cheek broadcast led two dozen frustrated shoppers to brave freezing winds and wait for the dolls to fall from the sky. Disc jockeys Bob Reitman and Gene Mueller told listeners

that 1,500 to 2,000 of the homely, squishy dolls would be dropped over Central Stadium, home of the Brewers baseball team.

They said would-be doll owners should bring catcher's mitts and their American Express cards. When the dolls came tumbling down, they said, shoppers were to hold the credit cards up in the air so an aerial photo could be taken of the card number for later billing.

The two announcers said they thought everyone would know they were just kidding.

"We thought we had made it outrageous enough so that people would laugh," Mueller said.

But two dozen people showed up at the stadium Tuesday, waiting for the drop while gusty winds brought the wind-chill down to 7 below zero.

"When I heard it on the radio I thought 'far out,'" said one man who wanted a doll for a Christmas gift for his 2-year-old daughter. "I thought some rich guy wanted to give them away."

He added that the idea was not far-fetched, and someone could have dropped the dolls for publicity.

In another joke — which apparently got no takers — Mueller and Reitman embellished Wednesday's story with an even more far-fetched angle.

They announced that a rented barge containing the dolls was anchored eight miles out in Lake Michigan with Popeye aboard. Shoppers were instructed to swim out to the barge with cans of spinach to exchange for the dolls.

To keep the dolls from getting wet on the return trip, people were told to bring along plastic bags.



Darlene Janik, Battalion photo

A little more to the left

To produce a good television program, every light must be just right. Here Eddie Elms, producer

of the AggieLand Spirit of '83 program a KAMU-TV, Channel 15, adjusts set lights in the studio.

11-year-old arsonist to learn prevention

United Press International
HOUSTON — An 11-year-old Michigan boy, responsible for setting five fires in the Grand Rapids area, has enrolled in a unique fire prevention program in Houston to avoid spending a year in a detention home.

The boy was responsible for setting a fire last June 27 which caused \$175,000 worth of damage. His mother, fearing a judge might send her child to a detention home, contacted Houston fire officials who run the Juvenile Firesetters Prevention Program.

"After the last fire, I didn't know what to do," the mother said. "But I made up my mind my son needed help very badly."

Because her son has already been labeled a "firebug" by his schoolmates, she asked that their names not be used.

Houston Fire Marshall Eddie Corral agreed to accept the fifth-grader into the 12-week program. However, mental health professionals associated with the program are giving the youngster a reduced 4-day program, with the rest of the necessary counseling to be continued in Grand Rapids.

The mother said her son has "always been fascinated with fires, since he could walk."

When he was younger, he set

paper fires in the home. Last year, though, a neighbor's garage was burned and about \$20,000 damage was reported. There were three other small fires before the June blaze which leveled a paint warehouse.

The mother says her son has been fascinated with fires since he could walk.

The boy initially denied involvement, but later admitted his guilt to his mother and local fire officials. A judge is scheduled to sentence the boy later this month on an arson charge.

Corral said arson accounts nationally for \$11 billion worth of damage. Half of the fires in the United States are purposely started, he said, and juveniles are responsible for half of them.

The Houston program, designed free-of-charge to help children in the area, has attracted 180 youths since its beginning in August 1982. Only one child who has been through the counseling program has reverted back to fire-setting.

Psychologist Don McKinney said he treats the cause rather

than the symptoms of a fire-setter.

McKinney said the Michigan boy's problem is caused by his home situation where his mother placed too much responsibility on the child, making him the "man of the house." The mother has also been counseled to accept more of the responsibility.

"He has been in a double bind," McKinney said. "He needs to be man of the house and a child all at once. He has been frustrated."

He explained that the boy — who is not very different from other young fire-setters — was able to get angry, but he vented his anger by setting blazes.

Corral said that it initially cost \$197,000 to set up the program, which was funded with federal money and contributions. Now, the state of Texas has agreed to fund it for the next five years, with a non-profit organization, The Cease Fire Club, Inc., operating the program.

Corral said he is hoping other communities will set up similar programs. He estimated the program has saved the City of Houston \$8 million in property damage, fire-fighting hours, and insurance increases.

Judge says to turn over tape

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A judge has ordered the prosecution in a capital murder case to turn over copies of surveillance tapes to the attorney of a man accused of being the hit man in a killing last year.

District Judge Darrell Hester said court-appointed attorney Mike McNamara should have access to the tapes to prepare for Wavil Lewis' defense against the charge. Lewis is charged with pumping eight bullets into Brownsville physician Dr. Narciso Cortez on Aug. 31, 1982.

Police charge that the 23-year-old Lewis was part of a murder-for-hire plot conceived by Cortez's brother-in-law after a dispute over 600 acres of property in neighboring Willacy County.

Enrique G. Chapa, accused of paying Lewis \$15,000 for the killing, is free on \$300,000 cash

bond, but Lewis has been jailed in lieu of \$750,000 bond since he was extradited from Ohio last September.

McNamara said he would file a motion seeking to reduce Lewis' bond.

Prosecutors said the tapes in question were obtained by Frank Loftis, who was wearing a concealed electronic transmitting device when he met with Lewis in an Ohio motel room.

Loftis will appear as a state witness in Lewis' trial, set for Jan. 16.

Also charged with capital murder in the case is Hobert Breeding, who was recently arrested in Enon, Ohio. Breeding has been released from an Ohio jail on \$300,000 bond and District Attorney Rey Cantu said extradition proceedings are under way.

Prosecutors say Breeding was the contact man between Lewis and Chapa.

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