

Mother sentenced to 30 days after assertive letter to judge

United Press International
MIAMI—A judge said he felt justified in sentencing a middle-aged woman to 30 days in jail on a contempt charge for writing him a letter protesting his treatment of her wayward sons.
 Doris Adams, 51, of Miami, Texas, served 28 days of the sentence for her July 14 letter to state District Judge Grainger McIlhenny, 65, of Wheeler.

Adams told the Pampa News that said several of her sons had had troubles with the law, ranging from simple mischief to theft and burglary. Her letter complained that they were not treated fairly by the judge and Roberts County authorities.
 The part of the letter that offended McIlhenny read: "The only way you can win with the law anymore is if you can buy your way out, and it's done every day. You know I can't pay so you

stick my boys good."
 McIlhenny ordered Adams to appear at an Oct. 7 hearing because of that particular passage.
 "Well, I'll put it this way, if somebody accused you of being a taker of bribes, would you consider that a proper matter?" he told the newspaper.
 Adams, a part-time barmaid who said she is ignorant about legal proceedings, appeared without a lawyer.

Court records show McIlhenny put her on the witness stand, read her letter aloud, said "that's good enough for me" and ordered her jailed for 30 days.
 "That was a minimum penalty," the judge said last week. "She could have been put in jail six months and fined \$500. She didn't serve the full month for that matter."

"I really didn't know what to do," she said. "He just took it personal. It was just a statement. I thought you had the freedom of speech — I really did."
 Claudia Stravato of Amarillo, spokeswoman for the Panhandle chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, called the jailing "harsh, punitive, inappropriate" and an "abridgment of her First Amendment rights of freedom of speech."

New operation may improve vision

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — An innovative cornea treatment that behaves like a "living contact lens" could give sight to thousands whose vision is so impaired spectacles or contact lenses are useless, Louisiana surgeons say.
 The Louisiana team has been working on a sophisticated technique developed by a Bogota, Colombia, doctor decades ago, streamlining it so ophthalmologists anywhere can use it, said Dr. Marguerite McDonald, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine.

"People who had to put up with thick heavy spectacles and a tremendous amount of distortion were prisoners of their own visual world," said Dr. Miles Friedlander, a clinical professor of ophthalmology at LSU. "Now they can have a safe operation that will let them function normally."
 "This is going to be the surgery of the decade, and there's no reason it should be in the hands of a few. We're trying to make it so any competent surgeon who wants to can do it." Friedlander learned the

method in Bogota in 1977. It involves surgically removing part of the patient's cornea — the transparent tissue covering the pupil — freezing it, reshaping it on a lathe, and re-implanting it.
 The lathe equipment is too expensive for most ophthalmologists, McDonald said. The LSU team developed a method whereby donated corneal tissue can be frozen, shaped to a patient's specifications at a central processing area, then freeze-dried and shipped anywhere.
 This way, she said, ophthalmologists can fill orders by mail the same way they do with contact lenses.
 The freeze-dried tissue, which can be kept indefinitely, is rehydrated in the operating room and then attached permanently to the patient's eye.
 "It's a living contact lens,"

McDonald said.
 Eventually, animal or even synthetic tissue could be used, Friedlander said.
 LSU is running a study on whether the operation is any better than a transplant for patients with keratoconus, a warped, steep cornea, he said.
 Centers involved in the study are located in New Orleans, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Kansas City, Mo., Minneapolis, Tucson, Ariz., New York, Baltimore, Ann Arbor, Mich., Chicago, Morristown, W.Va., Seattle, Omaha, Neb., and Cincinnati.
 A full-fledged report on the operations is expected in about two years, Friedlander said.
 A special course in the LSU technique, which carries the tongue-twisting name of "epikeratophakia," was presented at the recent American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago.
 Friedlander, who is teaching the technique to other physicians, said about seven surgeons in the country perform the operation now — so few because the tissue wasn't available.
 His work in about 90 cases has been successful, granting the patients the ability to see with spectacles and vision good enough to escape from a fire or other emergency.
 Among those, 12 were infants suffering cataracts. Such patients would probably suffer a loss of visual acuity known as "lazy eye," or amblyopia, after cataract surgery, but Friedlander found the new operation improved their sight when done in conjunction with removal of cataracts.

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What's up

TUESDAY

MSC VARIETY SHOW: Applications are available at Memorial Student Center and are due Feb. 3. Auditions Feb. 21-23.

CAMERA COMMITTEE: Pick up your Fall Photo Prints in 216 MSC at the secretary's desk.

OFF-CAMPUS CENTER: There are roommate searches p.m. through Friday for off-campus students looking for living and roommates. Come by the Off-Campus Center, Puryear Hall or call 845-1741.

MSC CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS: There will be a series of lunch break concerts this week in the MSC main lounge. Monday — Guitar Ensemble, Wednesday — Dukes of Aggeland, Thursday — Symphonic Band, and Friday — Reveliers.

STUDENT Y FISH CAMP: Applications for chairman, chairman and recreation coordinator are available until Tuesday on second floor Pavilion from Janie Metzger. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

STUDENT Y ASSOCIATION: Christmas giftwrapping available in 211 Pavilion through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please bring your own boxes for the gifts you want wrapped.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: Paul M. speaks about "Nuclear Medicine Applications as a Career: How to Get There" at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medical Science Building.

IM-REC SPORTS DEPARTMENT: Entries close at 7 p.m. for 159 E. Kyle for basketball and outdoor soccer.

WATER SKI CLUB: The Aggeland yearbook picture is taken at 8:30 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING: J.A. Mullins will discuss "Environmental Regulations: Their Impact on Engineering" at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Zachary Hall.
UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER: 6:30 p.m. at the center, 315 N. College Main, to sing and play at the Sherwood Nursing Home.

CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: The pizza party at 6 tonight. All former, present and future co-ops invited.

COLLEGIATE FFA CHAPTER: Officer elections for next semester will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 105 Harrington.

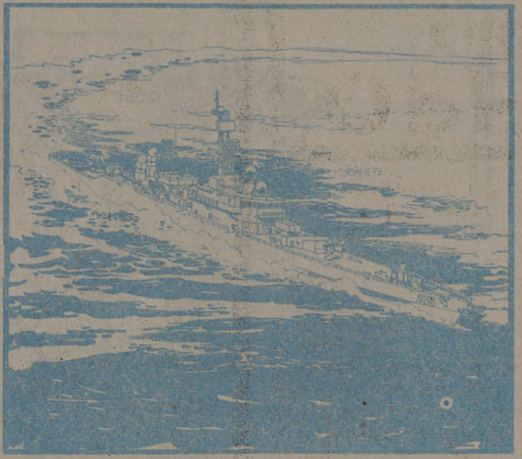
MSC POLITICAL FORUM: The last meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder Tower.

METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: Meet at the A&M Wesley Foundation for an Old Testament Bible study lunch. Bring a lunch or \$1 for a sandwich.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: Robert Bell will present "Affinity-seeking: Communication and the Strategic Selection of Liking" at 4 p.m. in 203 Blocker Building on Wednesday.
FLYING CLUB: Meet in the airport clubhouse at 7:30 p.m.

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Plane lands successfully

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The landing gear of a twin-engine Cessna Skymaster failed to de-

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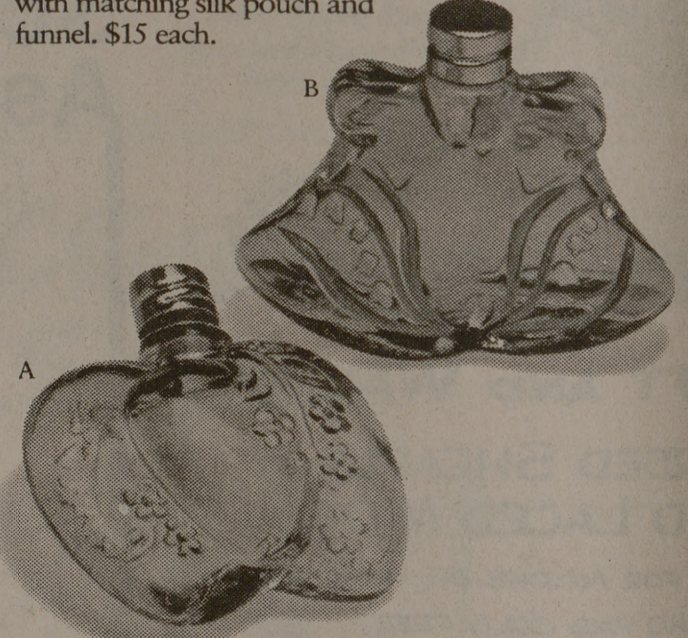
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Tower officials at the Antonio International Airport said the pilot was for a destination in south Texas then realized the landing was not working properly. The pilot made a partial dump fuel before attempting land, they said.
 The pilot was not injured, the small plane was only damaged, officials said.

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