



Good to the last drop

Photo by BILL HUGHES

Major Richard M. Pitts, shown here, was one of the last people to drop classes this semester. Tuesday was the deadline for drops

with no record. For those with a little more adventure in their blood, Friday, Feb. 17 is the last day for Q-drops.

105 farm workers receive money after settling suit

United Press International

EL PASO — One hundred and five farm workers who said they were lied to by recruiters for Pennsylvania mushroom farmers cheered Monday night as they watched each other receive checks for \$459.93.

The money was part of a settlement of a class action suit filed last May against the Giorgi Mushroom Co., of Temple, Pa., and two El Paso farm labor contractors.

The workers alleged the recruiters made promises that eva-

porated in Pennsylvania. They said they were forced to work in a state of peonage between September, 1981 and August, 1982. The company confiscated workers' immigration documents until they paid off transportation and lodging payments to the company, the suit said.

In October, Giorgi agreed to pay \$29,700 to 18 workers who originally filed suit. The company also said it would pay others who filed claims before the end of 1982.

More than 200 workers had been recruited by Leticia Vasquez and Gabriel Galarza in the El Paso area.

Organizers of the meeting in the offices of the Community Action Agency told the workers the suit was a success, and the springboard for further efforts.

All the former Giorgi workers were invited by members of the Union de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, the Bor-

der Farm Workers Union, to attend a meeting Feb. 5.

"We want your effort to serve as an example to others," said Jose R. Rodriguez, a Texas Rural Legal Aid lawyer who helped win the Giorgi suit.

Over the weekend Mexican farm worker union officials met with their counterparts from New Mexico, Arizona and California in Phoenix and pledged to help each other, union leader Esteban Posada said.

Union leaders reported on an Arizona cooperative of 10,000 Mexican migrant workers who are trying to improve their land at home.

The cooperative members set aside 20 cents of every dollar earned while working in Arizona fields to be used for farm development projects in Mexico.

Adelaido Primero Arteaga, a cooperative spokesman, said migrant workers are now sup-

plying \$1 million a year to develop the land in Mexico they leave to search for work in the United States.

Primero said leaders in the cooperative hope to improve Mexican farm production as an incentive to keep workers at home.

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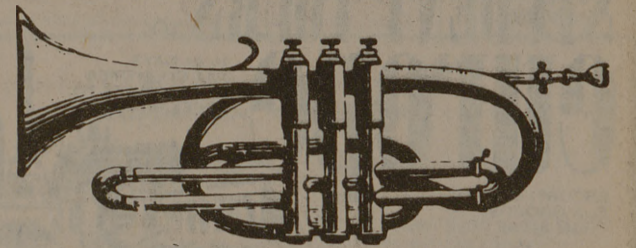
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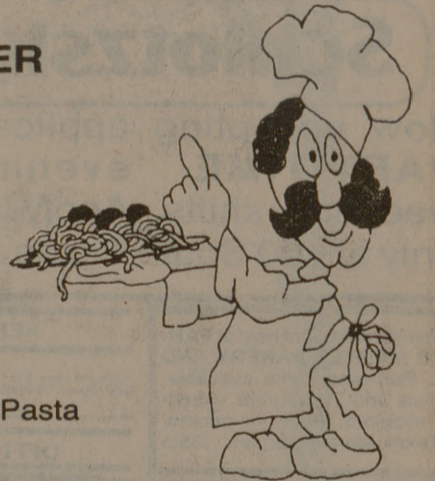
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Kids, bank sign loan

United Press International

AUSTIN — Bicycles and radios don't usually count as collateral for a loan, but a bank eagerly accepted the items Tuesday to close an unusual loan with students from an Austin elementary school.

Texas American Bank approved a \$500 loan for the Read Elementary School student council, which wants the money for a video camera.

The unorthodox loan was the first major project undertaken through the Adopt-a-School program, a joint venture between schools and businesses.

Twelve students offered collateral that ranged from clock radios to home computers.

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