

Reorganized Braniff to return to the skies

United Press International
WASHINGTON — An administrative law judge ruled newly reorganized Braniff Airlines is fit to take to the skies but the five-member Civil Aeronautics Board still must review the decision, a CAB spokesman said Wednesday.

Stefany said the CAB had not yet scheduled a vote on the decision by Administrative Law Judge John Vittone.

Braniff hopes to return to the skies on March 1. Its predecessor, Dallas-based Braniff International, filed for bankruptcy in May 1982 and has been struggling since then to become airborne again.

Stefany said Vittone ruled Tuesday that Braniff is fit to engage in interstate and overseas air transportation of passengers, cargo and mail but the ruling was not publicly announced because it is considered an initial decision.

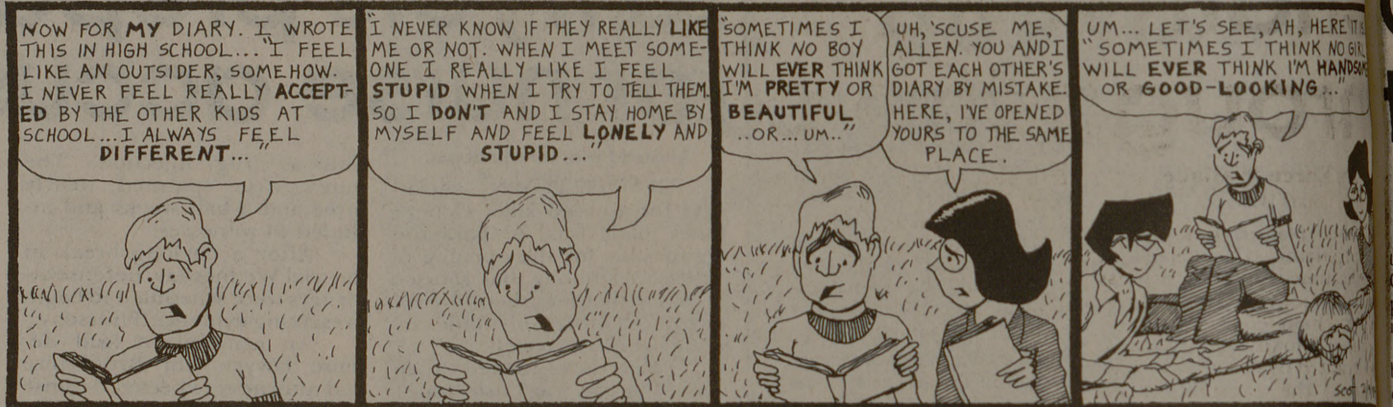
Vittone said Braniff can fly to all points in the United States, its territories and possessions.

Vittone issued the decision without holding the usual oral arguments after granting confidential status to some of the items Braniff presented.

He also said he examined the relationship between Braniff, parent company Dalfort Corp. and Chicago-based Hyatt Air Corp., which controls them both and found no indication of possible antitrust problems.

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Voluntary removal requested in EDB-contaminated products

United Press International

AUSTIN — Five products — cake and muffin mixes and rice — found to contain excessive levels of the cancer-causing pesticide EDB are expected to be voluntarily removed from Texas store shelves, state health officials said Wednesday.

Dr. Robert Bernstein, Texas health commissioner, said he expects an "extremely high level of voluntary compliance" from the food industry in following minimum exposure standards set Tuesday by the state Health Board.

The five products tested in Texas which contained exces-

sive EDB residue levels were:

- Duncan Hines Spicy Apple Muffin Mix (173 ppb) code no. 3228W4.
- Duncan Hines Blueberry Muffin Mix (389 ppb) code no. 3187W4.
- Comet Natural Brown Long Grain Rice (516 ppb) no. 54923.
- Texas Long Grain Basmati Rice by Texas Rice Production Co. (480 ppb) no. 830827.
- White Cake Mix by Mary Lee Corp. (176 ppb) no. DEC 1384C.

Under the state rules that became effective Wednesday,

the minimum residue level for those products would be only 150 parts per billion.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency recommended standards last week for human exposure to ethylene dibromide, a pesticide widely used since the 1940s as a fumigant for grains and citrus.

The EPA acted after the substance, identified in 1974 as causing cancer in laboratory animals, began showing up in food and water supplies in many states.

The state standards mirrored those set by the EPA for ready-to-eat grain products,

processed grain products and raw grain. But the state went further by imposing standards for EDB residue on fruit.

Bernstein said California citrus has been found to be free of EDB, although the substance was found earlier on Florida oranges, he said citrus from that state should also be free of the chemical in the near future.

But there remains a problem with citrus moving across the border from Mexico, which is required by the United States to fumigate its citrus for fruit flies.

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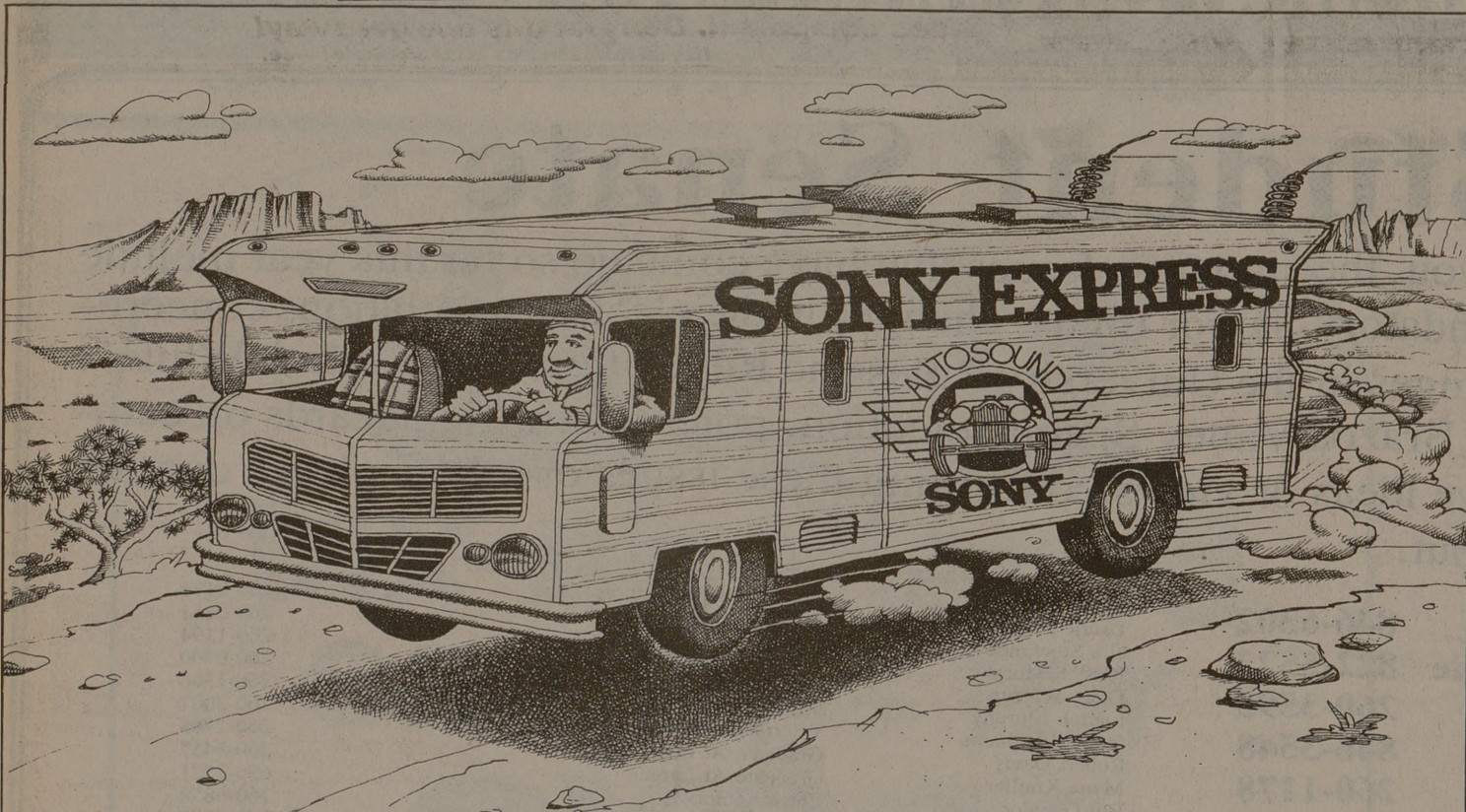
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This Friday

United Press International

AUSTIN — In a sternly worded opinion, Texas Supreme Court Justice Franklin Spears said Wednesday that Texas laws and judicial rulings have made it possible for banks to avoid usury laws by not calling loan-related charges fees interest.

Spears made the comments in a case in which the court ruled that attorney's fees a bank charged an Arlington loan customer were not interest and were not usurious as the customer had claimed.

In the Arlington case, P.A. Goldring and his wife had secured several loans from Texas Commerce Bank using a piece of real estate as collateral.

When the Goldring's children sued their parents and claimed title to the land, the bank intervened in the case to protect its interest in the land.

After the case was decided in favor of the Goldrings, the bank charged them \$17,593 in attorneys fees for the lawsuit and also for efforts to collect the past-due loans.

Goldring sued the bank, claiming the attorneys fees were interest and therefore usurious.

But the Supreme Court disagreed, saying the attorneys fees were for services in addition to the simple lending of money.

However, Ames claimed he was mentally and physically incapacitated for the first three days after the attack and that those days should not be counted as part of the deadline period.

But the Industrial Accident Board, which administers the victims' compensation program, said Ames had ample time to file after recovering from his injuries and that the 180-day limit was a strict deadline.

The Supreme Court upheld that argument. Ames was seeking compensation of \$1,452 in lost earnings and \$4,000 in medical expenses.

Spears concurred in a majority opinion in the case, said he did so reluctantly.

"What we have done is permit the banks to add the penses of doing business on the loans they make," Spears said, "thus avoiding the usury law altogether by means of mirrors."

In another case, the court ruled that people seeking benefits under the Crime Victim Compensation act must request the benefits within 180 days after the crime, even if they were injured and unable to make such an application.

The court made the ruling in the case of William L. Ames, who suffered broken cheek bones.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Wednesday.

THEFT:
• Fifty-three dollars in cash was stolen from a student's room in Puryear Hall. • A student's purse was stolen from 210 Bolton.

HARASSMENT:
• A student reported several anonymous harassing phone calls at work and at home from someone claiming to be "an old friend from Illinois."

• A student in Puryear Hall reported several anonymous harassing phone calls. The caller does not speak, but calls at various hours of the day.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY:

• A Food Services Manager at the Pavilion Snack Bar reported unknown persons tried to enter the snack bar over the weekend by prying at the wooden lattice work enclosing the area.

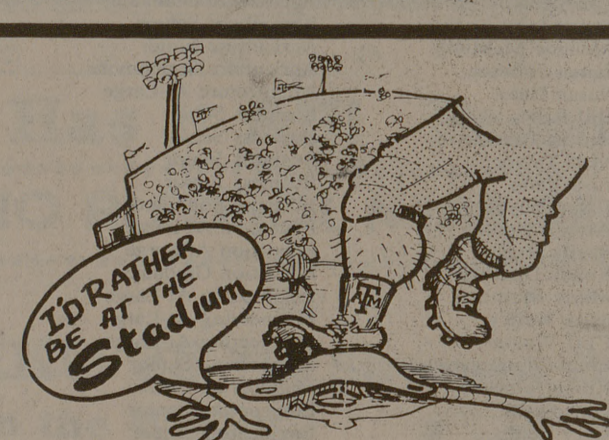


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