
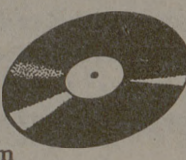


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Austin could be facing conservation

United Press International
 AUSTIN — Residents of Austin may face a mandatory water conservation program within a few weeks because of consumption that has already exceeded peak usage of a year ago, city officials warned Tuesday.

A lack of rainfall and a heat wave that has brought temperatures in excess of 100 degrees during the past several days have contributed to the water shortage.

City manager Jorge Carrasco said water usage in Austin has averaged about 140 million gallons a day over the past five days, and the city can only safely pump about 150 million gallons per day.

Water consumption equaled the highest levels of the year Monday when customers used 143 million gallons.

City Resource Management officials predicted Tuesday that continued 100-degree heat will push demand for water near the capacity of the system by Thursday.

The city has been under a voluntary conservation plan for the past several weeks. If water usage hits 150 million gallons for three straight days, water officials can begin limiting outdoor water use.

"We're definitely in a critical period," said conservation manager Mike Personett. "I'm hopeful that voluntary conservation will keep us under 150 million gallons, but the chances of restrictions are increasing."

Autry's brother charged in murder

United Press International
 AMARILLO — The younger brother of executed murderer James David "Cowboy" Autry has been charged with murder in the strangulation of a handicapped Amarillo woman.

Robert Allen Autry, 27, was charged Monday for the slaying of Zola Mae Frazier, 59, found in her home after police received an anonymous telephone call Friday afternoon.

Frazier was severely beaten and an autopsy revealed she had been strangled and died about 8 a.m. Friday.

Autry, unemployed and receiving disability social security payments, was Mrs. Frazier's neighbor, special crimes Sgt. A.L. Morris said.

State District Judge Naomi Harney set \$75,000 bond and Autry was sent to the Potter County Jail in lieu of bond. Morris said the court planned to appoint an attorney for Autry and no additional court dates had been scheduled.

Frazier lived alone and used a wheelchair most of the time but was not confined to it, Morris said, adding her home was not robbed and there were no signs of forced entry.

James David Autry, 29, was executed at the Texas Penitentiary last March for the 1980 murder of Port Arthur convenience store clerk Shirley Drouet, 43, of Port Neches, during what prosecutors called a botched robbery attempt.

One store clerk also was killed and another suffered massive brain damage in that shooting.

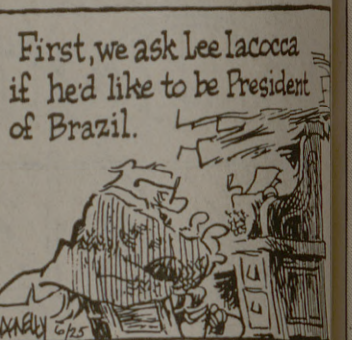
Morris said Frazier's body was found in a combination bedroom-living room area. He said Robert Autry was arrested after authorities questioned neighbors, but Morris refused to give any details of what witnesses had reported.

SHOE

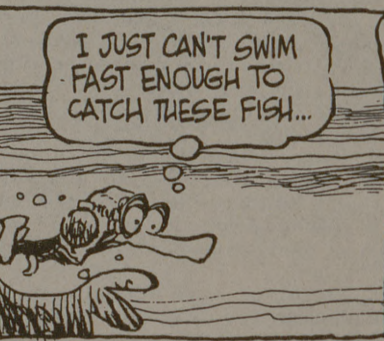


There are several options.

by Jeff MacNelly



SHOE



MAYBE THE NEXT TIME I GO FISHING...

I SHOULD DITCH THE WADERS.

by Jeff MacNelly

'Known defects' sticker nixed

FTC changes used car rule

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission staff came under fire Tuesday from consumer groups for recommending a revised used car rule that drops a requirement that dealers to post known defects on window stickers.

"It is another defeat for consumers and victory for special interest groups," said Mark Silbergeld, a director of the Consumer Union. "The recommendation is foolish and bad."

Carol Crawford, head of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said her staff concluded the "known defect" provision would be difficult to enforce, create confusion and provide buyers potentially false assurances.

Crawford said the recommended new rule would better protect consumers by requiring dealers to give more information about who must pay for repairs after a sale and by urging buyers to seek independent inspections before purchase.

"Both the staff and I believe these provisions provide a strong, workable mechanism to improve consumer information" and protect used car buyers, Crawford told a

news conference announcing the recommendation by her office and the FTC's Bureau of Economics.

The proposed rule, expected to be adopted by the FTC next month, would require dealers to put the following information on window stickers:

- A warning that spoken promises are difficult to enforce.
- A statement of the terms of any warranty offered with the car.
- A statement of whether the dealer is selling the car "as is" and, if so, that the buyer must pay for repairs.
- A suggestion the consumer get an independent mechanic to inspect the car.

The initial used car rule was proposed by the FTC in 1981, eight years after studies of the issue began. But Congress vetoed the measure before it went into effect, following an intensive lobbying campaign by the used car industry.

Last summer, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional Congress' veto powers, effectively resurrecting the used car rule. A divided FTC then decided to reconsider, rather than enact the measure.

"We didn't back down from one," Crawford said when asked the FTC staff dropped the "known defect" provision because of industry and congressional opposition.

Crawford said her staff concluded the provision would have the unintended and harmful effect of encouraging consumers to rely on the dealers' assessment of a car instead of seeking an independent inspection.

She said it also would have been difficult to enforce because the rule would have had to prove a car was defective and the dealer knew of it.

Jack Gillis of the Consumer Federation of America said, "Clearly there are problems with disclosing known defects, but the FTC staff, instead of coming up with creative solutions, acquiesced to the demands of industry."

"Still, I'm happy they are recommending something," Gillis said. "I think the window sticker is a good idea to alert consumers what to look out for."

High Court won't let states limit charities' fund-raising expenses

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — States can not limit the amount charities spend on fund raising, a closely divided Supreme Court ruled Tuesday in a case involving Maryland's attempt to prevent fraudulent solicitation.

The 5-4 ruling upheld a lower court decision that Maryland may not impose a 25 percent limit on the amount charities may spend on fund-raising and administrative costs.

Also Tuesday, the court ruled 8-0 that companies generally do not have a constitutional right to keep secret health and safety data they use to develop such products as pesticides. That case involved Monsanto Co., a leading pesticide manufacturer, which claimed a government agency was giving away its scientific secrets to business rivals seeking approval of their own brands of pesticides.

In the charities case, Maryland and other states, including Connecticut and New Jersey, insisted that such groups spend 75 percent or

more of their funds directly for charitable purposes. Maryland's statute was revised in the wake of disclosures in 1976 about the fund-raising activities of Pallotine Fathers, who reaped \$20 million by mail order for overseas charities but invested the money in business ventures.

Writing for the court, Justice Harry Blackmun held that Maryland's law was flawed because it "operates on the fundamentally mistaken premise that high solicitation costs are an accurate measure of fraud."

The 25 percent limit on fund-raising and administrative expenses which carried criminal penalties for its violation, is supposed to stop the "unscrupulous practices of professional fund raisers."

And, even if a charity is engaging in fraudulent activities, "There is nothing in the percentage limitation that prevents it from misdirecting funds," he added.

Leading the dissenters, Justice William Rehnquist said the limitations were legitimate because "they insure that funds solicited from the public for a charitable purpose will not be excessively diverted to private pecuniary gain."

"In the process, they encourage the public to give by allowing the public to give with the confidence that money designed for charity will be spent for charitable purposes."

Also dissenting were Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justices Lewis Powell and Sandra Day O'Connor.

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Also dissenting were Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justices Lewis Powell and Sandra Day O'Connor.

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