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Priests protest jailings

United Press International
MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The archbishop of Managua led 30 priests and 100 churchgoers on a march Monday to protest government confinement of a clergyman accused of rebel ties. The archbishop said three priests were arrested after the demonstration. No incidents were reported in the nearly mile-long march outside Managua despite fears by Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo that the government would try to thwart the demonstration, staged to protest the jailing of the Rev. Luis Amado Pena. "We are persecuted, but not abandoned; we are humiliated but not crushed," Obando y Bravo said during a mass after the march. Vicente Caudeli, a Spanish priest and professor at the Calazan de Managua Catholic school who participated in the march, was arrested at the school, Obando y Bravo said. In a telephone interview with United Press International, Obando y Bravo said police later arrested two other priests — Jose Joaquin Montero of Costa Rica and Francisco Castell, also of Spain.

Obando y Bravo said the priests would be expelled from Nicaragua in reprisal for participating in the march. Pena was charged June 20 with belonging to an urban guerrilla group. Officials played a videotape for reporters showing Pena meeting the group's commander. But the church rejected the government's charges, calling them a "setup and propaganda by the Sandinista regime to implicate the church in subversive activity." In El Salvador, eight U.S. congressmen investigating the use of American military aid in El Salvador met Monday with President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the five Democrats and three Republicans of the House Armed Services subcommittee for investigations were conducting a "fairly routine visit." The spokesman said the committee was sent to Central America "under official House orders" to look into American military spending programs in the region. The congressional subcommittee, led by Rep. Bill Nichols, D-Ala., met Duarte and his chief political opponent, rightist leader Roberto d'Aubuisson, in separate meetings Monday morning. No details of the meeting were released. For 1984, Congress sent El Salvador \$1.3 billion in training funds out of a total military appropriation of \$64.8 million. The congressmen met late Sunday with top military officials and provincial commanders and there were discussions on the possibility of increasing U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran army, one military source said.

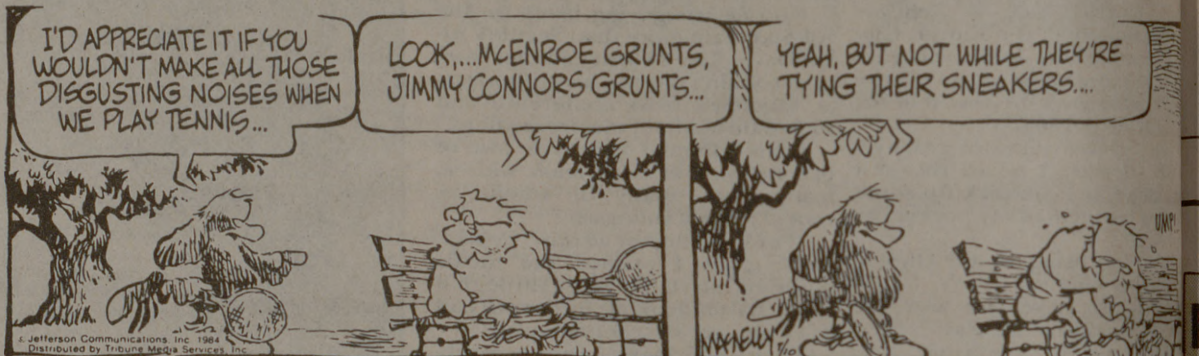
United Press International
NEW YORK — Abortions in the United States decreased by 3,400 cases in 1982, the first annual decline since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973, a research group said Monday. The slight decline, from 1,577,300 to 1,573,900, came during a year that 3 percent of all women of childbearing age had abortions, ending 26 percent of the year's pregnancies by abortion, said the eighth national survey by the Alan Guttmacher Institute and funded by the Planned Parenthood Federation. The downward shift came after consecutive annual increases that have ranged from 4 to 15 percent since 1973. The first increase was in 1974: 898,600 versus the previous year's 744,600. Also down was the price of abortions in a facility other than a hospital: \$197 in 1983, down 31 percent

SHOE



by Jeff MacNelly

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Prison official still missing

United Press International
MADISONVILLE — Madison County law authorities, agitated by a lack of assistance from state officials, said Monday they had no more leads in the disappearance of a former prison official who figures prominently in an investigation of bid rigging on state construction projects. James Rodney Pitts, former construction supervisor at the Texas Department of Corrections' Ferguson Unit, disappeared last week — the day after Attorney General Jim Mattox announced Pitts had agreed to testify against people accused of rigging bids on TDC construction projects. Pitts' bloodstained van was found with a bullet hole in the windshield, but Madison County Sheriff Ed Fannin said he believed Pitts had staged his disappearance.

Pitts cashed a \$2,000 check Tuesday before his van was found abandoned 6 miles out of Madisonville. "We don't have anymore information today about where he is," Chief Deputy Lee Ramirez said Monday. From their home in Palestine, Pitts' wife, Rosalie, complained that Fannin, his deputies and Texas Rangers had done too little to find her husband. "They should be out looking and not waiting for him to run out of money and come home," Mrs. Pitts said, adding she believed her husband had been killed. "I don't care what Mrs. Pitts believes," Fannin said. "I think he (Pitts) decided he was in a lot more than he'd originally thought at TDC and decided to run."

Fannin, meanwhile, complained that Mattox's office had not offered to help in the investigation. "He's their star witness, and I figured I'd be covered up with people from the attorney general's office," Fannin said. "I can't even get the state to tell me what's going on and what might be involved in this thing (alleged bid rigging)." Mattox also said he would be willing to renegotiate the settlement which Pitts agreed to testify in a bid-rigging case or to offer Pitts protection.

Sherman cocaine trial under way

United Press International
TYLER — Three prominent Sherman residents entered the first guilty pleas Monday in a six-month investigation of a cocaine ring that has shocked the small north Texas town. Marshall Sartin, a Sherman business executive, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William Steger to two felony cocaine charges, possession and conspiracy to distribute the drug, a clerk in Steger's court said. Rick Hiser, also a businessman, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge and Larry Cain, a Sherman lawyer, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of cocaine possession.

The three, who are free on personal recognizance bonds of \$1,000, will be sentenced Aug. 20, the court clerk said. On Tuesday, Tom Beavers, Gene Mathis, Terry Skipworth, Leonard Tuley, Mike Wilkerson, Jeff Leake and Keith Brown will enter pleas in the case before U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, a spokeswoman for the judge said. Brown is a former Sherman school board president who resigned late last month. The case began June 1, after a six-month investigation, when federal and local officials confiscated marijuana, cocaine, drug paraphernalia and records indicating drug traffick-

ing that stretched from north Texas into Oklahoma. Upon his resignation, Brown said he had "violated the law and had an excuse." In his letter of resignation, Brown reportedly admitted that he had used cocaine, although he said never interfered with his official duties. FBI Special Agent Jim Blanton has said the investigation involved at least 15 people. Assistant U.S. attorney Ron S. S. advert said the probe concerned dealers rather than users but had warned "Where we've accumulated substantial evidence on users, we're going to ignore it, regardless of the job or position in the community."

Abortions in U.S. down by 3,400

United Press International
NEW YORK — Abortions in the United States decreased by 3,400 cases in 1982, the first annual decline since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973, a research group said Monday. The slight decline, from 1,577,300 to 1,573,900, came during a year that 3 percent of all women of childbearing age had abortions, ending 26 percent of the year's pregnancies by abortion, said the eighth national survey by the Alan Guttmacher Institute and funded by the Planned Parenthood Federation. The downward shift came after consecutive annual increases that have ranged from 4 to 15 percent since 1973. The first increase was in 1974: 898,600 versus the previous year's 744,600. Also down was the price of abortions in a facility other than a hospital: \$197 in 1983, down 31 percent

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over 1976, according to the report, which did not include abortion figures for 1983. The survey also said the nation's abortion rate declined 0.5 percent between 1980 and 1982, but the two-year figure was interpreted as a stabilization of abortion rates rather than a decline because of changing age distribution. The rate, based not on a percentage but on the number of abortions occurring within an area for every 1,000 women aged 14 to 44 — considered childbearing age — was 28.8 in 1982. It ranged from a low of 8 in

West Virginia and Wyoming to a high of 46 in Nevada. The highest, 169.9, was in the District of Columbia. Dr. Stanley K. Henshaw, senior author of the report in "Family Planning Perspectives," said a factor in the D.C. rate is that a high proportion of female residents are not married. "Single women have two to three times the abortions of married," said Henshaw, senior research associate at the Institute. Dr. Jack Wilke, president of the National Right-to-Life movement,

was not surprised when told of the report. "I think we are seeing a major change — the activation of the evangelical sector of our country." "And this group of people is becoming actively pro-life. They're swelling the ranks of the Right-to-Life movement. And with this rate of increase of preaching and teaching that should cut the number of abortions from that segment of the population." Wilke said a second factor is change in the attitude of youth. "Now we are seeing an upsurge of younger people (25 and under) opposed to abortion," he said. Population Council reports cited by Henshaw show 11 countries with lower abortion rates than the United States in 1981. Foreign figures for 1982 were not available.

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