

# Five convicts breakout from Kansas state pen

**United Press International**  
 LANSING, Kan. — Five convicts, three of them murderers and one a rapist, escaped from the Kansas State Penitentiary Monday by crawling through an air shaft and dropping more than one story to freedom outside the prison walls.  
 More than 90 law enforcement officers began a two-county manhunt for the dangerous convicts, using bloodhounds to track them and airplanes and helicopters to scan the rolling hills of northeast Kansas. Authorities patrolled highways, searched businesses and fields, and set up at least one roadblock on the Centennial Bridge leading into Missouri from Leavenworth.  
 Reports of other sightings indicate the five inmates probably split up, said prison spokesman Troy Baker.  
 "(That) can be good because if

they're not together, maybe they won't do something stupid," he said. "When they're together, sometimes they're more likely to do some stupid things, show a lot of bravado."  
 Baker said the prisoners escaped about 1 a.m. Monday by inching their way through an airshaft intake from a dormitory-style cellhouse within the prison walls.  
 "Once inside, they lowered themselves down (from the third floor) and came out through an intake in the wall," he said. "Once out the opening, they were outside the prison walls."

David Barclay, assistant to state Corrections Secretary Michael Barbara, said the inmates were housed in open cells within the dormitory,

which is locked. An 11 p.m. bed check showed they were all accounted for at that hour, he said.

"They cut their way through a heavy wire screen door leading into an equipment room and from the equipment room gained access to the air shaft," he said. "They had to cut through the wire door and then had to cut through bars at the end of the airshaft."

It was the prison's biggest breakout since September 1981, when seven convicted murderers and rapists escaped and blazed a path of terror and destruction through Kansas and Missouri over the next seven days. Three were captured shortly after the escape and the others were captured later in southwest Missouri.

# Texas company owes U. S. corn or cash—by the million

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Federal officials have given P.L. Blake, owner of the nation's largest grain elevator, until Friday to either provide the one million bushels of corn missing from the elevator or pay \$3.1 million for it, a Commodity Credit Corp. spokesman said Monday.  
 Texas Agriculture Department officials shut down PLB Grain Storage Inc. of Plainview, Sept. 14 after confirming a shortage of government-owned corn.  
 Merrill Marxman, a CCC spokesman, said the government's uniform grain storage agreement will be terminated if the shortage is not made up and legal action will be taken if necessary. The CCC has paid PLB more than \$20 million in storage and handling fees since May 1980.  
 If the CCC contract is terminated, then CCC officials will work with Texas agriculture officials to remove government grain from the warehouse, Marxman said.  
 Last week Blake presented CCC offi-

cial with a plan to correct the shortage, but the officials rejected it, Marxman said.

Marxman said that a shortage of this magnitude occurred because PLB had not adjusted its inventory figures for shrinkage from year to year.

"The house failed to do a normal warehouse practice," Marxman said.

PLB is unusual, Marxman said, because most grain warehouses constantly but PLB has kept the same grain for years, he said.

He said elevator officials were informed by government inspectors in March 1983 that they were 400,000 bushels short. No action was taken to remedy the situation then, he said.

He added that the elevator was inspected by federal officials annually, but its inventory was difficult to measure because the corn was kept

in a variety of buildings.  
 The PLB came under scrutiny last year when Texas officials charged there were quality problems with the government-owned grain stored there and said it should be released to drought-stricken farmers and ranchers.

The CCC unloaded most of its more than 25 million bushels of grain from PLB under the Emergency Livestock Feed Program in the last six to nine months, federal officials said. The CCC was supposed to have 1.8 million bushels left before the shortage was discovered.

Richard Goldberg, U.S. Department of Agriculture deputy undersecretary, said the PLB must meet three criteria if their contract is to continue — quantity, quality and net worth.

"At this moment we're not sure what the quality may be," Goldberg said.

## Warped

by Scott McCullar



## SHOE

Jeff MacNelly



# Hispanic rights

## Lawsuit aimed at reapportioning

**United Press International**  
 LOS ANGELES — An ethnic studies professor and a university student filed a federal lawsuit Monday contesting California's 1982 reapportionment plan on grounds it has failed to increase Hispanic representation.  
 "There have already been two elections since the plan was adopted and no more Hispanics have been elected to the Legislature or Congress," said Richard Santillan, a professor at Cal Poly-Pomona. "It has failed both tests."  
 In addition, the lawsuit asks that a U.S. District Court judge draw up new boundaries if the state Legislature refuses to do so.

"The passage of Assembly Bill 2X and Senate Bill 3X perpetuates a long history of discrimination in California against Hispanics in the reapportionment process," the suit claims. "The members of the state Legislature and the governor have been, and continue to be, unresponsive to the needs and interests of the Hispanic community."  
 Santillan said the California Legislature has continued to say the plans are in the best interest of the Latino community, but that no inroads have been made since the reapportionment plan was implemented.  
 "This lawsuit was filed as a last measure because the Legislature has

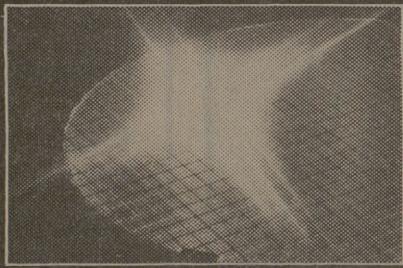
refused to act on Hispanic concerns," Santillan said.  
 The lawsuit asserts that although Hispanics make up 19 percent of California's population, according to the 1980 census, their elected representatives make up only 5 percent of the state Senate and 3.8 percent of the state Assembly.  
 Hispanics are represented by 6.7 percent of the California's congressional seats, the suit states.  
 Current electoral district lines continue to discriminate against Latinos by "packing excessively large numbers of Hispanics (over 78 percent in one district) into as few districts as possible," the suit claims.

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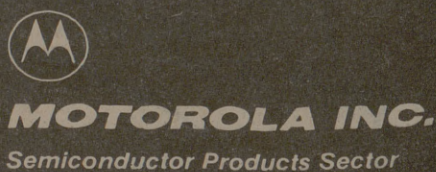
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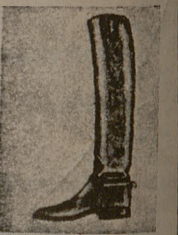
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