# Language barriers hamper MDs

#### **Associated Press**

PORT ARTHUR — A woman suffered an attack of appendicitis while on a ship in the Gulf of Mexico and was transported by helicopter to Port Arthur's Park Place Hospital.

At the hospital's emergency room, she was unable to communicate with doctors and nurses because she spoke only Russian.

Emergency care was adminis-tered, but discussions between the woman and those trying to care for her were delayed until two translators could interpret the woman's words.

The problem was not that she spoke Russian, but that she spoke the language in an unfamiliar di-alect, and the first interpreter had trouble understanding the woman, said Pat Adams, director of commu-nity relations at Park Place.

A rabbi from Beaumont finally was able to understand the woman and translate coversations between doctors, nurses and the patient, Adams said.

Most doctors and nurses in the Port Arthur area don't get to hear unfamiliar languages in unusual dialects, but some emergency care professionals find themselves face to face with people who don't under-stand a word of English.

The shipping industry and the ar-rival of refugees have provided Port Arthur with an economic base and cultural diversification, but they have also produced communication problems similar to the one with the Russian woman.

Some foreign seamen, visitors to the city and Vietnamese residents have found themselves confronted with medical emergencies. Many of these people face the task of commu-nicating pain to medical profession-als who do not speak the same lan-

guage. "Ninety-nine percent of them are seamen," said Jerry Rowley, R.N., clinical coordinator of nursing at Park Place. Many of the non-English speaking emergency patients are not residents, she said, but people just passing through the city.

"Expressions of pain and fear are universal," said Jan Dengler, R.N., at Park Place Hospital. Rowley and Dengler can recall situations where they have pantomimed their way through emergency room episodes. Talking is not always necessary when

pain is evident, Dengler said.

Family members of foreign-speaking patients can be helpful if they speak English. But the family may panic if they cannot understand what is happening to a relative un-

der emergency care. Recently, a Vietnamese man who had severely injured his leg on a shrimping boat was able to talk with the hospital's medical staff, Dengler said, but his mother could not un-derstand enough English to be suffi-ciently informed about her son. "She freaked out," Dengler said.

The woman remained frightened until another family member arrived to assure her of her son's safety and condition.

"We usually try to bring them into the room and show them that their relative is OK," Dengler said. "We can't tell them they are OK over the phone.

Although there are problems in treating some non-English speaking people, Rowley and Dengler agree that communication problems will not get in the way of treatment.

"We pantomime a lot," Dengler said, "but if it is impossible to com-

municate we always render emergency care.

Problems occur when a medical situation is not an emergency, but medical personnel need consent to treat someone, Rowley said. Information about drugs a person may be taking is needed before

treating someone in any case, Row-ley and Dengler said. Rowley said there are many more drugs available to Euroupeans than

to Americans.

to Americans. Rowley, a member of the Olympic Village Polyclinic in Los Angeles, said the organization of the clinic during the Olympics enabled most people to be treated without a hitch. Even with the many countries rep-resented, Rowley said, she remem-bers only one problem with commu-nication, when a man from Tibet presented a slight problem for inter-

preters because of a rare dialect. A list of interpreters was available at the clinic, but Rowley said most people who could not speak English could speak French.

Dengler and Rowley are able to converse in a small amount Spanish, and a number of Park Place employ-ees are bilingual.

## Overdue Library book returned after 47 year absence

### **Associated Press**

HONOLULU - A book at least 47 years overdue from the USS Arizona's library has been returned to the Arizona Memorial.

The museum has only two other volumes from the library of the historic battleship, sunk in the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

This third book, "The Incurable Filibuster," was delivered Dec. 7 by University of Hawaii scientist Gary McMurtry. The book had been checked out from the ship's library before 1927.

The book, an autobiography by Col. Dean Ivan Lamb, deals with war and revolution in Central and South America.

How the book found its way from Pearl Harbor to California and back again is an adventure in itself.

McMurtry said he was in Santa Rosa, Calif., visiting Jim Sipher, who had heard about the book from his landlord, George La Favre

Sipher introduced McMurtry to La Favre, who asked McMurtry to return the book.

La Favre described how he ac-quired the ship's book from a close friend named Murdoc G. Henry.

He said a sailor from the Ari-The said a sailor from the Art-zona had been reading the book and became interested in a part describing how author William Sydney Porter adopted the pseu-donym O. Henry and his connec-tion with Murdoc G. Henry in Honduras.

Murdoc Henry was superin-tendent of all the banana lands in Honduras for United Fruit Co., La Favre said. He said Henry had visited with Porter, who also was in Honduras and "had probably the only civilized abode in the area.

"It was claimed at the time that Porter adopted the name of O. Henry because (Murdoc) Henry was in demand all over the plantations and they were always call-ing, 'Oh, Henry, oh, Henry,' " La Favre said.

He said the sailor, whose name is unknown, had apparently wanted to learn more about Porter. He knew somebody in the United Fruit Co. who told him about Murdoc Henry, who had retired and was living in a penthouse in San Francisco.

La Favre said the sailor, after finding Henry, "brought the book and showed it to him, and for some reason decided to give it

to him." When Henry died, his wife gave La Favre the book.

## Teams gather to inaugurate World Cup soccer stadium

### **Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY — The national soccer teams from Mexico, Poland, Bulgaria and Switzerland are in Queretaro this week to inaugurate the Corregidora Stadium, the 12th miles northwest of Mexico City.

The three European teams are fighting for spots in the 24-team

chances to return to Mexico for the World Cup.

"We have played two games so far World Cup competition next year. The tournament here will give them a chance to try the turf and get some "We have to play the Soviet Union

# Inns face economic hardship

### **Associated Press**

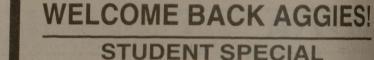
HOUSTON - Houston hotel operators are trying to cope with a sag-ging market that has seen occupancy levels dip to just 44 percent, well un-der the 70 percent rate considered break-even.

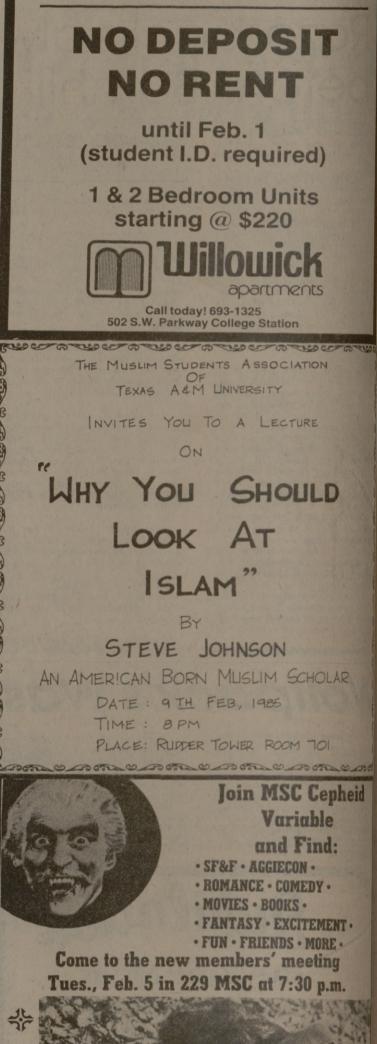
"Houston always had the extra kick from the oil business," according to Jerry Carpenter, a partner in the acounting firm of Ernst & Whin-

The November occupancy rate fell by 7 percentage points from year-ago figures, the fourth consecmonth that levels dropped utive from the previous year, says an anal-ysis compiled by the Houston ac-counting firm of Laventhol & Horwath.

John Keeling, who follows Hous-ton hotels for the firm, said the lag-ging numbers make some hotels good targets for sale.

good targets for sale. Others, meanwhile, are being shopped around by their owners. But Keeling said some firms looking for a buyer of their hotels "have been insulted by the (low) of-fers they are getting." Houston has more than 30,000 hotel rooms in 110 facilities. "We're trying to survive 1985 and hope 1986 will be better," said Sonny Look, a principal in the Houston-based Sunbelt Hotels Inc.





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and final stadium to be used in the

1986 World Cup tournament. On Tuesday, President Miguel de la Madrid will inaugurate the \$13 million stadium, named after a heroine of the 19th century Mexican War of Independence. The stadium has a capacity for 40,643 fans.

Joao Havelange, president of the International Federation of Football Association, and other top international soccer officials will attend the inauguration.

The tournament starts Tuesday. afternoon with Mexico playing Poland and Bulgaria playing Switzer-land. On Wednesday, Mexico plays Switzerland and Bulgaria plays Poland.

Game times Tuesday are 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. CST and 5 and 7 p.m. CST Wednesday in Queretaro, 138

practice under ideal weather conditions.

As a host of the World Cup, Mexico qualifies for the tournament au-tomatically. The only other team certain to qualify for the World Cup tournament is defending champion Italy

The Mexican team is coached by Yugoslav-born Bora Milutinovic, who called 31 players for the tournament.

The tournament will be the first match of the year for the Mexican team after a fairly successful 1984 visit to Europe and South America. Switzerland, current leader of

Group Six in the World Cup eliminations in Europe, arrived Saturday night from Bogota, Colombia.

Swiss coach Paul Wolfisberg said

"We have to play the Soviet Union soon and, if we win, our chances of being here for the World Cup will be very good.'

In Group Four of the World Cup, Bulgaria is tied for second with Yugoslavia. The Bulgarians lost 2-1 last week to a team of players from the professional teams in Mexico's Jalisco state.

"The trip affected us last week," Bulgarian Coach Ivan Vutzov said. "Our rhythm was off."

Poland's Coach Antoni Piechcniczek told reporters that he did not know much about the Mexican team other than it had a good year in 1984.

"We came here to train our play-ers and to provide a good show," he

### complying with lawsuits

Department

### **Associated Press**

AUSTIN — The commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation said Monday his agency is doing all it can to comply with federal court rulings to upgrade services. Testifying to a Senate subcommit-tee, MHMR Commissioner Gary Miller said the court orders have

placed extreme pressures on the department."

"We have on occassion been found to be in non-compliance with provisions of the settlement when we believe and still believe that not only were we in compliance but we ex ceeded in the compliance," Miller said. He blamed differing interpreta-

tions of the settlements in two lawsuits brought by patients of state institutions.

The department currently has a \$590 million budget to run eight state hospitals, 13 state schools, 31 community mental health centers and other programs with a total of 25,900 employees.

David Pharris, a member of a re-view panel appointed by U.S. Dis-trict Judge Barefoot Sanders in the settlement proceedings, told law-makers that his panel has seen compliance and improvements throughout the department.

Pharris said the department originally lacked adequate individualized treatment plans, protection of pa-tients from those with aggressive behavior, a poor staff-to-patient ratio and requirements for placement of patients who no longer needed to be institutionalized.

Since then, Pharris said, he has been "impressed with new programs on aggressive behavior patients and improvements in staff ratios."

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### Student lobby says tuition hikes could hinder economic growth

### **Associated Press**

AUSTIN — Although boosting tuition at state universities would raise money for a financially strapped state government in the short term, it would cost Texas in the long-run by reducing educational opportunities, a students' group said Monday.

'We believe that the future prosperity of Texas is directly related to the education of its citizens," said John Tarbox, 25, Houston, a mem-ber of the Texas Student Lobby.

'For Texas to emerge from an economy based primarily on oil and agriculture to a more broad-based economy bolstered by the strength of the high technology industries, education will be essential," Tarbox said.

The student lobby, a statewide organization representing college students, said proposals before the Legislature to hike tuition would make it difficult for some poor students to attend college

The student lobbyists said they

don't think lawmakers have looked at all the ramifications of such a decision.

"The rush to raise tuition has not been a careful, deliberate study of Texas' policy," Tarbox said. "Rather, it has been treated as a revenue issue in a nearsighted attempt to balance the budget and avoid political difficulties.

The state is facing a \$1 billion shortfall between the revenue it expects to take in during the 1986-87 budget years and the amount agencies currently are spending.

To help offset that difference and generate more money for universities, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby last week proposed raising undergraduate resident tuition from \$4 per semes-ter hour to \$8 per hour in 1986.

Tuition for other students also would be increased, and the boosts would raise about \$120 million more for higher education, Hobby said.

At present, Texas undergraduate tuition is the lowest in the country. But the students said tuition makes up only a small part of the total cost

of a college education. "The cost of attending a four-year, public institution in Texas is al-most identical to the national aver-age," said Mitch Kreindler, 22, Dallas, a former student body president at the University of Texas

"Even more surprising, the cost of higher education in Texas is substantially higher than the average cost of attending college in other states in the southwest.

Meg Brooks, 22, of Austin, said the students see several options to an across-the-board hike if the Legislature does raise tuition.

She said lawmakers should consider smaller increases phased out over a longer period of time to allow parents and students time to pre-pare for the additional costs.

Brooks also said lawmakers should make certain that sufficient funds are put aside for financial aid for students who otherwise couldn't afford the increase.