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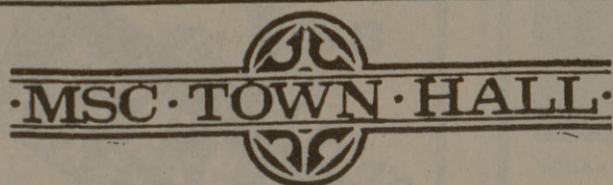
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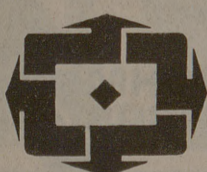
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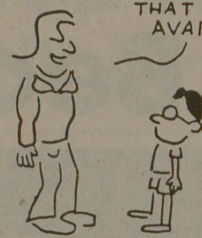
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WALDO, IF YOU WANT TO MEET A GIRL, YOU HAVE TO GO WHERE THE WOMEN ARE AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'RE AVAILABLE!



by Kevin Thomas



Overruns

Audit raps TDC's high construction costs

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — A newly released audit of the Texas Department of Corrections criticizes the agency's construction division for allowing huge project overruns before getting approval for the extra expenditures from the prison board.

The 23-page summary of the audit released Monday by state auditor Lawrence F. Alwin says little headway in cleaning up the prison system's construction division has been made.

The audit is for the 1984-85 TDC budget for the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

Prison officials said they are trying to correct the problems. The state is planning a \$170 million, two-year building program to expand facilities.

The report says a \$2 million construction program at the Pack I Unit near Navasota jumped to more than \$9 million before the TDC board was notified of the increases last year.

In February 1984, a private audi-

tor found that TDC had been overcharged about \$2 million in architectural fees on nine projects including the Pack I prison.

The private auditor found that the overpayments were probably the result of sloppy handling of the construction projects by the prison system.

"Budget dealing with construction projects would be more meaningful if the original budget estimates were reviewed by employees capable of determining that adequate allowances have been provided for," the report said.

The cost of replacing a gas line at the Clemens Unit in Brazoria County rose from \$34,000 to \$78,000, and the report said much of the increase was the result of a two-year delay in starting the project.

"Projects should not be requested if they cannot be undertaken on a timely basis," the report said. "When changes in priorities cause a long delay, a new budget should be prepared and approved."

Jim Lynaugh, TDC financial director, said he is trying to make changes to improve management in the construction division. Almost all of the \$170 million in new construction during the next two years will be done by private contractors, who can do the work faster and cheaper than TDC could, he said.

This week, the TDC wrote off 394 items as lost or stolen, worth about \$193,000, Lynaugh said. The report said about \$11.3 million or 8 percent of the TDC's fixed assets were not properly marked and tagged, and are subject to loss or theft.

Last year, a special investigation of the TDC showed that \$600,000 in equipment and supplies were missing from prison warehouses and could not be accounted for.

The auditor's report suggested the financial department staff oversee the year-end inventories and spot-check the prison warehouses scattered across the state.

Austin lawyer named to lead Texas education committee

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Austin attorney Larry Temple has been selected chairman of the special committee that will study higher education in Texas.

Sources close to Gov. Mark White said Tuesday that Temple would lead the panel. In an interview, Temple confirmed the report.

Temple, chairman of the College and University System Coordinating Board, said he is looking forward to the close examination of the state

higher education system.

"I don't believe the reasoning behind this study is because the Legislature believes there is some radical change that needs to take place," Temple, a University of Texas graduate, said. "That's not to say some substantial changes may not come out of this committee."

White has picked five members of the special committee, including the chairman, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Speaker Gib Lewis each have selected four.

The special committee was estab-

lished by lawmakers this year. A resolution passed by the House and Senate called for "a comprehensive examination of the critical issues facing and influencing the state's higher education system."

Lawmakers want the committee to come up with concrete ideas and recommendations. The committee will report to the 1987 Legislature.

The resolution suggested a long list of areas that could be studied, including: funding, curriculum, enrollment and projected need for future facilities.

Louisiana will not join Texas audit of utilities

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana refused Tuesday to join with Texas in sponsoring an audit to see if Gulf States Utilities was wise in building a \$4 billion nuclear power plant that must be paid for by consumers in both states.

GSU is loading fuel now at its River Bend plant, located near the Mississippi River at St. Francisville, La.

The plant is expected to be in commercial operation within a few months.

Utility officials, in the mid-1970s, estimated that the plant could be built for about \$300 million.

Inflation drove construction costs up and GSU says it was confronted with problems the company had not envisioned.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission was told by its staff Tuesday that the Texas Public Utilities Commission wanted to participate in a management audit — sharing the cost.

"I do not think our interests are necessarily the same," said commission member Louis Lambert of Gonzales. "Texas has consumer groups talking about suit because our rates are lower."

"To lock us into a joint format may not be in the best interests of our rate payers."

The other four commissioners agreed with Lambert.

Lambert also told a Gulf States attorney at the PSC meeting that consumers can bear only so much of what Lambert called the utility's mistake in building the nuclear plant.

"I warned you in the 1970s to use coal," he snapped.

Tom Phillips, GSU attorney said, "The decision to build River Bend was based on what appeared to be the cheapest source of energy."

"We have a responsibility not to blight the area."

The meeting concerned GSU's cogeneration proposal with Uniroyal.

Several industries in Louisiana plan to join cogeneration pacts, which mean they will generate their own electricity and sell the excess to private utilities such as GSU.

He noted that industry makes up more than 50 percent of GSU's customers in Louisiana.

"The buck has to stop somewhere and it stops on the Louisiana consumer. It's time to lay it on the line," said Lambert.

Phillips said any cogeneration agreement with industry "will work to the benefit of the ratepayer."

Garland man gets 5 years for swindle

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Garland man faces five years in prison after his daughter-in-law and son testified he kept foil-wrapped bundles of money hidden in a deep freeze, and a federal judge says he'll spend more time in jail unless he reveals where other stolen assets are hidden.

Donald Stines, 50, was found guilty of one charge of contempt and sentenced to five years in prison Monday by U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer.

Buchmeyer also sentenced him to one year in prison for failing to file an income tax return.

In addition, Stines was ordered held indefinitely for civil contempt for his continued refusal to uncover outstanding assets from a silver scam in which his wife bilked about 1,000 investors nationwide out of more than \$10 million.

Peggy Stines, the man's wife, was convicted last year of operating a fraudulent silver reclamation business. Federal prosecutors claim the Stines have tried to conceal the money.

Stines has said he does not have any knowledge of any assets.

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