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The Battalion

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Blacks consider boycott after school names white coaches

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — Blacks upset with the school district's decision to name two whites as head football coaches say they're considering a boycott of district sports programs by black athletes.

About 50 people attended a closed session Wednesday night concerning the Beaumont Independent School District's selection of two white coaches. The group, which includes ministers, lawyers and a former school board member, has planned a series of meetings to discuss the issue.

One option the group says it will consider is the boycott of sports programs by black athletes to protest the coaching selections.

A statement issued by the group said, "It has been felt all along that this administration has not shown any noticeable tendency to hire or (promote) blacks into any key positions."

Superintendent Mike Taylor said his staff did not consider race in evaluating coaches to head varsity football programs next year.

"It's much ado about nothing," Taylor said.

The controversy stems from the district's decision to combine South Park and West Brook high schools next year. South Park's head coach, Jerry Hentschel, who is white, will retain his position at the new school. Leo Nolan, the black head coach at West Brook, will become assistant football coach and head baseball coach.

The combination of French High School with Beaumont-Charlton-Pollard further fueled the controversy.

French's Steve Shaver, who is white, will become head football coach at the new school, while the other school's head coach, M.J. Mitchell, who is black, will become defensive coordinator.

Oil recyclers lament EPA rule changes

Associated Press

DALLAS — Oil recyclers are lamenting changing federal Environmental Protection Agency rules that they say are threatening to turn them into an endangered species.

At one time, recyclers such as Bill Tuttle of Mesquite paid up to 35 cents per gallon for used oil. But a change in EPA regulations last year forced them to begin charging 10 to 20 cents per gallon to take the oil they once bought.

And now the EPA is studying a proposal that would put used motor oil on the agency's hazardous waste list, a change Tuttle says could put him out of business.

The EPA's own analysis predicts the new regulations would eliminate half the nation's 300 oil recycling firms, but agency officials believe the changes would protect the environment from the disposal of used oil contaminated with hazardous chemicals.

If classified as hazardous waste, used oil would be more expensive for firms to handle, and critics of the regulations say the expense will be passed on to the public in several ways, ranging from higher costs for oil changes to illegal dumping along roadsides.

By itself, used motor oil isn't a hazardous waste, but in recent years federal authorities have uncovered incidents in the Northeast and Midwest where hazardous wastes were added to used motor oil and then burned.

In response, Congress amended the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in 1984 to restrict the disposal of motor oil containing hazardous materials such as arsenic, cadmium, chlorinated solvents and lead.

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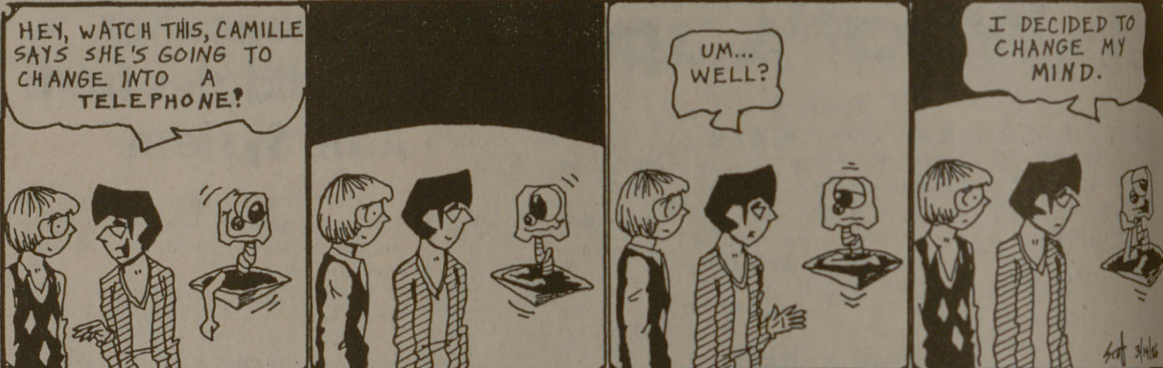
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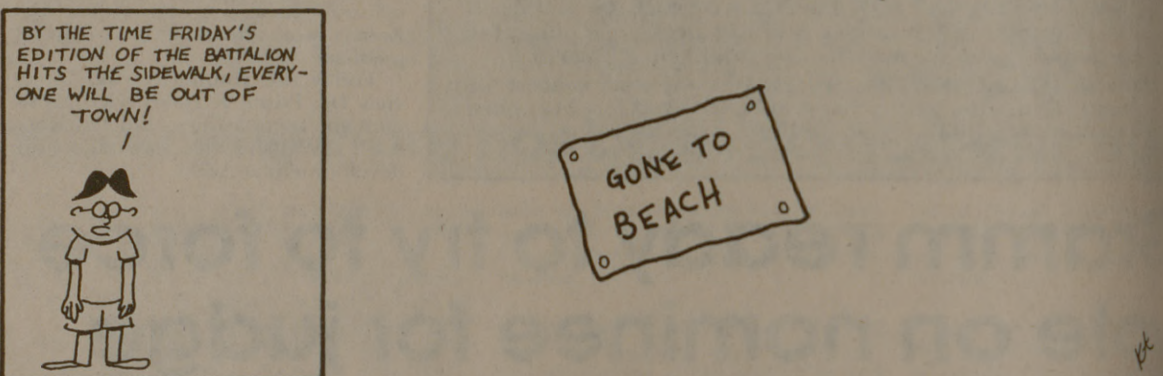
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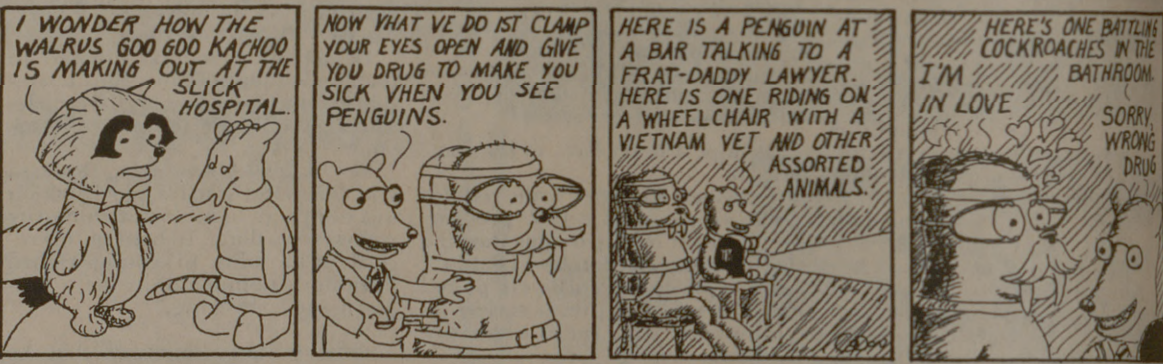
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Beef industry

Number of cattle in U.S. lowest since '61

By RUTH COCHRAN
Reporter

The number of beef cattle and calves in the United States has hit its lowest mark since 1961, says a livestock marketing economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Dr. Ed Uvacek says that on Jan. 1, 105 million head of cattle were in the United States, and that number probably will continue to decrease in the months ahead.

Many ranchers around the country experienced bad weather conditions such as severe snow and drought during 1984 which caused them to trim back or liquidate their beef cow herds, Uvacek says. Most of the cows sold were sent to slaughter.

The 1985 drop in numbers was caused by more ranchers liquidating cow herds as they yielded to economic pressures, he says.

Although the number of beef and dairy cows that had calves is at its lowest mark since 1961, the number of dairy cows that had calves is at its highest since 1975, he says.

The rise in dairy cow numbers is probably the dairy farmer's response to federal milk subsidy programs which have helped them make a profit, Uvacek says.

"They've been making money — it's part of the cattle industry but it's also a separate thing," Uvacek says.

He says cattlemen around the country are keeping fewer replacement heifers. Replacement heifers are young cows used to replace unproductive older cows in a rancher's herd.

The number of replacement heifers kept in the United States is down 7 percent, Uvacek says, but replacement heifer numbers are up 7 percent in Texas.

"I think we've got an unusual situation here in Texas," he says. "You could explain that difference two different ways."

Uvacek says one reason could be that Texas cattlemen are keeping more replacement heifers because they have a different attitude toward the beef industry. Texans already may be thinking of expanding their herds in hopes of better economic times ahead, he says.

A more likely reason is that Texas cattlemen are trying to restock their herds after the heavy liquidation caused by drought conditions in 1984 and 1985, he says.

About 11.4 million head of cattle were in feed lots Jan. 1, Uvacek says, which is an 8 percent decrease from the number of cattle on feed during the same month in 1985.

The decrease is a response by the feed lot industry to losses in previous months, he says.

"The feed lot industry itself has been losing its shirt the past few years," Uvacek says. "They're plugging less cattle on feed."

"The feed industry is such an unusual animal in that they don't have to make money. They're tax feeders. They can break even or even lose some money on cattle and still make money after taxes."

If the feed lot industry loses money, more cattle are put on feed to try to make up the losses, Uvacek says. Then if the industry still loses money, he says it begins to cut back the number of cattle on feed.

The feed lot industry realized a profit in December for the first time in 21 months, Uvacek says. However, he says the industry again lost money in January and February.

The size of the nation's calf crop also was down in 1985, Uvacek says. The crop decreased 3 percent to 4.1 million head, the lowest level since 1961.

The Texas calf crop was down 6 percent while a few states experienced an increase in their calf crop, Uvacek says.

He says the Texas crop had a larger decrease because many ranches liquidated or trimmed their cow herds so there were fewer cows producing calves.

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