



Photo by Robby Smith

Cooling off

Randy Hickok, a senior Business Analysis/Finance major from Houston, beats the summer heat by floating in the Brazos River.

Spindletop depicts end of oil success

BEAUMONT (AP) — Like dust to dust, the Big Oil era is returning to its Jefferson County birthplace to die.

Here, Spindletop was an unexpected and tremendous first. Here was started an 80-year orgy of enterprise, when every Texan with a hunch about a chunk of land could make his play. Now Jefferson County may be first in the state again. But this time it's a sad distinction, as Spindletop's domain teeters on the edge of drilling oblivion.

"It's just open-and-shut," laments G.P. "Pete" Cokinos, a Beaumont-based wildcatter of more than 32 Gulf Coast wells over 24 years.

"Domestic production onshore as we know it is a thing of the past," Co-

kinos, Texas A&M Class of '38, says. "As far as I can tell, it's all in the hands of the majors now."

The only major still working Southeast Texas last week was Mobil Oil Co., with a 9,000-foot effort northwest of Beaumont. Only a company such as Mobil can afford to cut other operations to subsidize the \$26 cost of producing a \$12 barrel of crude. That kind of mathematics just lays the average independent wildcatter on his back.

In the 1970s, for example, Cokinos paid contractors \$700,000 to drill each of 20 wells at his Orange-field stake. Now he could get the job done for \$280,000 a shot, but it's just too late.

Cokinos has left the era when he had contractors working 32 wells across two Louisiana parishes and a Texas county. What remains for him is a few working interests, a few royalty checks, and his own consulting business.

But for bigger companies, the mathematics of cheap oil don't spell an overnight change of pace. Majors and larger independents will do anything to bring that \$26 closer to \$12.

There's a tragic irony at work here. To stay in the enterprise they've learned to love, survivors of U.S. drilling are forfeiting all the romance and adventure of "the Long Shot."

True, the Texas independent producer was always beholden to the

major refiners, or to federal subsidies of independent refiners. But bucking the big boys, after all, was half the fun. In 1973 and 1974, for example, Cokinos was selling his Port Barre, La. oil to Humble Oil Corp. (now Exxon), his Starks, La. crude to Cities Service Oil Co., and Orangefield production to Sun Production Co. Each major had a corner on local markets, but they all paid Cokinos the same \$3.15 a barrel.

"Wildcatting and the drilling contractors have been curtailed," Cokinos concluded, "and the forerunner of all this was the major oil companies. The independent always marched to the drumbeat of the major companies, you know?"

Colleges begin stricter policies to end drug use

Nineteen days after the cocaine-induced death of University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, Education Secretary William Bennett advised college presidents to write students this summer: "Welcome back for your studies in September. But no drugs on campus. None. Period."

As the new school year approaches, the call for harsher drug policies is being heeded at some colleges.

Ohio Wesleyan's President David L. Warren wrote letters to parents and students serving notice that drug use would bring on a range of reprisals, including dismissal. The school is also outlawing drug paraphernalia this year.

At Newberry College in South Carolina, the police, rather than the tiny school's disciplinary council will be called in to handle even minor drug offenses.

Freshman orientation at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., will include drug education for the first time, offered by college officials, health experts and law enforcement officers.

Many other schools have begun voluntary or mandatory drug testing programs for athletes. The University of Maryland this summer announced it will have more frequent unannounced drug testing of its athletes in the wake of the Bias death, along with closer scrutiny of the testing to ensure that urine samples can't be switched.

An annual Gallup poll on education issues released last weekend found that the public considers

drugs the biggest problem in schools, and 49 percent approved drug testing of students, while 69 percent opposed it.

Some congressmen hope to add pressure for campus drug action with a proposed amendment to the fiscal 1987 education appropriation bill which would federal funds to any school doesn't have a drug prevention program.

But many college officials contacted by The Associated Press issue with suggestions that drug policies weren't tough enough.

Only a minority said they planned stiffer penalties for drug offenses or tighter campus security.

The University of Michigan at Boston University, for instance, among many schools that have claimed the right to search a student's dorm room for illegal substances or terminate a student's residence hall lease for sale or use of drugs.

Many argued that more and ter drug education, rather than harsh legal or academic penalties would better solve the problem.

College officials said that drug use is down considerably since the 1960s and 1970s. For most students, alcohol is by far the "drug" choice.

An annual survey of 17,000 college students nationwide published in July by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research found that roughly one-third of students have tried cocaine by their senior year.

Concerns voiced about Japan's treatment of ill

TOGANE, Japan (AP) — The mentally ill and the physically handicapped are less visible in Japan than in many other advanced societies, and public discussion of their plight is something of a cultural taboo.

But new attention is being drawn to what goes on in Japanese mental institutions, most of them private, and the Japanese government has promised reforms. Nevertheless the problem runs deeper than changes in the rules.

There is a new pay telephone in Ward 1 at the Asai Mental Hospital in this pleasant seaside town. It is a recent concession to human rights for Japan's mentally ill. It can put them in touch with the outside world.

Many doctors and human rights

activists in Japan claim that thousands of people are unnecessarily confined in mental institutions because the hospitals want their money — and their families, often fearing social stigma, don't want them back.

"The people and government feel the mentally ill should be secluded from society," says Etsuro Totsuka, a lawyer who campaigns for patients' rights. "It's the Japanese form of apartheid."

Government figures show that more than 60 percent of Japan's 330,000 mental patients are in closed wards. About 45 percent are hospitalized for five years or more, the highest average in the world.

The country was shocked in an investigation at the Hotokukai Utsu-

nomiya Hospital which uncovered 222 unexplained deaths in three years. Police say they found patients were subject to beatings, forced labor, treatment by unqualified nurses, and unauthorized lobotomies.

A district court sentenced hospital superintendent Bunnoshin Ishikawa to a year in prison and a \$1,807 fine for violating fundamental human rights. His appeal is pending in Tokyo High Court.

The affair spurred interest elsewhere. The New York-based International League for Human Rights reported to the United Nations in 1984 that 80 percent of the patients in private Japanese hospitals were

being held involuntarily.

The organization pointed to Japan's 1950 Mental Health Act, which allows the head of a hospital to commit an individual without his consent if the family or guardian agrees.

"In many cases," the league's statement said, "the very person making the decision to commit is the person who will financially benefit from the commitment — the head of the hospital."

Private hospitals treat 85 percent of Japan's mental patients.

In response, the Health and Welfare Ministry asked hospital directors last October to install pay telephones in all locked wards. But

rights advocate Totsuka and his supporters claim many hospitals have not complied, many patients have no money to make calls, and their mail continues to be censored.

Dr. Kunihiko Asai, vice-director of this prestigious hospital 43 miles southeast of Tokyo, said that only about a fifth of the hospitals have so far complied. He agrees in general with Totsuka's demands for reforms, saying almost half of Japan's mental patients now confined should be handled as outpatients.

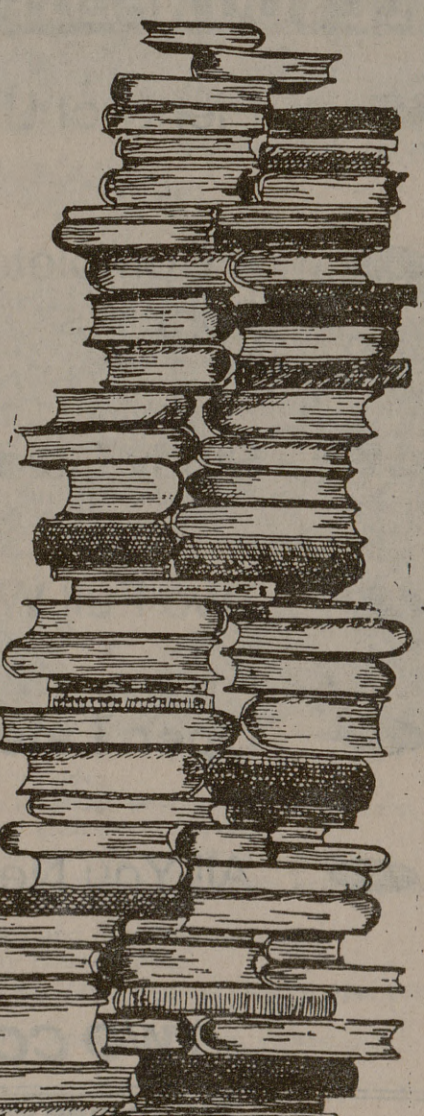
But he disputes the charge that hospitals and doctors are making large profits by confining patients. He says that psychiatrists' salaries average only about \$3,012 a month, and with patients paying \$1,024 a

month monthly for a bed — a fraction of fees in the West — many institutions struggle to meet expenses.

The pressure to keep patients hospitalized too long, he said, also comes from relatives who lack time or space to care for them at home, and from patients who themselves shrink from becoming a burden on their families. Some families also bow to pressure from neighbors to "do the best thing" by sending away sick members, he says.


"Family tolerance for the mentally ill and senile has become very low because the new nuclear family no longer has the energy or capacity to care for them," Asai says. "We cure the disease, but we can't cure the family."

We Buy Books Everyday at Texas A&M Bookstore



Hours:
7:45 - 6:00
Weekdays
9:00 - 5:00
Saturdays

TEXAS A&M bookstore
IN THE MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

Marines 
We're looking for a few good men.

Captain R. Mahany
Class of '77

846-8891/9036

Cotton Village Apts. LLC
30 Day Special

1 bdrm. \$150 -- 2 bdrm. \$200
Water, Sewage, Garbage Paid
Refrigerator, Stove, Carpet

12 miles from campus
846-8878
774-0773

Barett Shoes  Everything a mall shoe store has, except high prices.

COMPARE!

Ciao!
sells booties in mall and department stores for \$35 to \$44
...Our bootie by *Mondolfo* in Soft Genuine Leather

ONLY... **\$16⁸⁸**



Culpepper Plaza
1723 South Texas Avenue
College Station 693-4423
Stores everywhere open Labor Day.
MasterCard, Visa or Choice. Open evenings and open Sunday 12:30 to 6 p.m.