

Houston schools accused of using banned lead paint

HOUSTON (AP) — A leaded paint banned by the federal government for use around children has been used in the Houston Independent School District to repaint desks and chairs, the *Houston Post* reported Wednesday.

In a copyrighted story, the *Post* quoted unnamed school officials as saying that the paint has been used for at least 15 years to refurbish thousands of pieces of district furniture.

Paint cans used by the school district warn against using the product on children's articles and are clearly marked for industrial use only, the newspaper said.

Trudy Herolz, school district spokeswoman, said Wednesday officials were conducting an investiga-

tion, and that Superintendent Joan Raymond would address the issue at a press conference later.

Young children are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning, which can produce mental retardation, permanent nerve damage and sometimes death. Lead poisoning affects an estimated 5 percent of all American children, according to federal health reports.

Dan Sowards, chief of the hazardous products program at the Texas Department of Health, said, "This is a bad situation and the school district most definitely should stop using it (the paint)."

Travis Starr, who oversees maintenance for the district, said the use of the paint would be halted if it is deemed to be dangerous.

Dr. James Haughton, director of the Houston health department, said, "We do have a potentially hazardous situation here."

Haughton said his office planned to inspect the district's painting operations Wednesday to determine the lead concentration of the paint.

State officials said children could ingest the lead by chipping off or chewing off the dangerous paint on desks and chairs.

"Lead fumes are also dangerous, and freshly painted items would be especially hazardous," Sowards said.

HISD maintenance officials were apparently unaware that the district's paint contained lead until *Post* reporters showed them a copy of the label, according to the newspaper.

Hiring rules called sexist provoke suit

DALLAS (AP) — A federal agency attacked the hiring directives of a major pharmaceutical company and has asked to join a sex discrimination lawsuit against the firm.

A former saleswoman in Ortho Pharmaceutical Inc.'s Dallas division filed suit in December 1985, claiming she was fired because she became pregnant. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says it agrees.

The EEOC also said in its court filing last week in Dallas that Ortho's printed hiring guidelines stereotype women as inferior and discriminate against them in employment.

Describing the proper profile of a female hire, the manual states, "She should have the look of someone who might clean her bathroom or kitchen on her hands and knees."

Ortho spokeswoman Donna Pepe said the company dismissed the saleswoman because she neglected her job, not because of her pregnancy.

Oilman Hunt claims projects not slowed with legal problems

DALLAS (AP) — Oilman William Herbert Hunt said Wednesday that contractors working on projects for Placid Oil Co. are not being slowed by the string of legal battles surrounding the company owned by him and two of his brothers.

But Hunt said it could take as long as five years to see how Placid Oil will be affected by the legal fights waged by he and his brothers against 23 creditor-banks.

Hunt spoke with reporters in a rare question-answer session after giving a speech to petroleum engineers.

He and his brothers, Nelson Bunker and Lamar, filed a \$14 billion lawsuit against the banks several months ago. The Hunts claim the banks conspired to destroy Placid and another Hunt company, Penrod Drilling Co.

Placid, one of its subsidiaries and a private trust owned by William Herbert Hunt later filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors.

Hunt spoke Wednesday to the Society of Petroleum Engineers and talked briefly with reporters af-

terward, saying that suits against the banks have caused concern among companies doing business with Placid.

"But I don't think anyone is sitting," Hunt said when asked about contractors working with Placid. "I think everyone is moving ahead."

Asked how the lawsuit against the banks will affect his company, Hunt said, "That is a long-range thing. We discussed it with legal counsel. That's one of the things that will be answered in two, three or five years down the road, whenever things develop in the courthouse."

In his speech, Hunt urged domestic industries to unite in a fight to roll back government regulations. He said industries are handicapped by regulations imposed by the government under pressure from environmentalists.

"Let's face it, Jane Fonda is a hell of a lot more sexy than you are," Hunt said. "You get these movie stars involved. You get this cry to save the environment, and it's tough to counteract that."



free beer!



Culpepper Plaza

happy hour


friday 2-6

movie rental <small>over 2,000 titles</small> \$1.99	<small>all \$8.69</small> list cassettes or LP's 2 for \$13	bestseller books 25% off
--	---	---

Open: Mon. - Thurs., 10-10 Fri. & Sat., 10-11 Sun. 12-10
 1631 Texas Ave., College Station 693-2619

Corona NITE!


JOIN THE FUN!



RALPH

THIS THURS. NIGHT!
 NOV. 20
 7PM - MIDNIGHT


JOE - THE FLYING TOMATO BROS.



\$4.95

6 BOTTLES OF CORONA ON ICE!

... AND GUTBUSTER SLICES FOR ONLY \$1.49



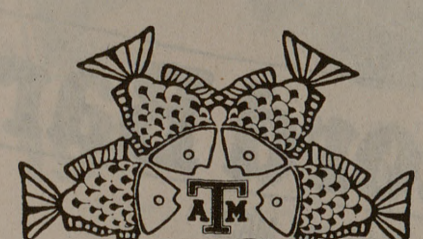
FISH CAMP '87

CO-CHAIRMAN

APPLICATIONS

AVAILABLE
NOV. 21-DEC. 4

PAVILION 213
AT SECRETARY'S DESK



Fish Camp



~~1.99~~ 1.49
GUTBUSTER SLICES - ALL DAY!

FREE PRIZES!

T-SHIRTS
FRISBEES
POSTERS
MUGS + MORE!!




303 W. UNIVERSITY • 846-1616

TM The Flying Tomato Brothers & The Flying Tomato are registered trademarks © 1986 Flying Tomato Inc.

E.L. MILLER LECTURE SERIES

GENETIC ENGINEERING!

Improving or Interfering?



FREE Admission

Does biotechnology improve or interfere with the normal course of nature? The E.L. Miller Lecture Series presents two days of active debate about the impact of biotechnology. Make plans to participate in daily symposia and evening panel discussions regarding the ethics of genetic engineering and the effects of government regulation on genetics, agriculture, medicine and religion.

Panel discussions will be held in Rudder Theatre 8 p.m. Nov. 19 and 20. For information on daily symposia, call 845-1515. Admission is FREE for all events.

November 19 & 20, 1986

MSC Political Forum • Texas A&M University • 845-1515
Sponsored by Cooper Industries Foundation