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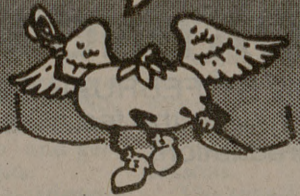
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## Officials urged to open bay for oystermen

GALVESTON (AP) — County commissioners are urging state officials to open Galveston Bay to limited oyster harvesting to help keep oystermen from going broke this winter.

In a resolution passed Monday, Galveston County Commissioners asked the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to open the bay but restrict daily oystering limits by about 87 percent, from 18,000 pounds per boat to 2,400 pounds.

The wildlife commission closed the bay Dec. 9 to guard against over harvesting after test dredgings of oyster reefs showed low numbers of market size oysters. The closure shortens the season, normally running from Nov. 1 through April, by more than two months.

In addition, county staff members will help oystermen hurt financially to determine eligibility for food stamps, low interest government loans and other possible means of relief, County Judge Ray Holbrook said.

"I'm not sure what impact the county can have on this, but we're going to lend every effort we can to convince the Parks and Wildlife Department to make some changes in their regulations," Holbrook said.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have scheduled a public meeting on the issue Saturday in Galveston.

About 40 oystermen and their families crowded the commission's chambers Monday to witness passage of the resolution.

The resolution also asks wildlife officials to annually repeat a 1981 program where the state replenished Galveston Bay reefs with oyster shells to which newly spawned oysters could attach themselves.

That program is credited with producing a bumper crop of oysters during the 1983 season. A toxic red tide that attacked marine life from just below Galveston Island to Brownsville last year prompted wildlife officials to ban oyster harvesting in those areas.

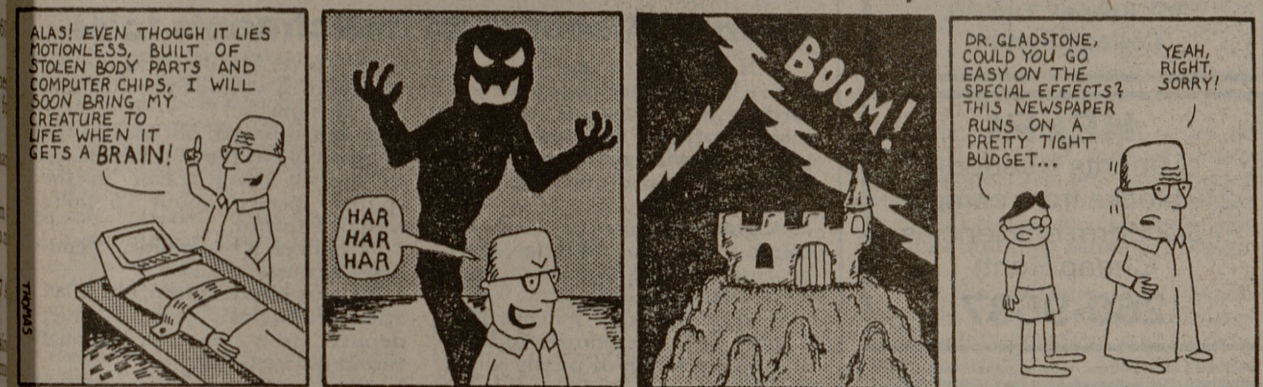
Oysters, clams and mussels filter the toxic microscopic organisms in red tide and retain it in their systems for weeks. People who eat them may suffer stomach pains, diarrhea and numbness in the tongue and lips.

Consequently, Texas and Louisiana oyster boats have flocked to Galveston Bay, threatening overharvesting, commissioners said.

## Warped



## Waldo



## Cavalry makes comeback to old fort after 100 years

SAN ANGELO (AP) — After nearly a century, the cavalry has returned to Fort Concho, war whoops and all.

It charged across the parade grounds as the Army's III Corps conducted the more up-to-date Exercise Roadrunner '87 over a 16-county area of West Texas.

The 1st Cavalry Division's horse platoon from Fort Hood was created in 1972 as a ceremonial unit. Its members' uniforms, weaponry and tactics are taken from the Army cavalry manual of the late 1800s, during the Indian campaigns.

The soldiers on horseback with their sabres flashing in the dusty blue sky Saturday brought glimpses of a more glorious past for Fort Concho, which was established in 1867 as a frontier post.

Wild war whoops sounded during the cavalry's shooting demonstration, as troopers aimed their Colt

.45-caliber revolvers and rifles at balloons while jumping hurdles in formation.

Trooper Darrell Lawson, member of the 28-platoon, said, "We don't do re-enactments. We all have regular Army jobs, but we carry out the tradition of the cavalry."

"It's our job. We get paid for it, we live it."

Lawson extended his tour of duty with the cavalry unit for another year because he enjoys it so much.

The whoops are reminders of the past, as are the highly polished sabres, used more often by European cavalry than American units. The sabres are tricky: drawing them can disrupt a man's balance enough to unseat him, as one rider did Saturday.

The spectators, many of them children, greeted the cavalry's maneuvers with whoops and screams of their own.

With faces hidden by cowboy hats and decked out in their best sheepskin vests and buckskin jackets, Junior Medina, 6, and Lee Ray, 5, wandered the grounds in search of the "calary."

After the performance, Spec. 4 Jim Wilson, the platoon's muleskinner, kept a watchful eye on a dog named Missy, the platoon's mascot.

As muleskinner, Wilson is in charge of the team's four mules, a wagon and Missy. "The reason I'm called a muleskinner is that sometimes you have to whip (the mules) and beat their hides off to make them go," he said.

These mules, however, are fairly well-behaved, Wilson said of Jan and Jill, adding, "They do what you tell them, as long as you tell them."

"Missy does the best part and barks. Then they go and do all kinds of stuff."

## 65-year-old capital murder suspect fails to show for trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A 65-year-old capital murder defendant, accused of killing his former wife and another woman, remained at large Tuesday after failing to appear at his trial, officials said.

State District Judge James Keeshan ordered an arrest warrant for Gene Thomas Stevenson when he failed to appear in court Monday for jury selection. Stevenson is accused of the May 20 shooting deaths of his ex-wife, Ruth Wheeler, 65, and Linda Lynch, 68.

Stevenson has been missing for two weeks, said Bob Morrison, a spokesman for the Montgomery County sheriff. He was indicted July 24 on the

capital murder charges, which allege a multiple killing.

Because of Stevenson's age and deteriorating physical condition, prosecutors did not object when a \$20,000 bail was set. He was released Nov. 26.

Investigators said Stevenson shot the two women outside Wheeler's home, about 15 miles outside Conroe. A .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle was found in Stevenson's car when he was arrested about an hour after the shootings.

The shootings occurred a day after Wheeler filed a complaint with authorities seeking to have Stevenson evicted from her home.

The bond order required that Stevenson stay with two members of a Montgomery County church and not leave the county for any reason other than medical treatment.

State District Judge Pete Speers said he thought the terms of the bail order would ensure Stevenson would not run away.

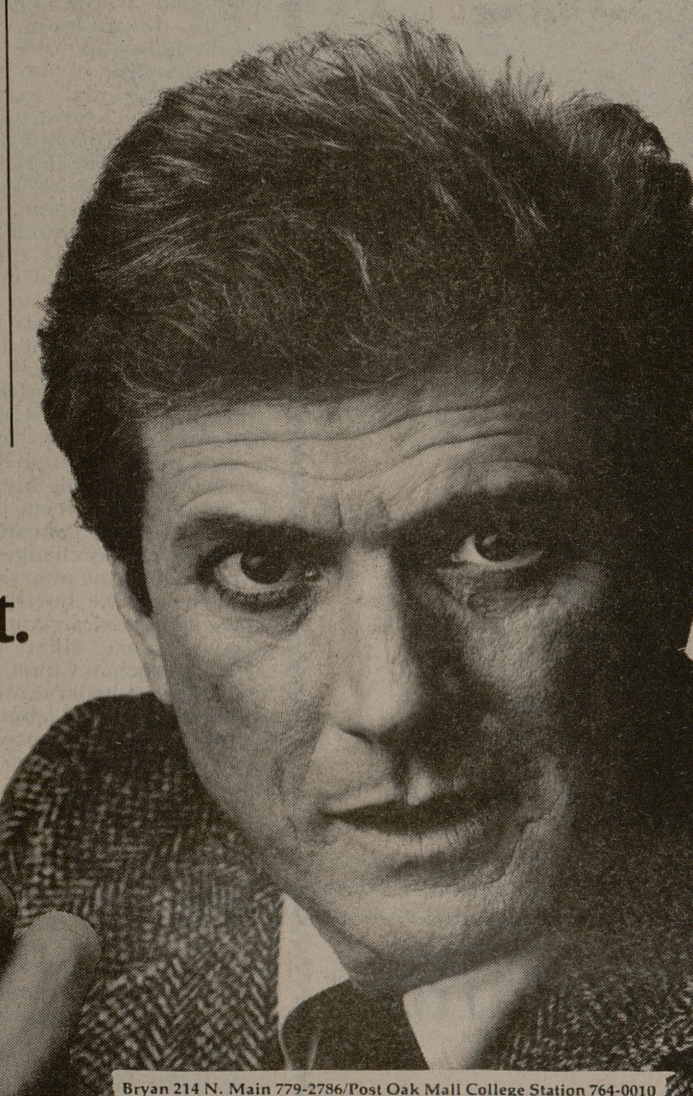
"Obviously I was mistaken," he said.

Bob Mize, minister of the Oak Ridge North Church of Christ, said Stevenson was last seen Jan. 10 at a trailer home near the church, where he was staying with another church member.

Stevenson took no clothing with him when he left, Mize said.

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206 Rudder

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