

700 laborers vote to strike at shipyard

GALVESTON (AP) — About 700 Todd Shipyard Inc. laborers remained off the job Tuesday after voting last Friday to strike in a move a company spokesman said could be the beginning of the end for the yard.

Charles Delgado, business manager for the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union, said the company made its final offer at 5 p.m. Thursday.

The union voted to strike the next day and put up a picket line at noon Friday. The contract ran out at 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Dan Whichard, Todd's director of industrial relations, said the 700 laborers eligible to work under union contracts stayed off the job.

Although only about 300 of those are union members, the others can honor a strike and have chosen to do so, he said.

Operations were shut down, but 120 supervisory and office personnel came to work.

Whichard said the union was asking for what it termed substantial and equitable increases but did not name a dollar figure.

The company wanted to cut wages from \$12.11 to \$10.30 an hour, reduce holiday pay from double time to time and a half and eliminate two holidays, one of which would be given back in the third year of the three-year contract.

Todd has closed its yards in Houston, New Orleans and Brooklyn, N.Y. One in Los Angeles is operating and another in Seattle is working without a contract on a day-to-day basis.

"The yard in San Francisco is on strike and it appears questionable as to whether that shipyard will ever open again," Whichard said. "It's quite possible this one will close, too. "The company has not made a commitment but there is that possibility it will close."

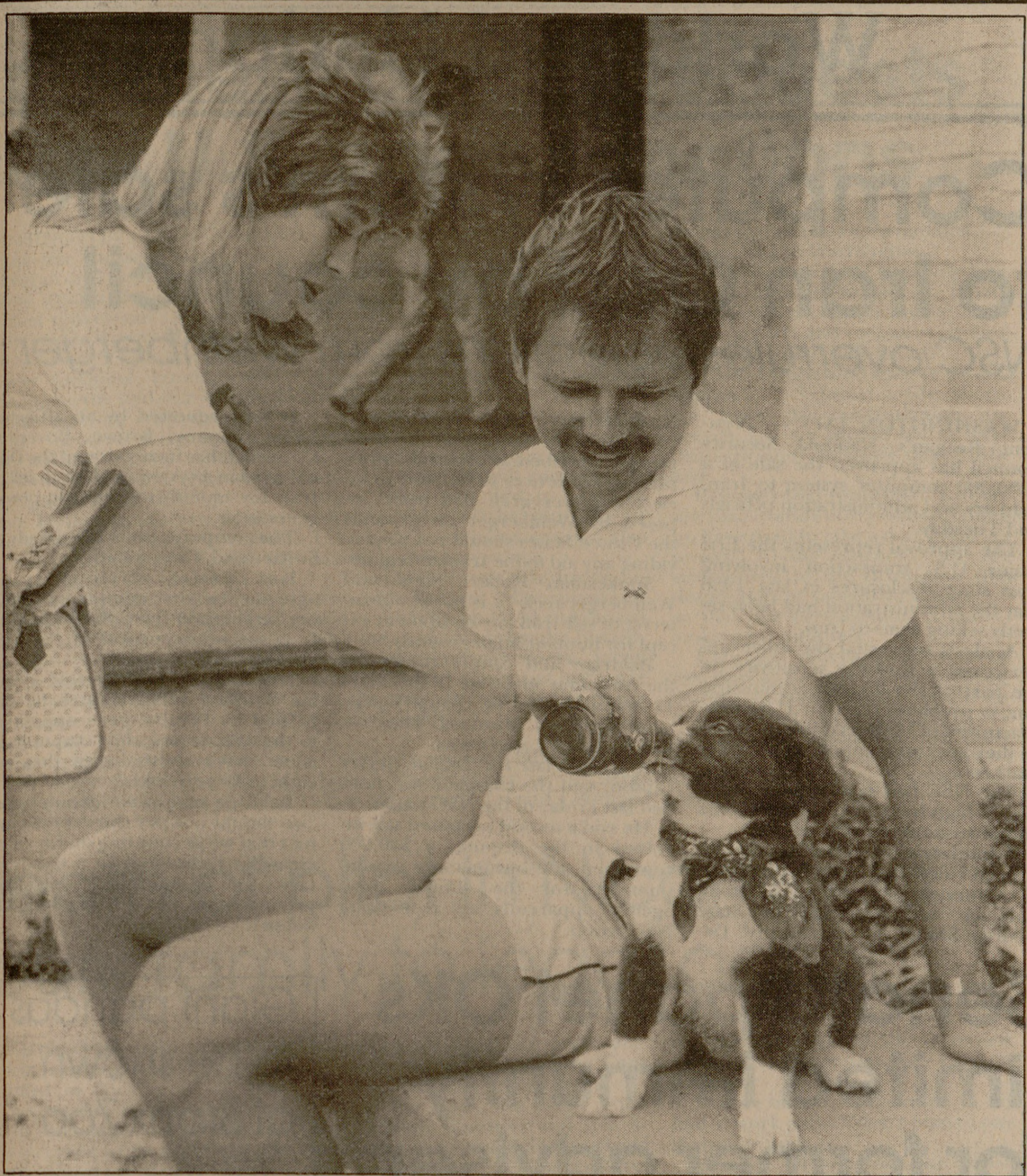


Photo by Tracy Staton

The Paws That Refreshes

Kim Nichols, a sophomore pre-medicine major, shares a Sprite with Tootsie as Bill Rawson, a senior engineering technology major, looks on. Rawson said his dog prefers beer to Sprite.

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Police face program for fitness

HOUSTON (AP) — A report that found city police officers are too flabby has prompted a get-fit program that may mean pink slips for those who don't shape up.

A police task force's report said Houston police officers appear to be in much worse physical shape than the general population, and it noted that the average age of death for officers is nearly 14 years earlier than that of the general public.

The task force has been studying the health issue for the past year, and it recently sent a proposal to selected city officials for their comments.

A final draft is expected to be sent to the Houston police command staff in about two weeks. If approved, the fitness program would be in place by July 1.

Officers now in charge of getting the police force in shape say the department needs to give the rank and file some incentive to work out.

Joe Lowry, HPD's first-aid coordinator, said, "The only time they are forced to be in shape is at the academy when they go through 18 weeks of hard training."

Under the proposal, the officers would be required to meet standards regarding their weight, blood pressure, cholesterol level, body-fat percentage and flexibility and muscle strength.

Judge tenders resignation citing burdened workload

AUSTIN (AP) — A city judge who has watched a parade of criminals, suspects and drunks parade by his bench since 1980 says he has seen enough.

"I remember one day I came to work at 6 o'clock, and before 7 o'clock rolled around I had deal with three aggravated sexual assaults on children," said Municipal Judge Cleve Moten, who is resigning Friday.

"Thirty minutes after I get here, the rapes, the murders, the beatings, the robberies begin to flood in," he said.

Moten, 47, one of Austin's five municipal judges, was appointed by the City Council in 1980 and has served three, two-year terms. His current term would have ended in December 1988, but he mailed let-

ters of resignation to Mayor Frank Cooksey and City Council members last week.

"I'm going to take off for at least a month," Moten said. "I might do a limited (law) practice for a while to get the feel for what I really want to do. Seven years is a long time. The workload has increased immensely. And I've just been running on empty for a long time. That's about the size of it."

Municipal judges do not try felony cases, but they set bonds and handle other preliminary matters in felony cases.

"They add an incremental depression and after a while, it becomes cumulative," Moten said. "You remember all the terrible things that happen to these people. And you can't prevent it."

District ordered to hire more black teachers

HOUSTON (AP) — The Pasadena Independent School District must actively recruit black teachers, a federal judge ruled after agreeing the district had discriminated against black applicants.

U.S. District Judge James DeAnda ordered the district to regularly contact other school districts for the names of black applicants they cannot place, and to seek student teachers and attend job fairs at the predominantly black Texas Southern University.

DeAnda said he will appoint a special master to handle claims brought by individuals who contend they were damaged by the district's biased hiring practices.

The order goes into effect May 16.

The court ruling Monday ends a four-year court battle that cost the district more than \$1 million.

School board president Harvey Turner said, "We didn't have any problems, that's the mind-boggling thing about it. No teacher who ap-

plied who met our qualifications was rejected on the basis of race, creed, color, et cetera. This is something the U.S. Justice Department thought up."

Minnie Honora-Hill, one of 30 applicants DeAnda cited as a victim of discrimination, said she was passed over for a job in 1981 in favor of a less-qualified candidate.

"I found it kind of strange that they wanted me to include a photo," said Honora-Hill, who now teaches with the La Porte school district.

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